

'Untitled' Art

Nashville's eclectic artist group
Untitled visits Murfreesboro

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Meet Roni Bailey

The Raiders' fast-talking, all-purpose senior guard
is enjoying life at the top of the OVC.

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Murfreesboro, Tennessee

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Sidelines

Thursday
January 16, 1997
Volume 72, Number 41

Student struck by Raider Xpress

By Gregg Mayer/ staff

An MTSU student had her left leg run over by a Raider Xpress shuttle yesterday morning after she slipped off the curb in front of the Todd Library and fell under the bus.

Melanie Peden, 24, a pre-med sophomore, was knocking on the passenger side of a Raider Xpress as it was leaving, trying to get the driver's attention, according to director of public safety Jack Drugman, when she slipped off the curb and fell down. The bus then rolled over her left leg, causing severe bruising, but no broken bones. Emergency vehicles rushed Peden to the hospital for her injuries.

"She's in the (Murfreesboro) hospital



Melanie Peden

Murfreesboro two years ago with her family. She currently lives in family housing with her three-year-old son Cody. Shepherd said Peden should be released from the hospital as early as Friday. •

right now," said Peden's fiancée William Shepherd on Wednesday. "They'll run tests tomorrow for torn ligaments after the pain dies down."

Peden, originally from Wabash, Ind., moved to

Wanted: New mascot, logo

By Susan McMahan/ staff

When MTSU makes its move to Division I football in 1999, the familiar logo and ambiguous Blue Raider mascot may become a thing of the past.

"The Logo and Mascot Committee is moving forward with the possibility of changing MTSU's logo and mascot," said Doug Williams, director of news and public relations at MTSU.

Williams said the committee, which consists of students, faculty, staff, alumni, and MTSU supporters, has contracted the services of agencies to help in their investigation of possible changes.

The committee was formed to evaluate the needs of MTSU's changing football program.

Williams said, "The Logo and Mascot Committee was given the charge to look at the mascot and logo for the football program, and to see if

it met the university's marketing needs."

Although the football team's move to Division I has been delayed one year due to construction, it will not affect the progress of the committee.

An outgrowth of the discussions of logo and mascot changes has been the possibility of a university name change.

Williams said this idea was proposed by one member of the committee. While a name change could be a possibility in the future, he said the university does not have the authority to make the change.

Committee member Deborah Gentry, assistant vice president of development and university relations at MTSU, said that the possibility of a name change has been interwoven with the committee's discussion of logo and mascot.

She said that changing the mascot

and logo would be to bring new concepts to the university, but a name change would not be a major modification.

"Changing the name is the existing of changing the word of the matter name, but changing the logo is completely changing a specific design," she said.

Williams said that no ideas for the mascot and logo have been considered yet by the committee. They hope to have some recommendations by fall of 1997.

Before any changes are made, the committee will consult with the athletic department, as well as students, faculty, staff, alumni, and supporters to obtain opinions on the proposed changes.

Gentry said she hopes the committee can begin to obtain outside opinions later in this semester. •

The Stamp Act revised

Post office exhibits stamps saluting African-American heritage month

By Randy Ford/ staff

Exhibits are being erected on campus this week to commemorate outstanding contributions of African-Americans. The displays, part of MTSU's African-American History Month, represent the first-ever collaboration between the university and the U.S. Postal Service.

Robert Rucker, assistant professor, Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work, was greatly responsible for the event, one of the Postal Service's largest community outreach programs of 1997.

Rucker said he first had the idea to celebrate postage stamps featuring African-American figures in spring 1996 and then pursued the plan with a letter to Postmaster-General Marvin Runyon.

Rick Burgess, a special-events coordinator for the U.S. Post Office, said Runyon liked Rucker's suggestion.

"Mr. Rucker's comments were, 'It sounds like a good idea—let's make it happen.'"

Rucker said the stamp exhibits will highlight

figures from the Black Heritage Series, including Tennessee journalist Ida B. Wells and NAACP founder W.E.B. DuBois, personalities from the Jazz Heritage Series, and other stamps commemorating African-American history.

"We're also very proud to announce that the 20th and newest member of the Black Heritage Series, Benjamin O. Davis [the first black American brigadier general], will be unveiled in Washington, D.C., on Jan. 28," Rucker said. "This new stamp will also be part of our display here."

Burgess and Doug Moyer, another of the Postal Service's special-events coordinators, toured the campus in September to look for potential sites for the exhibits.

Venues toured included the Bragg Mass Communication Building, Cope Administration Building, the Recreation Center, Murphy Center, Keathley University Center, Tucker Theater and the Wright Music Building.

A display featuring much of the art on which the stamps were based will be exhibited in the Alumni Center Feb. 10-14 and Feb. 17-21.

The committee for MTSU's African-American History Month hopes the exhibits will strengthen the February celebration. This year's theme is "Black Heritage: From the Middle Passage to the New Millennium."

Rucker said the stamps reflect "the pain endured in human suffering involved with the middle passage, yet show a collage of inspiration as we as a nation stand on the brink of a new millennium."

"[The display] is a great honor, because it is breathtaking to see such a rich heritage," said Vincent Phipps, an MTSU African-American senior. "It's not often that African-Americans are...in the limelight because of great contributions."

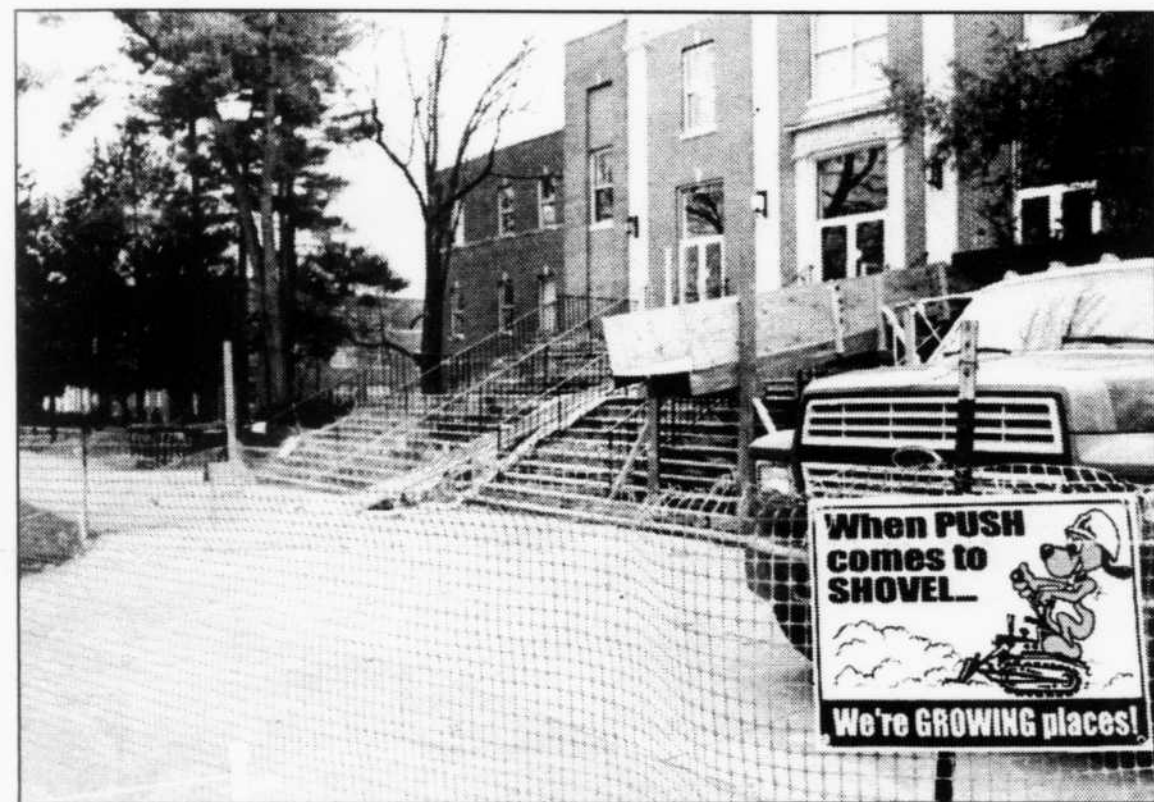
Rucker said one mission of the project is to make note of those African-American contributions "and make them more aware of themselves. That will add an awareness to the university."

He also hopes the exhibits will bring school and church groups to campus and enhance the learning experiences of students in nearby rural areas.

As a result of the university's partnership with the Postal Service, a collection of 18 stamps titled "I Have a Dream," is available for purchase from the campus post office. A CD featuring selections by Louis Armstrong, Charlie Parker, and other jazz greats is available, as is the Jazz Heritage Series of stamps with a stamp folio.

The African-American History Month committee is co-chaired by Cheryl Ellis, professor, HPERs, and Luther Buie, advisor in Developmental Studies. Other African-American History events scheduled for February include visits from artist/professor Tom Feelings, blues singer Bobby "Blue" Bland, and Cor nel West, author, philosopher, and Harvard University professor of Religion and Afro-American studies. •

When push comes to shovel...



Brain G. Miller/ staff

Renovation of the Tennessee Ballroom and lobby in the James Union Building is running smoothly and will be ready to use on Feb. 1, with new furnishings, carpet and draperies. Contractors will finish the upgrade over Spring Break.

Organizations vie for free cash

By Gregg Mayer/ staff

Student organizations needing money from the Student Activity Fee are going to have to hurry in order to beat tomorrow's deadline.

The Student Activity Fee is a giant pool of money — every MTSU student is required to pay \$4 as part of tuition — allocated to student organizations in need of funds for conferences, trips, and fund raisers. The deadline for Spring requests is Friday, Jan. 17.

"We probably have a little more than \$70,000 this semester (to allocate to organizations)," said Gail Stephens, associate dean of student life. "That's a little more than last semester."

The reason for the increase, Stephens explained, is that some organizations last semester didn't use all of their requested funds. The leftover money was carried over into this semester.

Stephens added that the \$70,000 will probably decrease as students withdraw from the university and take their \$4 tuition fee with

them. A final, definite total will not be known until Feb. 6, the last day for students to withdraw and still receive a 25 percent refund.

