

Story, drug bust 'coincidence': police

By GINA FANN
Sidelines News Editor

The arrests of six current and former MTSU students last weekend on drug conspiracy charges were not tied directly to a "dealers' exclusive" story published in *Sidelines*, a Murfreesboro vice officer said yesterday.

The officer, who requested anonymity, said that the story in which sources were identified through pseudonyms,

was not directly responsible for the busts.

"WE DID not get one iota of anything from that story," the officer said. "It just so happened that it came out two or three days before the arrests were made.

A headline in yesterday's edition of the *Nashville Tennessean* and radio reports erroneously identified the *Sidelines* story as the basis for the most recent arrests.

"We were already well into the investigations. The information certainly didn't assist us—in fact, it probably hindered us," the officer said.

THE OFFICER added that publication of articles such as the *Sidelines* story could possibly have had a "scare" effect on area drug dealers, resulting in changes of patterns which officers had observed for some time prior to the arrests.

Murfreesboro police con-

fiscated an estimated 150 pounds of "high-grade" marijuana, reportedly direct from Colombia, during the bust, which occurred Sunday. Murfreesboro Police Chief E.N. Brown estimates the street value of the substance at \$100,000 "or better."

Officers also located some \$500 worth of hashish and approximately \$6,700 in cash in the raid.

THE STUDENTS, all of

whom were charged with conspiracy to distribute marijuana, are:

- John T. Bracey Jr., 21, 748 E. Main St.;
- Daniel F. Foley, 23, Nottingham Apartments;
- Brett P. Gordon, 24, Cedar Park Apartments;
- Vic Larnerd, 22, Nottingham Apartments;
- Lee McKee, 20, Milton, Tenn.;
- Derek Slep, 20, First Avenue (also charged with possession of

marijuana for resale). Records of drug transactions were also confiscated and may aid in future investigations, the officer said.

Two summer raids prior to Sunday's arrests netted at least eight persons with direct ties to MTSU—usually current or former students. The most recent raid on June 27, also conducted by Murfreesboro police, brought in assorted drugs with a street value of approximately \$15,000.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

Volume 57 Number 66

Thursday, August 4, 1983

Television room planned for UC

By RANDY BRISON
Sidelines Staff Writer

After 10 years of blank screens, MTSU may once again have a television room in the University Center.

ASB Speaker of the Senate Ron Malone is investigating the possibility of placing a television set in the U.C. student lounge. Malone admitted there were many problems to be overcome, but said that he was willing to fight for his proposal.

"WE MIGHT even go so far as to circulate a petition," he said, "just to show there is a genuine interest. Every university in the State Board of Regents has a television viewing room except MTSU. Our students know this and wonder why."

Malone pointed out that there are many commuters attending MTSU who would enjoy watching television between classes.

"Basically, our commuters have only two places to relax—the grill and the student lounge. A television would give them something to do."

UC DIRECTOR Dallas Biggers agreed with Malone that something should be done for commuters, but pointed out that a number of students use the lounge as a place to study.

"I've even had people come in and ask me to turn the background music down or off because it was distracting them," he said. Biggers was also reluctant to endorse the idea of a TV room because of his experiences with MTSU's last such facility.

"Our experience before has been negative," he explained. "We had trouble with vandalism, with chairs being cut and the set itself being broken. Also, there were fights over which channel to watch."



Band campers

photo by Dee Parker

People attending one of the numerous band workshops on campus this week had the opportunity to display their particular skills (and sometimes lack of skill) when they took their talents outdoors.

Security office plans fall move

By GAIL HURT
Sidelines Associate Editor

University Security will be relocated to the Maintenance Complex on campus sometime this fall because the move will "put the department back with the university community," Otis Floyd, executive assistant to the president, said yesterday.

Moving the department to a centrally located place on-campus was recommended in a study of the then University Police Department done by Joe Garner and Associates, last fall.

BUT MOVING the department to an on-campus location "has been a plan since they moved into the house [on East Main Street]," Floyd said.

Although the Maintenance Complex is not the most centrally located place on campus, it is the only place with space available, due to recent cutbacks in Maintenance, Floyd said. All renovation necessary will be done by maintenance.

No bids will be taken by outside firms for any part of this project, he said. The estimated cost is \$2,500.

THE DEPARTMENT will be closer to students, faculty, and staff. Access will be easier, with parking spaces reserved around the building for those visiting the station, Floyd said.

