

SIDE LINES

Middle Tennessee State University
Wednesday, July 6, 1994

Java Jive

Coffee and culture
near campus

In Sidelines

Proceed with caution!

Tips to make your summer swimming adventure a safe one

INSIDELINES

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Lambert snapped this photo from the darkside.

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Happy Independence Day. We're feeling pretty independent ourselves. It's a new month (July) and a new session (IV). It's the last session this summer and we plan to make the most of it.

It's an election year and the candidates for Congress are fighting tooth and nail to get a little mention in the press.

The memos, facsimiles, letters, press releases and telephone messages are covering the office like the black plague.

"Would anyone from *Sidelines* be interested in watching Fred Thompson and Charlton Heston shoot skeet?"

"Dan Rudd would like an interview."

"You've got a fax from Bart Gordon's office."

The interesting thing about getting a fax from Congressman Gordon's office is the warning on the cover letter:

"This facsimile contains confidential,

privileged information intended only for the person(s) to whom it is addressed. Do not read, copy or disseminate this information unless you are the addressee (or the person responsible for delivering it) ..."

How do we know it's for us if we don't read it? How can we call ourselves a newspaper if we don't disseminate information? Confidentially, we never read these things anyway (at least not in an election year).

If it isn't politics it's worse: music people.

We get letters and calls and tapes from some of the most obscure bands imaginable; every one of them thinks they're the next big thing and every one of them offers free tickets to concerts, free CDs and free cassettes. Record label flacks call the office looking to arrange interviews with grubby musicians who've been on the road for weeks eating "Easy No-Chew Chicken."

There are plenty of ways to fill this paper with PR claptrap and political rigmarole, but MTSU students don't vote and seldom read, so what's to be done? Movie reviews? Cartoons?

It's very easy to sit back and say there's nothing going on this summer.

It's very easy to walk from one side of this campus to the other blind to everything but the cracks in the sidewalk. We long for the days of our youth when we looked each other

in the eye and said "howsitgoin'" when we passed by. A grunt is about all the average summer school student can manage between Bible as Literature and Advanced Composition.

The System Works

By Mike Reed

On the bright side, the lines in the Grill are a little more manageable. We don't feel like Third Worlders in line for oranges anymore.

It's the last session of the summer. Live a little. Make it count. Get to know some new people. Remember, they may be running the country one day and may need a favor from an old friend. Wouldn't it be nice to have a cushy cabinet post instead of waiting tables for a living?

Mr. Reed:

I must confess that I have enjoyed some of the superficial changes made in *Sidelines* this summer, [but] I must say that I miss the fun.

Even in the days of old, *Sidelines* provided some controversy. This is notably absent. It certainly would be inaccurate to say that there is a shortage of controversy in the world. I would love to see something along the lines of Jay Travis's Manson column, or maybe Christina Basiel's attack on prisoner education.

This is summer school. We need a newsprint battle. Let's hear some controversy. Intellectually speaking, the Wellness Center, a full page on the Rangers, and more O.J. just doesn't help us beat the heat.

Geoff Jenkins
Box 7690

Letters to Sidelines

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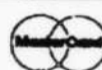
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AEROSPACE GETS MONEY FOR NEW BUILDING, SIMULATORS

The MTSU Aerospace department has received two grants totaling over \$800,000 from the U.S. Department of Transportation, to be used for a new building located at the airport and a new laboratory on campus.

"Due to the quality of the MTSU aerospace program, it had simply outgrown its surroundings," said U.S. Rep. Bart Gordon (D-Murfreesboro), who lobbied the Transportation Department for the grants. "This new facility will provide students and instructors with a home well into the [21st] century."

One grant, for \$556,000, will fund the construction of an aerospace building at Murfreesboro Airport. The building will be used for classroom, training and office space. The University already has its own planes, instructors and flight simulators.

The other will provide \$250,000 for an air traffic control laboratory to be built in the new Business-Aerospace building. The laboratory will include the program's first three air traffic control simulators, according to Aerospace Department Chairman Dr. Ron Ferrara.

Under the grant formula, the University will match the federal contribution, according to Rep. Gordon's office.