As of Wednesday, only nine organizations had requested money. The relatively low amount of current applicants, considering the number of student organizations on campus, is normal, Stephens said.

"We'll get swamped on Friday," Stephens said, explaining most organizations wait until the last day to turn in applications for money.

For organizations requesting money, Stephens offered these tips:

* Pay close attention to the guidelines attached to the application.

* Don't be too broad with money requests. Most organizations are denied money because their requests are too general. Provide a detailed account of everything for which the money is going to be used.

* Look closely at what is prioritized. Organizations offering conferences, speakers, or something similar to benefit the campus body as whole are often given preference. •

R&R adds stops for students

By Susan McMahan/ staff

Students using the Relax and Ride service may now find it easier to get to and from Nashville, according to Eric Beyer, the ride share director for the Regional Transportation Authority.

Relax and Ride has added more routes in the Murfreesboro Road area to provide MTSU students with "door to door service," Beyer said. A schedule of the new stops may be obtained at the Parking Authority or at the Cope Administration Building.

Beyer also explained that bus routes have been retimed to better reflect and cope with Nashville traffic conditions. Upcoming construction on Murfreesboro Road, however, Beyer added, will probably result in more changes.

Although inclement weather may cause some delays this time of year, busses will run as

close to schedule as possible.

"There's no change of route due to snow," Beyer said.

He said that Relax and Ride tries to utilize major thoroughfares whenever possible to avoid traveling unsafe back roads when the conditions are icy.

There has been no change of the one dollar per way fare for MTSU students and faculty. Beyer said that the MTSU rate is about half of the normal cost.

The RTA is offering a free one way ride for first time riders. Those interested should call 862-8833.

Beyer said that the RTA also will help establish a car or van pool for interested faculty and students living in the Nashville area.

Since Relax and Ride is geared for daytime transportation, Beyer recommended that evening students contact the RTA for ride share information. •



Ernest E. Just

photo provided



photo provided

Is there a problem, officer?



Daniel Ritchie/staff

Due to the wide-spread construction on campus, Police Chief Jack Drugmand made the executive decision to decrease the speed limit on campus roads to 15 mph.

Special Ed teachers in demand

College Press Service

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind.—Thousands of teaching positions remain unfilled each year because there's not enough college grads with a degree in special education.

That's according to Purdue University's School of Education, which estimates that nearly 25,000 special ed positions in K-12 each year are vacant or filled by teachers who are not fully certified in special education.

The National Center for Education Statistics reported that for 1992-93, the most recent year for which it has figures, there were only about 8,600 new graduates nationwide who earned bachelor's degrees in special education.

Nationally, starting salaries for undergraduates who have degrees in special education average \$21,923, while someone with a master's degree and no experience in special education can start at \$23,956.

Despite the large demand for special-ed teachers, however, their starting salaries are the same as other classroom teachers because teacher unions and school districts set the scale, Mason said.

When a school can't find someone specifically trained in special education, it can hire people with limited licenses, Mason said. The license permits a teacher with expertise in another area, such as elementary education, to teach special education for a limited time.

Margo Mastropieri, professor of special education at Purdue, says approximately 12 percent of all students ages 6-21 have a disability classified from mild to severe. Mild encompasses those with specific learning disabilities; severe includes children with physical disabilities as well as those who are developmentally delayed. Special ed students also might have sensory disabilities, such as blindness or deafness.

"Special education teachers need to be familiar with characteristics of these students, be capable of adapting instruction for students with disabilities, and be able to manage classroom behavior of such students," Mastropieri said.

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On Campus



January 1 through 31
Nashville's multi-media artist group is hosting an introductory exhibit during regular gallery hours at the Rutherford County/Murfreesboro Center for the Arts.

THURSDAY, Jan. 9 - Jan 22
Todd Library orientation classes will be held at various times during these days. See the schedule in the library for specific times. Call Sharon Parente at 898-2817 for more information.

Thursday, Jan. 16
College Democrats will hold their first meeting of the semester at 6:00 p.m. in the Nursing Building 121. Free pizza, drinks and a showing of The War Room. For further information contact Douglas Wells: 443-1197

FRIDAY, Jan. 17
Deadline for Activity Fee Application for the Spring Semester. Applications may be picked up in KUC 122 and must be returned to the same office. For further information, call 898-2454.

January 18 through February 22
Hypnagogia—multi-media art show based on a dream theme opening 7:00-9:30 Parthenon

in Nashville. Gallery hours : 9:30-4:30 Tues. -Sat. Admission Adults \$2.50, children (4-17) and seniors (62+) \$1.25. For more information contact Michael Durham: 262-2806

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 22
African-American Student Association will hold its meeting at 5:30 KUC 314. For more information contact Brian Stuckey at 898-3554

College Democrats: "Are Families First?" Welfare reform discussion. 6:00 p.m. Cason-Kennedy Nursing Building 121. For more information call Douglas Wells: 443-1197

THURSDAY, Jan. 23
Fashion show auditions will be held from 8:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. in the Rec Center Aerobics Room for the March 3rd Fashion Show. A table will be set up Thursday, January 23, in front of the KUC Grill from 9:00 a.m. to 3 p.m. with information. For further information call James Cessna at 898-3240.

FRIDAY, Jan. 24
The Japan Center of Tennessee announces a performance by the Tokyo String Quartet from Tokyo, Japan at the Tennessee Performing Arts Center

(TPAC) in downtown Nashville at 8 p.m. in the Polk Theatre. Call TicketMaster at (615) 255-9600 for tickets.

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 29
Summer Jobs Fair will be held from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at KUC Rooms 322 and 324. For more information call Temple Bennett, 898-2500.

Sigma Tau Delta English Honors Society will hold a writer's workshop for present and prospective members at its next meeting. 3:30 in Peck Hall 108. Call Dr. Strawman for membership information: 898-2659.

GRADUATING SENIORS
All May 1997 Graduating Seniors are required to take the ACT-COMP. The test will be given three times during the fall semester: **March 4, 5, and 6.** On these dates, students may choose from three different test times: 8:30 a.m., 1 p.m., or 6 p.m. All test administrations will be held in the Tennessee Room of the James Union Building. No pre-registration is necessary. The test should take approximately two and one-half hours. If there are questions, please contact Ruth Watson at 898-2854.

Former faculty member dies at 86

Col. James Parks, 86, died last Saturday of an apparent heart attack at Middle Tennessee Medical Center. Services were held Tuesday at Woodfin Memorial Chapel.

A native of Marshall County, his parents were the late Robert and Mamye Comstock Parks.

He is survived by his wife, Jean Roberts Parks; son, James Parks Jr. of Murfreesboro; daughter, Nancy

Parks Bertrand of Readyville; brother, Sam Parks of Charlotte, N.C.; and three grandchildren.

A member of the First Presbyterian Church, Retired Officers Association and the Tennessee National Guard Association, he was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II.

Memorials may be made to the American Heart Association.

Texas considers tuition hikes for floundering 'career' students

College Press Service

AUSTIN, Texas—In an attempt to weed the state university system of "career students," a Texas state office has a new plan: let the student, not the taxpayer, foot the bill.

Thousands of Texas college students have built up an excessive amount of credit hours in their quest for an undergraduate degree, says state comptroller John Sharp.

Sharp proposes charging undergrads who have completed 170 credit hours as much as four times the current tuition rate, which would result in an annual \$4.5 million savings for the state. Most students are expected to complete a bachelor's degree in 120 to 130 credit hours.

Last spring, nearly 18 percent of 98,000 college seniors at Texas public universities had accumulated

more than 170 credit hours, according to a Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board survey. Excess credit hours accumulate when a student switches majors, or is forced to take remedial classes, or must complete required classes after transferring.

Also, some students just "tend to make a career of it...they can't cut the strings and get out in the real world," said Kelly Fero, a spokesperson for Sharp's office.

"We want to encourage people to get their degrees. But we do want to encourage people to...get on with their lives rather than stay in school."

"Several states—Florida, Montana, North Carolina and Utah—already charge students higher fees for excessive credit hours. In Florida, students with more than 138 credit hours are charged an extra 25 percent per credit hour.

"One-hundred and seventy [credit hours] is still quite

generous," Fero said.

The current in-state tuition for Texas students is about \$2,250 per year. If state lawmakers approve Sharp's plan in their 1997 session, tuition for some students would soar to more than \$8,000.

Some students have complained that double majors—who often wind up with more credit hours—will be unfairly penalized by Sharp's proposal.

But Fero said the intent of the plan is not to prevent double majors. "In our research, most double majors wouldn't require more than 170 hours," he said.

Also, students could ask state officials for exceptions to the higher fees, he said.

Sharp's proposal would not affect college grads who return to take classes for career purposes, or who return for a second undergraduate degree.

Overused, useless and misused phrases targeted by University

College Press Service

SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich.—If you do "aromatherapy" in your "downtime," then perhaps you should "get a life."

Or get a new vocabulary, suggests a Michigan university.

Actually, "whatever" is the most overused phrase of 1996, according to the Lake Superior State University's 21st annual "List of Words Banished from the Queen's English for Misuse, Overuse and General Uselessness." Each year, the university asks high school students, teachers and parents to nominate certain phrases that, arguably, have no place in the English language.

"Whatever" what? Whatever I want? Whatever I need? It doesn't make any sense," said Rachel Bivens, a high school student from Mantou, Mich.

The wordsmiths also frowned on "as if," an expression popularized by the movie *Pulp Fiction*. The phrase may be used interchangeably with "Duh," which is just as useless, the university said.

Also banished is the phrase

"phone tag," which describes the act of communicating by voicemail or answering machine.

"It may have been a cool, trendy phrase in the 80s, but it is really annoying now," said Mark Terwilliger, a Lake Superior State math professor.

Not only slang phrases, but terms like "aromatherapy" have gotten under people's skin, too.

"This catchy word can be found on the labels of everything from shampoo bottles to air freshener. If it's truly 'therapeutic,' perhaps it should come at a higher price," said Michelle Batterbee Fox, an Ellsworth, Mich., teacher.

Scores of teachers complained that computer terms such as "downtime" have infiltrated the Queen's English. "It may be alright when applied to computers, but not humans," said Polly Fields, a Lake Superior State English professor.