However, some employees of the security department are concerned that there will not be enough space for adequate parking, an unidentified employee said.

Patrol cars sometimes need to leave in a hurry, as in the case of a call for a medical emergency, and some employees fear a crowded parking situation will hinder the patrol cars.

SOME employees have expressed confusion over the move, some are for it, others are against it, and some don't care, the employee explained.

Many people expressed concern about the department being isolated and out of the way, Floyd said, emphasizing that he hopes overall relations and services will be improved by the move.

MTSU to benefit from 'Better Schools': Gov. Court upholds shield law

By LAMAR ALEXANDER

Special to Sidelines

Editor's Note: Gov. Special Alexander has dedicated much of his second term in office to the passage of the Master Teacher Program. In this special commentary to *Sidelines*, he explains how the plan will affect MTSU.

Most of the emphasis of the proposed Better Schools Program deals with improvements that will be made in the state's kindergarten through 12th grades programs.

BUT IN addition to the major strides forward that will be taken in those areas, the additional monies for education will include a record increase—41.6 percent—for higher education over the next three years.

If the Better Schools Program and the accompanying sales tax increase are approved by the legislature in January, \$26.2 million in new monies will be made available during the next fiscal year for higher education.

The increase means \$1.4 million in new dollars will be earmarked for Middle Tennessee State University. No additional monies were available for the higher education budgets this year, meaning that it is imperative that the new funds be on hand for the coming school year.

I AM EXCITED about the good things that will come to higher education as a result of this proposal, and I urge you to become familiar with the plan and to let your legislators know how you feel about the proposal.

Just last week I attended the annual meeting of the Education Commission of the States in Denver. The nation's two top pollsters, Peter Hart and Robert Teeter, told the 400 people attending the conference that education has become one of the leading issues on the minds of Americans.

Both pollsters pointed out that it is imperative for politicians to make major improvements in the field of education while the issue is paramount with American citizens.

OUR NATION is an impatient one. If we fail to make improvements now, the opportunity will be lost and we will be saddled with the same system without the benefit of constructive changes.

A survey that Hart took in Tennessee showed that Tennesseans in an overwhelming number are willing to pay additional taxes for an improved educational system. But that poll—and trips I make across the state—have convinced me that

(continued on page 3)

JACKSON, Tenn. (UPI) — The state Supreme Court has ruled Tennessee's shield law protects all information gathered by reporters, regardless of whether the information was obtained confidentially.

In a ruling handed down Monday, the high court reversed a Court of Appeals

decision that held non-confidential information was unprotected under the law.

The ruling dismissed a petition filed by the family of William L. Austin, a Memphis man who died in March of 1980 when his car plunged off a collapsed bridge over Nonconah Creek.

Nobody messes around with 'teacher's pet'

By KELLY CUNNINGHAM

Special to Sidelines

Nobody—but nobody—bothers Rebecca Stevens when she is with Medusa.

Medusa is her 6-foot-long pet boa constrictor.

Stevens, a native of Nashville, is currently working on her master's degree in science at MTSU.

"SNAKES MAKE great pets," Stevens said.

"You only have to feed them once every two weeks. They are very clean, and they're not slimy like most people think," she added.

Stevens works nights at a local quick-stop market, and she uses Medusa as a bodyguard.

"I JUST WRAP her around my neck and nobody bothers me. People are so afraid of snakes, but these snakes are not dangerous like the poisonous ones are," she explained.

A graduate teaching assistant at MTSU, Stevens said that Medusa has turned out to be a great teaching aid. Her students have the opportunity to touchhold the snake to see that it is harmless. This factor



Rebecca Stevens and her pet boa constrictor "Medusa" demonstrate their agility (well, at least Medusa's agility) during a recent class discussion on campus. Stevens makes use of her unique pet while teaching biology classes as a graduate assistant.

helps eliminate the fear that persons have about snakes.

"The only time that Medusa could be harmful is right

before she sheds, which is about every six weeks," she said. "And the only reason she may strike at this time is merely because she cannot see well."

AT MTSU, Stevens is writing her master's thesis on the tadpole "teeth" of the American toad. Little study has been done on this particular part of the toad. She will be studying how various parts of the toad's mouth develop, and looking at the coloration within the mouth at different stages.

