

# MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

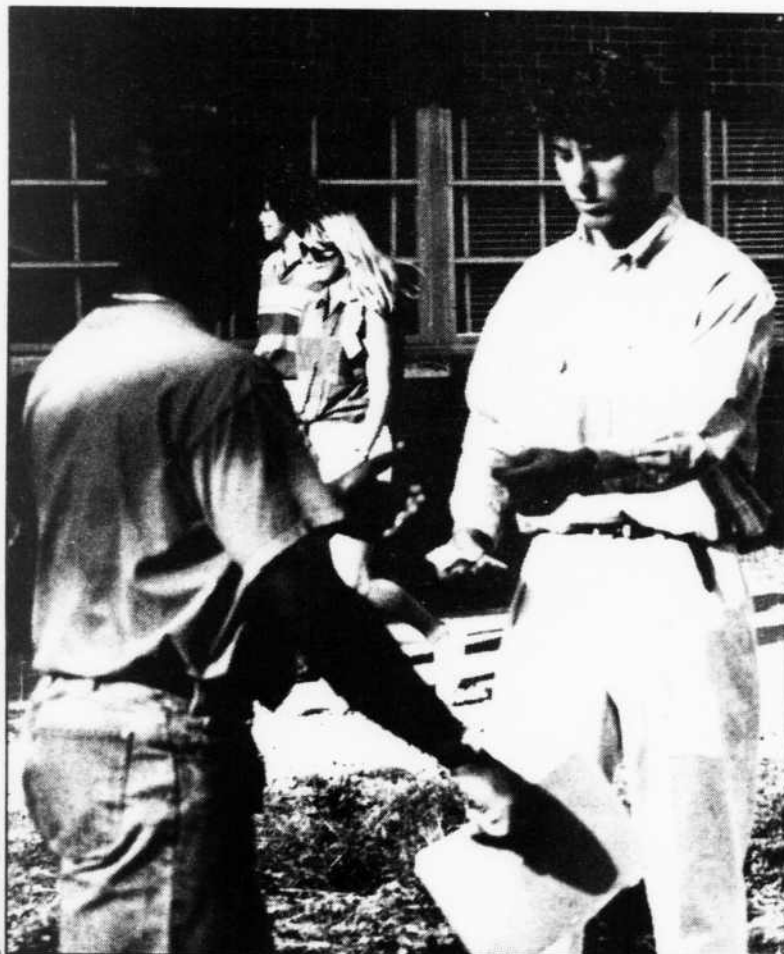
Volume 67, Number 54

April 1, 1993

P.O. Box 42 Murfreesboro, TN, 37132

Voter turnout up 4 percent

## Ratterman, Hopper, Bergman win election



Don Goins/Staff

**CAMPAIGN '93:** SGA President-elect Woody Ratterman attempts to get those last minute votes in front of Todd Library on Tuesday.

KAY KINGSLEY  
News Editor

Sophomore insurance major Woody Ratterman handily defeated two opponents to become the 1993-94 SGA president.

About 15 percent of the student body cast votes Monday and Tuesday for the candidates vying for student government's top positions—up from last year's 11 percent. Poll records show that 2,342 people voted compared to the approximate 1,700 voters—an increase of 4 percent—from last year.

Brian Hopper was elected Speaker of the Senate and Drew Bergman will serve as Speaker of the House.

"I just want to say thank you to the students," Ratterman said. "I appreciate the votes. If there's ever anything I can do, give me a call."

Ratterman, Hopper and Bergman each won with a majority of votes (50 percent plus one), eliminating the need for run-off elections.

"I think we got a pretty clear mandate from the students," Hopper said. "I think

### Election Results

<b>President</b> (Amount needed to win=1,173)	Jason Potts	326
	Brian Jones	301
	Elizabeth Millsaps	296
<b>Woody Ratterman</b>	1,242	
Scott Hamilton	228	
Ray Lentz	861	
<b>Speaker of the House</b> (Amount needed to win=1,130)		
<b>Drew Bergman</b>	1,622	
Henry Williams	506	
<b>Speaker of the Senate</b> (Amount needed to win=1,073)		
<b>Brian Hopper</b>	1,262	
Thomas Mercer	978	
<b>Winning Senators:</b>		
<b>Sophomore</b>		
Chesley Harris	362	
Alison Gambill	360	
<b>Junior</b>		
Kelly Gatewood	294	
Ginger Sullivan	270	
Angela Hooker	266	
Mark Lindsey	247	
Josh McKee	224	
<b>Senior</b>		
Larry Beaty	474	
Michelle Price	463	
Trent Binkley	366	
Blaine Little	337	
Edward Johnston	324	
<b>Graduate</b>		
Eric Stringer	62	
Frann Rodriguez	7	

now we'll get some things done for them. We need to."

"They wouldn't have put us in office if they didn't have confidence in us," he added.

SGA presidential candidates Ray Lentz and Scott Hamilton both congratulated Ratterman after the results were announced.

"I hope you do a good job,"

Lentz told Ratterman.

Lentz added he wanted to thank the voters who came out and took their time to get involved.

"I just hope the students will come out and make a difference next year," he said. "As for me, I will begin focusing on my ministry."

## Walker in good condition after prostate cancer surgery

KAY KINGSLEY  
News Editor

MTSU President James Walker was listed in good condition Wednesday following five hours of prostate cancer surgery on Tuesday, said a spokeswoman from the president's office.

"We heard he was a little grumpy because he hadn't eaten for two days," she said.

Walker was moved from intensive care into a private room around midday Wednesday, said Rebecca Climer, spokeswoman for Middle Tennessee Medical Center. She

confirmed he is doing well.

The president will be out through the month of April and is expected back May 8 for commencement. He was diagnosed with prostate cancer about a month ago.

In the meantime, Dr. Jim Hindman, vice president for Academic Affairs, is assuming Walker's day-to-day responsibilities, according to a memo written by Walker prior to his absence.

"It is my strong desire that my absence will not interfere with the progress of the University's work in any way," Walker said.

Walker stressed he would be in contact with Hindman and Dr. Earl Thomas, executive assistant to Walker, on a daily basis.

Dr. Earl Thomas, executive assistant to Walker, said university operations are going well.

"Everything is moving along just like he wanted it to," Thomas said. "He is very insistent that it does."

Anyone who has questions regarding university matters is asked to contact Hindman or Thomas during Walker's absence.



PRESIDENT JAMES WALKER

## POLICE REPORT

Michael Watts was arrested on March 8 for possession of drug paraphernalia. He is not a student at MTSU.

Patrick Carter was arrested on March 8 for reckless driving and failure to stop, frisk and Halt. Daniel Etheridge was a passenger in the car and he was arrested for public intoxication. Neither are students.

Sean Morris reported on March 9 that a study table was missing from the study room of Clement Hall.

Rosa Hudson reported on March 9 that a table was missing from the lobby of Reynolds Hall.

Robert Clements reported on March 10 that his vehicle had been damaged while it was parked in the Greenland Drive parking lot.

George Harrison was arrested on March 10 for driving on a suspended driver's license.

Brad Burns reported on March 10 that a window had been broken out of one of the rooms in Gracy Hall.

Saila Pillai reported on March 12, her running shoes and a Timex watch were taken from her gym bag at the Wellness Center.

Doni Leamon reported on March 12, that her bicycle was stolen from the bike rack at Lyon Hall.

Jamie Victory reported on March 13, that his vehicle was damaged by another vehicle as he was being pushed out of the snow.

Matthew Jacobs reported on March 15, that three hubcaps were stolen off his vehicle while it was parked at Schardt Hall.

Tom Morrison reported on March 17, that his truck vent window had been pushed out and portable CD player, 10 CD's and 3 Nintendo games had been stolen.

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## CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

In the March 29, 1993 issue of *Sidelines*, it was reported that Dr. Rosemary Tong's lecture was sponsored by the Honors Lecture Series. It was also part of the Applied Philosophy Lyceum Series. *Sidelines* regrets the error.

SIDELINES IS ALWAYS EAGER TO CORRECT A MISTAKE OR CLARIFY A VAGUE ISSUE IN A STORY. IF YOU THINK A CLARIFICATION OR CORRECTION SHOULD BE MADE, PLEASE CONTACT GALYN GLICK, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, AT 898-2337.

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3. All entries should be submitted to the SGA office. Each entry will be logged in according to time and date received.
4. The University Traffic Committee will make the final selection.
5. The deadline for entries to be submitted will be **April 2, 1993.**
6. The winner will receive a free reserved parking place of their choice for the 1993-94 school year.

## CAMPUS CAPSULE

### TODAY

**Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority** will host the 1993 Mr. Debonair Male Pageant at 7 p.m. in the LRC. All are invited to attend. If any males are interested call ext. 3154 before the March 30 deadline. There will be a party afterwards at JUB and admission is 50 cents before 11 p.m. with a canned good.

**SGA House Session** will be from 5:30 until 7:30 p.m. in KUC 318. Attendance is mandatory, please attend.

**SGA Senate Session** will be from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. in KUC 305. If you plan on entering legislation, it must be turned into the SGA office 48 hours prior to the meeting. Remember attendance is mandatory.

**MTSU-Society for Human Resource Management** will meet at 4 p.m. in PH 227. There will be a guest speaker for the meeting, Darlene Capuano, HR Generalist from Textron Aerostructures, and the topic will be "Work Teams."

