

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

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1982 thefts mean big loss for bookstore

By CHERYL PURYEAR
Staff Writer

Shoplifting cost the MTSU bookstore approximately \$30,000 last year, according to Kelly B. Dement, manager of supplies.

"Thirty-thousand dollars is a lot of money," Dement said, "but it is a small amount compared to our \$2.5 million in retail sales [last year]."

THE BOOKSTORE experiences a fluctuating inventory, he said, with a loss-factor average of .5 to 1 percent each year.

"We don't have the problem that a lot of places do," Dement said. "We are dealing with a different kind of people than outside stores."

Dement attributed the layout of the bookstore as a preventative shoplifting measure. The shelves are at eye level with few obstructions from the front to the back of the store.

BOOKSTORE employees are also trained to watch for shoplifters, and occasionally a student or employee patrols the bookstore, he said.

If anyone is caught shoplifting, "they would probably regret it," Dement said. Shoplifters are first taken to the Dean of Students and would be prosecuted depending on the situation. Suspension or probation are possibilities.

Most of the stolen items are
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Forum allows airing of complaints; students question university officials

By MARSHA ROBERSON
Staff Writer

The question of a pre-exam study day was among the issues raised at the second ASB Campus Forum Wednesday.

The forum was set up by the ASB to give students a chance to ask questions of various MTSU officials. Sam Ingram, MTSU president; Robert LaLance, vice president of student affairs; Ivan Shewmake, director of housing and Charles Phillips of the University Bookstore were among the officials present.

CONCERNING a pre-exam study day, Ingram said that school calendars are made up two years in advance and that



Photo by Cliff Batsou

One more question...

TV interns Lynn Burch (cameraman), Kathryn Wiggs and Charles Brown brave the cold weather to practice.

ASB bill changes campaign regulations

By MARTY WATT
Staff Writer

A new electoral act which will change the way ASB campaigning is conducted was passed at the ASB joint session Tuesday night.

The main changes in the act dealt with the number of signatures required for petitions to declare candidacy and the monetary amount allowed for campaigning expenditures.

PETITIONS for president

will now require 150 signatures, speaker of the House and Senate requires 75 signatures, and senatorial and homecoming queen candidates must secure 25 names.

Other changes in petitioning for office limit the number of petitions a student can sign for each office. A student may sign only one petition for president and speaker and up to five for senatorial and homecoming queen candidates.

Senatorial candidates are

Governor set to reveal bonus plan for teachers

By TOM HUMPHREY
United Press International

NASHVILLE — Gov. Lamar Alexander will outline Friday his proposals for "making teaching a much more attractive career" in Tennessee, apparently including a form of bonus pay for some instructors.

At a news conference yesterday, the governor was coy about giving details of the proposals that will be outlined in a "state of education" address to the Tennessee Press Association.

HE SAID the proposal will not be for "merit pay as that term is usually understood" but it is "very possible" that the result will be raises for some teachers based on an evaluation system.

Merit pay, he said, "usually connotes giving a bonus or a premium to a teacher on a year-by-year basis because of that teacher's classroom

performance." Such a system, he said, was "often not fair" and hard to administer.

Asked if his plans include bonuses for math and science teachers, who are in high demand in many school systems, Alexander said, "That may be in there too."

SUCH PLANS would add yet another new expense to the state budget for the next fiscal year and perhaps increase the chances that Alexander will propose a tax hike in his budget address March 1.

The governor has already proposed \$26 million in prison system improvement, "less



Gov. Lamar Alexander

than \$10 million" for installing computers in school classrooms and \$25 million for creating a "high technology corridor" in East Tennessee.

The proposals all come at a time when the state is running short of money even on the "bare bones" budget for the current year, and Alexander has hinted that he may seek a tax hike, though insisting no decision has been made.

ASKED Thursday where the money would come from for improving education, Alexander said, "I'll tell you March 1."

The Tennessee Education Association, a statewide teachers' lobbying group, has traditionally opposed merit pay plans on grounds that politics could enter into evaluations of teachers.

Teachers now get basically the same across-the-board pay raise from the state, though teachers with more experience and a higher level of education receive somewhat higher salaries.

Alexander's speech is scheduled at 6:30 p.m. (CST) and will be carried live by several television stations across the state.

Saying he wanted to concentrate on his education program, Alexander announced Wednesday he will not run in 1984 for the Senate seat to be vacated by Senate Republican Leader Howard Baker.

Alexander's decision dashes hopes for a "dream race" pitting him against Rep. Albert Gore, D-Tenn.

Group taking nominations for teacher award

Gamma Beta Phi is now taking written nominations from active members for the 1983 Teacher of the Year Award.

All nominations should consist of a statement of less than 50 words telling why you are nominating this particular teacher.

NOMINATIONS should be turned in at the February meeting or sent to Lynda Achord, Academic Awareness Chairman, MTSU Box 4785.

At the March meeting, a ballot listing will be presented. No nominations will be taken from the floor, however write-in notes will be allowed.

The award will be presented to the winning teacher at the spring banquet.

UT professor group opposes arena

KNOXVILLE (UPI) — Tennessee's planned \$30 million basketball arena was blasted by a group of professors Thursday as an "inappropriate" investment at a time when faculty salaries are among the lowest in the Southeast.

The University Chapter of the American Association of University Professors, the largest faculty group on campus, released a position paper saying the only people supporting the 25,000-seat arena are school president Ed Boling and his staff—not faculty and students.

"WE'RE VERY distressed that Dr. Boling has said publicly that the university is behind this effort 100 percent. The faculty and students are certainly not behind this 100 percent," said Lorayne Lester,

chapter president of the professor group.

Lester said the professors feel the public will get the idea that the university administration is more concerned about sports activities than improving academic programs at the college.

"It's very hard for the public to understand that we are being very badly depressed. The quality of the university is damaged as a result of state impoundment of funds for three years, when on the other hand we appear to be able to raise millions of dollars to build a sports arena," she said.

"FOR THIS reason, we believe this is an inappropriate thing for the university to do at this time."

Lester would not comment on whether the organization has plans to file a suit in an

attempt to block the arena.

Joe Johnson, the university's executive vice president, feels there is statewide support for the arena, which will replace Kentucky's Rupp Arena as the nation's largest college basketball facility.

HE POINTED out that the state plans to spend \$7 million for the arena, Knox County \$10 million and private donors have raised \$5 million of the \$13 million the university will contribute.

But he said the professors do have a point.

"They've got some very solid kinds of concerns, and I'm hoping the governor and the legislature will do something about that," he said.

Under the schedule it would be completed by the start of the 1985 basketball season.

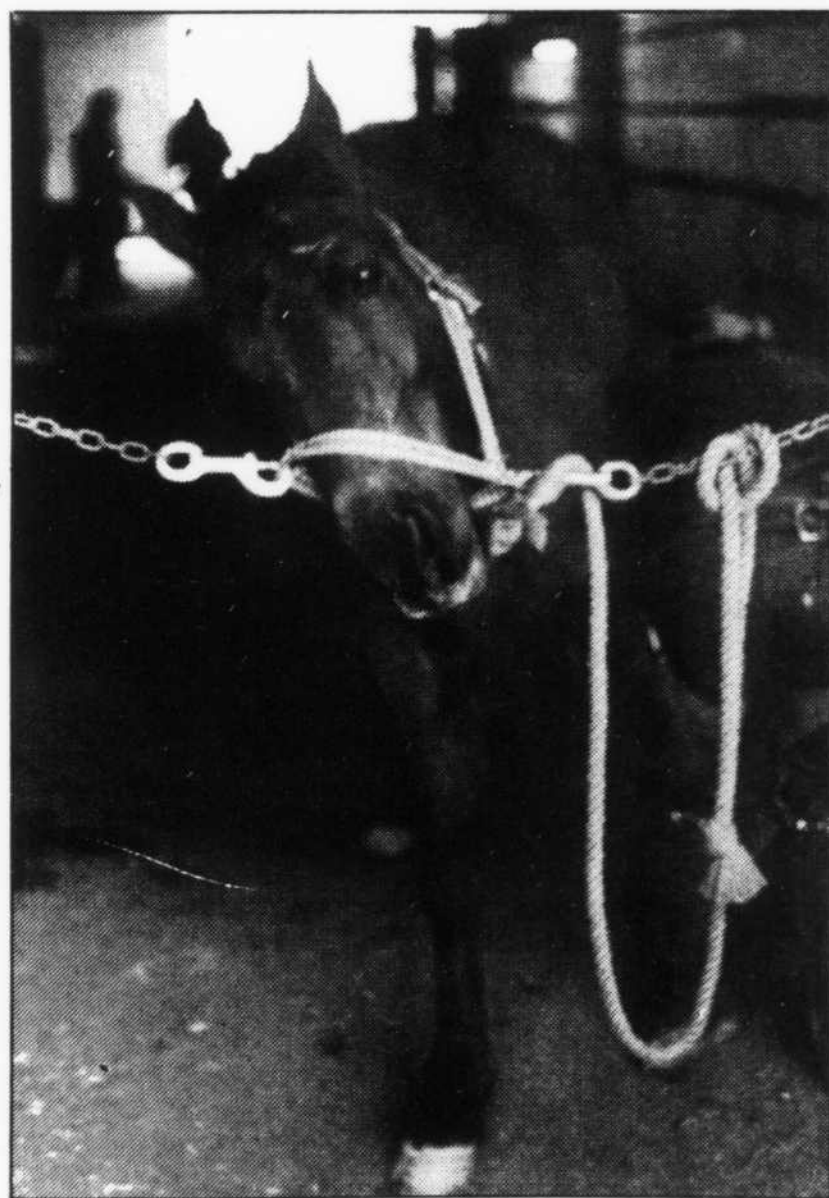


Photo by Debby Naeve

No horseplay

Getting new shoes isn't always a barrel of laughs, as this creature found out recently in the MTSU agriculture barn.