"I would like to work some day for the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency," Stevens said. "I don't want to be behind a desk for the rest of my life; I want to be outdoors."

A graduate of Stratford High School in Nashville, Stevens received her bachelor's degree at MTSU in 1980. She is a candidate for her master's degree in May, 1984.

And although Medusa has protected her during late-night research on campus, as well as at her job, Stevens will collect her diploma all by herself. Thank you!

Campus Capsule

ANYONE interested in forming a cooperative baby-sitting service for fall semester should contact Bertie Andrews at 890-5285 or the WVE office at 898-2193.

ATTENTION COMMUTERS The MTSU Ridesharing Program, which arranges carpools, will take applications during registration Aug. 24-26.

CLASS SCHEDULES for fall semester are available in the Cope Administration Building lobby.

ANYONE wishing to announce an upcoming event in Campus Capsule should send the information to *Sidelines*, Box 42, before 2 p.m. on Wednesdays.

Media reps hear concerns

By GINA FANN
Sidelines News Editor

Determining the amount of media coverage of issues of community importance should depend upon viewers, WTVF-Channel 5 officials and local residents agreed Tuesday night.

"The purpose of the news media is not to influence people on the issues," WTVF General Manager Tom Ervin said, "but to determine what the issues are."

ERVIN, news anchors Chris Clark and Ruth Ann Leach, and other members of Channel 5's management team were on campus for the station's first "Town Meeting," offering Murfreesboro residents an opportunity to speak out on area news coverage.

Approximately 75 persons, including MTSU students, faculty and administrators, attended the meeting, discussing topics ranging from newscasters' speech patterns to broadcasting "less-than-tasteful" network films.

"Is there going to be pressure on the local networks to change their programming because of the advent of pay cable television?" meeting moderator Ed Kimbrell asked the group. "They're getting into areas that

haven't been seen in relation to morality."

ERVIN SAID that network programming affects what Channel 5 airs (WTVF is the local CBS affiliate), but that station priorities and viewer input also influence program decisions.

"We used to be known as the 'movie station', but we're getting away from that now," Ervin said, "because of the products which have been made available at theatres. Look what's playing now, and you'll see what we'll get in the future."

Bill Jay, programming director, echoed Ervin's statement, adding, "When 'Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf' first came out on television, we couldn't show it during prime time."

The meeting was jointly sponsored by the mass communications department and the campus chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists, Sigma Delta Chi.

Locals fast for peace

By DEBBY CANTO
Special to Sidelines

Come Saturday morning, Allen Lewis is swearing off food for a while.

Lewis, a 27-year-old Murfreesboro resident, won't be following a new fad diet, however.

His fast will protest the building of nuclear weapons and is in support for the Verifiable Nuclear Arms Freeze between the United States, Soviet Union, France, China and Great Britain.

SATURDAY is International Nuclear Future Day and it will be celebrated by persons fasting for the cause and by persons wishing to make their stand in whatever ways they choose.

The "Fast for Life" will be staged across the country by support groups which, according to local protestors, are networks of "loving and caring people who want to save what is most precious, life."

Some protesters are expected to continue the starvation stand until a significant step is taken to halt the nuclear arms race.

Here, Lewis will join an estimated 10 area residents of all ages, sexes, races and educational backgrounds, on Murfreesboro's Square at 10 a.m. to begin fasting. Others are invited to attend the gathering whether or not they wish to fast, Lewis added.

LOCAL PROTESTERS, some of whom are MTSU students, will also stage skits during the day on the Square and hand out bulletins and information on nuclear weapons.

Lewis and others say they are participating locally for various personal reasons and each will fast for as long as they can.

"It's just for personal gratification to try to do something to support the meaning of this day," Lewis said.

"We're trying to show our solidarity for this issue," said Boone Guyton, 34, adding, "We just realized it's something

we should do."

"WE'RE TRYING to draw more attention here to the problem of nuclear arms buildup," Lewis added.

While communities across the country will stage their renditions of nuclear arms protests, the international focus of Nuclear Free Future Day will be on eight persons in California who have pledged to fast until the arms race is halted "in deeds as well as in words," local anti-nuke literature states.

The eight persons are residents of various countries and their stand is said to show the world-wide support that exists for a halt to arms' buildup.

Saturday, Aug. 6, was chosen as Nuclear Free Future Day because it is Hiroshima Day—a date in history which marks the first time a nuclear bomb was dropped on people.