Also nixed was "multi-tasking."

"Doing several things at once," said it all," said Donna Gayon, a Perry, Mich., high school teacher.

And what about the old favorite, "get a life?"

"A worn-out phrase which has somehow escaped the list until now," said Chris Gailus, a broadcast journalist from Calgary, Alberta.

Another word that has worn out its welcome is "attitude," which mysteriously, is "often preceded by the preposition 'with,' but no article," said Bryan Carey, of Clark Lake, Mich. "It is a euphemism for an overwhelmingly aggressive nature."

Contributors to the list also said they were way tired of hearing the "bridge" metaphors used by politicians during the 1996 elections.

"Bridge to the 21st Century?" It's called a "calendar." Are we really so stupid as to think we won't reach the next century without the help of politicians?" asked Dan and Nancy Friesen, of Windsor, Ontario.

Last but not least, the university had only one comment for "La Macarena," a term conjuring up images of the dance craze that swept Yankee Stadium, the Democratic National Convention, the Olympics and much of the entire nation: "Ad nauseum."

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Around the World



Israeli, Palestinian cabinets approve Hebron agreement

1 JERUSALEM (AP) — A bitterly divided Israeli Cabinet agreed Wednesday to withdraw troops from most of Hebron and rural West Bank areas, approving an accord that some of Benjamin Netanyahu's own hard-line allies denounced as a betrayal.

"The prime minister committed himself to give away sections of the Jewish homeland. He gets zero from Arafat," said Science Minister Benny Begin, who resigned in angry protest of the 11-7 vote.

The Hebron accord — wrapped up in a pre-dawn session Wednesday after 3 1/2 months of tortuous negotiations — sailed through Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Cabinet and PLO executive committee. Palestinians said the Cabinet approval was by a large majority, but did not immediately release the vote count.

The Israeli Cabinet approval sets the stage for Israeli parliament debate Thursday on the agreement, which outlines the immediate troop withdrawal from Hebron — the last West Bank city under Israeli occupation — and from the West Bank countryside by mid-1998.

The bank country withdrawal from Hebron is expected to start as soon as parliament gives its approval, which is all but guaranteed given the support of dovish opposition parties. By Wednesday evening, Israeli troops were already moving chairs and desks out of their Hebron headquarters.

The Israeli Cabinet debated the accord for 12 tumultuous hours, breaking once in sudden confusion over U.S. guarantees to Israel.

The crisis was sparked by an Israel TV report that quoted an unidentified senior American official in Washington as saying Israel could not unilaterally decide how to the West Bank it would turn over to the Palestinians.

The report reached the Cabinet, and ministers immediately demanded an explanation from Netanyahu, who had cited Israel's ability to determine the size of the pullback as his biggest achievement in the accord.

Swiss president 'very sorry' for remarks made about Jews

2 BERN, Switzerland (AP) — While the Swiss government smoothed relations with Jewish groups Wednesday, the country's largest bank tried to downplay the shredding of documents critics say were related to the Holocaust.

Former President Jean-Pascal Delamuraz read aloud to reporters his formal apology to the head of the World Jewish Congress for accusing Jews of trying to blackmail Switzerland over Jewish assets missing since World War II.

"I am very sorry that I offended your feelings as well as those of many other people concerned, particularly those of the Jewish community at large," Delamuraz said in a letter to WJC President Edgar Bronfman.

Delamuraz also read Bronfman's acceptance of the apology and expression of willingness to resume cooperation on

the investigation into what happened to Jewish assets unclaimed since 1945.

Jewish Agency Chairman Avraham Burg, who broke off contacts with Swiss officials over Delamuraz's initial comments, also welcomed the apology.

In a Dec. 31 newspaper interview, Delamuraz referred to Jewish demands for a \$250 million Holocaust compensation fund as blackmail and extortion.

Burg reacted from Jerusalem by describing the remark as "harsh" and saying it was "accompanied by the feel of anti-Semitism."

Delamuraz, who remains as economics minister in the seven-member Swiss cabinet, said he had based his comment on "inaccurate" information.

He did not elaborate but officials close to him said he was referring to a misunderstanding that Bronfman himself had specified an amount for the fund.

Peruvian rebels accept government peace proposal

3 LIMA, Peru (AP) — Leftist rebels agreed Wednesday to participate in talks to end Peru's month-old hostage crisis on the condition that everything — including freedom for their jailed comrades — be on the table.

The announcement, made in a two-way radio transmission from the seized Japanese ambassador's residence, appeared to be the first major rebuff in the standoff since the Tupac Amaru rebels released seven hostages on New Year's Day.

Balloonist's course changes to Africa

Associated Press

CHICAGO — A millionaire adventurer on a quest to become the first balloonist to circle the Earth nonstop changed course away from Russia and toward North Africa on Wednesday after a sudden shift in the wind.

Steve Fossett, a 52-year-old Chicago securities trader, was 1,950 miles west-southwest of the Strait of Gibraltar late Wednesday afternoon, his second day in the air after Monday's liftoff from St. Louis in his 150-foot Solo Spirit balloon.

Fossett's ground control team at Loyola University in Chicago was still seeking permission from the Russian government for a flyover, but "the change in direction was dictated solely by a wind change," said project manager Bo Kemper.

Russia's concerns included possible interference with civilian aviation and Fossett's inability to speak Russian, said Jennie Ritchie, a team spokeswoman.

In 1995, two American balloonists were killed when the Belarus military shot them down as they entered the country's airspace without permission during an international race.

Balloons can't be steered directly, but pilots can sometimes control their direction by rising or descending to catch wind currents.

Fossett had planned to fly across Poland, Belarus and Russia. Wednesday afternoon, though, the wind changed direction, and he adjusted his altitude from 18,000 feet to 22,000 feet to catch a current that would take him on a more southerly course across Algeria, Morocco and Libya, Kemper said.

At the higher altitude, the temperature outside dropped from 11 degrees to 30 below zero, but Fossett was in a heated capsule, Ms. Ritchie said.

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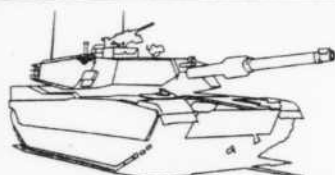
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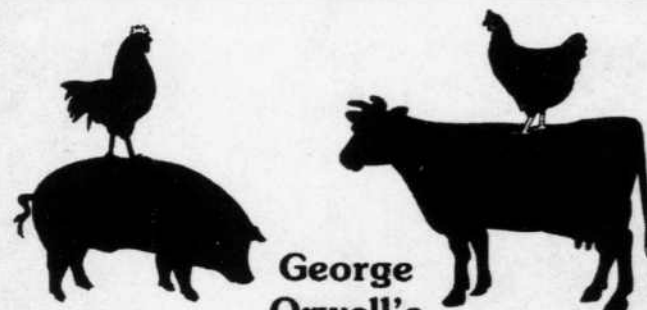
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Opinions

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Sidelines

Thursday, January 16, 1997

In our view

Remembering the dream

This Monday people all across the United States (and the world for that matter) will take time to remember the accomplishments and vision of Martin Luther King, Jr., a person who is synonymous with the civil rights movement of the 1960s. Without question, he is a man well worth remembering.

In his all-too-short life, Martin Luther King, Jr. was not only a brave leader in the fight against racial injustice and inequality, but someone who had a vision for our nation's future that went beyond the moving rhetoric of a Southern Baptist minister. This was a man who believed in the power of people to dream of a better life, and make that dream a reality by virtue of their faith, determination and spirit. Even today his words help remind us all what we can accomplish if we have the courage to fight for what we feel is right.

Too often, however, it seems that Martin Luther King Day is viewed as a holiday for only African Americans to participate in and celebrate. While this may be understandable, given the tremendous impact that Martin Luther King, Jr. had on the African American community, it would be a shame if his memory and message were lost on others merely because their skin color was different from that of Dr. King's.

Instead, this Monday should be a day that all Americans take a moment to not only remember the legacy left by Martin Luther King, Jr., but to understand that his mission in life-- his dream-- is one that penetrates beyond any barriers of race, culture, religion or prejudices.

His dream should be our dream.

Sidelines

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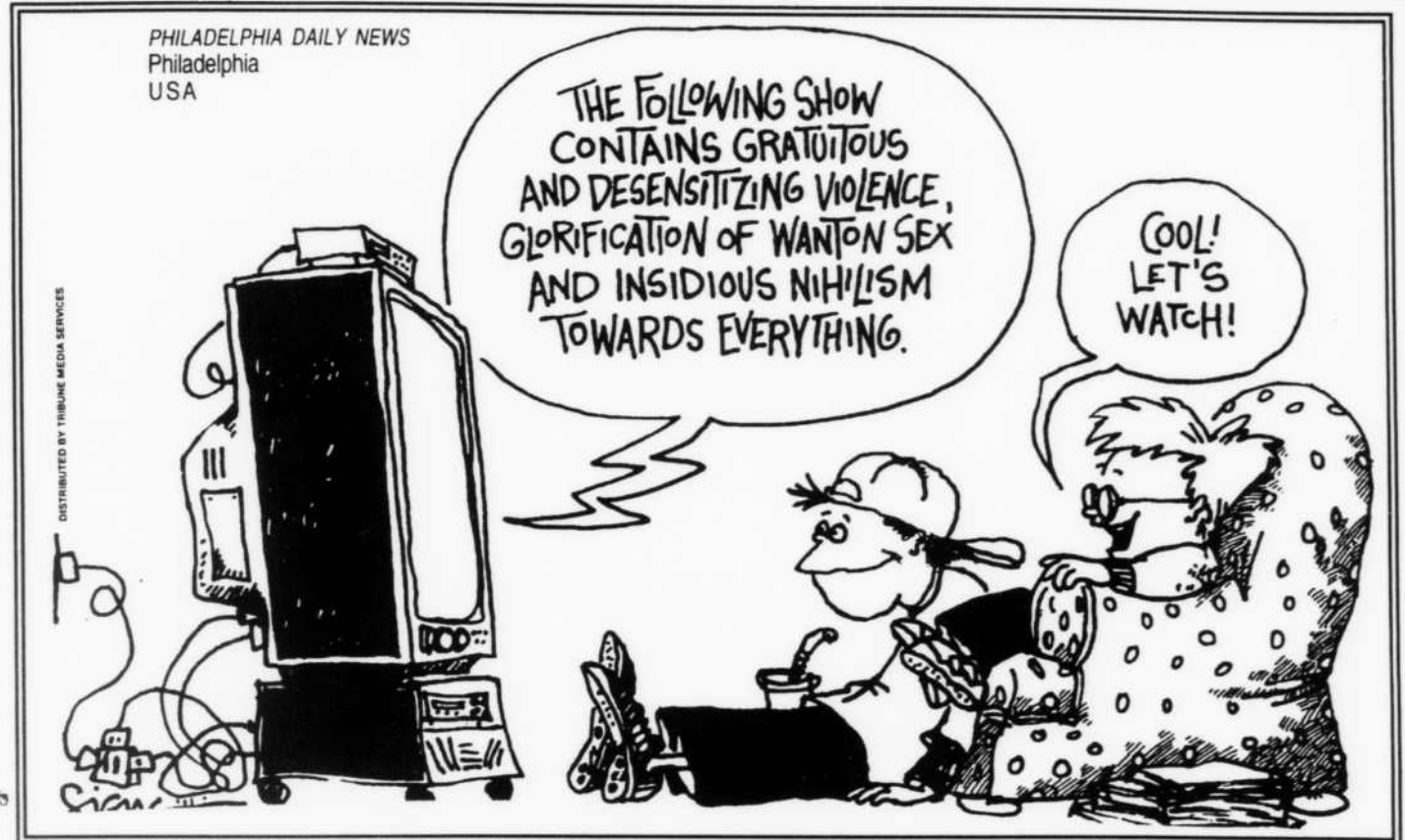
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Sidelines is the non-profit editorially independent student newspaper of MTSU and is published every Monday and Thursday. The opinions expressed herein are those of the individual writers and not necessarily those of *Sidelines* or the university.