Middle East a matter of principle; concessions necessary: professor

By DIANE M. CRABTREE
Staff Writer

The Palestinian struggle between the Arabs and the Israelis is more than a political showdown, according to Ron Messier.

It is, for each, a matter of the deepest personal principle.

"AND POINTING the finger of blame at one party or another is 'academic, perhaps even irrelevant,'" said Messier, associate professor of history and director of the honors program on campus.

Messier, speaking on "Peace in the Middle East: What We Can Learn From History" as part of the continuing Honors Lecture Series, termed

"urgent" the need for "major compromises" on the part of both Arabs and Israelis.

"But," he added, "if history has taught us anything, it is that peace does not come cheaply. Compromise involves risk, but to fail to compromise at this juncture would, in the long run, be an even greater risk."

MESSIER'S address outlined a brief history of the escalation of tension in the Middle East, including the rise of political Zionism, the frustrated efforts of the Jewish people to find a homeland, war, the Sadat Initiative and finally, more recent negotiations.

"Israel is a fact of life. U.S. commitment to Israel is real.

And although it might strain our patience and pocketbook occasionally, it will remain," the historian said.

At the same time, "the Palestinians are also a fact of life—a proud people; loving, frustrated and homeless. It is an historical drama that is still far from resolution," he said.

The Honors Lecture Series is free and open to the public. Lectures are from 12:00 to 12:50 every Wednesday in Room 214, Peck Hall.

Wednesday's speaker is Professor Bobby Corcoran, associate professor of economics, who will speak on "The Impact of Nissan on Middle Tennessee."

Industrial studies accredited

The MTSU Industrial Studies Department has received national accreditation while also expanding its scholarship program with the addition of three awards.

National accreditation is "recognition by an academic group that is received by potential employers," according to Richard H. Gould, department chairman.

"EMPLOYERS are much more willing to hire people that have been trained in programs that are accredited," Gould said.

The accreditation, received from the National Association

for Industrial Technology, became effective in October as a result of the mid-April visit of members of the NAIT. This visit was followed by a written evaluation.

Three scholarships have been added to the program. MTSU student Tim Waldron received a \$500 award supported by the Rutherford County Home Builders Association, while Terri Cade and Sasson Nour were each awarded \$380 by the Industrial Studies Enrichment Fund.

"WE ONLY considered

those students who requested it," Gould said. "We looked at their grade-point average and determined their need for aid."

After the two-year accreditation, an additional two years is possible based on a status report the department will submit in September 1984.

This would provide a total of four years of accreditation, the maximum awarded by NAIT for an initial accreditation.

At present, Gould says, the department is also concentrating on other projects to upgrade their "rather dated equipment."

Campaign

(continued from page 1)

copying machine in Keathley University Center.

Jeannie Solis, House sponsor of the bill, said the idea was suggested to her by a professor in the mass communications department.

"I see a real need, and we have the chance to help the student body," Solis said.

THE LEGISLATION set up a joint committee to explore the feasibility of such a move.

Ross sponsored the bill to place a copying machine similar to those in the library in Keathley University Center.

Bookstore

(continued from page 1)

small and located at the front of the store. Textbooks, because of their expense, are also sometimes stolen.

Puzzle Answer

S	A	P	M	E	E	T	S	P	O	P
A	G	E	E	A	G	R	E	E	R	I
T	O	W	I	N	G	S	T	E	A	L
T	R	Y	I	T	A	L	I	E	S	
T	R	E	K	S	N	L	I	E	G	E
H	E	R	E	L	S	A	T	R	E	
E	A	S	T	A	T	U	R	E	I	R
S	P	A	T	M	A	T	E	P	S	I
E	S	T	O	P	L	O	F	L	E	E
T	R	I	A	L	F	O	E			
T	H	E	M	E	S	R	E	P	A	S
W	O	N	T	H	R	E	E	D	O	E
O	D	D	Y	E	A	S	T	S	P	A

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Forum

(continued from page 1)

he said that they are trying to settle the insect problem.

Some students inquired about having to take the ACT senior comp exam before graduation.

"IT'S NOT in the contract or in any of our catalogs. Why do we have to take it?" one student asked.

Ingram explained that the Tennessee Higher Education Commission requires the university to measure how successful various department's teaching methods are.

ASB budget.

"THE NEXT administration is not bound to the president's decision to put the phone there," Ross said. "Now the future administrations will have to repeal this bill to remove the phone."

The leadership of both bodies were very pleased with the meeting.

"This is just an efficient method of doing this. We need to see what changes need to be made and also students need a method of self-assessment," Ingram said.

JIM IRWIN, a student, was concerned with still being classified "out-of-state" after attending MTSU for three years.

LaLance said that there is certain criteria to be met before students can be classified as instate.

"WE HAVE to look at the intent of the student.

Campus Capsule

TODAY

A TEAM EXAMINING the mass communications department for possible accreditation will meet at 10 a.m. in Dining Rooms A, B and C in the James Union Building.

THE BLUE RAIDERS BASKETBALL TEAM meets the Austin Peay Governors at 7:30 p.m. in Murphy Center. The Lady Raiders take on the Lady Gobs at 5 p.m.

THE KOOL CLUB SPONSORS a dance in the Tennessee Room of the James Union Building at 9 p.m.

SATURDAY

THE LADY RAIDERS MEET BELMONT at 7:30 p.m. in a women's basketball game in Murphy Center.

GMAT EXAMINATIONS WILL BE GIVEN in Woodmore Cafeteria from 8 a.m. until 1:30 p.m.

ALPHA PHI OMEGA sponsors a dance at 9 p.m. in the James Union Building's Tennessee Room.

SUNDAY

THE TIM FRAZIER PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION begins in the photographic gallery. It will be shown through Feb. 17.

MONDAY

"SPACED OUT" BEGINS at the University Center Theatre. Show times are at 3:30, 6 and 8 p.m. Rated R.

TUESDAY

THE BLUE RAIDER BASKETBALL TEAM entertains Georgia State at 7:30 p.m. in Murphy Center.

"SPACED OUT" CONTINUES in the University Center Theatre.

WEDNESDAY

"THX-1138" BEGINS in the University Center Theatre. Show times are at 3:30, 6 and 8 p.m. Rated PG.

THURSDAY

"THX-1138" CONTINUES in the University Center Theatre.

NOTICE

THE MTSU PERFORMING ARTS COMPANY [dance club] will meet every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. Murphy Center's Dance Studio A. Everyone is welcome.

STUDENT TEACHING APPLICATIONS for the 1983 fall semester must be completed and on file in the Student Teaching office in Jones Hall, Room 106, no later than Feb. 11.

MTSU'S INTERCOLLEGIATE BOWLING TEAM still has openings for men and women. For more information call 896-0945.

News Briefs

EAST RIDGE, Tenn. (UPI) — A "prankster" sprayed nerve gas down a junior high school hall and fled before dozens of students and two teachers began wheezing, choking and passing out, officials said yesterday.

"It had to be a prankster, but it's a poor trick I'll tell you that. It's sure a sore way to get your kicks," said Bennie Johnson, principal of East Ridge Junior High School, which was shut down for a second day Thursday.

Johnson said the school will re-open Friday because state health department officials said the only explanation for the ailments was horseplay by fellow students.

KNOXVILLE (UPI) — TVA will turn over 47 acres of an island on Tellico Lake to the Cherokee Indians to memorialize the tribe's presence in the Little Tennessee River Valley, agency officials said yesterday.

At a meeting next Wednesday in Knoxville, the TVA board is expected to grant a permanent easement on the land, which is located on an island created when TVA flooded the valley in 1979 with Tellico Dam.