TWO DAYS later in 1945, a bomb was also dropped on Nagasaki, Japan, by the U.S.

Southeastern Telecom bid

\$2 million phone system planned

By TIM SELBY
Sidelines Staff Writer

MTSU has signed a contract with Southeastern Telecommunications of Nashville to install a new campus telephone system, at an estimated cost of

\$2 million.

Installation of the new system should be completed by early 1985. Plans for the system have been completed, but Bell Telephone's Murfreesboro office does not yet have the

facilities needed to accommodate such a system, MTSU Vice President for Business and Finance Bill Green said.

"WE'VE DONE everything that we can do to try to prod Bell to give us the service as soon as possible," Green said.

The administration began looking at alternatives to MTSU's present system about two years ago when MTSU President Sam Ingram appointed a committee to study the feasibility of switching over to a more cost effective system, Green said.

That committee, which included administration, faculty, staff, clerical and professional persons, and student members, determined that there were other systems worth looking into, and recommended the university do so.

After studying the committee's findings, administration officials sent out bid specifications to several communications firms and Southeastern was the low bidder.

THE DECISION to go to a new system was not due to service problems with the current system, Green said, but was simply a matter of "trying to control our costs."

Recent reductions in services have been implemented to further reduce costs and "these things will continue," he said.



First 'town meeting'

Nashville's WTVF News Director Dave Goldberg, left, and co-news anchors Ruth Ann Leach, center, and Chris Clark, right, discuss a resident's question in Tuesday night's "Town Meeting." The meeting, conducted in the Wright Music Building, brought out some 75 spectators to express their views on television news coverage.

Progressive fines to begin fall semester

By GAIL HURT
Sidelines Associate Editor

A progressive fine system for traffic tickets issued by University Security will go into effect this fall, and the tickets will be processed the day they are written, Otis Floyd, executive assistant to the president, said yesterday.

The proposal for the new fine system was first recommended by the University Traffic Committee in April but the fines imposed this fall will differ from those originally proposed.

UNDER THE original proposal, parking violation fines would start at \$2, increase

to \$4 for the second offense, \$8 on the third offense, \$16 for the fourth violation and \$32 for the fifth and all subsequent tickets.

But officials believed this rate structure was too steep so the first four tickets will cost \$4 each, with the fifth and all subsequent tickets costing \$32, Floyd said.

Tickets now issued must be checked by University Security, the business office and Bursar Norman Martin before put into a computer. If the computer kicks a ticket out

due to an error, the whole process must be repeated, Floyd said.

HOWEVER, a new Computer Terminal (CTR) also will be installed this fall at University Security that will allow tickets to be put in immediately, he said.

The CTR is capable of filing

and retrieving information so mistakes can be found and handled quickly.

By speeding up the process and eliminating delays, ticket appeals also can be speeded up, he said.

The CTR can be moved with relative ease when the security department relocates sometime after Sept. 1, Floyd said.

Positions Available

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COLLAGE (still) WANTS YOU!

So it's summer, right? And the last things on your mind are art, poetry, photography and short stories for **COLLAGE**, right?

Wrong! We're gearing up for our fall '83 issue right now and we need your ideas, thoughts, random rumblings and visual commentaries on just about anything!

Go on out, get tan and mellow at Walter Hill and then give us your best stuff by Aug. 15.

Send your contributions to *Collage*, Box 61, Campus Mail, or stop by JUB 308 sometime before Aug. 15. Contributions will be returned upon the authors' request.

We also need production workers. Contact Cynodie Wright, editor, at 898-2533 or leave your name and phone number in the office.

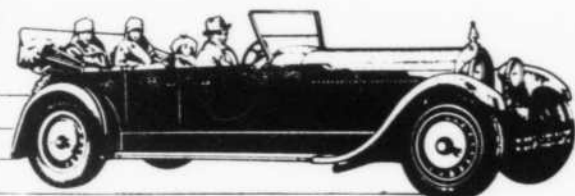
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Opinion

from the editor

Sidelines' role in drug bust minimal

A headline in yesterday's *Tennessean* asserts a drug bust in Murfreesboro this week was directly tied to a *Sidelines* feature story about drug dealers (July 30 issue). That's odd, because there is clearly no direct cause and effect whatsoever.