### FRIDAY

**Alpha Kappa Alpha** will have a Greek mixer at 8:08 p.m.

### MONDAY

Sign up deadline for participation in the Campus Rec. annual sand volleyball tournament April 12-26 is today. Call ext. 2104 for more information.

**Students for Environmental Action** will meet at 8 p.m. in KUC 305. For more information call Andy 895-5384.

**Honors Lecture Series** will have John Pleas, Psychology to discuss "Our Beloved Addictions" from 3:30 p.m. until 4:20 p.m. in PH 107.

### U.S. Federal Bureau of

### TUESDAY

**Investigation** will have an informational meeting at 3 p.m. in KUC 316. The meeting will be regarding career

opportunities and application procedures. For more information call Martha Turner ext. 2500.

**MTSU Lambda Association** will meet at 6:30 p.m. and have a gay rights activist and Nashville lawyer Abby Rebenfeld to speak on Tennessee's Homosexual Acts Law. For more information call Lambda Hotline 780-2293.

**Society of Professional Journalists** will have a book sale from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. in the Post Office Lobby. For more information call Jenny ext. 2815.

### ONGOING

**InterVarsity Christian Fellowship** will consist of Bible Study on Thursdays at 6 p.m. in KUC 314. Prayer on Tuesdays at 7:30 a.m. in Rutledge and in the Mass Comm on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. For more information call Michael Moore at 898-4722 or Paul Hood at 849-9663.

**Student Catholic Center** will have Mass every Sunday at 7 p.m. located across from the Villager Apt. on W. Tenn. Blvd. Check the sign in front yard for weekly events. For more information call Brett Beauregard, 896-5752 or Mike Pablo, 896-5074.

**Murfreesboro Chess Club** meets on Friday nights at 7 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church, 811 E. Clark Blvd. MTSU students interested in chess are invited to check it out. Please bring a chess set if you own one.

**The Resource Conservation Club** will hold meetings on the second and fourth Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m. in Room 208 of SAG. Meetings are open to all people with interests in plant and soil science agronomy, horticulture, forestry and other related areas. For more information, contact Dr. Halterlein at 898-2121.

### CONING SOON

Impact is imminent, be ready for... **GRILLETALES!**

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# Lyceum explores difference in feminine, feminist, lesbian ethics

DANIELA GOPPERT  
News Writer

Feminine, feminist and lesbian ethics are different and must be approached differently if there is to be a complete understanding of the two, a visiting philosophy professor explained Monday.

Dr. Rosemary Tong spoke about the differences in feminine and feminist ethics during the Applied Philosophy Lyceum sponsored by MTSU's Philosophy Department and held at Peck Hall.

Tong explored three different approaches to ethics in her lecture. The feminism approach celebrates the material and cultural difference between men and women, while the lesbian approach seeks freedom.

"The feminist approach seeks to eradicate male dominance," said Tong.

Tong, a philosophy professor from Davidson College, spoke about the differences in ethics as described in her book "Feminine and Feminist Ethics."

Darrell Taylor, a senior studio art major, called Tong's

lecture "wonderful."

"[Tong] spoke about things I have always been interested in, especially the treatment of women in society," said Darrell Taylor.

Chris Taylor, a senior anthropology major, said she thought Tong's lecture was "thought provoking."

She also said Tong "raised interesting questions" about ethics.

"Are women more proficient

phenomenon," said Tong.

She went on to say that in a study of 80 adolescents, Gilligan found that while many women preferred the language of justice to the language of care, only one man preferred to use the language of care to justice.

Chris Taylor said, "I like her approach to philosophy because the non-feminist approaches to ethics have been done too much."

Adding women's morals to man's morals may be urging

"I like her approach to philosophy because the non-feminist approaches to ethics have been done too much."

— Chris Taylor

Senior Anthropology major

in moral reasoning than men" and "are there gender gaps in ethics" were two questions Tong posed about the distinction between feminine and feminist ethics.

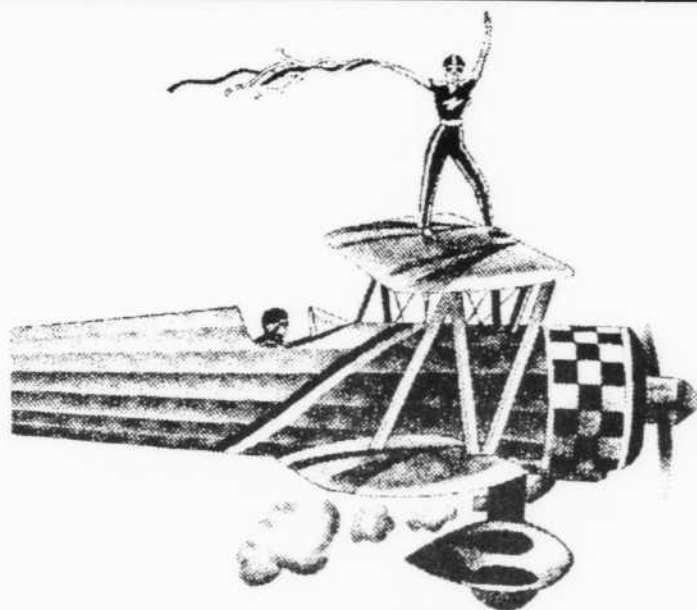
Tong explained how Carol Gilligan, author of "A Different Voice," found care to be a female phenomenon. Men prefer the language of justice, she said.

"Mapping the moral domain with focus on care is a female

tradition to consider that feminism may be contributing to subordination, after all isn't feminism sexist, asked Tong.

Chris Taylor said, "I would have liked to speak more with [Tong] about her work."

Tong has written other books including "Women, Sex and Law," "Feminist Thought" and "Feminine Bio-ethics."



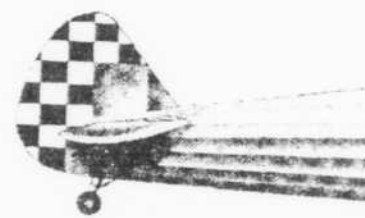
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Return by April 9, 1993 to Dr. Rosemary Owens,  
Continuing Education Studies, MTSU.

I nominate the following African-American  
professor at MTSU for acknowledgement and  
recognition:

Professor (Teacher) \_\_\_\_\_  
Department \_\_\_\_\_

(Signed) \_\_\_\_\_

Return by April 9, 1993 to Dr. Rosemary Owens,  
Continuing Education Studies, MTSU.



# OPINIONS

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## EDITOR'S CORNER

### Ratterman needs a vision

Contrary to what some of you may think, I kept an open mind about the SGA, the elections, and the presidential candidates.

True, I said I didn't like being pestered for my vote, but nonetheless, I didn't believe in the conspiracy theories that had been cropping up in recent conversations.

I still don't.

To be honest, I wasn't particularly interested in any of the candidates this year, but I was determined to remain neutral until I had read and thought carefully about each one's responses to the questions *Sidelines* asked.

However, as nice as Woody Ratterman may be (and all my conversations with him have been pleasant, albeit brief), he was clearly the least qualified person running for the SGA presidential office. And the most vapid.

Granted, he has served on various committees during his one and a half years as a member of the SGA, but he is not a visionary.

What were you voting for people?

Perhaps it's because so few of you voted. Perhaps that was because you didn't think it would make a difference. Perhaps you voted for Ratterman because everyone else in your fraternity or sorority was doing it.

I don't know.

What I want to know is how people could vote for someone who doesn't have any ideas? Maybe you voted because he didn't really promise you anything, and thus, couldn't break any promises.

I know the election is over and I should just be glad that some people voted, but really, this **does** affect you.