The Indians will use the land to establish some type of memorial. One suggestion is construction of a log cabin replica of the birthplace of Sequoyah, a Cherokee leader who devised the tribe's alphabet.

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SPECIAL SECTION

SIDELINES

Despite pain, we can't forget Vietnam

Reflection can sometimes be painful, but often it is the beginning of true wisdom. Being inherently human, we all make mistakes; hopefully, we also learn from them.

Because nations are composed of human beings, they also make mistakes. Errors are often hard to reflect on, but through reflection we can possibly prevent the same mistakes from reoccurring.

TEN YEARS AGO, in January 1973, the United States had to swallow one of its most bitter pills—the realization that the war in Vietnam was a futile and lost cause. The Nixon administration finally came to the conclusion that many Americans had realized years before.

Although he did prolong the conflict and spread it into Cambodia, Nixon is not the only one to blame for the Vietnam fiasco. There were other administrations before his that kept the war going despite the protests of a large number of patriotic Americans.

The war in Vietnam was an exercise

in futility. Many Americans were led to believe that the United States was fighting for an ideal, but in the end it was realized that the U.S. government was merely supporting the corrupt leaders of the Saigon government, not the people of South Vietnam.

editorial

MORE THAN 50,000 Americans and countless more South Vietnamese lost their lives in the fruitless struggle, and many were forced to fight for a cause in which they did not believe. Incredible amounts of blood were shed for an ideal not worth dying for.

Many Americans believed then, and many still believe now, that the policy of communist containment was necessary for the security of the United States; but the monolithic communist giant that imperiled Europe and Asia in the years immediately following the Second World War no longer exists. The Soviet

Union and China are now bitter foes as nationalism takes precedence over the expansion of Marxist influence.

In the aftermath of American involvement in Vietnam, many eyes were finally opened to the internal Marxist struggle as Soviet-backed Vietnam invaded Cambodia, which was supported by China.

IT HAS BEEN argued that people throughout the world want and deserve to live under democratic governments. This is indeed a well-intentioned goal, but the spread of democracy and the spread of the American way of life are not always compatible.

The South Vietnamese did want the right to determine their own destiny, and many of them were against Ho Chi Minh's brand of communism or any form of totalitarian rule; but the South Vietnamese did not want or understand the American way of life.

The United States does have an obligation to defend human rights wherever they are violated. However,

the South Vietnamese government was supported because of the nationalistic interests of the United States, not the right of the South Vietnamese to human dignity.

SIDELINES is running this special section—10 years after the January 27, 1973 treaty which ended direct American involvement in Vietnam—because the American people need to reflect on the failure and misguided purpose of the war in order to prevent an occurrence of the same in the future.

In this section, we look at many phases of the war: the historical background, the people involved, the unrest at home and the attitudes of today.

The lesson we learn through reflection will not ease the pain of those who served in the Vietnam War, or that of the Americans who lost friends and relatives in the struggle. Instead, it will make sure that their service and senseless deaths will be remembered.

Prof tells history of Vietnam war

By WILLIAM B. McCASH
Professor of History

Despite an extended debate, the publication of hundreds of books and articles (many of them recent and well-documented) and the availability of academic courses on the subject, a large number of students and non-students remain utterly ignorant of and often indifferent to the tangled history of "America's longest war," the war in Vietnam.

INDEED, simplistic notions, ideological rigidity, and misconceptions concerning virtually every phase of the struggle are so entrenched in the public mind as to raise a cynical doubt whether there will ever be any realistic possibility of enlightening the majority about the true course and complexity of that tragic conflict.

The depressing old saying to the effect that those who are ignorant of the past are doomed to repeat its mistakes seems all too applicable here.

CONTRARY to popular impression, the Vietnam war did not originate in the '60s as a by-product of the policies of John F. Kennedy or even Lyndon B. Johnson. Nor was it a Moscow-Peking orchestrated, Korea-like invasion of South Vietnam by legions of North Vietnamese troops, nor some sort of Manichean conflict between godless communism on the one hand and the forces of freedom and democracy on the other, and most certainly it did not end "with honor," as Richard Nixon and more recently Ronald Reagan would have us believe.

The root cause of the Vietnam war is to be found in the Vietminh struggle for independence against French colonialism at the close of World War II. Nationalism then—far more than international communism—was a key factor both in the early and later stages of the war.

THIS FACT was recognized, if dimly, by a few intelligent politicians and, more emphatically, by Asian experts in

(continued on page 4)



SOURCE: United States Army Training Center

Local veteran proud of fighting in 'Nam

By PHIL WILLIAMS

Editor

Andy Womack, a local State Farm agent and a 1970 MTSU graduate, is a veteran of the Vietnam War.

But if you go into his office, you'll find no sign of his military service on the wall.

IT'S NOT that he doesn't have medals, ribbons and commemorations. He does.

However, he is not sure of the public's reaction if they knew of his service in the war.

"It's not something you're supposed to be proud of," Womack says.

"I KINDA am proud, but I'm afraid if I put the medals out [in the office entry] everybody will think I'm a war-crazed baby killer."

The public's perception of the Vietnam veteran is something which has bothered Womack since he left Vietnam in 1968 after being there for a year.

"It bothered me because I didn't understand it. I knew I wasn't what I was reading about. So I didn't understand it," he relates.

"I STILL can't and guess I've just quit trying," the 37-year-old businessman adds, staring up at the ceiling.

Womack attributes the stigma of the Vietnam veteran to the massacre of civilians at My Lai and the bad publicity associated with the trial of Lt. William Calley.

"They didn't talk about the thousands of other infantrymen who conducted themselves honorably," Womack exclaims. "I was in the infantry and I don't mind going to court over what I did."

"THERE were a lot of us who aren't ashamed. We didn't shoot children. We didn't shoot citizens. We went against the North Vietnamese army, and that was it," he adds.

The lack of a victory in Vietnam, he believes, is another cause for the stigma against Vietnam veterans.

"That's the reason the Vietnam veteran can never be a hero. Being a hero means you won, and there is no way you can stretch it to make us a winner," Womack says.

THE UNITED States, however, could have won if the government had been more committed to victory,

Womack asserts.

"It's just that it's very tough to win a war right now and not offend somebody," he says. "Vietnam is a shining example of how that could happen."

"We fought a war based on their values—infantry against infantry—and that's just not us. We controlled the air and could have won it any time we wanted to," Womack says.

"BUT, politically it wasn't sound. If we had gone over there and obliterated Vietnam, they [American leaders] were afraid of Russia and China. They just didn't know what kind of backlash might have followed, so they just didn't take the chance."

This feeling of helplessness led Womack and other Vietnam veterans to call for a withdrawal of American troops from the Vietnam.

"That's where the peace movement gained clout," he says. "The veterans came back and said, 'Look, you're making us fight with our hands tied. So if you're going to do that, let us come home.'"



Andy Womack discusses the Vietnam War.

"IF WE weren't going to go over there with an all-out effort, then it wasn't fair to send troops over there."

Because of the stigma, Womack says many talents that Vietnam veterans have to offer are not being utilized.

"It doesn't bother me as much that I can't put up my medals as it does that we may have some highly talented people out here that are Vietnam veterans," he says. "But because we turned it into a negative, rather than a positive, we may be overlooking some of the very best qualities."

AMONG THE qualities Womack believes Vietnam veterans have to offer, are leadership and decision-making skills.

"I've had that experience which most people have not had, and therefore they can't face things as readily as I can because I've faced worse," Womack says.

In addition, Womack believes his experiences have made him more sensitive to the world around him.

"I'M AN emotional person. I think one thing that made me more emotional has been the extreme experiences I had in Vietnam. I think I tend to take things more seriously," he says.

In contrast to what many might expect, Womack says that seeing people die did not make him less sensitive.

"You get the same feelings. You cry when somebody close to you gets hurt—you just can't do it as long. It's just a whole lot quicker," he says.

"I'M JUST as afraid of death as anyone else. I guess I'm just a little more aware that it can happen."

In spite of these assessments, Womack has resigned himself to the fact that he and other Vietnam veterans may never be able to display their medals or ribbons.

"It used to upset me, but now I've gotten use to the fact that the Vietnam War did not leave a direct print on that many people," he says.

I finally had to learn to accept that even though my life had been greatly affected, most of the people I was in contact with could not care less about the Vietnam War."

ROTC cadet optimistic about military



By JENNIFER WELLS
Associate Editor

While some developed a negative attitude toward the U.S. government because of the Vietnam War, there are others who are confident that the country and the military are in good hands.

To get this perspective, Sidelines interviewed Bobby Booker, a 20-year-old sophomore at MTSU and an ROTC cadet.

QUESTION: How long have you been in ROTC?
ANSWER: Two years.