The *Tennessean* headline, "Paper Article Brings MTSU Drug Arrest," is in fact misleading, as any reader who takes the time to read the first paragraph of the story can discern. (The article was written by *Tennessean* stringer Nancy Sloan, a former *Sidelines* staff writer, but the newspaper's state editors were responsible for the final editing and headline.)

From a reading of just the headline, the reader will assume the *Sidelines* article played a principal role in the crackdown on "major drug suppliers." Of course, since all six individuals arrested on drug-selling charges were current or former MTSU students, this adds to the impression that the *Sidelines* feature led to the arrests.

However, Sloan's article would contradict that sinister impression.

Her story reported, in the first paragraph, that the police raid followed "a probe accelerated by an article in MTSU's student newspaper"; furthermore, in paragraph four, Sloan quoted a vice squad officer as saying that the raid "extends from a continuing investigation."

The "continuing investigation" to which he was referring is connected to two recent city and county drug busts, both of which were reported by *Sidelines* and other news media.

Vice squad officer Alan Hale did say, however, the ongoing investigation was "stepped up" following the appearance of the *Sidelines* story, which was written by Stuart Jones and Terry Morrow. But in no way did *Sidelines* "bring" the drug arrests, as the headline claims. How could it? The *Sidelines* feature story contained no names.

In publishing the original story ("Drug dealers reveal their stories"), *Sidelines* endeavored to establish the extent to which drugs are sold on this campus. All the information within the article was based on accurate quotations obtained from presumably reliable sources—in this case, drug dealers who elected to reveal their stories to us on the condition of guaranteed anonymity.

Some critics of the article have already claimed it "glorifies the amount of money to be made on this campus when someone sells drugs." If that is true, then that is certainly not *Sidelines'* intention or fault, for we have only printed direct quotes and facts which were offered to us.

This paper has already printed at least three news articles this summer reporting the arrest or convictions of MTSU students, city or county alleged drug dealers.

The information printed in last week's *Sidelines* feature article was startling and thought-provoking, and it was intended to enlighten and inform the university community.

Clearly, the only link between our story quoting three anonymous drug dealers on campus and this week's police raid is one of coincidence or correlation—not direct cause and effect.

governor

(continued from page 1)

Tennesseans are not willing to pay more money for more of the same old thing.

The Better Schools Program has 10 innovative points, ranging from special after-school programs to guaranteed kindergarten program for all 147 school systems. It also makes provisions for computer programs for all Tennessee youngsters.

BUT THE HEART of the program is the Master Teacher concept, which will establish a fur-rung incentive ladder for Tennessee teachers. I was amazed to learn that not a single state in the country pays one cent more to teachers for doing a good job.

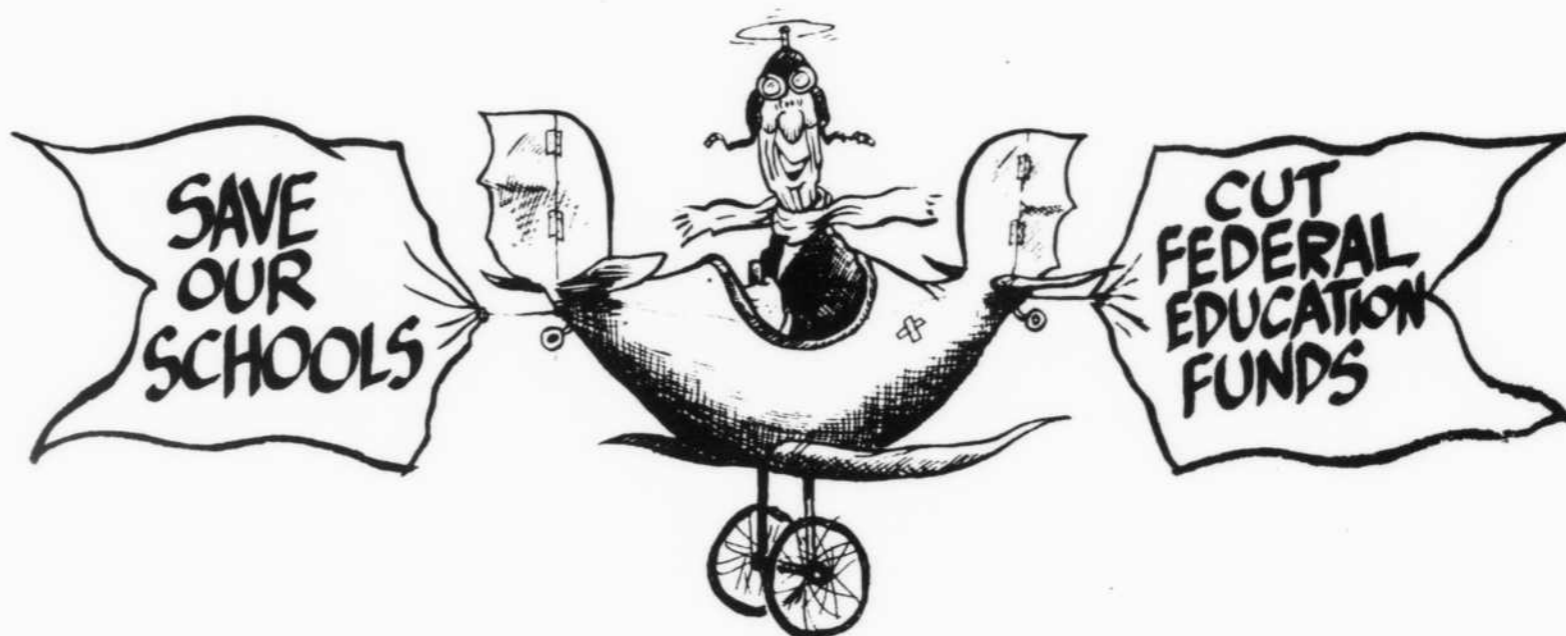
This program will allow us to give a 20 percent across the board raise to all of Tennessee's 40,000 teachers over the next three years. It will also allow us to give incentive pay, ranging from \$1,000 to \$7,000 a year, to 87 percent of our public school teaching force.