The SGA presidency can be enormously effective and

see **RATTERMAN**, page eight

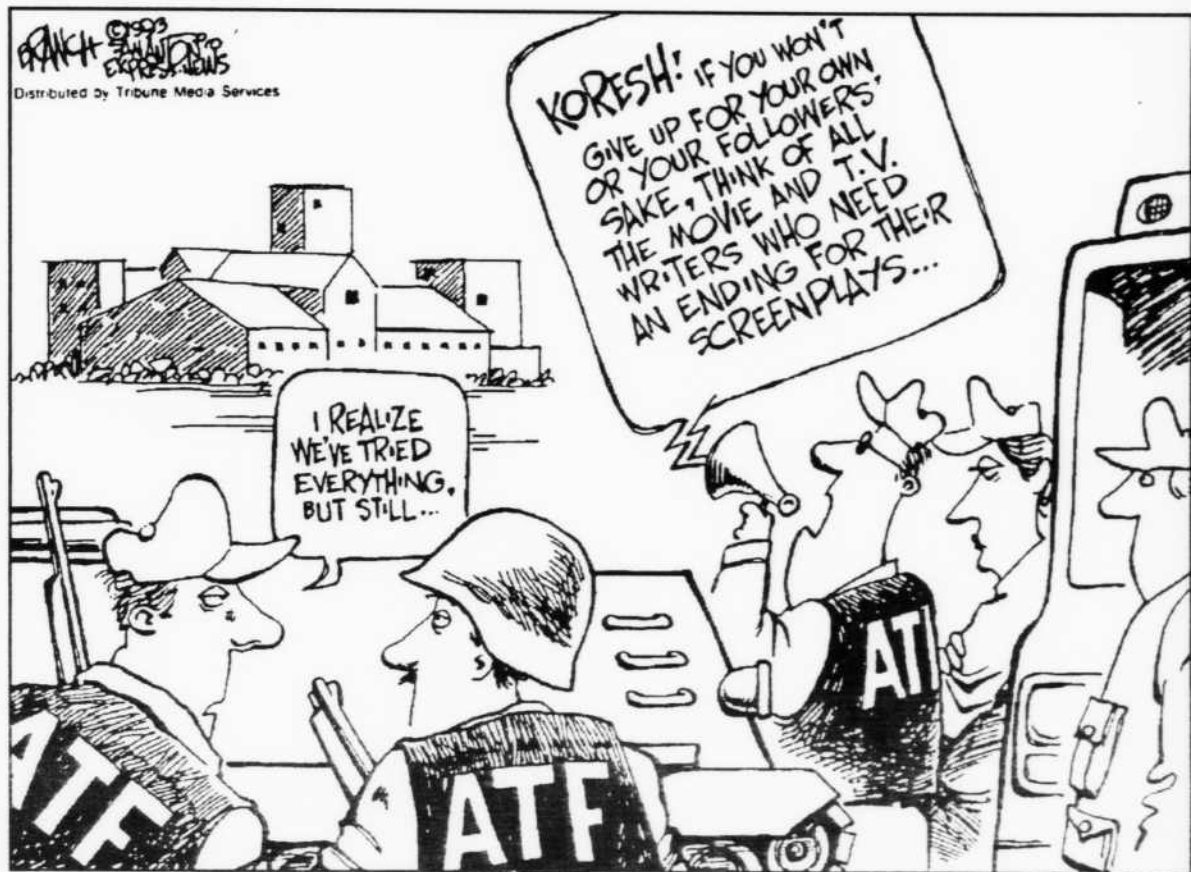
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FRANK 993  
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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Extremist beliefs not representative of God

To the Editor:

Upon reading the letter to the editor by Brian Belt on March 29, I was met with mixed emotions. I was not so much offended or angry, but thoughtful of Brian's comments and suggestions. I too agree that religion has given rise to violence and conflict. No one can argue with that statement.

I understand Brian's concern about violence and conflicts, especially in light of recent events in the news. Yet, I would ask you, "Why do these acts occur?" I believe they occur for several reasons.

First, they occur most obviously because people have different opinions and perspectives. Second, conflicts arise because individuals are critical and try to take matters of God into their own hands without God's direction. Third, and most importantly, conflicts occur because religion is a subject close to people's heart and their being. When you attack a person's religious beliefs, no matter what denomination or faith, you strike at their most precious beliefs.

Because of conflict, one should not simply abandon religion or personal values and beliefs. If Martin Luther King, Jr or other influential leaders abandoned their cause, our society would be apathetic and stagnate. I believe we should allow conflicts to invigorate us to better ourselves and society.

In response to Brian's comments on religion and church,

I strongly believe one should not abandon religion or church. I say this because not all people go to church to receive "spirituality." There are problems within the Church, but when individuals leave or criticize the church for being judgmental, aren't we doing the same? No institution has ever changed because people lost hope.

I would encourage people to examine more closely the subject of religion. Too often, we, myself included, focus on what the media dictates. Most often the media is one-sided or at least shows the negative views, omitting any positive information. The acts we see are usually those holding extreme, often deviant beliefs, such as the events in Waco and the killing by a "right to life" activist.

Ask yourself how often you hear that a church has helped the homeless, the abused, and mothers torn on a decision of an unplanned pregnancy.

Does the media show you the mothers happy and relieved with their decision not to abort their baby? Does the media tell you that although the Church disagrees with homosexuality, that not all churches condemn and reject? Do we see or hear the churches response to Waco-that they disagree with his false claims and abusive and sick treatment of others, or do we automatically lump him in with "Bible-thumping, religious fanatics?"

Are we reading the Bible or going to Church enough know what it stands for, or are we being judgmental in our blind ignorance? Don't let the media dictate your stand-explore and investigate the

church, the Bible, and most importantly-a personal relationship with God.

I would like to encourage people to seek a personal relationship with God, not religion or spirituality. Brian is right in saying that Jesus doesn't want us to lock ourselves up and read the Bible so that we aren't living life. Nor does Jesus want spirituality or simply the act of going to church. God calls us to read the Bible, it is His gift to us. God also calls us into fellowship with other believers to strengthen and learn from one another. God takes many forms, and it is important that we not only pray, but that we actively listen. Listening to God can be through song, poetry, prayer, games, and nature.

Don't be offended or defensive with Brian's comments - act upon them. Seek a relationship, not a religion. Explore and find out if God really means "do not kill" and "love one another," and when you do, try your best to live by that.

Brian's comments are a cry to believers and to churches. Don't sit back and do nothing, let his comments invigorate change in attitudes toward God and church. It is when we deviate from what God says that we fail to be loving and accepting. Don't be offended, prove to Brian and others that there is a loving and positive side to God.

Don't be apathetic, join the call to better yourselves and society. Act!

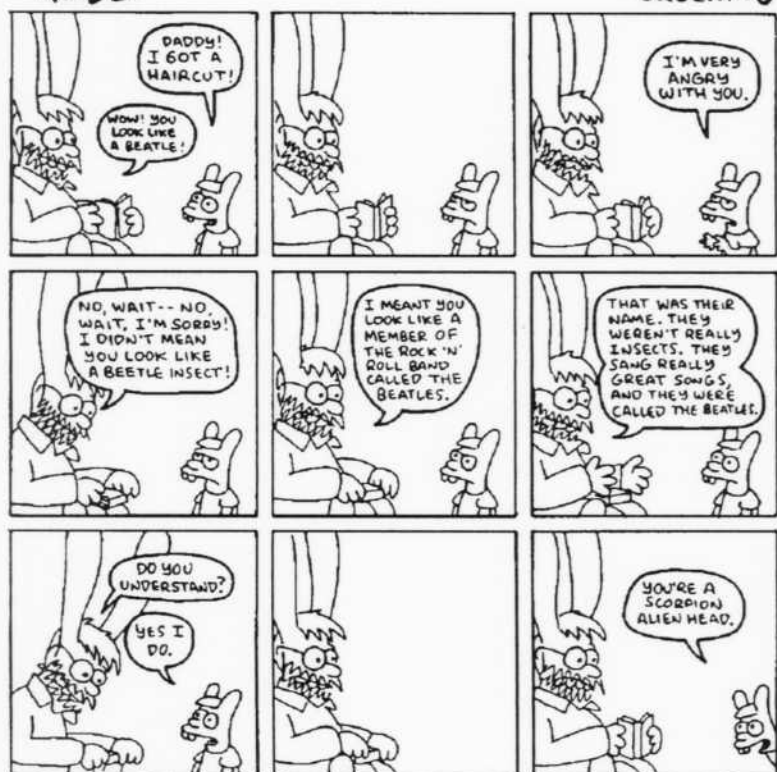
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## VIEWPOINT

## Election is over; play nice

MIKE REED  
Managing Editor

The great cogs of democracy have turned once again and the results are in.

My congratulations to the winners and a stiff pat on the back for the losers. It was a long hard battle, but now it's over and time to pull together and move on.

For those of you who didn't vote (some 13,400 of you). Thanks for not ruining the curve. I believe in freedom of choice all the way around. That means that you have the freedom not to choose. Of course, if you didn't vote, you lose your bitching rights for the semester.

The election was a little ... well, let's just say intriguing. You need a score card to keep up with the allegations that were flying back and forth between the Ratterman and Lentz campaigns.

Current SGA President

It had the possibility of getting ugly, boys and girls.

Once the election results were in, both sides dropped their complaints. The election was over and Ratterman came out on top (President Gilley was actually jumping around the office and yelling with glee that he was dropping his charges).

There is still much controversy. Students in the know are whispering conspiracy theories left and right. People are coming to me with unsubstantiated allegations and innuendo.

Well, it's time to put all that behind us. It's over. We need to crawl home and lick our wounds.

I do have some suggestions to make sure this doesn't happen again.

1. A dedicated student that wants to work on a campaign should not work the polls. This will help to avoid the appearance of impropriety.

2. Here at *Sidelines*, we

less on in-fighting and name-calling.

It's over now. The campus can breathe a collective sigh of relief. The Greeks are safely in office where they can wheel and deal and play politics like the grown-ups. Lentz and friends get to spend the next semester in pursuit of academia without *Sidelines* breathing down their backs. Maybe in the long run that will be best.

As for President-elect Woody Ratterman, Speaker of the Senate-elect Brian Hopper and Speaker of the House-elect Drew Bergman, please run your administrations better than you ran your campaigns.

President Gilley has assured himself a footnote in MTSU history as a petty, back-biting tyrant more interested in personal vendetta than the political good of the school. As the most powerful student on campus, he had a responsibility to use the powers of his office in a responsible manner. This was clearly not the case.

President Gilley has assured himself a footnote in MTSU history as a petty, back-biting tyrant more interested in personal vendetta than the political good of the school.

Toby Gilley filed charges with Election Commissioner Don Gandy accusing Lentz of misusing state property in the form of the SGA photocopy machine, campaigning at a rally before the official start of the campaign and having improper signage in Peck Hall.