Q: What interested you in it?
A: The leadership training, management experience, the bright future, the job opportunities as a career officer, financial aid. The opportunity to serve the country.

Q: Do you intend to make a career out of it?
A: If I like it, I will. I don't think anybody can say that they're going to make a career out of it before they've had any

military experience.

Q: Do you think that ROTC has helped you as an individual?
A: I think it's teaching me to accept responsibility. It tends to motivate you. A lot of college students don't have anybody behind them to urge them on, and they'll help you in any way they can. Plus they help you strive for excellence.

Q: Can you describe the philosophy behind ROTC?
A: It offers the opportunity to develop leadership skills while getting a college education and receiving a commission in the National Guard Army Reserve or the active Army. You're developing leadership skills that will carry you into civilian life as a business manager, or an accountant, or a pilot or whatever field you choose to go in because you can learn textbook material in the classroom, but you can't learn to lead or motivate people.

Q: Are you taught about warfare in ROTC?
A: Mainly, the basic program teaches you about what the army is and its basic role today, survival, first aid, patrolling, how to react if you attack someone or someone attacks you. That's just the basics, you also study navigation. The basic course is how to survive in the wilderness.

training you have and will receive and actual combat?

A: I think we have to live with fear everyday. As far as combat goes, it frightens you, but in today's world I worry about my sisters walking to a grocery store at night. I think walking down lower Broadway in Nashville at night is more dangerous than being in a

easily molded and will take orders without question?

A: I don't think anyone is taking advantage of anybody. Right now it's an all-volunteer army. No ones being drafted, no ones getting their arms twisted, if they sign up it's on their own free will. It's laid out to them before they even go in what they're going to be expected to do. It's their choice.

They know when they get in that there're gonna be at the mercy of the Army and that the Army's needs will come first.



Q: And if the draft were reinstated?
A: Well, that's a whole different story. I don't want to comment on it because that's getting into political dealings that I have no part of.

Q: Do you concern yourself with the wisdom of the government, or is your loyalty unquestioning?
A: No, I do concern myself with the wisdom. I think it's everyone's duty whether they're in the Army, the ROTC, or there're in college or on the street, because we elect our officials. I think that if people are not concerned about who they elect then there're not concerned about who leads them or the welfare of our country.

Q: Are you optimistic about our present foreign policy?
A: Well, I think that we have a good president and a vice president, and that they'll do their best. We're not aware of a lot of things that have an impact on the decisions made by the White House and people in high offices. Sometimes, foreign policy may not appear to be right but there's a lot of things we don't know about.

They make the decisions, on their feelings, that are right. I think that our foreign policy is strong. We lost some of our strength in the world's eye, and I think we've gained it back now. I feel good about it.

combat zone.

Fear is something you've gotta learn to live with, and you can't be awed by it, and you can't sink off in a little shell and hide. If you do, you'll miss life.

Q: Bobby, I know that you read *Johnny Got His Gun* last semester [see explanation below]. Do you think that the book makes a valid point in saying that men fight for ideals without understanding what they mean?

A: I think that man is an aggressive animal and that there is always going to be somebody trying to get what the other person's got. If we, the people of the United States, are going to keep our freedom, then there will be times when we'll have to fight for it.

Living in a democracy is just like anything else—sooner or later you're going to have to pay for it.

Q: How do you feel about the charges that the U.S. government takes advantage of young, inexperienced men, especially poor men and blacks, because they can be

The basic program is more like military science. In the advanced program, that's where you start ROTC, that's where you're taught more about the Army—that's where they prepare you to be an officer.

In the 200-level [basic] courses you do learn something about patrolling, how to maneuver, and things like that. And you're taught a lot about the Russian army and how they compare with us. But you don't get into great detail until your junior year—and that's when you sign your contract.

Q: Have you considered the difference between the ROTC

Talking Heads

Photo by Keith Tippitt

Was the United States justified in being in Vietnam?



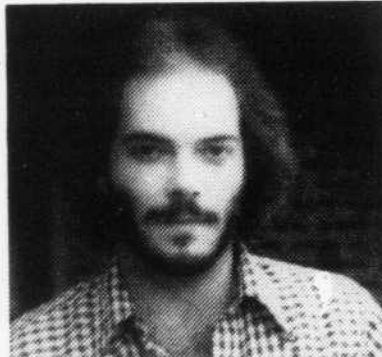
ANNE REEVES — Senior
"No. Apparently the government can justify losing 57,000 men, but I can't."



MARTIN TOPPING — Freshman
"I couldn't give an opinion because I don't know enough about it."



TAMMY REYNOLDS — Senior
"No. The majority of Americans were against it, and if our government rules for the majority, why were we over there?"



MIKE MALLORY — Senior
"No. America cannot stand behind the feeble excuse of spreading democracy. We simply wanted to look good, but didn't in the end."



SHEILA MCKNIGHT — Senior
"I never really became involved with the war because my generation was not involved."



DAVID JARRARD — Sophomore
"No. It was none of our business, and we shouldn't fight a war we don't intend to win."

Book questions reasons behind war

By JENNIFER WELLS
Associate Editor

The novel *Johnny Got His Gun* has cropped up during or shortly after every war since World War I.

Written by Dalton Trumbo in 1939, *Johnny Got His Gun* is an anti-war novel of substantial impact. Trumbo received the National Book Award, later winning the International Film Critics Award and the Special Award

from the Cannes Film Festival for his screenplay of the movie.

JOHNNY GOT His Gun the story of one young man, Joe Bonham. The book has an angry and fast pace—written with little punctuation and floweriness. Yet it is not a typical war novel. There is none of the camaraderie of Norman Mailer's *The Naked and the Dead*, nor the craziness of Joseph Heller's *Catch-22*.

To comment in-depth about

the book gives too much of it away. However, one of the themes of *Johnny Got His Gun* is that wars are fought for metaphysical ideals which humanity regards as more important than life itself. In his introduction, updated in 1970, Trumbo remarks: "Over breakfast coffee we read of 40,000 American dead in Vietnam. Instead of vomiting, we reach for the toast."

Jobs mean more to students than issues

By NANCY SLOAN
Staff Writer

The decade that has passed since the end of the Vietnam War has "turned students' attention from world politics to personal finance," according to the latest issue of *U.S. News and World Report*.

Likewise, MTSU students have followed the same trend, according to several MTSU faculty members who were here during the Vietnam era.

"TODAY'S group is more passive and more self-oriented," said June McCash, chairman of the foreign languages department.

"Students are more interested in jobs now," she said.

Although MTSU was not as troubled as some universities, the students here were more interested in social change at that time, McCash said.

POLITICAL science professor Frank Essex agrees that "we had less student reaction than some campuses" because MTSU has always been a conservative regional university.

"In general, the student body is more conservative," Essex said.

There is still the problem of "students who have no direction and don't know why they are in school," Essex added.

"THE ISSUE has changed,

"Students are less active because they are panic-stricken about their vocational future."

but the students are the same," according to Harold Parker, chairman of the philosophy department.

"There was that stupid war then and now there is the nuclear issue," Parker said.

Psychology Professor Keith Carlson agrees that there has not been a great deal of change but he does see "more concern about a career than theoretical issues."

"STUDENTS are more concerned about making themselves marketable," Carlson said.

"The students were more

involved then" in political issues, according to Loisteen Kirkman, English professor.

The classrooms at MTSU during the war were "more exciting," Kirkman said.

IN ADDITION to the controversy over the war, there was also the civil rights

struggle, she said.

Kirkman said that the MTSU students' attitude in general has changed since that time.

"As things have become more competitive, students are more concerned about getting a job," Kirkman said. "In spite of that, I still think education is one of the few things we are willing to pay for and not get."

ACCORDING to these faculty members, the MTSU student body is consistent with a national trend toward conservatism on college campuses as shown by the study in *U.S. News and World*

Report.

"Students are less active because they are panic-stricken about their vocational future," said David Riesman, professor of sociology and education expert at Harvard University.

This utilitarian concern has caused a decline in student's intellectual curiosity in general, according to Riesman.

"THE ABILITY of students to conduct a civilized conversation about non-academic but intellectual subjects is declining, and this is demoralizing to the faculty," Riesman said.

Riesman also accuses today's student of being less curious about the world outside the U.S.

The apathetic attitude of students today would be reversed by reinstatement of the draft, according to Riesman, but "it would be harder to mobilize students than it used to be because they now tend to have small circles of friends."

"Gregariousness is something many have put behind them," Riesman said.



Vet reflects on war, U.S. government

By JENNIFER WELLS

Associate Editor

Mark A. Miller, 31, graduated from MTSU in 1979, and is also a Vietnam veteran. In the following interview, conducted in Murfreesboro and Nashville last week, Miller takes a look at the war and our governmental system, as well as at the impact they have had on his life.