Letters Policy

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



Letters to the Editor

Film committee chair unloads on apathetic organizations

To the Editor:

So anyway, I've been getting all this flack because I wrote a letter to the editor saying the Films Committee and I had busted our asses trying to change our movies from no-brainer T&A action flicks to thought provoking and cultural films. The general reaction to the change of films was either "ew, yuck! Why would I want to see foreign people talking about things I don't understand?" or "It sounds good but I'm too busy." The general reaction to my letter was "My my, you're such an angry young man." or "Hey! I'm a College Democrat and I can't appreciate hearing the truth." You see, I wrote that I was annoyed they had swamped campus and harassed students with vote Clinton litter but didn't bother to support The War Room which we showed just before the election, in part to support their cause.

I could have just as easily attacked Lambda for not showing up to our gay films or the Native American Heritage Society for not supporting our films about natives. But Lambda gets too much abuse in *Sidelines* already, and I don't wish to add to the history of attacks on natives. We sent letters to the entire faculty requesting support and got it from the Philosophy department and somewhat from the English department and two or three Foreign Language teachers. The rest of faculty completely ignored us. I picked on CDs (College Democrats) instead of faculty because I doubt that anything I could say would get a reaction from teachers.

Anyway, I wasn't claiming all Democrats are Satan worshippers I was just saying they, like most campus groups, are apathetic and unwilling to support anything but themselves. As a result of my bluntness a CD quit the Films Committee with much ado and another CD wrote a letter to *Sidelines* complaining about their simple human error of printing the letter twice, calling me way out of line, recommending we do a lot of things we already thought of, but that are not economically feasible or legal, and giving a lot of excuses about being too busy for a 90 minute film. Considering these reactions I find it hard to believe that people think I am the one

overreacting. If I really had it in for Democrats I would have talked about how much they are really like Republicans, and how they need them around to make them look good but pour tons of time and energy into blocking third parties from media exposure and the attention of the mainstream, and vote in policies that block third parties from the federal funding they and their Republican buddies enjoy. I would have mentioned they help the far Right stay in the mainstream while crippling and snubbing the Left because if people knew what legitimate third parties they could turn to Democrats would lose their appeal. And they would rather have our half of the voters stay home on election day than allow them information about someone worth voting for in order to protect the illusion that they are your best option. So why do they have a vendetta against me?

And why do people keep saying they are too busy when they have no problem finding time to stand in the rain all day long listening to insane evangelists on the knoll or writing letters about this event? Why is it people around here are too busy for Jean-Luc Godard but pack the house for Show Girls? When I say this I am not addressing every single person at MTSU. I know some people really are too busy, but all 18,000? It seems everyone is busy when only 10 people show up for Wings of Desire but not when 500 show up to Seven or 1000 to Basic Instinct. So, yes, I am furious, but not just about apathy toward cultural films. There is a photo gallery in the LRC, poetry lyceums and open lectures by the Honors Department, symphonies and student plays in Tucker Theatre, and Philosophy Colloquium in the JUB all of which are free, on campus, and as great a source of entertainment as education. Rarely do any of these things get much student attention. *Sidelines* has improved radically in the last year or so but no one admits it. Instead they say they are young upstarts for wanting to change the worn out and boring name of the paper. The Pretty Revolution is the most original and beautiful (non-human) thing on this campus. For those who don't know, I'm talking about some incredible chalk art. Until recently I have only heard negative comments about it and it still gets nowhere near the positive attention it deserves; instead people scuff their feet or spit on it to ruin it. The examples go on and on. Everyone is too busy arguing about Lambda, preachers, football, and fraternities to praise any student efforts to improve our environment. The thing about University life is when something is ignored it deteriorates or disappears whether it is foreign films or a sense of community and connection.

Everything I have said is my personal sentiment and in no way reflects the views of Student Programming or the Films Committee at MTSU. That is why these letters appear in the Opinions section of the paper.

John York, Senior
Chair of MTSU Films Committee

Meyer requests faster service from housing

To the Editor:

To quote Dennis Miller, "I don't mean to get off on a rant here," but

after reading your January 9 article regarding overcrowding in the dorms once again, I felt compelled to respond. And, today, I ask a simple question: WHEN WILL THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT GET ITS ACT TOGETHER?

Last semester, I witnessed firsthand how frustrating and overwhelming overcrowding is. A friend of mine was living with two other people, and barely had enough room to move, and barely had enough of his belongings in my room. When he asked the housing department how much longer this would last, he was given very vague and unhelpful answers. Needless to say, he was inconvenienced greatly, and, although I was not forced to share my already-cramped dorm room (that's just with two people!), I felt very sad and angry for him. When the "situation" was finally resolved, the housing department said that it would take 2-3 weeks before the extra bed could be moved out. Hello? Is there something wrong with this picture?? 21 extra days to move a bed out??? Moving on....

I was also in disbelief when I realized last semester how much bigger and generally nicer the girls rooms are than the guys rooms. Hasn't anyone else noticed? My girlfriend has a sink in her room, the room is almost twice the size of mine, and their hallways are carpeted. Don't get me wrong, I love her and am glad she has a nice room, but what frustrates me and many others is that we are paying the same amount of money for obviously inferior living conditions.

Last year when it took four months to get my blinds replaced, this year when I requested a room for bunk beds in August and I got a response in January, when my roommate and I placed a work-order for our vent and we have yet to receive help, the always-empty vending machines on which the residents have received no notification of why they weren't (aren't) being restocked, cockroaches the size of cadillacs in the hallways, hot water problems, and so on. I realize that this is also crossing over into a critique of the maintenance department, but since the housing department is supposed to "enhance the quality of life for on campus residents" (from the 1995-97 Undergraduate Catalog, pg. 35), it is about time that they take initiative and either hire new workers or become much more efficient. I understand that there are many on-campus residents, but there is obviously a problem when every person I have talked to is infuriated with the lack of supervision and care of our dorms.

I did not write this letter to bitch and moan about how bad I have it. Believe it or not, I like on-campus life. It is convenient and relatively cheap. However, we are not paying money to be jerked around in some bureaucratic nightmare. We are not paying money to be inconvenienced. We are not paying money just to pay money. Those of us who live on campus know that on-campus life looks better on paper than it does in reality. I know people may say, "Why don't you just move out if you don't like it?" It won't solve anything. Until some drastic measures are taken by the housing department and/or maintenance, they will continue to hear from students, like me, who are generally disappointed, frustrated, and inconvenienced by such incidents. Justin Meyer
Sophomore, Recording Industry Management



EXPERIENCE UNTITLED

By Christi Underdown/ staff

The walls of Rutherford County/ Murfreesboro Center for the Arts Exhibition Hall will be donned in the robes of artistry by untitled, Nashville's eclectic multi-media artist group, until Feb. 1.

"Founded in 1991, untitled is creative minds established to provide a forum for artists, musicians and performers, for the presentation of new and experimental work without the restraints normally imposed upon them by commercial consideration," states the purpose of the group.

"We are really loosely organized," said Anne Van Leeuwen, contact member for "Introducing untitled," the show taking place at the Center for the Arts. "Too much organization kills creativity."

Untitled is not only multi-media, but also multi-age.

"We have members ranging from 20s to their 50s," Leeuwen said. "We want to support each other as artists."

The artists have risen in numbers from 12 to 140 since 1991. Membership fees are \$5.

"We want the atmosphere to be relaxed," Leeuwen said. "We don't want people to be intimidated by cost."

The group's shows are filled with various items: video work, performance art, poetry reading and semi-traditional visual art.

"The Glow Show," an exhibit purely for black light art, has become a yearly tradition in the Nashville area. "Hey Nashville, What's the Big Idea?," the group's most recent show, focused on untitled's mission of raising community awareness to the arts.

It's like a sideshow, Leeuwen said. Many of the artists have been asked not to show at local restaurants and galleries. Most of the exhibits are tame, but avant garde is welcome.

"We encourage all areas of creativity," Leeuwen said. "It's whatever the artist feels comfortable doing."