Charles Aly, a vigilant SGA watchdog, Lentz backer, and occasional *Sidelines* contributor, filed a complaint himself. Aly alleged that Leanne Taylor, a poll worker and Ratterman backer, campaigned for Ratterman and Speaker of the Senate-elect Brian Hopper while the polls were open.

Both charges were serious. Both complaints (if proven before the SGA Supreme Court) could have disqualified either candidate and drawn this election out even further. And no one wanted to see that happen.

Seems pretty simple on the surface. Throw the bums out and give it to Scott Hamilton. He kept his nose clean. So what if he's a military man with a slightly conservative slant that compared the factions in the SGA to the Federalists and the Republicans.

The situation was further complicated by the fact that Gandy is a presidential appointee who has no commission to answer to (Lentz failed to appoint one). Add to that the fact that Ratterman sits on the SGA Supreme Court.

have to sign out a key to the copy machine. We must register the purpose and number of copies made. The key is kept by our lovely and efficient secretary, Cydney Crawford, and is locked up when she isn't in.

3. Current office holders should try to keep from being too intimately involved with the campaigns. Once again, the SGA will never shake the image of dirty politicking if the president actively campaigns for a candidate. It is possible to endorse a person and still remain above the fray.

4. A few people have raised questions about the ballot counting process. With the entire campus aware of the Greek dominance of the SGA, it seemed... well, unseemly that Dean Paul Cantrell, who advises the Inter Fraternity Council, and Don Gandy, Jr., a political appointee who has made no secret of whom he supports, were the only ones allowed to count the votes from the booths.

I'm not accusing them of anything. It just seems only right that an independent observer (not appointed by the SGA or Dean Cantrell) be around to ensure everyone that the vote count was accurate.

The current rules we follow for elections were written in 1983. Maybe it's time for an update. I vote that Ratterman and company work more on campaign reform and

When you're in the media, people like to talk to you. They like to send you off on wild goose chases. They want to manipulate the press. Sometimes it works.

During the televised debate, David Scally, upset that WNAR didn't receive adequate funding, attacked Lentz on the issue of appropriations. Scally was under the mistaken impression that it is the Speaker of the House's responsibility to notify organizations of appropriations meetings.

The next day, Thomas Mercer accused Toby Gilley of feeding the question to Scally. Were the charges valid? Who knows.

The point is that both sides couldn't stop attacking each other behind the scenes.

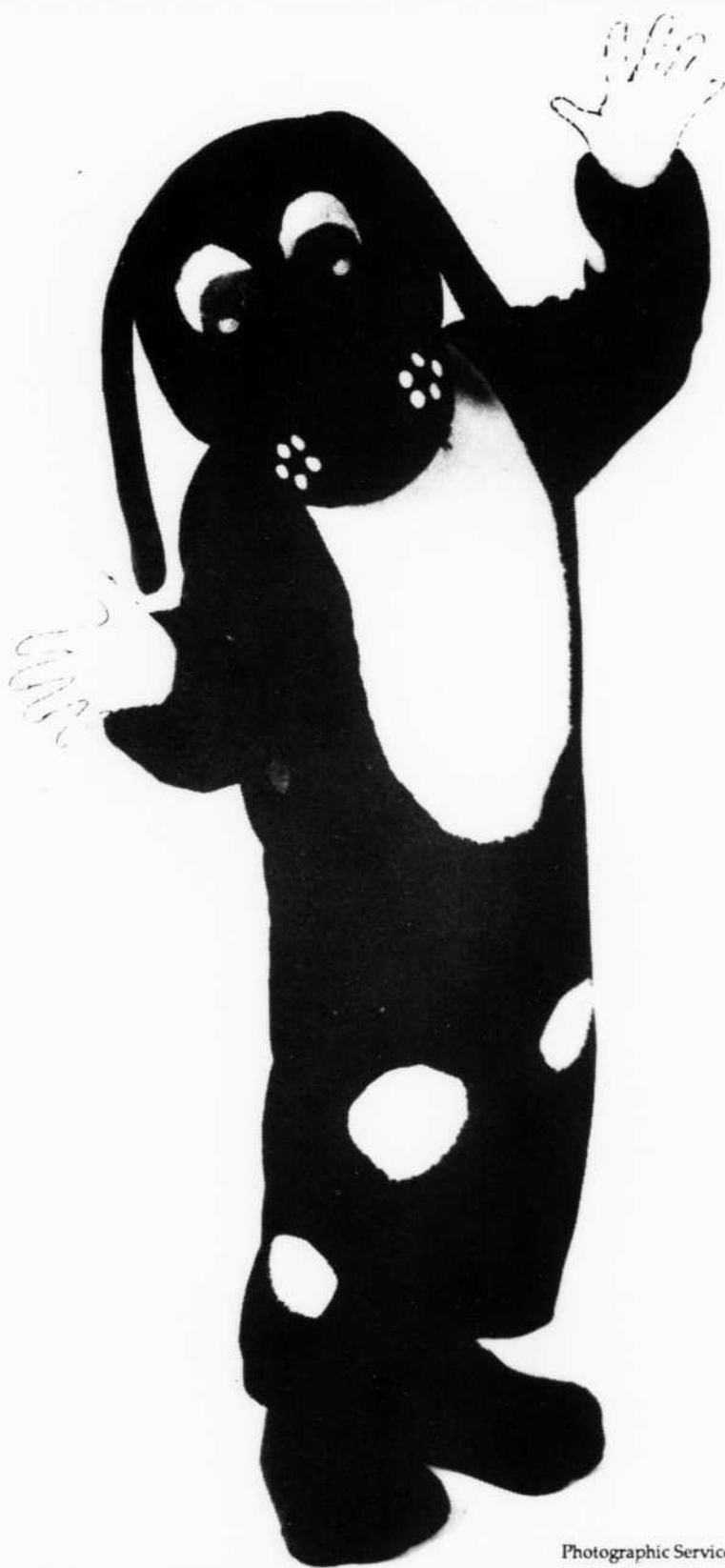
In the words of Daffy Duck "What a way to run a railroad."

Every year it's the same thing and every year the majority of students don't bother coming to the polls. Who can blame them?

The democratic system at MTSU is flawed beyond recognition. In time, if the SGA can work out its dirty laundry, the electoral process will be more than a joke to the over 13,000 non-voting students.

One more note of interest: someone wrote Mike Reed in as a candidate for senior senator. Thanks for the vote of confidence, but my heart belongs to Eugene Debbs.





Photographic Services

## He Ain't Nothing but a Hounddog

TONY DeMATIO  
Sports Writer

What's blue and white and sweats all over?  
Give up?  
Eddie Johnson, in Old Blue's costume.  
Old who?

You know, the amiable-looking, unusually-colored, erect-standing hound that roams the stands and sidelines at MTSU basketball and football games like something from a Disney movie called "Honey, I Blew Up The Dog."

That Old Blue.

Meet Edward Andrew Johnston, also known as Special Ed and Mr. Ed to his friends. He's the dog...er, man that makes Blue Raiders fans get off their hands and onto their feet, that is, when they're not rolling on their sides with laughter. The fact that he's a 25-year-old senior aerospace major at MTSU just doesn't occur to those looking on while he's out buffing some bald guy's head.

It has been said that you can't teach an old dog new tricks, but Eddie Johnston has spent the last seven months disproving that myth.

But first things first.

Why would someone want to be a dog, anyway?

For a couple of reasons, actually.

Johnston had been a varsity cheerleader for five years when he was approached last year by his best friend LeAnn Whitehead, who was also a

cheerleader. He loved his job but had decided that after five years it was time to move on.

Then LeAnn asked him an intriguing question: would he like to be Old Blue, the mascot? He decided that he just might like such an idea. After all, it meant that he had to spend less time practicing, which would give him more time to do other things, while still maintaining his involvement with the cheerleaders. Not to mention being able to retain his \$500-a-semester-plus-books scholarship and travel on road trips. This dog thing seemed to be the cat's meow. But not even a senior aerospace major could have known what he was in for.

For starters, there was mascot camp at MTSU, which at the time could be a lot of fun, and other times, like when the heat and humidity turned costumes into furry saunas, when it seemed more like boot camp.

The camp was one of four held annually in the summer by the Universal Cheerleading Association to teach the fundamentals of mascotry. The three R's were replaced by the four C's: clowning, camaraderie, characterization and coping. Summarized and simplified, a mascot's duties were to entertain while creating and maintaining a persona using pantomime and good sportsmanship while coping with internal and external trifles such as being mobbed by scores of hyperactive, ecstatic children while in a heavy, furry costume without being able to see or breathe. That's it.

See OLD BLUE, Page 12

## Kidd to play in Desert Classic

### SPORTS INFORMATION

Middle Tennessee center Warren Kidd has joined a select group of college basketball seniors chosen to play in the Desert Classic April 20-24 at the American West Arena in Phoenix, Ariz.

The elite group includes three players from teams participating in this weekend's NCAA Final Four, eight from the NCAA Tournament's Elite Eight.

Kidd, a 6-9 native of Vincent, Ala., led all Division I collegiate basketball in rebounding the past season, averaging 14.8 rebounds per game, as well as scoring 15.0 points per game.

He is the only Blue Raider player ever to pass the 1,000 mark in both rebounds and points in a career.

He finished his three-year varsity career with 1,165 points (13th on the all-time MTSU list) and 1,048

rebounds, the most ever gathered in by a Blue Raider player.