QUESTION: When were you stationed in Vietnam and where?

ANSWER: '70-'72. When I went into the country I went into Cam Ryn [Bay] and was there for a little while. From Cam Ryn I went to Nha Trang, then to Quantri. From Quantri I wound up in the Aushauw. And I spent about 10 months in the Aushauw valley—which is about 100 yards from North Vietnam and about a quarter-mile from Cambodia.

The only way to get in was by chopper. It was just a little hill.

Q: Were you married?

A: Yes.

Q: Were you drafted?

A: Yes.

Q: Since you knew that you might be drafted, did you consider trying to avoid it?

A: Well, I didn't consider school, because I was just out of high school and was very bored with school—hated school. I came from a very rural community, and all I wanted was to settle down and have a batch of kids, and farm.

And I've got an uncle that I'm very, very proud of. He was in the Marines, and I was

always kinda fascinated with it.

But yes, I was scared s...tless. Oh God yes, I packed my bags and was gonna leave. I thought about going to Canada, but I was more terrified of not going than I was by going.

Q: How old were you?

A: Nineteen; I turned 19 Oct. 12 and was drafted Feb. 3.

Q: They didn't give you much time did they?

A: No, I came out number three in the lottery.

Q: What did you think about what was going on back home—the antiwar marches and dislike of the war?

A: I thought it was great until I got back.

Q: But you opposed the war while you were there?

A: Oh yeah.

Q: What did you oppose?

A: The situation that they put young people into—they had no business being there. They trained you to kill, but you couldn't vote; they trained you to kill, but you couldn't drink.

I was forced into the situation. I really didn't want to go. I thought it was a gigantic farce. When I got into basic, I found out that I no longer had any liberties. I wasn't able to think for myself. They told me when I could p...s; they told me when I could eat; they told me when I could sleep. I had no more choice of freedom.

You talk about a dictatorship. They take everything away from you. They dress you all the same.

They cut your hair all the same, feed you the same food—and the same thing is constantly being drilled into your head: kill, kill, kill, kill, kill.

They teach you.

They even took us—made us go—to church. They marched us in as a unit, sat us down. The chaplain came out and everytime he felt like we should



Photo by Keith Tippitt

sing, the drill sergeant stood up and said "ten-HUT!" and everybody snapped to, and he said "We will NOW all sing in unison!" It was scary.

Q: What type of religious upbringing did you have?

A: Very religious. But they forced you into this position. It didn't matter whether the chaplain was Jewish, Catholic or Protestant, whatever he was going to preach you were going to hear whether you liked it or not.

Q: What do you think about the charges that the U.S. government uses its youth?

A: Always has.

Q: Did you know that at the time?

Most Americans unchanged by war: prof

By RONDA KRUMALIS

News Editor

The only Americans really changed by the Vietnam War are the veterans themselves.

That is the opinion of Judson Reese-Dukes, MTSU instructor of psychology, and a veteran of the Vietnam War.

"I DID THINK there would be a change [in attitudes about war]," Reese-Dukes said. "But as I talk to young people about the same age as I was when I was in Vietnam, I hear the same comments, like: 'we need to follow government policy' regardless of the consequences."

"I think a lot of attitudes are like 'we gotta fight, sometimes it's necessary,' and 'the government knows what's right,'" he said. "Even if it's questionable, we're still obligated to carry out mandate authority."

Although Reese-Dukes said he thinks that "most citizens accept government policies even in the face of contrary evidence," he has learned that "government is, indeed, fallible."

REESE-DUKES said he's wary about government policies now, finding it difficult to separate issues like Watergate and Vietnam.

Even though Vietnam "left a bad taste," Reese-Dukes said he feels that Americans' attitudes about war in general are unchanged.

"People seem to think that

Vietnam, Reese-Dukes said he thinks that most Americans recall the anti-war movement that took place here at home.

It was the anti-war demonstrations that indirectly involved most of the population, he said.

"I think a lot of the distaste people feel toward Vietnam is a result of the conflict it caused in this country," he said, "not necessarily because of what was happening in Southeast Asia."

AS LONG as it wouldn't "create similar chaos in the streets," Reese-Dukes said he thinks that many Americans would be willing to "send troops to Central America or someplace" even today.

Reese-Dukes was not drafted, but said he was "one of the weird ones" who volunteered to fight.

Raised in a "military family," Reese-Dukes attended military schools as a child, preparing for an eventual career in the Army.

"At THE TIME, I thought combat would be good for my career," he recalled. "I was actually looking forward to going to Vietnam."

"It was a chance to 'prove my manhood' and all that other bull," he said.

He was in Vietnam three separate times, finally out for good in 1971.

"It took me several years to get smart," he said.

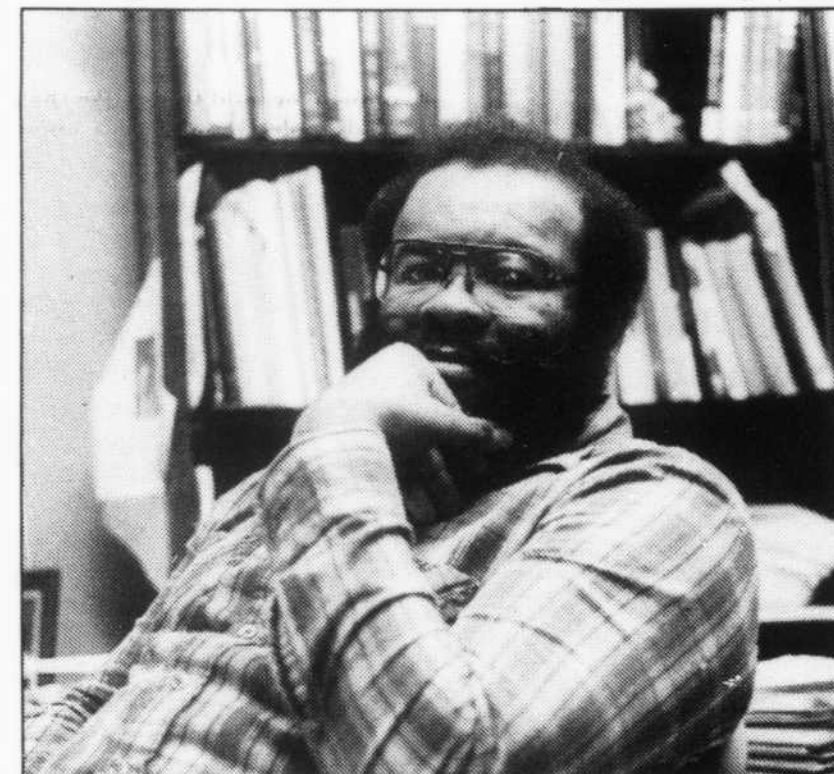


Photo by Debby Naeve

Judson Reese-Dukes questions Impact of Vietnam War.

taken since Vietnam, Reese-Dukes said he grows angry at the U.S. government for not accepting enough responsibility in protecting their interests and welfare.

"I'm angry at some of the things that have happened to me," he said. "But most of all I'm angry at my government's failure to respond to my needs."

There are needs that Vietnam veterans have which have not been addressed by the government, Reese-Dukes said.

"THE BUILDING of a monument and a parade doesn't adequately address the issues."

"Vietnam was the most stress-producing conflict the U.S. has ever been involved in, and the government should acknowledge responsibility for the conditions to which veterans were exposed," he said.

Reese-Dukes said he would like to see the government acknowledge responsibility for the chemical exposure suffered in Vietnam. He would like to see the government fund an extensive study to find out the effects of the exposure and to deal with the consequences.

A POSSIBLE result of some kind of chemical exposure in Vietnam is abnormal fetal development—a horror which plagues many Vietnam

A: No.

Q: Do you think that today's youth is not being told the whole story as well?

A: Yep, sure do.

I think the type of military system that we've got right now is a Micky Mouse operation. Of course its going to flourish right now, by the way the economy is. A lot of kids are getting out of high school, or even out of college and they can't find a job. And the government offers a position.

Look at the commercials. "You can do this—join the Navy and see the world." They make it look glamorous. But it's not like that when you get in there.

I sat and listened to two ladies talk last night about joining the Air Force: "Well look," [they said] "We get food allotment, clothing allotment, shoes..." Sure you get all that stuff—that's what they tell you.

Q: Did you have any particular problems when you returned?

A: Yeah. A whole lot. Still do today. I think it's better today because people have forgotten. It's one of those situations where everybody's put the whole damn thing out of their minds. It was such an embarrassing deal for the United States.

Q: What type of difficulties did you have?

A: Finding a job for number one. There wasn't any jobs when I got back. A lot of people that I'd gone to school with had two years ahead of



Mark Miller recalls Vietnam days.

me. They were pretty secure at that time, that was right at the breaking point when the whole economy started to fall. But they were able to find a job and keep it when the economy fell.