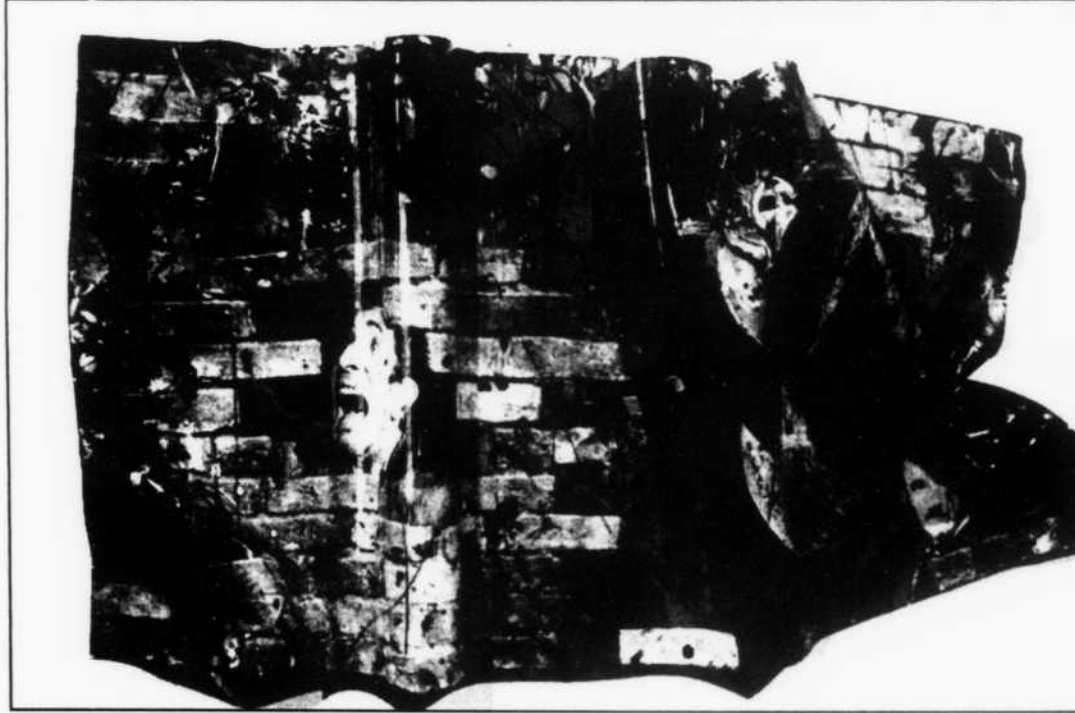
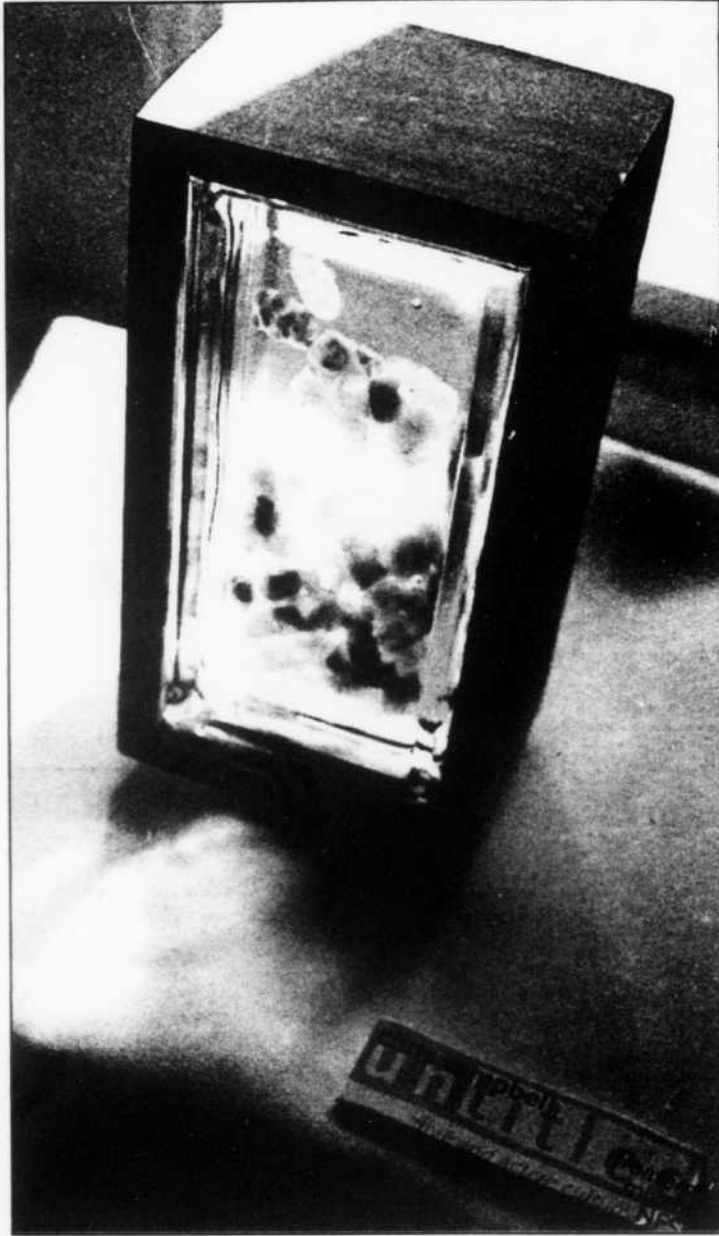
"Some people don't buy art because they love it," said Michael Durham, untitled's publicity coordinator. "They buy it for something to hang over the sofa. Our shows are not for these people."

Not only has the group hosted their own shows, but they also have been involved in such projects as Nashville Cares, Artrageous, S.O.S., Artists Against Hunger Auction and Artopia.

"We're really involved," Durham said. "Maybe a little too hyper for our own good."

In addition to "Introducing untitled," the group is holding an exhibit at the Parthenon titled "Hypnagogia" (the Greek term for the time between sleeping and waking), from Jan. 18 through Feb. 22. An opening reception will be held on Jan. 18 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Admission is \$2.50 for adults and \$1.25 for children (4-17) and seniors (62+).

Untitled can be contacted through its homepage at <http://www.jml.com/untitled>. For more information on the shows, call Anne Van Leeuwen at 895-7125 or Michael Durham at 262-2806.



(Top) Chris Cambell's mixed media piece, 'Floaters' and Chelle Kurzyck's 'Poe' (above) are two of many artistic displays at the Rutherford County/ Murfreesboro Center for the Arts exhibit by artist until Feb. 1.

Bakari to speak on King

By Heather Hybarger/ staff

Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday is celebrated on Monday, Jan. 20, this year. Many people will celebrate by being out of class, but several organizations on and around campus have scheduled events to commemorate King and his accomplishments.

Adonijah Bakari will speak Jan. 20 on King in an event sponsored by the office of Multicultural Affairs, Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, AHEC and Tennessee Meharry Medical Center. The event, titled "The Reality of Reaching the Dream," will be held in the KUC Theatre starting at 7 p.m.

"I think that King represented something more than just what he's been built as: a civil rights leader," Bakari said. "In his last days he focused more on human rights."

"I see Martin as a very important character to not only the hopes of African American people, but people in general," Bakari added.

Bakari was skeptic of accepting to do the speech at first because he did not experience King firsthand.

"In African culture you are supposed to sit at the feet of your elders and learn from their things they've seen firsthand," he said. "My experience with King has been mostly through video."

Alpha Phi Alpha and the office of Multicultural Affairs have sponsored events in conjunction with Martin Luther King, Jr. Day since before it became a national holiday, according to Mark Howse, assistant advisor and immediate past president of the fraternity. King was a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity at Moorehouse College.

"We started with a candlelight vigil every year," Howse said.

"There is the concept that this event is only for African Americans, but it is for the whole student populous," he added.

The office of Multicultural Affairs will sponsor a breakfast in recognition of University President James Walker in the JUB on Saturday, Jan. 25. The event is free and open to the public.

The doors open at 9:30 a.m., and guests are reminded that seating is limited.

"It will offer those participating an opportunity to reflect on Dr. Walker's accomplishments, ask questions and thank him for a year well spent," said Ralph Metcalf, director of the office of Multicultural Affairs.

The local NAACP chapter also has scheduled a Martin Luther King, Jr. breakfast Jan. 18. The breakfast will be held at the Holiday Inn. The cost is \$7.50 for students and \$15 for adults.



UFO contactee to lecture on achieving higher consciousness

Staff Reports

Do UFOs exist? Have extraterrestrials played a role in our origins and our advancement as a species? If so, what role will they play in our future?

Internationally-known speaker Jerry Wills will attempt to answer these questions and more in a lecture titled "Empty Spaces" at the Murfreesboro Holiday Inn on Old Fort Road on Friday, Jan. 17, at 7 p.m.

The lecture, sponsored by Contact Quest, is part of Wills' "Voices From the Stars" series, through which Wills attempts to relate and teach the art of achieving higher consciousness, spiritual healing and developing contact with extraterrestrials.

Wills, a 43-year-old entrepreneur and self-proclaimed adventurer, claims that he has developed a close relationship to a group of extraterrestrials from a highly advanced culture. The native of central Kentucky says that his first experienced contact with this group during his teens, and he has had several visits from them throughout his life.

Through these "visitors," Wills

claims to have learned the abilities to foretell future events, to sense energies around people, and to heal the sick. Wills also says he was taught new concepts in physics, math, astronomy, medicine and biology.

According to Wills, major physical changes may be in store for the Earth beginning near the end of the millennium. He feels that the visitors contacted him so that he could help prepare others for these changes.

Currently, Wills conducts lectures worldwide and is the CEO of several businesses. He also plays symphonic rock music with his band, "U F A U X," and is currently developing a plan to create a community in the Amazon rain forest.

When not making one of his expeditions to the Andes Mountains of Peru or the Amazon Basin, Wills lives in Phoenix with his wife Sharon, and two daughters, Staci and Christy.

Admission for Friday's event is \$15. Parking is free.

For further information about Jerry Wills or Contact Quest, contact Eddie Middleton, director of Contact Quest, at (901) 683-7178.

Murphy returns to old formula in Metro

Mixed Reviews
By Jason T. Sparks

It probably seemed to the various suits in Hollywood that an action film called *Metro* would be the smartest move for Eddie Murphy to make while *The Nutty Professor* tide was still good and high. It's an understandable decision, considering that *48 Hours* and *Beverly Hills Cop* — themselves action films interspersed with comedy — still stand as the twin towers of his early career, financially and comedically.