"The new equipment gives us state-of-the-art air traffic control equipment which we've never had," Ferrara said. "We are one of the few departments in the country certified under all five sections of airway science in the Federal Aviation Administration, [and now] we'll be one of about a half-dozen programs in the country with this kind of capability."

"This new lab is more than an investment in the students," Gordon said. "It's a long-term investment in air traffic safety for all Americans."

The Aerospace department has nearly doubled its enrollment over the last ten years, and currently has 650 students and 13 faculty members.



photo by Carl E. Lambert

AIIEEEEE!!: Abe Manuel and his band play Cajun music outside his restaurant in Milton, Tenn., during the "Mardi Gras in July" celebration held last Saturday. The party was rescheduled from February, when it was postponed due to the ice storms.

NO MORE SHVITZING!

The staff of *Sidelines* would like to publicly thank Dr. LaLance for checking into the problems with the air conditioning in our offices. We now have A/C. We are happy summer campers. Thank you, Dr. LaLance!

HIGHLIGHTS IN MTSU HISTORY: MARCH 11, 1976

An ASB [now SGA] bill aimed at erasing four sections of the Murfreesboro City Code dealing with beer establishments was introduced at a February 25 House meeting "to bring the issue more into the open," said Jeff Combos, the sponsor.

Tabled until the next meeting of the House, the bill asks that the following sections of the code be abolished:

- * Section 4-31 — prohibits the sale of beer within 2000 feet of a church or school;
- * Section 4-41 — prohibits the sale of beer after 11 p.m. Monday through Friday and after 11:30 p.m. Saturday;
- * Section 4-42 — prohibits dancing in, adjacent to or in conjunction with any business establishment selling beer;
- * Section 4-43 — prohibits playing of musical instruments in, adjacent to or in conjunction with any business establishment selling beer.

"I feel that students and citizens alike are coming out on the short end of local city political dealings," Combos said.

Made law in the late 1940s, these sections of the code were written by local minister George DeHoff.

THE WEATHER OUTSIDE IS FRIGHTFUL, SO TAKE THESE HINTS TO STAY COOL

It's summer, and it's hot. But you know that.

What you may not know is how to cool yourself off when you stay out in this inferno too long.

The MTSU Wellness Center has recommendations for taking care of yourself during the stretch of hot weather that accompanies summers in Tennessee.

* Dress appropriately for the environment.

Wear light-colored cotton clothing. Cotton allows more air next to the body than other materials. Also, wear a hat to protect your head from the sun's rays.

* Drink large amounts of fluid.

Always drink water or a sports drink to replenish the fluids your body loses in the heat. Never drink fluids with caffeine or alcohol in them.

* Take frequent breaks from activities in the heat.

* Avoid the hottest part of the day.

Try to schedule your outdoor activities for before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m.

* Change your activity level according to the

temperature.

The hotter the weather, the more chance you have to suffer heat exhaustion or heat stroke. You need to be aware of the signs for these dangerous conditions.

Signs of heat exhaustion include normal or below-normal body temperature; cool, moist, pale or red skin; headache; nausea; dizziness and weakness; and exhaustion. Ways to treat heat exhaustion include lying down in a cool area and drinking plenty of cool water.

Signs of heat stroke include a noticeable lack of perspiration, increase in body temperature, and possible delirium and disorientation. If you come across a heat stroke victim, get him or her to a hospital as soon as possible. If this is not possible, take any means necessary to cool the victim to a reasonable body temperature, including putting him or her in a bathtub full of ice chips and water.

POLITICAL INCORRECTNESS REARS ITS HEAD AT STANFORD

As schools across the nation are abolishing potentially offensive mascots and nicknames, a group of Stanford University alumni is going against a trend toward political correctness by proposing that the school revive "the Indian" as its mascot.

Jack Dixon, 77, leads a band of 1,600 Stanford graduates who call themselves "the Tribe." He began his quest for reinstatement of the Indian in March by placing an ad in a conservative student newspaper, which subsequently published an editorial endorsing the mascot's return.

Stanford's original team nickname was the Cardinals, which it is today. But during the late 1920s, a group of athletes and sports boosters proposed the teams be known as the Indians. Later, a valiant Indian brave was proposed as a mascot, and an image was created. The image would change, however,

in the next decade.