But when I got back, there weren't any jobs except for minimum wage. I felt like I got robbed of two years. I felt like if I had to go, and they didn't, I went for them. Maybe that's wrong, I don't know. But there was no satisfaction out of it. No one's ever come up and said thank you. It's always been "baby-killer."

Q: Why did you return to school?

A: I had a desire to get some education. I wanted to find out why I felt the way I did and put it into words.

Q: What was it like at MTSU in 1975? Was there resentment

breathing again. Then the fear comes in—while you're reacting you don't [feel fear]. You feel nothing.

It just happens. It may take four or five minutes, but when you stop and think back on it, it seems like seconds. But then everything's OK, and the child's fine again, breathing again, and the people sitting around the table talk about it for a half-hour, 45 minutes. "Whew, we was lucky, boy I was glad you were here," and after it's all over, your heart just... pounds.

You react first, worry later.

Q: And did you?

A: Oh yeah.

Q: Tell me about the South Vietnamese people.

A: Poor, had nothing. Could care less whether we were there, or what we were doing.

"Within 13 weeks I was transformed and transplanted into a situation where I had to fend for myself."

or curiosity concerning the war?

A: The students went: "You were there? I never knew anybody that was there!" Yet it was like they were never told. The people who brought them up never said a word about it. It [the war] was the little thing that they kept in the closet back here—"Hey, shhhh. We lost this war."

But it wasn't a war. It was a police action. Supposedly.

Q: Were there other ways Vietnam changed your life?

A: Yes. I've had to deal with that ever since I got back. I lost a family over it.

I was taken as a, literally, innocent person that had never been anywhere in his life. Within 13 weeks I was transformed and transplanted into a situation where I had to fend for myself. There was death and dying all around that I'd never seen before.

I had to learn to adapt to it to survive.

I've always kept that. That point... ever since. I fear no man. There's nothing anybody over here can do to me that I haven't seen done already, or that I couldn't do back to him, twice over.

But you never get used to death and killing. Just because in the place you live, in the country you happen to be born in, you've got a handful of people that control the populous that tells you it's OK to kill—does that make it right?

Q: Were there times, when you had to kill, when you felt that?

A: In the situations I was in, I didn't think.

Do you think about stepping on the brakes when somebody pulls out in front of you? It's something that becomes automatic. You don't think—you react first.

Same situation if somebody was to be sitting next to you, and chokes—say a small child. You clear its throat to get it

When you deal with a society, especially a rice-eating society, they're generally very, very, very poor. They live off the land, and what they can scrounge, and what they can steal. I doubt if the average man over there went through a transition when we left and the South ceded to the North.

We went over, tore up the land, threw villagers out, blew villages up, and we didn't bother to build nothing back. We left. We came in—wham, bam, thank you—and our economy prospered.

Of course, we go over there to justify "the democracy way," and try and put the freedom back into the hands of the people. There's no way. They didn't care—the only thing they were worried about was where their next meal was coming from.

Q: If you could turn the clock back, with the knowledge that you have now, would you go again?

A: The only way I would go again is if we were invaded here. This is where I live, I'd protect where I live.

What we've always done is gone elsewhere to fight the war—Europe, Korea, Japan, the South Pacific, Mexico. Except for the Civil War we've never had to worry about it.

Q: What do you think about our foreign policy?

A: I think it's... ks.

Q: Could you use some other descriptive term that I don't have to put dots in the middle of?

A: I think our government, our foreign policy... (laughing) that's the only word I can find for it.

Q: Is there anything you would say to a young person today about war?

A: I could try. I could try and describe what it's like. But if the boy really wants to, he's gonna go. They have to experience for themselves. That's how they become adults.

"A similar war involvement could occur even today. In fact, I wouldn't be surprised if it did."

Vietnam was 'an exception,' " he said. "It was a mistake our government made. But there's really been no national lesson learned."

A SIMILAR war involvement could occur even today, Reese-Dukes said.

"In fact, I wouldn't be surprised if it did," he commented.

"I hate to think that people would actually have to experience that kind of horror in order to avoid it."

WHEN contemplating the years of U.S. involvement in

ONCE HE was out of the Army, Reese-Dukes said he didn't know exactly what he was going to do.

"My whole life up to that point had been military," he said, "and now I found myself asking 'what skills do I have?'"

Reese-Dukes had majored in psychology as an undergraduate, and pursued that field as a career.

"I accidentally found my niche," he said.

WHEN thinking about himself, his fellow veterans and the turns their lives have

Four slain at KSU: war on homefront

By JANENE LEONHIRTH

Features Editor

"If it takes a bloodbath to end campus violence, let's get it over with, no more appeasement."—Gov. Ronald Reagan, Calif., April 8, 1970

While it had its origins in the early part of the 20th century, Kent State University was "hardly noticed" until World War II and its growth in the war's aftermath, a former department chairman at the Ohio school indicates.

But it was a war three decades later that would bring Kent State world-wide notice for the tragic events that occurred there.

ON APRIL 30, 1970, President Nixon announced that American troops would move into Cambodia—a direct contradiction of an earlier statement in which he said they would not.

On May 4, 1970, after four days of demonstrations and violence initially sparked by the president's announcement, four Kent students were killed, and nine others were wounded on the KSU campus by Ohio National Guardsmen.

Reaction to the shootings was varied and widespread.

"I JUST didn't believe that it had happened," says one former student who witnessed the events, echoing the sentiments of many who were there.

At a branch campus in Canton, students sat in the cafeteria listening to reports on the radio and cried over the tragedy at their parent school, recalls Glenn Himebaugh, MTSU mass communications instructor who was at the KSU branch in 1970.

The news even touched those as far away as the Soviet Union, where a Soviet poet wrote a poem to the memory of Allison Krause, one of the fallen four.

EVEN SO, there were those who felt that the only thing wrong with the bloodshed was that there wasn't more of it.

A former teacher's college, KSU is situated in a small Northern Ohio industrial-railroad town.

Most of those who have been there consider the campus as being one of the most pleasant anywhere.

"IT HAS A lovely campus," says Murvin Perry, chairman of the mass communications department at East Tennessee State University, and former head of the KSU School of Journalism. And until the rapid growth of the school after World War II, the buildings were architecturally harmonious, he says.

With the '60s, Kent State began to change, Perry says.

The layout of the campus started being more "hodge-podge," he says.

AND ALTHOUGH the majority of the students could still have been considered non-radical, or even conservative, students began to get involved in causes.

A major one was the peace movement, Perry says.

However, despite the changes, the administration at KSU was willing to listen to students, he says.

"THE ATMOSPHERE wasn't really repressive, and channels were open enough to vent ideas," Perry says.

In fact, in 1970 was far ahead of other Ohio universities in responding to student demands. Out of 18 grievances held against the universities by the Black United Students, Kent had met 15, reports James Michener in *Kent State, What Happened and Why*.

Then why did the school, sometimes referred to as "Apathy U" by the more radical students, become the scene of one of the more



SOURCE: United States Army Training Center

tragic events of the war era?

FOR ONE THING, all the tensions, fears, anxieties and hostilities of the era were present at KSU that weekend.

A peaceful burial of the U.S. Constitution took place Friday at noon in response to Nixon's escalation of U.S. involvement in the war.

However, trouble started Friday night with street fires and rock throwing downtown near the bar district of Kent.

ON SATURDAY night, the violence continued when students burned KSU's ROTC Building. The mayor of Kent also called in the Ohio National Guard.

Sunday night saw a peaceful sit-in turn into a confrontation between students and National Guardsmen with fixed bayonets. At least two, and possibly as many as seven students were wounded that night, reports Michener.

Students were confused about what they could and couldn't do under the conflicting curfews of the town and the campus. To make matters worse, those in charge of controlling the crowd kept changing their minds about the curfew time, and whether or not the demonstrations were legal.

TOWNSPEOPLE were simply afraid to go outside their homes because of the students' actions.

"The chemistry was all there," Himebaugh says. "It all came to a head at Kent."

Even before May 1, 1970, however, KSU had minor disturbances.

ALMOST one year earlier to the day, Perry says, students decided to vote to close the school down.

Perry says he can remember several thousand students "snake dancing" on the Commons "yelling 'Shut it down! Shut it down!'"

However, crisis was averted when the sub-editors of *The Daily Kent Stater* identified the leaders as non-students and put out a special edition of the paper informing students that they were being conned, Perry says.

OVER THE years, blame for the shootings has been placed on those responsible for sending "tired" and "ill-prepared" National Guard troops to KSU. Companies were used at Kent which came directly from strike duty in Cleveland.

Lack of communication between those in high places is also a commonly heard excuse for the fatal confrontation.