But those two films were different in that the folks responsible for them understood that Eddie Murphy the comedian was going to be put as many warm bodies in seats as the car-chases-*et al* would, if not more. *Metro*, however, is almost entirely about action, and tends to leave one of our top modern screen comedians untapped.

Murphy stars as Scott Roper, a San Francisco policeman responsible for negotiating hostage situations. We watch him negotiate in the films first full scene, which plays to most of our standard hostage-scene conventions (even a killer shouting, "I'M GONNA DO IT, MAN!"), yet succeeds at making the viewer nervous by throwing in a few new, harrowing details (sobbing, blood-covered hostages; a guard with a very un-Hollywood gunshot wound). And Roper is, in fact, the nerve center of the scene, obviously the figure who will secure the fate of the hostages.

When the camera's point of view is filled with the criminal, the screen is filled with Murphy's flaring, unblinking eyes, and his voice is the only sound heard.

Soon after the hostage scene comes the obligatory exposition. We learn that Roper is a compulsive gambler, his car is being repossessed, he's being teamed up with a new partner who will ultimately replace him (Michael Rappaport, not playing the



In *Metro*, Eddie Murphy stars as Scott Roper, an unorthodox hostage negotiator.

expected Green Rookie cliché). We learn, essentially, that Scott is a negotiator, but (all together now) he can't negotiate his way through life.

The plot finally jump-starts when Roper's old partner (Art Evans), investigating a jewel robbery, is viciously murdered while Roper is outside the killer's apartment building calling a bookie. And so, when the same jewel thief takes hostages in the store he's been planning to rob, Roper is sent to negotiate and (sing along if you now this one) this time ... it's personal.

By this point in the film, there seems to be a kind of schizophrenia present, as the picture wavers between comedy and action, between predictable and unpredictable. Frankly, it's not a comfortable balance for the audience. We cannot be expected to go comfortably from intense, gory fight scenes and car chase scenes (particularly a 20-minute scene involving a cable car, 10 other cars, and an indefinite body count) and gentler, funnier love scenes (between Roper and his love interest (Carmen Ejogo, whom he must win back, having been too wrapped up in work before, etc., etc.)) Nor can we readily decide what to think of a movie full of action picture clichés (including the beloved chief in a noisy room shouting, "YOU'RE OFF THIS CASE! IS THAT UNDERSTOOD!"), while equally unpredictable at other times. If the medicine cabinet shuts and we don't see the killer in the mirror, aren't we learning to expect him when the violins in the soundtrack become silent?

Basically, Murphy rediscovered his real talent as a character comedian in *Professor*, yet seems to be in some sort of denial about it — denial enhanced, no doubt, by past glory. But Axel Foley has matured into Sherman Klump, and it's time to pass the torch — perhaps to Wesley Snipes, Michael Madsen, or Jackie Chan — but definitely to someone whose exclusive domain is action. Action is action and comedy is comedy, and never — unless better negotiated that this, should the twain meet.

Sports & Recreation

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Sidelines

Thursday, January 16, 1997

OVC elite threaten Murphy win streak

By Doug Malan/ staff

This holiday weekend, Middle Tennessee will put its seven game home winning streak up against the two teams with which it shares first place in the OVC: Southeast Missouri State and Eastern Illinois.

A sweep of the Indians and Panthers would give the Blue Raiders a firm hold on first place and complete a four-game ace of conference opponents at Murphy Center, where they haven't lost since last February.

Although the three teams are tied with OVC records at 4-1, Middle Tennessee holds the overall advantage with an 11-4 mark, compared to Eastern's 7-6 record and SEMO's 7-9 slate.

Much like last weekend's matchup with Tennessee Tech, the Raiders will face a slight size disadvantage when they challenge SEMO Saturday afternoon at 2 p.m. Ron Shumate's squad features 6-10, 240-pound junior center Bud Eley, who leads the team with 16.1 points and 11.1 rebounds per game. In OVC play, Eley inflates his scoring to 20 points per game.

"We will have (Chad) Wampler and Mantia (Callender) working on him," head coach Randy Wiel said. "I think Eley is better than (7'1" Tech center Lorenzo) Coleman. He's more active and very agile."

Calvert White, a junior college transfer from the Virgin Islands, is a 6'4", 175-pound slasher who can fill the

scoring guard or swing forward positions. He averages 13.4 points, 5.7 rebounds and nearly two steals, 5.7 per game. White also leads the team in minutes played and is the only Indian to start every game this season.

Point guard Allen Hatchett scores 8.9 points per game with a team-high 49 assists. However, the 5'10" Sikeston, Mo., native has also committed a SEMO-leading 60 turnovers.

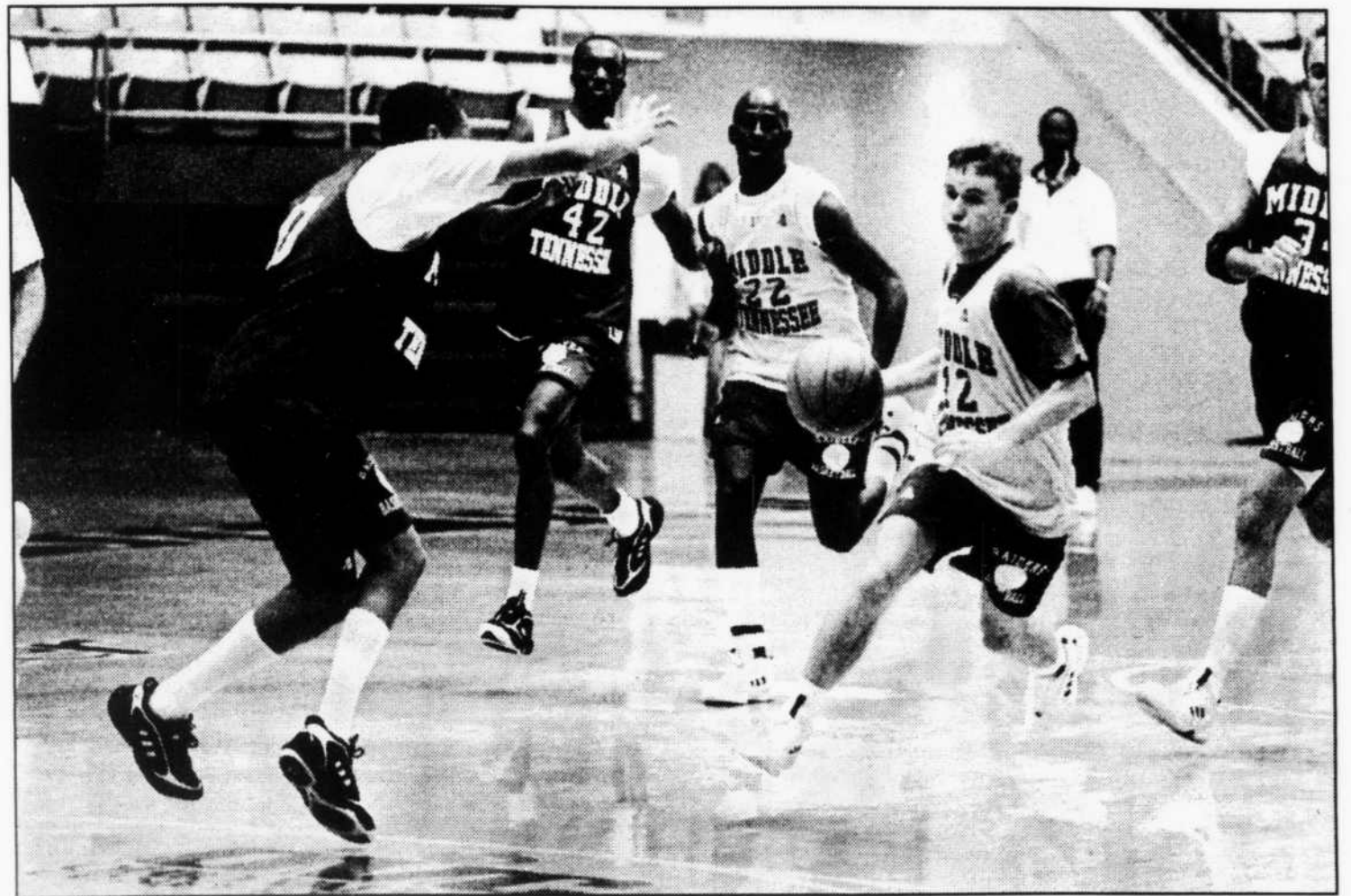
David Montgomery, a 6-8, 230-pound forward, chips in 9.0 points per contest and 5.0 rebounds while frontcourt mate Richard Lyte, 6-6, 210 pounds from Toronto, contributes 5.8 points per game and pulls down 2.6 rebounds.

Southeast Missouri State is a junior-dominated team (7 of 13 players) with only one senior on the roster, guard Reggie Crisp, who has played in 14 games and started four.

"They can play an up-tempo style or a solid half-court game," Wiel said. "They are a very athletic team and they go eight or nine men deep."

SEMO has a four-game winning streak entering Saturday's contest. The Indians have faced some notable schools so far with losses to Cincinnati, Old Dominion and Fresno State in Puerto Rico and at Oklahoma and Missouri. They were also upset early in the year by McKendree College, a lower division school in Illinois.

Monday at 7 p.m., the Blue



Brian G. Miller/ staff

Sophomore guard Kent Ayer faces off against Southeast Missouri at 2:00 Saturday and Eastern Illinois at 7:00 Monday. The Raiders shares first place in the OVC with the two teams. Wins over the two teams would give the Raiders a tight grip on the first place spot and improve their 4-1 OVC record.

Raiders meet Eastern Illinois for the first time in their basketball history. The Panthers are first-year members of the OVC after playing in the Mid-Continent Conference, where last year they finished 13-15 overall and 9-9 in the conference.

Rick Samuels' team is also riding a four-game winning streak, pending their outcome Saturday at Kennesaw Tech, and 6'5" forward Rick Kaye leads the way. The junior has started all 13

games and averages 16.6 points and 4.4 rebounds.