His career field-goal percentage of .664 is also a new school record and the fifth highest in the history of the NCAA.

Over the past season, he had 19 "doubles-doubles," (10 or more points and 10 or more rebounds) in 19 of 26 games played.

North Carolina's George Lynch (6-8) and Kansas' Adonis Jordan (5-11) and Rex Walters (6-3), all in action this weekend at the NCAA Final Four in New Orleans, are among the 26 players already selected for this year's Classic.

Others, whose teams made the NCAA round-of-eight, include Cincinnati's Corei Blount (6-10) and Nick Van Exel (6-3), Florida State's Sam Cassell (6-3), and Indiana's Greg Graham (6-4) and Matt Nover (6-8).

Rounding out the list of participants for the five-day

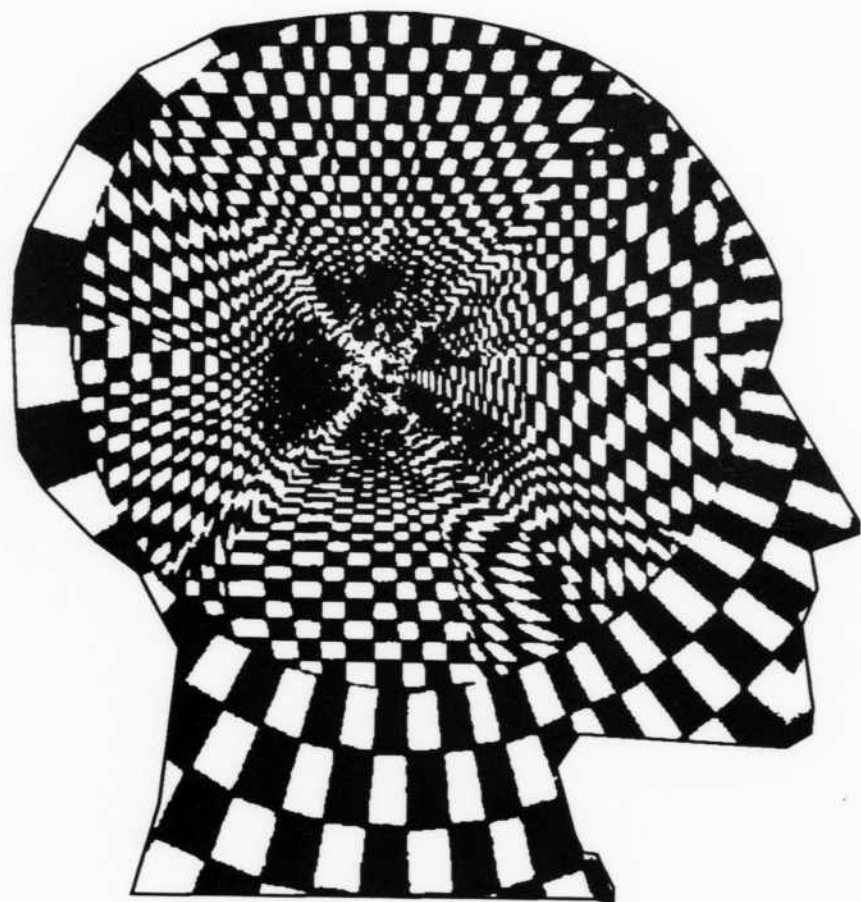
Classic are Connecticut's Scott Burrell (6-7), New Mexico State's Sam Crawford (5-8), Delaware's Spencer Dunkley (6-11), UNLV's Dexter Boney (6-4) and Evric Gray (6-7), Long Beach State's Lucious Harris (6-5), Oregon State's Scott Haskin (6-11), Duke's Thomas Hill (6-5), Jackson State's Lindsey Hunter (6-2), New Orleans' Ervin Johnson (6-11), Georgia Tech's Malcolm Mackey (6-9), Syracuse's Conrad McRae (6-9), Washington's Rich Manning (6-11), Arizona's Chris Mills (6-6) and Ed Stokes (7-0), Michigan State's Mike Peplowski (6-10) and Oregon's Antoine Stoudamire (6-4).

The Desert Classic has been played the last five years in Orlando, Fla., and makes a move to Arizona's Valley of the Sun this spring.

The nation's top seniors will be divided into four squads for the five days of practice and games at the American West Arena, which is the home of the NBA's Phoenix Suns.

## MIT opens door to cyberspace

COLLEGE PRESS SERVICE



Imagine watching and manipulating the action of a feature-length movie stored on a compact disc, or *Rolling Stone Magazine* being beamed by a satellite to your personal computer, displayed with columns of text and accompanied by moving video.

These are the visionary technologies that researchers at Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge are developing. The gamut of communication technologies—television, newspapers, magazines, books, music, film and video—are being redefined through computers and digital recordings that assign numbers to recorded information and allow greater compatibility between machines, faster transmission and more storage capacity.

Inside the square, modern building that houses the 6-year-old Media Lab, researchers devise new ways for people to interact with information through computers. Information and entertainment are the other two major areas of study at the lab.

For example, Glorianna Davenport, assistant professor of arts and media technology and director of an interactive cinema group is combining her ability to tell stories with interactive technologies.

"I see computational methods offering a very exciting potential to how we tell stories," said Davenport, who was originally a documentary filmmaker.

Almost everyone experiences some form of interactive technology during the course of a day. Playing a video game or withdrawing money from an automatic teller machine are basic examples. But Davenport and the other Media Lab visionaries take it a few levels further.

Her recent interactive documentary, "New Orleans in Transition, 1983-1986," is a three-hour case study of urban change in the historic French Quarter. It was partially filmed by noted documentary filmmaker Richard Leacock.

A viewer can stop the action by typing computer cues, opening windows, or eventually, voicing commands to query information on a particular participant, image or idea that includes sound, moving video, photographs or text.

"You can watch three hours of it, and it works great," Davenport says. "Or, maybe you can focus on one particular story because that's the story you want to discuss right now."

For example, empowered with the tools of the author or producer, a viewer can stretch in length, interrupt, compress, annotate or change the angle of a film. The traditional linear viewing that most viewers are accustomed to is modified into a multi-dimensional narrative.

"You, as a viewer, get to orchestrate which character's point of view you want to

watch the action from," Davenport said, demonstrating how to change an image on the video monitor on command. "And those sorts of movies we're now only learning how to make. It's a very exciting time."

The technology is moving into the hands of consumers ranging from electronic gadget fanatics to parents who record their children's softball game.

The Media Lab received \$8.6 million in funding in 1992. About three-fourths of the money comes from corporate sponsors like Polaroid, Yamaha, Toshiba, Apple Computer and Nintendo, and the other one-fourth comes from the government.

A founding member of the lab and associate director of the publishing group, Walter Bender is tinkering with an "electronic newspaper" that would spit out personally tailored news to readers based on their interests and past selections.

"We are basically trying to make news address the needs of an individual, in terms of being timely, focused and useful," Bender said. "And we're also looking farther afield to see if there's room for news in education."

**You, as a viewer, get to orchestrate which character's point of view you want to watch the action from.**

"We're really shifting a lot of the news production. ... There's a computer in the news room. There's a computer in my home. What I want to do, is to be able to take advantage of that intelligence on either end of the wire, and let those two computers talk to each other and negotiate on my behalf," Bender said.

But will people be willing to give up the tangible feel of *The New York Times* only to read it on a blurry monitor? Bender sees no reason why "ink-on-paper cannot be a part of the news of the future." But, diminishing forests for paper and competition from other electronic media may not afford readers the pleasure of deciding how they will digest their information for the next century, he said.

Bender postulates an interesting scenario for future newspaper publishers.

"When you build a printing press, it costs a lot of money. It's not clear if that investment may be better spent by giving everyone of your readers a laser printer instead."

In the year 2001, interactive computers may be more user-friendly than ever, feed us personalized news and our space odysseys will take place in the comfort of our own living rooms.



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destroys itself."

—Franklin D.  
Roosevelt

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**Ratterman**

continued from page four

responsive to students needs. However, the desire to attain that position has, in recent years, had little to do with altruism and more to do with resume padding and ego-stroking.

Perhaps Ratterman will be a person who takes his responsibilities seriously and recognize that he could do a lot of good for the students he represents.

Unfortunately, he doesn't seem to have a

clear idea of what he wants to do, and that could leave him open for manipulation and an overall inefficient administration.

Every new administration deserves a 'honeymoon' and so this is all I have to say on the subject. I just hope he will think a great deal this summer about what he can achieve for all of us in the next year.

—Galyn Glick

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# J. Mascis sets new standard for alternative music

CHRISTIAN ROCCO/ALBUM REVIEW

This is the J. Mascis story. He writes great songs, he plays numerous instruments, especially the guitar, and he produces discs with a unique sound that redefines alternative music and these two discs are the perfect examples.

On his own band's disc, *Where You Been*, J. is at the production and creative helms, writing all of the songs on the disc and producing it as well. With FIREHOSE's *mr. machinery operator*, J. Mascis adds more energy to the sound of a band that could be the most talented alternative band ever, even without his assistance. Add the fact that J. plays on four of the songs on the disc and you can begin to understand what kind of impact he had on the band.