"I said at the time, why was everyone surprised," Perry says.

"IF IT DIDN'T happen at Kent State, then it would have somewhere else," he says.

Whatever the cause, on May 4, at an estimated time of 12:24 p.m., 28 National Guardsmen fired into a crowd of agitators, curiosity seekers and students hurrying to class—most of whom were skeptics who believed that if anything, the Guard was shooting blanks.

Perry, who had observed the ROTC fire on Saturday night, says he missed the actual shooting because he was off-campus for lunch.

WHEN HE returned, he had to go in to campus a "back way" because the Guard was already sealing it off, Perry says.

Once there, he says he confronted a group of students discussing retaliation against the Guardsmen who had regrouped by the charred ROTC Building.

"I remember arguing with some youngsters," Perry says. "I said, you can't do anything against guns."

SHORTLY afterwards, "a vehicle came up" and someone announced, "The university is closed. Go back to your dorms, pack your things and leave," he says.

Kent State remained closed the remainder of the quarter.

When it re-opened, many faculty members and students who had been there before were gone.

AMONG THOSE who remained, there was "a concerted effort . . . to pull things together," Himebaugh says.

There was also an "attitude of distrust among people who had gotten along with each other before," he says.

"My single most vivid remembrance" was a faculty meeting the mass communications chairman called at his home because of the sealed campus, Himebaugh says.

"I REMEMBER sitting in his 'rec' room seeing colleagues scream and curse at each other over what had happened," he says.

"It was sad . . . pathetic," he adds.

To Perry, the affair "seemed senseless."

"I was very troubled by it," he says, and "saddened" by the loss of life.

"It's unfortunate that it happened at all," he says, "but doubly unfortunate for Kent State. It seemed that we were in a mess that no one understood."

News of Kent State reacted to at MTSU

By JANENE LEONHIRTH

Features Editor

When James Michener wrote *Kent State, What Happened and Why*, he reported that 760 colleges and universities reacted to the shootings at Kent State University.

While MTSU did not respond en masse to Nixon's announcement of troop movement into Cambodia, it did formally react to the incident at KSU. This reaction came in several forms.

THE DAY after the violence at Kent, MTSU's ROTC department held an outdoor awards ceremony on campus.

Two distinct groups of demonstrators were there.

One small all-male group threw a smoke bomb into the crowd of cadets as it shot toy machine guns at them and shouted "You're dead; we killed you," reported *Sidelines* on May 7.

A CADET who was in the formation that day, however, notes that the ROTC members just laughed at the antics of their fellow students.

Another group of students silently stood at the edge of the ceremony and displayed a black flag with a white number "four" on it, the same *Sidelines* issue reported.

People at MTSU were concerned about what happened, says Beryl West of the psychology department, they just didn't turn out in large numbers to protest.

LIBERAL movements

were late in coming to MTSU, he says.

But three days after the killings at KSU, MTSU's Bicycle Club (which some have said was a cover name for the more politically radical students) sponsored a memorial service for the slain students.

One room on the third floor of the University Center was filled by students as well as faculty members who had gathered for an "hour of silent prayer and devotion," says West, one of the faculty speakers at the memorial.

STUDENTS here were "shocked that it could happen," West says.

They wondered if KSU were that much different than MTSU, and whether or not something like that could happen here, he says.

Another speaker at the memorial, sociology instructor Dan McMurry, remembers it as being a "quiet reaction—subdued and concerned."

THERE WAS a "temporary change" in MTSU students after the incident, he says, but the campus returned to normal quickly.

The news of KSU's shocking weekend prompted several articles, editorial columns (some of which were quite inflammatory) and letters to the editor in *Sidelines*. But within two weeks of the initial reaction, the fervor had died down.

"The most liberal, active kiddos at MTSU, on any other campus, would have been considered conservatives," West notes.

Vietnam history

(continued from page 1)

the State Department who correctly perceived that Ho Chi Minh's commitment to the self-determination of his nation was more relevant to U.S. policy-making than his Marxist ideology, and that under no circumstances would he surrender Vietnamese independence to either Russia or China, especially China.

"It is better to sniff French dung for a while," he once avowed, "than to eat China's all our life."

UNFORTUNATELY neither the Truman nor the Eisenhower administrations adhered to an anti-colonial stance. Caught up in the tensions of the Cold War and the hysterics of the McCarthy era, the United States abandoned Vietnamese nationalism without a trial and embraced the losing cause of French colonialism.

Then, when the French political and military efforts in

Indochina predictably collapsed in the mid-'50s, the United States quickly filled the power vacuum, assumed full responsibility for erecting a stable and popularly supported government in South Vietnam under the leadership of Ngo Dinh Diem, and justified the enlarged involvement on the now discredited (and even then questionable) domino theory.

OUR ATTEMPT at creating a democracy where none existed was a failure from the outset. As George C. Herring explains in his succinct book on the Vietnamese war: "Had it looked all over the world, the United States could not have chosen a less likely place for an experiment in nation-building."

Diem's regime "inherited antiquated institutions patterned on French practices and ill-suited to the needs of an independent nation. His government lacked experienced civil servants.

Tainted by its long association with France, it had no base of support in the countryside or among the non-Communist nationalists in Saigon. Its authority did not extend beyond its own offices," and it was corrupt and often oppressive to boot.

THE UPSHOT, of course, was civil war in the South. At this point in time (1957), the rebels (formerly Vietminh and later Viet Cong), were alone in their resistance to the Diem government.

"North Vietnam," Herring informs us, "did not give even verbal support to the southern insurgency until early 1959," and, according to a CIA report, as late as October 1961 only about 10 to 20 percent of the Viet Cong guerrillas were infiltrators from the North. The rest were indigenous forces fighting against what they perceived to be an unrepresentative government bolstered by a foreign power.

THROUGHOUT the '60s the war thus begun was escalated by both sides and eventually spread under Johnson into North Vietnam (as a result of bombing and covert operations) and under Nixon into Cambodia and Laos, with disastrous consequences for all concerned.

The United States, to use a now familiar phrase, was riding the tiger's back, and, as Undersecretary of State George Ball observed in 1964, "once on the tiger's back you cannot be sure of picking a place to dismount."

The Nixon-Kissinger attempt to dismount in the 1970s was characterized, by many of the same old misguided methods.

The result was four more years of bloody warfare in Indochina, a marked increase in domestic strife and a peace settlement that permitted American extrication but was neither honorable nor lasting."

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

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Sidelines is published every Tuesday and Friday by the students of Middle Tennessee State University. Editorials and columns reflect the opinion of their authors and not of the MTSU administration, faculty or staff.

Sports



Warmin' up

Bruce Buck stretches during basketball practice last week in Murphy Center, while Freddie Bryant looks on. The Raiders

host Austin Peay tonight in 7:30 p.m. at MTSU's Murphy Athletic Center.

Blue Raiders host Governors in OVC tilt

By MIKE JONES
Sports Editor

MTSU will have to gang up on the Governors of Austin Peay tonight.

They will have to gang up in order to beat a total team, which is what Stan "Ramrod" Simpson calls the Governors.

"TEAM-WISE," Simpson said, "Peay and Tennessee Tech are playing the best ball of any team in the conference."

"They have possibly the best defense in the league, and they are loaded with size and experience."

Led by forward Lenny Manning, the Gobs own a well-balanced attack. The 6-foot-6 junior is averaging just over 16 points per game, while teammate Greg Andrews, a 6-foot-5 junior, is tailing Manning with just over 13 per game.

AUSTIN PEAY is currently 8-9 overall, 1-4 in the Ohio Valley Conference.

The Raiders are coming off a five-point loss to Murray State last Friday night, a game in which Simpson saw his team play their hearts out.

"We gave our best effort of the season," Simpson explained. "Raleigh Choice showed a great deal of strength."

CHOICE showed his power by racking up 11 points for the evening, an effort that helped earn OVC Rookie of the Week honors for the 6-foot-10 freshman.

"Raleigh is showing a great deal of confidence and is gradually finding his way," Simpson said. "How good he wants to be is up to him."

"It all depends on if he wants to go out and push himself."

THERE HAS been an imbalance of leadership on the team, according to Simpson, and this lack of leadership may be one of the factors contributing to the Raiders' dismal 3-12 mark.

"We need three or four guys to come forth," Simpson said.

A win over the Governors would be the first victory in the OVC for the Raiders this season. MTSU beat the Governors in the Tennessee Classic in late November, but the game was not counted as a conference encounter.

In that game, Ed "Pancakes" Perry and Doug Lipscomb led the bombardment, with Perry leading the scoring assault with 19 points and Lipscomb pulling down nine rebounds.

The Raiders will be home again Tuesday night against Georgia State.