In 1938, Dixon drew a caricature of an Indian with exaggerated features which he sold to the university bookstore manager. Dixon's Indian had a big nose and a glaring look in its eyes. The image was immediately put on T-shirts, decals and stationary.

In 1952, the school's band initiated "Chief Lightfoot," a Yurok warrior, who rode around the field on horseback at football games and put hexes on opposing teams. He was a fixture at games until the early 1970s, when he was banned from the stadium field after protests from Native American students.

The Indian logo was entirely abolished in 1972 by Stanford president Richard Lyman, who recently wrote in "The Stanford Review" that "no one has any business making a football mascot out of an ethnic group."

To date, Stanford officials have

repeatedly denied Dixon's request to reinstate the mascot. "It is the position of the university to not use the race of a human being as the basis for a mascot," says Jim Larimore, assistant dean of students and director of the American Indian Program Office.

Sensitivity toward Native Americans led Marquette University to drop their Warriors moniker last year and replace it with the Golden Eagles. Larimore feels that trend will continue, and that Dixon's proposal reflects only a small majority of alumni.

"The decision to remove the Indian name and image was prompted by a move from the student body in the 1970s, not the administration," Larimore said. "They made the initial decision."

Greek Corner

By Tina Denise Harvey

MTSU's Fraternity and Sorority Rush will be held at the beginning of the fall semester.

MTSU has 14 fraternities and 10 sororities.

Members of the National Interfraternity Conference (IFC) at MTSU include: Alpha Gamma Rho, Beta Theta Pi, Delta Tau Delta, Kappa Alpha Order, Kappa Sigma, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, Sigma Chi, Sigma Nu, Sigma Phi Epsilon and Tau Kappa Epsilon.

IFC Fraternity Rush will be held Sept. 12-28. Interested men should fill out a Rush card, available in Keathley University Center (KUC) room 126.

Members of the National Panhellenic Conference include: Alpha Delta Pi, Alpha Omicron Pi, Chi Omega, Delta Zeta, Kappa Delta and Zeta Tau Alpha.

Panhellenic Sorority Rush will begin Aug. 24 through 29. Sorority applications are available in KUC room 130. Applications are due Aug. 24.

The United Greek Council (UGC) is made up of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

The UGC organizations are also members of the National Panhellenic Council. These international fraternities and sororities recruit new members at their discretion. New recruits must have at least 12 hours of college-level courses before they can be considered.

Every Greek organization supports national and/or local philanthropies. The Prevention of Child Abuse, the Arthritis Foundation, United Negro College Fund, Special Olympics, the Multiple Sclerosis Walk for the Children's Discovery House and the "We Care" food program are some service organizations that receive support from the MTSU Greek community.

"Greeks are actively involved in the community and put in countless service hours and raise thousands of dollars for both the University and community each year," said Holly Lentz, associate dean of students.

Greek organizations participate in intramural sports. Fraternities compete in flag football, softball, basketball, volleyball, wrestling, Wiffleball, soccer, racquetball and bowling.

Sorority members may choose among flag football, softball, basketball and volleyball.

Fraternities and sororities participate in MTSU Homecoming events, campus phone-a-thons and All-Sing.

All-Sing is an activity sponsored each spring semester by Tau Omicron, a women's honorary society.

"Participating in intramural sports, scavenger hunts, All-Sing and Greek Week not only creates great memories and enhances your college career," said Marla Frisby, sorority member, "but at the same time, one learns group compatibility, leadership skills and time management."

Ninety percent of MTSU's Student Government Association presidents have been Greek.

"Being in a fraternity caused me to have a better understanding of my friends and colleagues," said Paul Cantrell, former dean of students. "It improved my social skills and enhanced my leadership ability."

Bill Cosby, Carol Burnett, Tracy Lawrence, Dionne Warwick, Jimmy Buffet, David Letterman, Jane Pauley and John Wayne are a few famous Greek members.

"Most of your black leaders in the world are members of a United Greek Council organization," said Ralph Metcalf, director of minority affairs.

All but three United States presidents since 1825 have been Greek. Eighty-five percent of the US Supreme Court justices belong to a Greek organization.

Dean Barbara Haskew said, "Being president of my sorority provided me with leadership experience and permitted me to participate in issues that affected students and student life."