Against Ohio Valley Conference competition, three other players average double figures. True freshman John Smith tallies 12.2 points and 5.0 rebounds per game from his forward position and junior college transfer forward Kurt Cuffle posts 10.8 points and 3.4 rebounds. Guard Chad Peckinpah completes the trio with 10.6 points and 7.2 assists per contest.

Benji Gibbs (8.6 points per game overall) and Rahsaan Johnson (8.0 points per game) could also see considerable playing time.

Wiel said he planned on studying Eastern Illinois' game film late Friday or early Saturday.

Following the two home games this weekend, Middle Tennessee plays three road games against Austin Peay, Murray State and UT-Martin Jan. 23-27. •

Senior Bailey's impressive numbers, attitude make him natural-born leader

By Rachel Parrish

Judging from his stats, you would think that senior Roni Bailey just might have it all—he averages about 6.6 rebounds and 15 points per game and he's got great work ethics. The heat and intensity he uses during game time is not just a show; what you see at the game is what you see at practice. Though he is a starter on the Blue Raider squad and the team's leading rebounder, Bailey is not satisfied.

"What I want," says the Championship native, "is a Columbia ring. I want to win the tournament and the conference because I've been here for three years and I think it's about time."

"About time" is precisely right. The Raider's chances at securing an OVC title are not exactly 'Hoop Dreams'. In fact, the way that Roni Bailey and the Raiders have exploded this year may have surprised some people, but not head coach, Randy Wiel. Wiel likes fast tempo and constant motion on the floor and favors Roni's attitude toward both the game and the team.

"Roni," he says, "is the emotional leader of the team. He is always, always talking and encouraging the rest of the players... I think that he is having one of his best seasons yet."

Roni's game and vocal attitude on the court earn him quite a bit of comparison to Scottie Pippen, another great player.

"I don't think I can really be compared to him," laughs Bailey compared to his game. "I am very versatile in some cases by being able to go inside and out, but I'm no Pippen."

And about the vocal attitude part?

"I say what needs to be said on the floor because I believe in speaking my mind. Though we have a lot of great players on the team, most of them aren't vocal about certain things."

Bailey, with 4.2 assists per game is quick to give credit to the rest of the team.

"The team is full of really good guys

superb, his health is not.

"Roni injured his knee and had to get some of the fluid drained out just to play," explains coach Wiel. "He is playing in considerable pain."

Roni, modest as he is, insists that the pain is really not that bad.

"I try to ice it every night and go to the training room regularly and no, the pain is not half as bad as you think." Guess that's why he plays with a protective sleeve on both knees.

Basketball came naturally to Bailey at an early age. He began playing in the eighth grade and continued into high school. As a senior, his team lost in the final game which was held at MTSU's Murphy Center. Despite this loss, however, he was voted MVP of the entire state tournament.

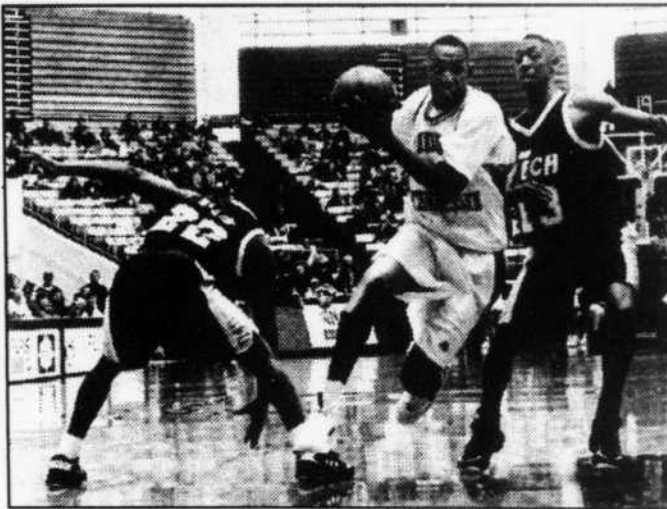
To upcoming basketball players, Roni's advice emphasizes education and focusing on individual talent as a player.

"I hate to sound run of the mill, but staying in school is the most important thing of all, because getting your education is just as important as working on your jump shot," he says.

As for the individualism part, he says that it is not always good to base your game skills on playing man to man ball.

"Its best sometimes just to go out there by yourself and just shoot, shoot, shoot," he recommends. "Because when you're playing on a team, everybody wants the ball."

In the future, Roni will take his outstanding game overseas where he will no doubt become a fast favorite among the fans there just like he is here. •



Brian G. Miller/ staff

Senior guard, Roni Bailey, drives past defenders en route to the basket during last week's standoff with Tennessee Tech.

who can play just as well as I do. It's all pretty much equal."

Like most players, he is also enthusiastic about the crowd support at games.

"The cheering gives us a big, big lift when we're out there," he says. "It gets a player going, and if you're booed, it's the audience's way of letting you know to get on your toes. Though," he laughs, "I think the worst critics are my friends and family."

What people obviously don't know about Roni is that while his game is

Raider runners ready for indoor meet

Staff Report

Both the men's and women's track teams from Middle Tennessee end a long holiday break from competition as they head for the Kentucky (Indoor) Invitational Saturday.

In addition to host Kentucky, the Raiders will compete against Tennessee, Western Kentucky, and Eastern Kentucky.

"We'll be running in a great facility at UK," said veteran MTSU Head

Coach Dean Hayes, "but the main thing is for both of our teams to get back into the swing of competition."

Both the Blue Raiders and the Lady Raiders won their last meet, but have not competed since Dec. 8, when they out-distanced Murray State, Tennessee State, Western Kentucky, and Austin Peay.

The Raider men are led by Jaz Salahuddin in the jumps, where he has already met the NCAA long jump standard at 25 4-3/4. All-American

sprinter Christian Nsiah and NCAA semifinalist Keith Watkins add strength in the short races, while freshman Boniface Amuzu appears solid in both the long jump and the sprints.

The Lady Raiders figure to be paced by Nekeya Ralls (long jumps and hurdles), who led all scorers in the last year's Ohio Valley Conference meet. Freshman Bethany Brent and newcomer Trina Weddington help to solidify the sprints. •

Lady Raiders face off against SEMO, Eastern

Doug Malan/ staff

Wednesday night, the Lady Raiders (currently 5-9) return to OVC play with games at home against Southeast Missouri State and Eastern Illinois on Saturday and Sunday.

Middle Tennessee, coming off a 71-61 loss to Tennessee Tech, sits in fourth place of the conference at 3-2.

The women will play the nightcap of Saturday's doubleheader with tip-off at approximately 4:30 p.m.

The Otahkians, who played at

Oral Roberts University Wednesday night, enter Saturday on the skirts of a 1-4 OVC record and 3-9 overall slate at press time.

Junior guard Jamie Koester is the team's main weapon. A 5'11" transfer from Kansas State who became eligible a few weeks ago, Koester leads SEMO in scoring (13.2 points) and rebounding (7.7) per game and is second in steals (15 picks in six games) behind M o n e i k Campbell.

Six-foot senior center Kim Palmer is the only other Otahkian to average double figures in scoring with 10.6 points per game and 6.8 rebounds. She is also the team's defensive specialist with 14 of SEMO's games.

Freshman guard Sarah Frazier chips in 9.9 points per game with 26 assists and 14 steals. However, the 5'7" Iowa native also has a team-high 42 turnovers.

Forward Dana Hawkins scores 9.7 points per contest while grabbing 4.2 rebounds. Campbell (4.7 points) and Dawn Messani (team-high 33 assists)

chips in 10.5 points and 4.3 rebounds. In conference play, two other Panthers average double figures. Allison Lee and Nora Hendrix tally 10.8 and 10.2 points, respectively, with both averaging around four rebounds.

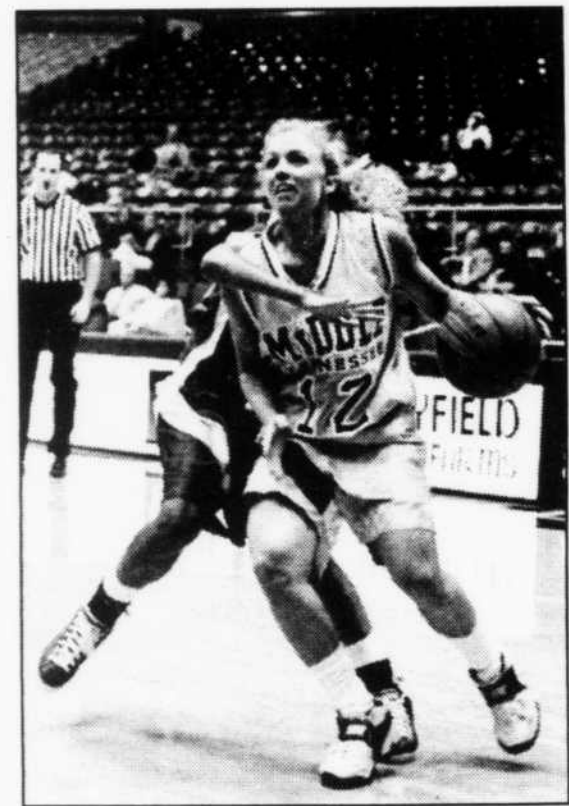
Point guard Jess Laska leads Eastern with 62 assists and 22 steals while scoring nearly five points a game.

The Panthers are seeking their first conference road victory this season, having lost at Austin Peay (80-62) and Tennessee State (86-64) earlier this month. •

also see considerable playing time off the bench.

The Otahkians got their first conference win of the season on Monday when they beat Morehead State 75-72. Overall, Ed Arnsen's team has been outscored by an average of 12.5 points per game this season.

Sunday at 2 p.m., Eastern Illinois visits the Lady Raiders in the first meeting between the teams since the 1989-90 Illini Classic in Champaign, Ill. Middle Tennessee lost that lone contest 90-68.



Brian G. Miller/ staff

Sophomore guard Courtney Neeley gets snagged by a TSU Raider in a recent game. The Lady Raiders face SEMO and Eastern Illinois this weekend.

The Panthers are 6-7 overall and 2-3 in the OVC with a game Saturday at Tennessee. In their last game, Eastern lost at home, 79-69, to Eastern Kentucky.