The career ladder will attract more of our best students into education, and it will allow more of our best teachers to remain in the classroom where they belong.

TENNESSEE is a poor state. To advance as we should, we must improve the educational structure at all levels.

I am convinced that we will walk through the door to a better educational system—and a brighter tomorrow—when the General Assembly returns in January.

An 18-member interim commission is currently working out the evaluation procedures that will be used in rewarding the best teachers in our state. The system will be fair and appealing to educators.



POW
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LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

From Our Readers

To The Editor:

I read the July 21 story about Alabama coming back to town with no real surprise. It was pretty certain they'd be back again after their concert last year, so the story just confirmed the probable. What

really surprised me was the final statement of the article which said the concerts are done as a service to the students and not to make money.

Are you serious!! Surely you can't expect me (or anyone else) to believe that. Whoever said that should consider going into politics or P.R. if they can learn to lie convincingly.

To say the least, I wasn't convinced. If the concerts were done in the students' interest the tickets wouldn't cost \$14 and \$15 but would be brought down to a much more realistic price between \$7 and \$10.

Granted we've had some pretty big shows like Journey, and all were big ticket prices as expected, but Journey was the only one that called for such a price. The other shows shouldn't have been more than \$10.

What is the excuse the promoters of these shows are giving for their high-costing tickets? If they're so "student serving" why are their concerts

\$5-\$6 more expensive than concerts in other towns. If they were perfectly honest we would probably hear "because people are dumb enough to pay."

I for one am not that stupid and my world sure ain't going to end if I never go to one of their concerts. So take your show and shove it buddy!! (Gee, I feel better.)

Eugene Fletcher
P.O. Box 3880

guest editorial

By Mike Crowder

Fasting useless form of political protest

A group of approximately ten people, among them several MTSU students, are scheduled to begin fasting Saturday at the Murfreesboro City during Nuclear Free Future Day.

It is conceivable that thousands or even millions of people will be fasting nationwide, marking the 38th anniversary of the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan.

These "fasts for life" are supposed to last until a significant step is taken to halt the nuclear arms race, in deeds as well as in words.

Why would any human being want to stake his or her life on circumstances and progress that cannot be controlled by the average concerned citizen?

Does anyone honestly think that Ronald Reagan, Yuri Andropov, Fidel Castro, or other international leaders of countries actively involved in the production of nuclear weapons will change their respective courses as a result of a minority of people refusing to eat? Certainly not.

Depriving oneself of the necessity of food is definitely a drastic measure, but if it isn't any more effective than other

forms of political protest, which it doesn't seem to be, what purpose does it serve?