For more information on fraternity and sorority Rush, call the Dean of Students office at 898-2750 or the Minority Affairs office at 898-2987.

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WHY GO OFF CAMPUS FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE STORE NEEDS.

The Java Jive

The Chameleon Cafe brings coffee and culture to campus

By Mike Reed

Photo by Carl E. Lambert



Let me guess: Coffee, right? James Robbins takes a lunch order from Christina Finney at the Chameleon Cafe.

Coffee (more to the point, caffeine) is one of the great motivators in our society. We eat it, drink it, talk about it and find it hard to get through our day without it.

It makes sense that someone would attempt to cash in on America's over-the-counter drug of choice.

The Chameleon Cafe (formerly known as the Java Cafe) serves caffeine in any form you want (tea, soda and coffee) in a communal atmosphere that is warm and inviting.

It's Tuesday afternoon and the place is nearly empty. That's not usually the case, though, according to James Robbins who's working the counter.

"What usually happens is about 30 Governor's School kids come in here at once," says James jokingly. "I end up crying in the corner."

Despite the bright red walls and rather severe wooden beams overhead, the place has a certain charm.

There's an extremely large thesaurus by the cash register.

Tucked in among the random flyers and the tip jar marked "Elvis's toenail revival fund" is a stack of vinyl 45s by some local band.

While you slug back your latte' you can peruse the bookshelf. The reading material ranges from sociology texts to Steinbeck. The books are well-worn, and a sign informs the customer that contributions to the shelves are encouraged and appreciated.

The Chameleon has changed hands recently and extended their hours into the early morning.

"They're keeping bar hours now," says coffee addict Tom Welchance, an MTSU graduate student. "It's really great."

The cafe has become more of a night spot in recent months. They have open mike nights weekly which include music and poetry. The walls are lined with photos and prints from local artists.

Right now the cafe is featuring prints by pointillist Gary James and photos by Lee Steenhuis.

James' work is striking. The colors are clear and bright and his attention to detail acute. The 45 or so pieces tacked to the walls range from abstract designs to portraits and landscapes. The renderings of Christ are remarkable, but the overall feel of the body of work lends itself to greeting-card fare—a great deal of talent without a guiding vision to add any continuity to the work.

The sign reminding coffee-consuming patrons of the arts that they can have any of these prints for \$10 only drives home the fact that this is a purely commercial effort.

The photos are another story. Lee Steenhuis held a lecture and slide presentation at MTSU a year or so ago called "Hippies, Faeries and Trolls" dealing with subjects that were either homeless, homosexual, hippies or any combination thereof.

The photos on display now are portraits taken at the Short Mountain Sanctuary. These images are shocking and fun, full of personality and enthusiasm. The photo titled "Denise" shows a woman whose stare is breathtaking. "Hawk" shows a young man in front of a barn who looks a bit unstable. You wonder what's going on behind those eyes.