*Where You Been* is the follow up to the band's 1991 release *Green Mind*, which was considered by many critics, including myself, to be their best disc ever. Unfortunately this isn't the same as *Green Mind*, but it has its moments. A few of the songs could be catchy enough to actually get the attention of the MTV generation, but the entire disc just couldn't become that successful. *Where You Been* is definitely predictable as a Dinosaur Jr. release. There's nothing on it that the band hasn't done before, but the truly great thing about Dinosaur Jr. is that their sound is

reason enough to buy their discs.

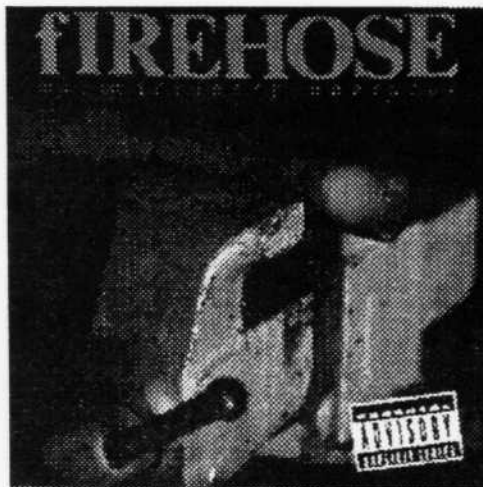
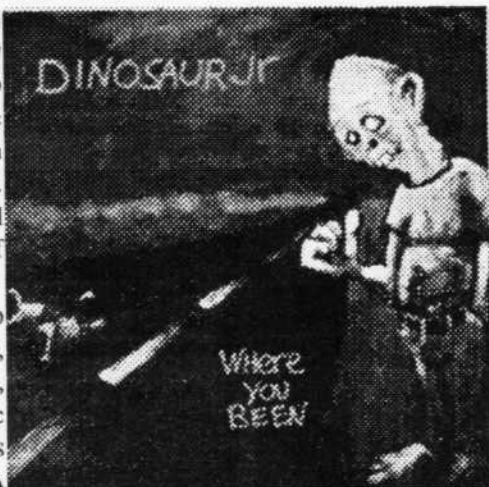
Dinosaur Jr. is one the few bands that is so consistent that you can buy anything they release and not be disappointed. J. Mascis will always be the Neil Young of alternative music with his singing, song writing, and signature guitar sounds, but as a producer he's managed

Greg Ginn and the rest of S.S.T. records were headed for before the label fell apart.

Continuing the Dinosaur Jr. sound was relatively easy for J. because of what an important part in the band he plays. As for what J. Mascis did for FIREHOSE, that wasn't expected.

When I first heard about J. Mascis producing the newest FIREHOSE disc I was totally overwhelmed by the concept of his production on their style of music. And then I listened to it. Well, at first I was kind of bored by Mike Watt's monotonous rambling, but that was over after the first song. J. helped out the band on four tunes, including the second song, "Blaze," which is what the entire record should have sounded like. Unfortunately, FIREHOSE didn't let J. record on every track, but they did a decent job musically with him as producer.

FIREHOSE is the tightest band alive and this is just another example of it. Like Dinosaur Jr., FIREHOSE is the kind of band that is consistent enough to always expect a good disc from and this isn't a disappointment. If you like anything that Dinosaur Jr. or FIREHOSE have ever done, you'll like their new discs. It's that simple.



to create a sound on both of these discs that is a bit like what would have happened if S.S.T. records had had really production equipment. I guess that that's kind of appropriate considering J.'s past, but he has managed to finally achieve the production and overall sound that

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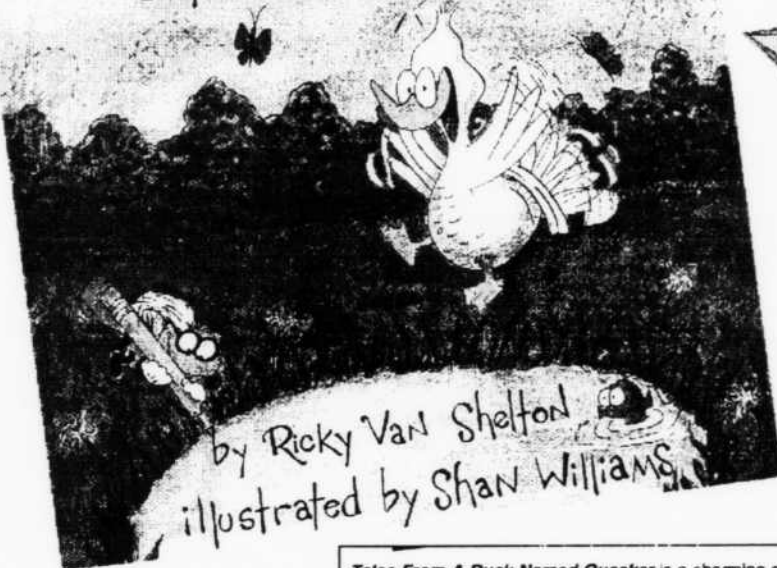
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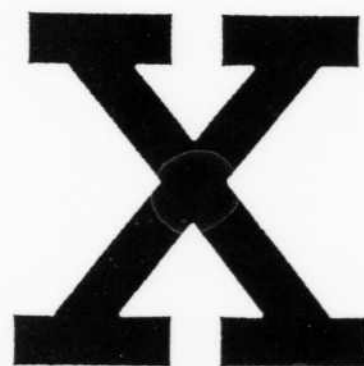
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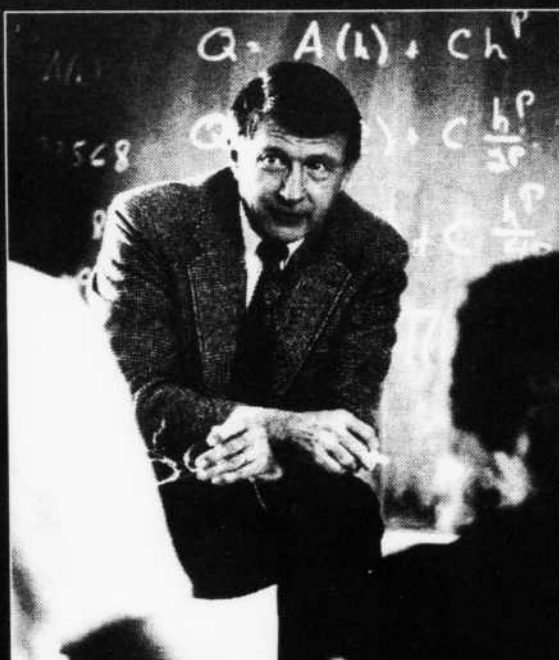
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## Old Blue

Continued from Page 11

Excuse me, but where do I sign up?

While at camp, Johnston and his mascot brethren learned important do's and don'ts, such as don't talk in costume, don't remove your costume in public, don't be unsportsmanlike, and don't forget your industrial-strength deodorant. In perhaps the understatement of the year, Johnston said "You don't smell good after a game."

Then it was time for him to strut his stuff. At the MTSU-TSU football thriller in Nashville last fall, he did just that. He mingled. He hugged. He high-fived. He pantomimed. He ran across the field after every Blue Raider score with the MTSU flag. He was a lean, mean, sweatin' machine, and he ended up with heat stroke and had to be attended to by paramedics.

Not only did he recover, but decided to take on the one mascot ritual that separates the costume-clad sissies from those with Dexterity and Constitution, push-ups. He even did one-armed, clapping push-ups each time he got down to the last few. The author gets winded just writing about it. To Johnston, though, it's a natural high.

"I get pumped up a little bit because the fans are counting along, the cheerleaders gather around and everybody's looking at Blue doing push-ups," said Johnston.

As exciting as the push-ups were, Johnston describes the event that has gotten him the most attention:

"Lori Kirk is the captain of the dance team, and I went up to her and asked if I could work in a dance with them. And it just so happens that they had a dance already prepared, and I tried to learn to last couple eight counts. It worked out perfectly—the center formed a triangle and there was no one in the center, and the moves that they had were real animated for when I got in there and could dance.

"People said that it was about the funniest thing that they had seen. Some people said that they couldn't breathe and that they had Coke coming out of their noses, which is really nice to hear," he says.

It seems you know you've made it as a mascot when people start emitting soft drinks from their nasal cavities.

But Johnston has had to deal with fans who have spouted more than cola.

"The Marshall crowd was probably the worst crowd I've ever been to. There was hate in everybody's voice," Johnston says with a combination of scorn and bewilderment.

"It was real bad. Here I am trying to be friendly with the kids and the kids would come down,

but yet there's some drunk adult near the kid that's yelling profanities at me and trying to get in a fight with me."

And would you believe that a mascot even has to deal with racial issues? Johnston's had to, but he thinks that people who are concerned about what his race is are barking up the wrong tree.

"A lot of people ask if I'm black or white, and I'm blue with white spots. Whether the person inside is black or white is irrelevant," says Johnston. "A lot of time that does become an issue as far as whether someone will associate with me or not. It's one thing that a lot of mascots say they're asked all the time."

Even a mascot's best friends, kids, can prove to be a challenge.

"Little kids think, 'Oh, I want to pet the puppy,' and I look real cute and funny from 50 yards away; when I get up closer and closer to them, instead of being a puppy I'm a 6-foot-tall dog," Johnston points out. "It intimidates a lot of kids at first, and one of the things that I try to do is to have it look like Old Blue is friendly, that he's got a sense of humor... you try get down to their

'Little kids think, 'Oh, I want to pet the puppy,' and I look real cute and funny from 50 yards away; when I get closer and closer to them, instead of being a puppy I'm a 6-foot-tall dog.'