Trackmen travel to Kentucky and Illinois

By STEVE PRICE
Sports Writer

The Blue Raider track team will take on a split personality this weekend as Dean Hayes' tracksters will compete in both the Mason-Dixon Games and the Illinois Invitational.

MTSU's first stop will be Friday at the Mason-Dixon Games in Louisville, Ky., where the mile-relay team of Kenny Nesbitt, Herb Newton, Gary Mitchell and Tim Johnston will run against the clock.

"WE'RE also going to let Dwight Johnson and Orestes Meeks compete in the long jump in Louisville," Hayes said. "They need to get some experience on the boards because they are the ones most likely to qualify for the

NCAA."

On Saturday, triple jumper Eddie Lloyd, long jumper Andre Kirnes, and Kenny Shannon, an entry in the 60-yard dash, will remain in Louisville to compete while the rest of the team will travel to Champaign, Ill., for the Illinois Invitational.

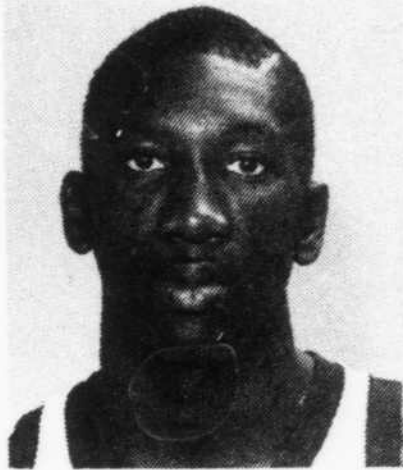
"There will be no team scores kept at either of these meets," Hayes explained. "Therefore we can experiment

Raleigh Choice OVC Rookie of the Week

Things are coming together for Raleigh Choice.

The 6-foot-10 MTSU freshman out of Bainbridge, Ga., has been named the Ohio Valley Conference Rookie of the Week for his performances against Samford and Murray State last week.

In the two games, Choice tossed in 28 points and yanked down eight rebounds. He is currently averaging 6.3 points per game.



28 points in two games.

High-scoring Hoover Player of the Week



24 points against MSU.

Holly Hoover has been named the Ohio Valley Conference Women's Basketball Player of the Week.

In Lady Raider victories against Vanderbilt and Murray State last week, Hoover scored 39 points and had 21 rebounds, including a 24-point outing against Murray.

Hoover is a 6-foot-4 junior from Ringgold, Ga.



Photo by Dan Whitehead

On the march

Lady Raider Jennifer McFall (42) brings the ball down the floor against Tennessee Tech. Coach Larry Joe Inman's Lady Raiders face Austin Peay tonight, and host Belmont Saturday. See story on page 8.

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Lady Raiders holding onto OVC lead, host A.P.

By MIKE JONES
Sports Editor

A Tasmanian devil is loose in the Ohio Valley Conference. What's even worse for conference members is that it happens to be ripping through the women's basketball division.

MTSU's Lady Raiders have been tearing through their OVC schedule and are currently undefeated with a 4-0 mark. They host league rival Austin Peay tonight at Murphy Center with tip-off set for 5 p.m.

Austin Peay is currently winless in the conference and have scored only once in the victory column this year. However, Lady Raider assistant Diane Cummings said the team cannot overlook the Lady Gobs.

"We expect a contest out of them," Cummings explained. "They might be fired up, expecting our girls to be down. They have nothing to lose and everything to gain."

CUMMINGS served as the assistant coach at Austin Peay for two years prior to coming to MTSU.

The Lady Raiders downed UT-Martin Monday night to increase their overall mark to 11-3.

Holly Hoover, a junior out of Ringgold, Ga., spearheads the Lady Raider attack both offensively and defensively. Hoover is fourth in the league in scoring, averaging just under 17 points a game, third in the league in rebounding and is the league leader in blocked shots.

RIGHT BEHIND Hoover in scoring in the conference is teammate Jennifer McFall, averaging 16.4 points per game. The Columbia native is also among the league's best in rebounding and field-goal percentage.

The Lady Governor team will be led by feisty 5-foot-5 guard Melony Waller, who leads the OVC in steals with 34. She is the primary ball handler for the Lady Gobs.

Valerie Malone is the Lady Gobs' leading scorer with 10.8 points per game, while teammate Amy Davis is punching in 10.5 per game.

SATURDAY night, the Lady Raiders will host Belmont at 7:30

p.m. MTSU plastered the Rebelettes three weeks ago in Nashville, 91-72, in a high scoring effort for the Ladies. McFall had 19 points in that game.

"I think they will give us a better game this time around," Cummings said. "They seemed to be a little out of shape the last time we played them."

After the Austin Peay game, the Lady Raiders have five conference matches remaining on their slate, with non-conference battles set for Tennessee State, Vanderbilt, UT-Martin and UT-Chattanooga.

With a five-game win streak under their belts and the OVC lead, the Tasmanian Devil doesn't seem to be losing any steam. It just might rip its way right into the NCAA tournament.

Press Box

By Mike Jones

Reflections on the Bear

I was walking through the lower part of Murphy Center when a guy came running from a room and barked out that Paul "Bear" Bryant was dead.

At first I was shocked, but then I stopped to think about what the institution of football—and athletics in general—had lost.

THE DEATH of the Bear is one of the greatest human losses of our time, bar none.

Bryant did things for the game that simply cannot be measured, and the string of records and accolades bestowed upon the grizzled coaching mammoth are only part of the legend.

What the Bear did was turn the sport of football at the college level into a place for young men to grow up and to become better human beings, not to build them into maniacal football machines, even though Alabama's players were some of the most feared and respected gridmen in the game.

BRYANT'S philosophy of football says it all.

The football player is a human being first, a student second and a football player third. Put very simply, that's the way it should be, isn't it?

Bryant became legendary and the first thing that popped into one's mind when Alabama was mentioned was football.

THE BEAR always said that he couldn't get his players fired up, that he wished he knew what he could say in order to get them going.

But the brand of football played at Alabama was synonymous with intensity.

Just the presence of the man was enough to stoke the fire that breeds the excitement and winning attitude that Alabama football was all about.

There were several little things that were humorous about the Bear, and these were conveyed by the means of television.

PRIOR TO almost every football season, you could count on the Bear to say something to the effect that "this year's team won't be worth much."

But at the end of the year, regardless of the season they'd had, he would almost always say something like "that was the best bunch of boys we've had here in a long time."

Who can forget the television commercials the Bear made with his slow, rumbling voice and bulky frame lumbering about the screen; he always conveyed the image of someone you would want as a grandfather, or even a best friend.

His death, however, should not be a great period of mourning, but a celebration of the accomplishments of the man and the part of Bear Bryant that will be a permanent piece of every football fan, and to every person who knew the man and knew what he was all about.

To college football Bear Bryant was the grandfather, the mentor of the game. He will never be touched in class, respect, or what he contributed to the game of football and, more importantly, the game of life.

Coaches, administrators pick

'Skins or Dolphins? Predictions:

Here are the predictions:

Boots Donnelly Head football coach	MIAMI by 13
Joe Sanders Assistant football coach	WASHINGTON by 24
Brice Askren Assistant football coach	MIAMI by 4
L. T. Helton Assistant football coach	MIAMI by 3
Lou West Assistant football coach	MIAMI by 3
Jimmy Earle Athletic director	WASHINGTON by 10
Ed Given Sports information director	WASHINGTON by 3
Charles "Bubber" Murphy MTSU coaching great	MIAMI by 6
Sandy Neal Women's tennis coach	MIAMI by 4
Stan "Ramrod" Simpson Head basketball coach	CENTRAL STATE by 3
Coleman Crawford Assistant basketball coach	WASHINGTON
Phil Hopkins Assistant basketball coach	WASHINGTON by a skin
John Stanford Head baseball coach	WASHINGTON by 10
John Jarnigan Assistant baseball coach	WASHINGTON by 7

Larry Joe Inman Women's basketball coach	WASHINGTON by 7
Diane Cummings Women's basketball assistant	WASHINGTON by 3
Dean Hayes Men's track coach	MIAMI by 7
Rusty Guill Athletic advancement director	MIAMI by 3
Dick LaLance Men's tennis coach	MIAMI by 3
Mike Jones Sidelines sports editor	MIAMI by 3
Mat "Chili" Williams Sidelines sports writer	WASHINGTON by 1
Keith Tippitt Sidelines photo editor	WASHINGTON by 4
Phil Williams Sidelines editor in chief	WASHINGTON by 3
Cody "Tito" Marley Sidelines sports writer	The stadium will blow up nine minutes into the third quarter.
Randall Witt Sidelines copy editor	MIAMI by 7
Sam Ingram University president	MIAMI by 3
Otis Floyd Administrative assistant	MIAMI by 13
Joe Nunley Alumni relations	MIAMI by 3

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