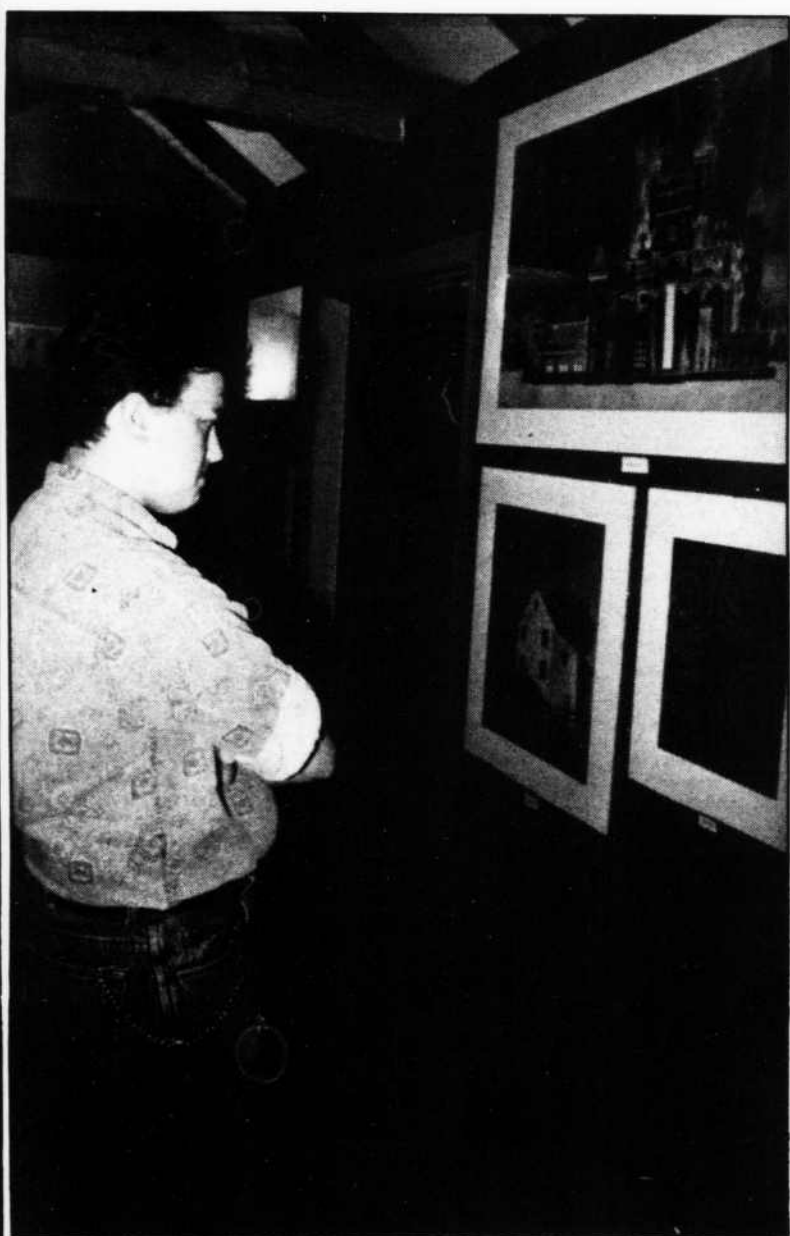
There are men in drag lounging in a field and robed geezers engaging in some communal activity. The work is stylish and thought-provoking. There are no photocopies of articles from the *Daily News Journal* explaining how important the artist is (or will become) and there's no pressure to see commercial value in the work. Art for art's sake. It's quite a contrast.

The Chameleon Cafe will be featuring the work of local artists regularly.

The cafe has an open-air feel that lends itself to long caffeine-induced sessions with a good book. The air conditioning works pretty well and the prices are reasonable.

The food is standard deli chow. A sandwich, chips and tea will cost around four dollars, though they were out of everything but roast beef and turkey pastrami when I was there.

The Chameleon Cafe is located on Greenland Drive across the street from Murphy Center.



I know what I like: Mance Davis peruses the exhibit on display at the Chameleon Cafe Tuesday.

NEWLYWED NOMADS CHAPTER III: DISCOVERY OF THE OREGON COAST

BY BRENT ANDREWS

Editor's note: Periodically during the summer, roving reporter Brent Andrews has been filing dispatches from the road to Oregon. In this chapter, Brent and his wife, Ginny, reach their destination and head back home.

The crooked road wound snakelike towards the clouds as we left the central Oregon town of Bend and rose into the Cascades. We were headed toward the famous Oregon Coast, land of postcard pictures and sea lions and fog-shrouded cliffs, and as we rose with the highway the sky began to fill with clouds. We had been lucky so far to avoid the rain, having camped in the desert most of the time, but the coast we were headed for was well-known for its unpredictable weather.

The sky cleared for a while as we wound down the other side of the mountains into Eugene, but a slow drizzle began as we neared the coast. By the time we got there it was raining in earnest, and we looked for our campsite at Oregon Dunes National Monument through sheets of rain thrown aside by our wipers.

We decided it would be in our best interest to sleep in the car, so there was nothing to do when we found our site but sit, staring glumly out the foggy windows at the thick, bright green forest around us. There were people in their tents in the spaces around us, and we felt at once sorry for them and a little bit jealous of them. Sorry for them because if their tent leaked like we knew ours would, they would be miserable; jealous of them because we knew their tents probably didn't leak like ours did. With nothing to do but stare out into the bleak late afternoon, we arranged our growing pile of gear into something manageable and crashed.

The morning brought more rain, so hiking on the miles of dunes was out of the question. We got directions to the nearest beach, wanting to see the great Pacific as soon as we could, and we were off.