—Old Blue  
Eddie Johnston

level."

Johnston also thinks it is important for mascots to treat each other with a common respect and not try to make each other look bad. He makes it a point to try and meet with each mascot before a game to set up some ground rules.

"Mascots really need to display camaraderie, because there's plenty of competition down on the floor or field," he observes.

Johnston's favorite mascot?

Besides himself, he likes Tennessee Tech's Awesome Eagle, whom he knows personally and whose costume was designed by the late, great Jim Henson, of Muppets fame. He adds that Awesome Eagle was selected as one of the four finalists in UCA's national mascot competition this year. Johnston didn't submit a tape of his work in time to be considered, but said he feels he would have had a decent shot at it, as would any of the Ohio Valley Conference mascots.

"They're all good," he says with complete sincerity.

But what do friends and fans think of Johnston's performance as Old Blue?

"Of the people who know me, and know [that I'm the mascot], not to sound bigheaded, but I put a lot of effort into it, and they think I do a good job," says Johnston.

Did he say bigheaded? Now who ever heard of a mascot with a big head?

Still, not everyone wants him to stay Blue.

"My family's ready for me to graduate. They want me to get out, get a job and make some money. Under my current economic plan, I'm losing weight because I can't buy food."

Anyone got a couple extra cans of Alpo? It's hard to imagine Old Blue on the corner of a Nashville side street with a sign that says, "Will work for food" on one side and "CHARGE!" on the other.

The rewards, although they may not come in dollars and cents, are just as valuable.

"When I go on road trips, I have little kids that will write me letters. They'll draw me pictures and color in their coloring books and give it to me like it's their most prized possession and they want me to have it," says Johnston.

"When we played Northern Illinois, a girl wrote me notes on little post-its like, 'Hi. My name's Amy. I'm 9 years old. What's your name? How old are you? You're funny. Will you come and eat dinner with us?' It's just so precious because she could just barely write, and she wanted to be my friend. Things like that...you can't put a price on it."

But isn't it frustrating to be condemned to anonymity for eternity? Doesn't the ego cry out for recognition?

Well, it depends on the situation, according to Johnston, who describes how his friends' lack of judgment once put them in his doghouse.

"At the game, I'm out there shooting half-court shots, and my roommate, he's got a couple of his fraternity brothers and they're out there yelling, 'EDDIE! EDDIE!'" he says with exasperation in his voice.

The other side of the coin?

"When there are cute girls flirting with me, that's when I'd like them to be able to see who I am. I could be an axe-murderer with an upside-down nose and missing teeth under this costume and they don't know...they're just looking at the personality.

"Times like that, it's like, 'Hey, how 'bout a date?' Then again, who would want to date a dog?"

Wonder if Snoopy ever had that problem?



# What was, and what will be in 1993

TONY DeMATIO  
Sports Writer

Ah, the sounds of springtime: the crack of Rickey Henderson's bat against the clubhouse wall, the shout of angry fans responding to one more ticket price hike as players bicker over that last \$800,000 of their already ridiculous contract, the thunk of cowhide against cranium, the rip of jerseys as the benches empty, the mindless drone of baseball commentators who seem to like the sound of themselves talking, the snore of fans watching an hour and a half of a pitcher scratching, adjusting, shaking off a couple dozen signs, ordering a pizza, catching up on the stock report....Baseball, ain't it great?

So let's quickly recap the season. Looking at the A.L. East, the Red Sox stunk. The Tigers continued to stink. The Indians didn't stink, because they had completed the process of decomposition. Someone gave the Jays a Heimlich maneuver, and they stopped choking! Jack Morris went from the Jay's ace to a postseason disgrace. The Orioles were the

"surprise team of the division," although this division is so bad that any team with a winning record is "the surprise team of the division."

Now on to the A.L. West. The A's weren't that great and still won the division. Canseco was shipped to deep in the heart of Texas, whining all the way (but he WASN'T bitter!). The Mariners were bad enough to get sold to the Japanese, but look for Ken Griffey's baseball game from Nintendo due out real soon. The Twins didn't miss Jack Morris, until he won 21 games for the Jays. The White Sox were mediocre and Bo Jackson made 74 more commercials to saturate the airwaves. Enough of the A.L. West.

In the N.L. East, the Cubs...well, you know. The Cardinals underachieved. The most interesting thing about the Phillies once again was the Phanatic. The Expos made a run, and then realized, "Hey, we're the Expos! We aren't supposed to be good!" and quickly went back to being "that other Canadian team." The Mets had

40 million reasons to hate Bobby Bonilla, who absorbed some of the impact away from other lousy players.

In the N.L. West, Atlanta made the rest of the division look like Triple-A clubs. The Giants were a giant bomb. The Astros were pretty good for the Astros, which means they were still pretty bad. The Reds sustained more injuries than a M\*A\*S\*H unit. The Padres proved that no man is an island, although Benito Santiago would beg to differ. The Dodgers would have been great...if Mike Scioscia could play every position.

The Jays beat Oakland for the A.L. title, as the A's found a way to lose. The Braves had a fiesta when Sid Bream slid in for the winning run in the seventh game of the N.L. series with the Pirates, whose postseason was still the Pitts. In the World Series, the Marines flunked the flag test and the Jays edged out the Braves in five games.

Since I'm a Jays fan and predicted them to win it all last year, let me just say

to all you thousands of Braves fans who gave me dirty looks when I wore my Jays cap around campus last fall, touche! Oh, and absit invidia. (Look it up in the "Foreign Words and Phrases" section of Webster's—I did). But that was then, and this is now. At the risk of providing one more meaningless preview, look for the following to happen this year.

The Jays will be expected to blitz the competition. They'll play mediocre until Maybe September, and edge out Baltimore (really went out on a limb there). They'll also realize just how much they miss Tom Henke. The Cleveland Indians will slowly heal the wounds caused by the deaths of Steve Olin and Tim Crews, but it will be even more painful in their hearts than in the standings. Steve Howe will purchase a chain of drugstores in New York (he likes the product so much, he bought the company!) and form the Drug of the Month club.

Someone will win the A.L. West, maybe Texas, maybe finally Chicago.

See **BASEBALL**, Page 14

## Sports Editorial

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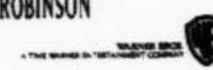
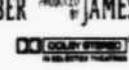
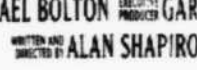
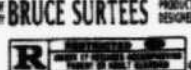


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## Blue Raiders primed for California after SIU win

SHANE SCRUTTON  
Sports Writer

MTSU men's tennis squad scored a fiery 6-3 home victory over Southern Illinois-Edwardsville Sunday in an encounter where heated tempers were the order of the day.

During the match, players from both sides received numerous conduct warnings and one in which the Blue Raiders struggled to display overall dominance.

"It wasn't pretty because both teams were involved in so many arguments, but a win's a

win," said senior David Thornton, who won at the No. 2 doubles spot as the Blue Raiders swept all three doubles matches.

Coach Dale Short said he was disappointed by the tougher-than-expected result, noting more consistency is needed if MTSU is to win a third straight OVC title.

"It's frustrating because we have been playing so up-and-down lately, and we really need to play with more consistency against teams we should beat easily," he said.

The squad travels to Irvine, Calif., this weekend for the Spring Classic tournament.

## Golfers stroke to second

JIM HORTON  
Sports Information

Middle Tennessee used a consistent attack to finish second in the Boatmen's Bank Bent Classic hosted by Southeast Missouri. Arkansas-Little Rock was the champion by four strokes over the Blue Raiders. Even so, MTSU was the only team to shoot sub-300 rounds over all three rounds as a team.

"We got a good consistent effort from our top four," said head coach Johnny Moore. "David Reed played about as well

as I could have wanted throughout the weekend. I feel good about our effort so far."

The Blue Raiders placed two golfers in the top 10 and two more in the top 20. Reed, a redshirt freshman, netted sixth-place, as junior Matt Lucchesi notched ninth place. Freshman Mike Chesser and Daniel Johnson rounded out the effort with 13th and 19th-place finishes.

As a team, the Blue Raiders finished ahead of four fellow OVC members (Southeast Missouri, Tennessee Tech, Austin Peay and UT-Martin).

## Brown makes provisional list

TONY J. ARNOLD  
Sports Editor

MTSU women's trackster Jacqui Brown made the provisional NCAA qualifying list by placing first in both the long jump and triple jump in a meet over the weekend.

Brown leaped 20-7 3/4 to take the long jump event while

her triple jump of 41-8 was good enough to take the top spot.

Veronica Tipton's jump of 5-7 3/4 was good enough to win her event as well.

There were no team scores kept at the meet and both the men's and women's teams will return to action over the weekend at Southeast Missouri to take place in the SEMotion relays.

## Baseball

Continued From Page 13

Seattle is my sentimental pick, but they have as much chance of winning the pennant as the Mariner Moose has of getting elected to the All-Star team. If you want a more concrete prediction, read Tony A's preview.

St. Louis can win the N.L. East if they play up to their capabilities, and I think they finally will. The Cubs will fire Jim LaFevre, Harry Carry will take his place and no one will ever complain about losing again (until Harry passes on to that big broadcast booth in the sky) because everyone loves Harry Carry.