Remember the gentleman in his sixties who threatened to blow up the Washington Monument if the television networks didn't establish a "national dialogue" on the elimination of nuclear weapons? He was shot and killed by police as he fled from the monument because he claimed to have explosives in his van.

As it turned out, the man had no explosives whatsoever.

The nonviolent incident got extensive media coverage for about a week or two, but after that, it was all but completely forgotten.

Also, remember the two or three Irishmen imprisoned in Great Britain who died after fasting for nearly two months? They were protesting the treatment of political prisoners in British prisons.

There are forms of political protest that we as citizens can employ that do not amount to self-inflicting harm. Participating in peaceful rallies (with signs and prominent speakers), writing letters to congressmen, senators, and other government officials, and buying radio or television air

time (or newspaper space) for editorial advertising are some of the major ways of attempting to influence prominent officials and important policies.

It seems that anyone who fasts assumes that if the world doesn't change soon, it is not worth living in. The presence and continued proliferation of nuclear weapons is distressing, and indeed it should be, because the possibility of world annihilation is very real.

However, the danger of

annihilation will not be diminished by a minority of people threatening suicide while demanding a drastic and short-term solution to the problem.

The reality is that the only workable solution for the United States, the Soviet Union, the industrial nations and the Third-World developing nations is a longer-term solution of intense dialogue and negotiation. Not one that takes 100 years, but one that takes 20 to 30 years.

News Briefs

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (UPI)—A gunman with a note saying he only had a month to live because he had the disease AIDS got away with a sack full of cash from a Memphis grocery store, police said today.

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. (UPI)—Police will start fingerprinting children in supermarkets Thursday in a volunteer program aimed at combating the growing problem of disappearing youngsters.

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (UPI)—TVA and Taiwan agreed Wednesday to a technical information exchange that agency officials said may open the door for the sale of more leftover nuclear equipment to that country.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

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Sidelines is published every Thursday during the summer session by the students of Middle Tennessee State University. Editorials and columns reflect the opinions of their authors and not of the MTSU administration, faculty or staff.

Have a complaint?

If you have a question or complaint about news coverage or editorial policy, call editor in chief Terry Morrow, 898-2815, or David Badger, coordinator of student publications, 898-2917.

If you have a specific complaint about the accuracy or fairness of news reporting and have failed to get satisfaction from the newspaper and faculty adviser, you are invited to take the complaint to the MTSU Student Publications Committee. This committee is an independent body comprised of students, faculty and administrators.

If you have a question or complaint about advertising, call Robert Ball, advertising manager, 898-2917.

If you have a question or problem regarding circulation or subscription rates, call the student publications secretary at 898-2917.

Sports

St. Louis looks here for talent

By DON TILLET
Sidelines Staff Writer

Even though the St. Louis Cardinals are the reigning world champions, they have not relent in their search for new talent—a search that brought them to the MTSU campus this week.

More than 44 franchise hopefuls came to the MTSU campus for a chance to play major league baseball for the St. Louis Cardinals. According to Cardinal talent scout Kenny Thomas, the first tryout

conducted by the Cardinals in the Middle-Tennessee area was "a success."

"IT WAS SO successful that we may try to extend it to parts of East and West Tennessee," Thomas stated.

The scout indicated that the Cardinal franchise would probably come back to the MTSU campus next year.

Thomas said that an important part of trying out for the team is the desire to "really want to be a Cardinal."

"I'VE SEEN ballplayers who

have all the tools, but just simply don't want it bad enough," Thomas said.

Thomas, a regional scout for the team, said that he was particularly impressed with two or three high school seniors.

The Cardinal talent seeker expressed delight with the play of several high school participants, saying that they expressed the kind of attitude the franchise likes to see in its players.

"THE GOOD thing about scouting is seeing kids play who have that kind of desire," Thomas said.

The worst thing about scouting is turning away some people who have the desire, but who have "a slight flaw in their mechanics," he said.

"The timing [on hitting] of some of our kids was off. Overall, the pitching was better than the hitting," Thomas noted.



Fun in the sun?

Members of the MTSU football team work out in preparation for upcoming practices and the fall season. The team's first practice is set for next week.



BBQ garners support

By DON TILLET
Sidelines Staff Writer

The first Nashville version of "Boots 'n' Barbecue" held last weekend was termed a success by its organizers.

MTSU's Head Football Coach James "Boots" Donnelly said the affair was attended by more than 250 persons, and he indicated that the event will be continued next year.