John Klein's squad is led by Barbara Garbova, who averages 15.8 points and 7.8 rebounds per contest. Both are team highs. Her best game was a 24-point, 11-rebound performance against Evansville in December. Sarah Probst

Ohio State's Pace headlines annual exodus of underclassmen

College Press Service

Go pro or play another year: that's the question on the mind of many top college football players at the end of every season.

This season is no different. A star junior running back or sophomore defensive end knows that an early trip to the NFL can result in a low draft slot and a subsequent season of unfulfilled potential. On the other hand, one bad break on the college field and a one-time top draft pick trades a multimillion-dollar contract for a pair of crutches.

Ohio State offensive lineman Orlando Pace, a two-time winner of the Lombardi Award, said he will go pro because he has nothing left to prove at the college level. More than that, however, is Pace's desire to be singled out as the best player in the nation.

"I want to be the No. 1 pick. That's why I came back for my junior year," said Pace, who is 6-foot-6, 330-pounds. "I did everything I wanted to do. It's time for me to move on."

Earlier this year, Pace said he would return to Columbus for his senior season. But he changed his mind because of some realizations he came to before, during and after the Rose Bowl, he said.

"I just knew it was time to leave," Pace said. "I don't have anything left to prove on this level."

University of Miami juniors Tremain Mack and Kenard Lang have declared their eligibility for the NFL draft. Mack, a safety, and Lang, a defensive end, enjoyed stellar seasons and are slotted as two of the best available defensive

players in the draft.

"If I hadn't had a good season, I wouldn't have made the decision to go pro," says Mack. "I feel like I learned a lot this year, and I'm ready to see what I'm worth."

Mack made several big plays for the Hurricanes this season, including a 79-yard fumble return, a 42-yard interception return and a blocked field goal in the Carquest Bowl—all factors which may have helped solidify his decision to turn pro.

"Scouts are just like any other fans," said Lenny Mitoli, who's been rating players for the NFL for 17 years. "Sure they know all the ins and outs of a kid but when they see a big play, that kid shoots up on their list. Mack had a career day in his biggest game all season. That counts for a lot."

Mack also missed two games because of a "drinking problem," according to Miami athletic spokesman Bob Burda, but has since undergone treatment. Mitoli says NFL teams still look at a player's life off the field, but it rarely translates into a lower ranking.

"Look what happened with Lawrence Phillips. Mitoli said of the former University of Nebraska running back with a host of legal problems. "The (St. Louis) Rams saw all that, and they still gave the guy a huge contract."

Miami's Lang says he has mixed feelings about leaving Miami early but feels that he must take advantage of the opportunity.

"I'll always have more to learn, more to prove, but I just feel that the time is right to move on," he said. "I've got a lot I want to prove, and I want to get on with it."

Northwestern's star running back Darnell Autry declared himself eligible for the draft after bringing new life to the school's long-dormant football program.

"I felt it was time to try this opportunity, and I have the faith and confidence it's going to work out," Autry said at a press conference earlier this week "I think that's the only way it can be."

Autry said his decision had nothing to do with NU's loss in the Citrus Bowl, or the potential flight of coach Gary Barnett for the NFL or, for that matter, next season, which could include a letdown after two surprising seasons.

"It was not based on the team's future, not based on coach Barnett's future or even my family's future. It was based solely on what I thought was best for me," Autry said.

Mitoli says Autry could go in the first round. In his case, the scout says character does come into play. "I'll admit that teams look past a guy's record of problems but at the same time, they look for guys with good character," Mitoli said. "It helps a lot when you consider what they'll be going through in the NFL."

Other notable entries into this year's draft include Ronde Barber, junior cornerback from Virginia; Chris Canty, junior cornerback from Kansas State; Tony Daniels, junior defensive end from Texas Tech; Troy Davis, junior running back from Iowa State; Corey Dillon, junior running back from Washington; Tony Gonzalez, junior tight end from California; Byron Hanspard, junior running back from Texas Tech; and Alex Smith, junior running back from Indiana.

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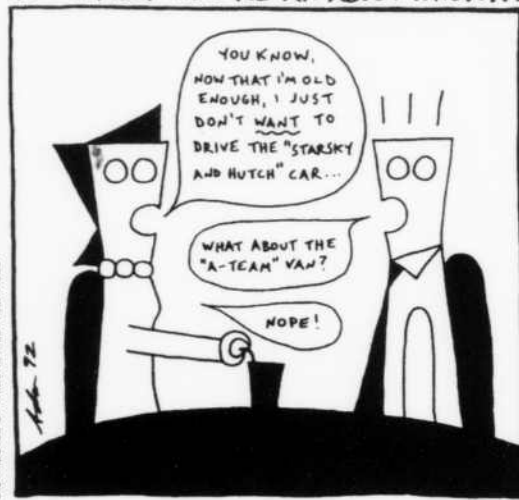
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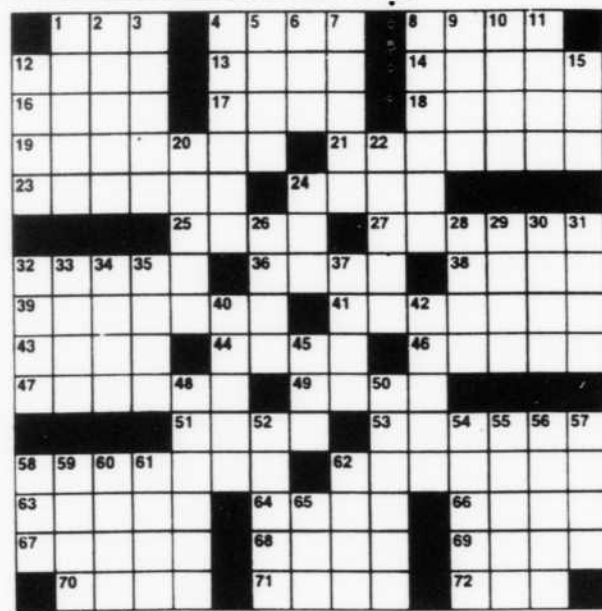
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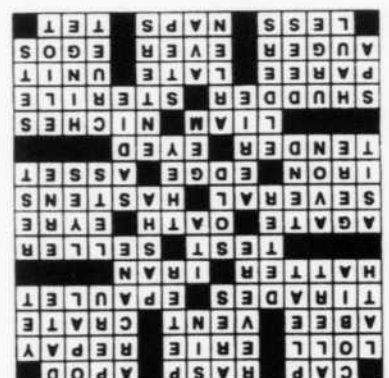
THE Crossword

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| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Surpass | 1 Large food fish |
| 4 File | 2 Wide awake |
| 8 Like two peas in | 3 Skirt feature |
| 12 Recline in an | 4 Adore |
| indolent manner | 5 War god |
| 13 Buffalo's lake | 6 Transgress |
| 14 Give back a loan | 7 Jennings or |
| 16 Busy as — | Fonda |
| 17 Air shaft | 8 Secret |
| 18 Box | 9 Lima's land |
| 19 Long, violent | 10 Ring stone |
| speeches | 11 Appointment |
| 21 Shoulder | 12 Thin strip of |
| adornment | wood |
| 23 The Mad — | 15 Thus far |
| 24 Formerly Persia | 20 Stop |
| 25 Try | 22 Tunisian leader |
| 27 Vendor | 24 Call — day |
| 32 Marble | 26 Auctioneer's |
| 36 Vow | word |
| 38 "Jane —" | 28 Allows |
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| 52 Composer | 58 Health farm |
| Lug | 59 Lug |
| 54 Condiment | 60 Impel |
| vessel | 61 Ruby and |
| 55 Depend | Sandra |
| 56 T.S. — | 62 Stair |
| 57 Gels | 65 Ms. Gardner |

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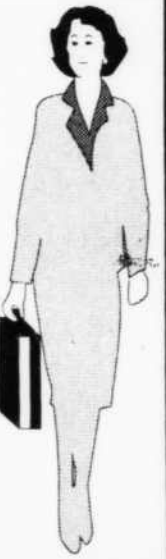
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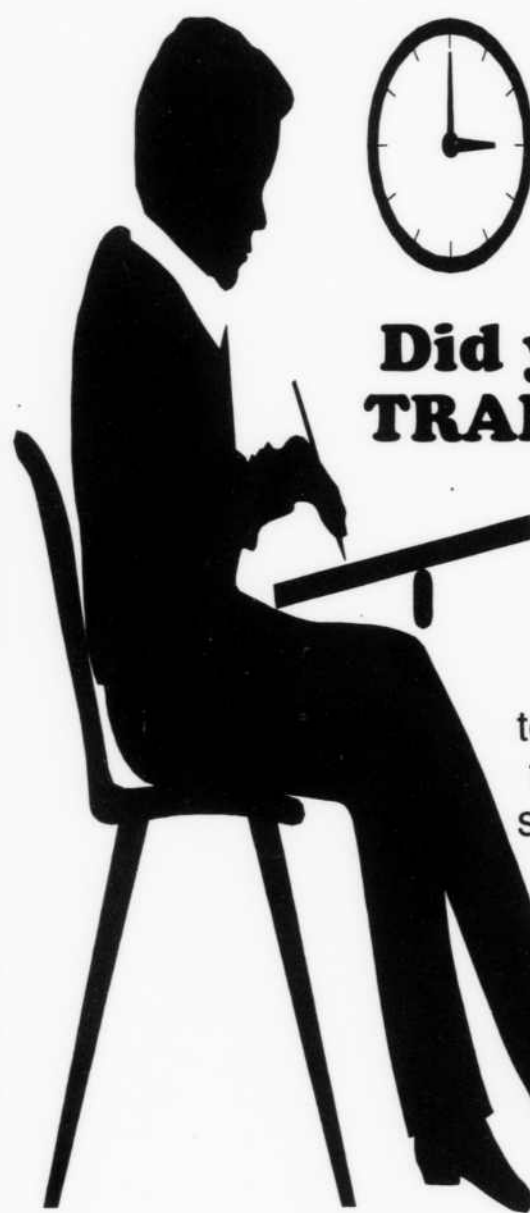
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