The Braves will be awesome and every pitcher on the staff will win at least 20 games.

Non-Braves fans will be forced to endure seven months of the obnoxious Tomahawk Chop. Pepto Bismol sales will skyrocket at Fulton County Stadium and the Red Cross will tour the stands treating arm injuries. Ted Turner will be shown schmoozing with Jane Fonda during every Braves telecast, ad nauseam. America's team...phooey!

There. I've had my say about baseball, and I won't mention it again, unless the Jays win another world championship.



# COMICS

SIDELINES • APRIL 1, 1993 • PAGE 15

**Larger Life**



Inside the elevator button mechanism, a tiny computer records each time you push the button and slows the elevator's reaction time accordingly.



"Hey Tim, you know, according to my records, you've worn those same pants to work for three days now."



Intrigued by the old machine, Gus pulled down the towel for nearly an hour to see if the dirty part ever came back around again.

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# THE SECOND FRONT

## Tired of History 201? Try Porn 150

COLLEGE PRESS SERVICE

Constance Penley admits she had twinges of embarrassment when her film class first met in January. Her students at the University of California-Santa Barbara probably felt the same way, she said.

But then again, those on both sides of the podium had every right to be squeamish about the class subject: The four-credit course is a study of pornography as a film genre. That's right, the kind of films Mom and Dad told you never to watch are being shown in "Film Studies 150 PG Special Topics in Film Genre: Pornographic Film."

"Deep Throat" and "Suburban Dykes" aren't exactly "The Sound of Music." But that's the point.

"We're trying to define it (porn) as a genre. Our film program tries to give a comprehensive survey in American film, and this is one of the largest that has gone unaddressed," Penley said.

This class has all kinds of porn: straight, gay, lesbian, feminist and even amateur. The students have to be screened before being admitted to the class, and although the Film Studies

Department had allocated 20 openings, 70 students were admitted.

"When I walked into class the first day I saw 70 terrified faces. Even I didn't know what to expect," Penley said. "I think everyone feels funny being in this class."

Only those willing to take a serious look at pornography and all its different outlets were let in, said Edward Branigan, chair of the Film Studies Department.

"We wanted very serious

segment in the industry is feminist pornography.

There has been no controversy about the class on campus — Penley said she has the full backing of her department and the administration. She did say, however, that the Santa Barbara Anti-Pornography Coalition had called, saying they had heard that "Deep Throat" was being shown on campus. However, the group is mostly concerned with young children seeing porn, so she wasn't worried about the

**'I'm trying to get over the misconceptions of what porno films are.'**

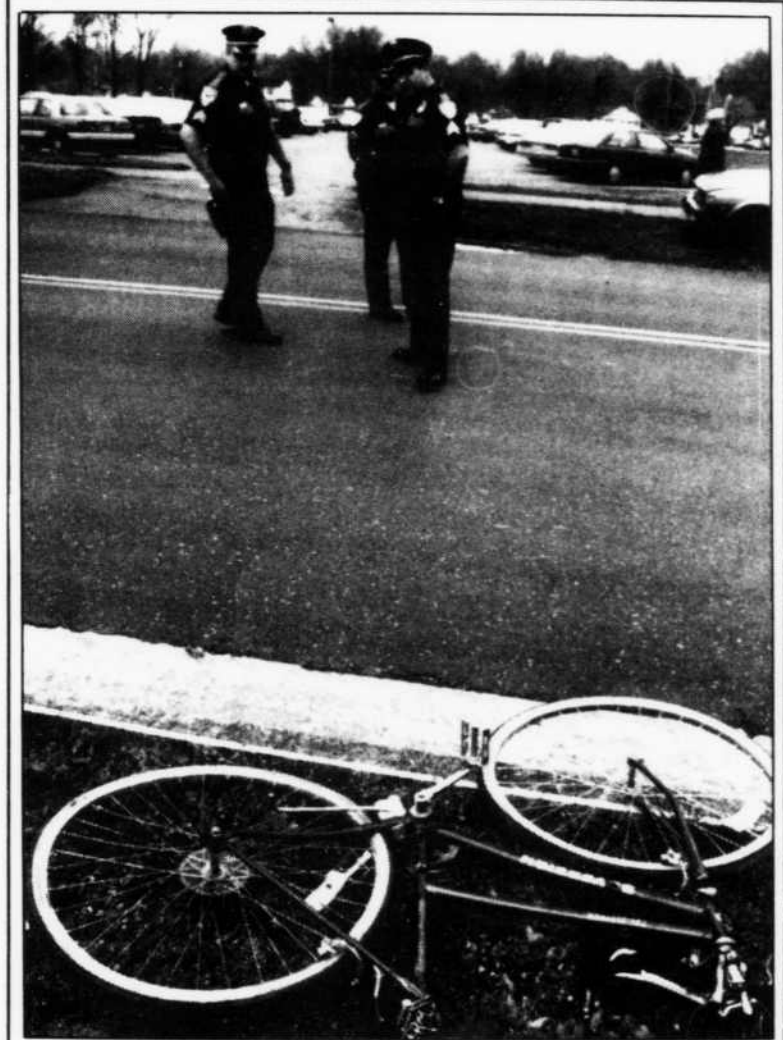
students from different disciplines. Pornography is a very highly charged genre that has political and social weight to it," he said. "The course studies pornography as a fact, in the sense of 'Here's something that exists in the world and let's take a look at it.'"

Penley said that porn, contrary to popular conception, does not necessarily depict violent degradation of women. She said new academic evidence suggests there is little violence against women in porn, and a growing

organization's reactions to showing the films on campus.

Penley said she wants to teach the class again. In demystifying porn, she said, the genre can be viewed as a serious film. That still doesn't cut down the anxiety level among her students, however.

"I think that we think pornography films are horror films. My class is actually seeing it for what it is. I'm trying to get over the misconceptions of what porno films are," Penley said.



Carl E. Lambert/Staff

**ON THE SCENE:** Officers Ken Vaughn, Jimmy Horne and Roy Fields survey the scene of an accident in which Annebelle Droussiotis, graduate student, was hit by a car while riding her bicycle on Lytle St. She is listed in fair condition at Middle Tennessee Medical Center.

## MTV redefines women in music

CHARLES ALY  
Staff Writer

MTV has helped redefine previously limited roles for women in music and has played a large part in establishing women as professional musicians, a noted author told a group of MTSU students and staff Tuesday.

Dr. Lisa A. Lewis presented a lecture and slide presentation, titled "Sex, Rock, and Roles: A Look at Gender Politics on MTV," as part of National Women's History Month.

The presentation was based on Lewis' book "Gender Politics and MTV: Voicing the Difference."

Until recently, Lewis said, women have been relegated to amateur roles in music. The performance of music was a service women provided for family members, she said.

Professional musicianship was primarily a man's domain and girls were excluded from the "garage bands" adolescent males used to explore music.

"The technologies associated with popular musician-

ship—electronic instruments, amplifiers—discouraged girls who were not socialized in basic mechanical and electronic operations," said Lewis.

When women were able to break into popular music, she said, they were vocalists, not part of a band, and often criticized by the entertainment press as puppets of commercial interests.

MTV began in 1981 and provided a vehicle for female artists to assume traditional male roles and break down stereotypes.

The slide presentation contained scenes from early rock videos by Tina Turner, Cindy Lauper, Pat Benatar and Madonna.

The images in the videos helped redefine women's roles in music by showing women taking over city streets, pushing through a group of construction workers and participating in male dominated "street corner culture."

This redefinition of gender roles enabled girls and women to participate in rock and pop music culture in a way they never had before, Lewis said.

## Bike trail project may be answer to pollution problem: City Council

KENNETH HOLLOWAY  
News Writer

Alternative transportation routes which will help reduce gasoline consumption and improve the environment could be a reality in Murfreesboro as soon as next summer.

In its March 25 meeting, Murfreesboro City Council approved an agreement with the federal government for a feasibility study on a proposed bicycle trail project. Under the agreement, the city would pay 20 percent of this \$45,000 federal transportation project.

The project is designed to provide alternate transportation funds to get people to throttle back their car use and use other forms of transportation, such as bicycles.

City manager Roger Haley said U.S. Rep. Bart Gordon helped in getting the federal funding for the alternate trans-

portation project.

"Being a university community was a help in getting this project," said Mayor Joe B. Jackson.

Jim Huhta, a member of a committee that is studying the project, said this is the first citywide project in the United States being conducted under a new federal transportation act.

This is an "effort to reduce problems with air quality," said Huhta.

Huhta explained that if three out of 10 people used bikes instead of cars for transportation there would be a savings of approximately \$3 billion per year.

The council approved the construction of a 12-foot wide trail last summer that would link Fort Rosecrans to Stones River, said Huhta.

Jackson said that he hopes the public will be able to utilize

the trail by the summer of 1994.

Huhta told the council that the U.S. government would be monitoring the project to see how future projects can best be conducted.

Councilman Jack Ross advised the council that the federal funds for the project were only available for a certain time period.

Haley informed City Council that another condition to receiving the federal funding is that the city must show that it is trying to provide alternate transportation.

Ross moved for approval of the study with Councilman Kevin Wax seconding the motion.

Haley told the council that the city's portion of the funding for the project would come from the recreation department and that this funding has not been budgeted.