"IT JUST WENT super, and with the attendance we had, there is no question that we hope to run it again," Donnelly said.

Event coordinator Rusty Guill said the barbecue was "a great step for us to get Davidson County alumni involved" in fundraising events in support of the MTSU football team.

"We need to start getting our

Nashville alumni involved, and going to the athletic events," Guill added.

THE EVENT included the barbecue dinner, a speech from Donnelly to those in attendance and live entertainment by country music band Moody, Castleman and Burkhalter.

During the event, Donnelly also stressed the need to increase the number of season ticket holders for additional revenue, even though the ballclub is presently ahead of last year's pace for season ticket sales.

Murfreesboro's fifth annual "Boots 'n' Barbecue" will be held August 25, and Guill said he expects approximately the same turnout for the local affair that the Nashville event received.

Riding the bench

Rocky goes the distance in world class tourney

By KEITH TIPPITT
Sidelines Sports Editor

It was an exciting day in Johnson City, Tenn., last week as Rocky III won the second annual International Worm Race. The victorious worm was far in front of the other competitors in winning the race, which saw fewer dead competitors than last year's classic.

The competition was held in the shade this year to hold down on the number of dead worms. Though the children worm owners missed the taste of fried worms, they enjoyed their day at the races anyway. Sylvester Stallone was not available for comment.

In New York, Billy Martin has won the first annual weasel race. Martin was quoted as saying he knew about George Brett's bat a long time ago, but he was waiting to use the obscure rule about excessive pine-tar until it would benefit him. His questionable tactics got a two-run homerun erased from the score board.

Martin just can't keep his name out of the news, as he faces possible discipline from American League President Lee McPhail for calling umpires "stupid" and "liars" during a recent Yankee series with the Chicago White Sox.

How about them Braves? Nearing the end of the season, the Atlanta squad just keeps getting better—stretching their lead in the National League West to 6½ games (at this writing).

Their squad that used to consist of "the stars of the future" has come of age, and now they are devastating their opponents. Going into the dog days of summer, their

play is the only thing hotter than the hot Atlanta temperatures.

There is hardly a Brave to be found that is not batting around, or over .300. The team has some of the most prolific run-scoring people in the major leagues. With Dale Murphey leading the longball barrage, and Brett Butler burning up the basepaths, could possibly have reached the point of being unstoppable.

Along with their unstoppable hitting attack, the Braves pitching staff has been stopping almost everyone that they face. Phil Neikro has been looking like the same man that has been brilliant for so many years.

Gene Garber has returned from the injured reserve list to give added punch to the Brave bullpen. Could it be that after years of being the lowlife scum of baseball, the Atlanta Braves might be this year's World Champions?

Speaking of lowlife scum, Bowie Kuhn was quoted as saying that Baseball's Executive Council had arranged for him to keep his job as baseball commissioner. Kuhn could not give any evidence to back this up, however, and the baseball owner's summer meeting is expected to conclude with a new commissioner.

Football's version of Bowie Kuhn, Pete Rozelle is dealing harshly with drug problems in the NFL, as Rozelle ruled Monday that Mike Reily, a linebacker for the Los Angeles Rams, could not play this year. The Los Angeles Times reported that Reily received the bad news while at practice wearing pads without pants, nursing a groin pull injury.

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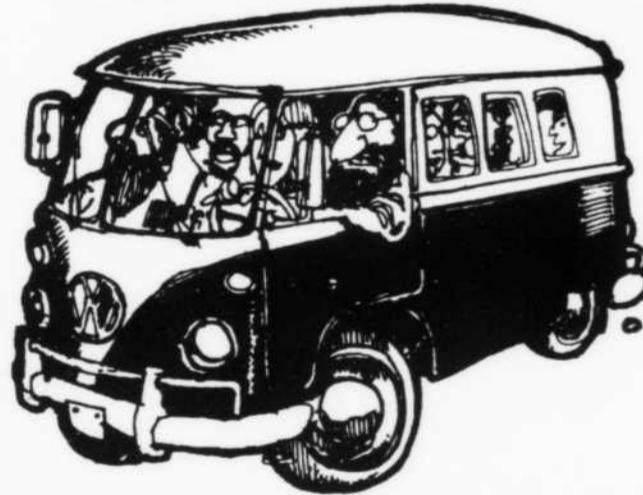
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