We were directed to an area which to the avid ATV rider would no doubt look like heaven; the landscape around us as far as we could see was sand dunes—dunes that rose to heights of 200 feet and dropped smoothly into valleys of sand and scrub growth. It was a world that seemed custom-made for off-road vehicles.

We were in a four-wheel-drive ourselves, so I went against Ginny's wishes and drove into the dunes, exhilarated by the experience and terrified that we would suddenly sink into the sand and be stuck. My AAA policy expressly said that no assistance would be provided to those stuck as a result of poor judgment on four-wheeling trails. This in mind, I turned widely and headed back toward the road. Just as I thought we would reach the paved road and safety, our front tires spun in the air, and we went through a brief moment of wide-eyed panic before they came down. We heard a crash as the bottom of the truck hit something metal. We stopped. Whatever we had gone over had been strong enough to hold us, and for a second I thought we were stuck. Then I cautiously pressed the gas pedal and we moved forward, the bottom of the truck making a horrible noise as it ripped and tore at whatever was under us. At last we rose slightly as our back tires cleared the object, and we braced ourselves for the fall as we moved forward. It was worse than we expected. The noise was tremendous as our back tires rushed toward the ground and were halted by the

bumper of the car.

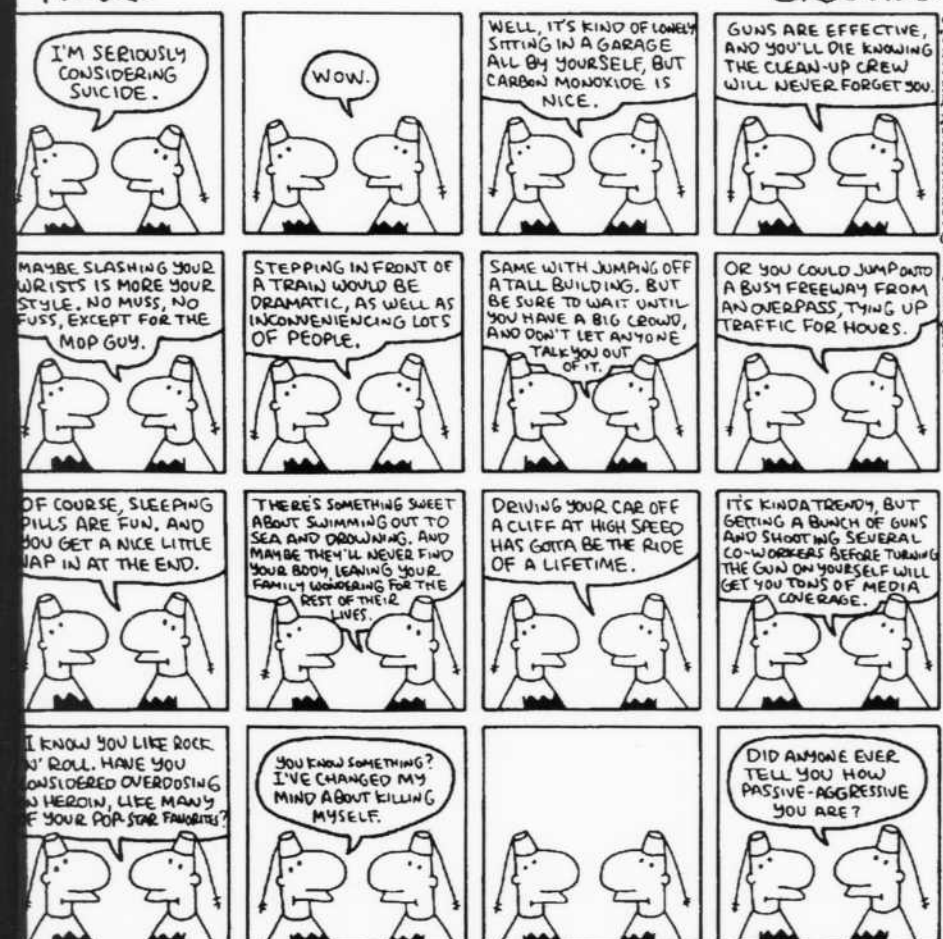
We got out slowly, not wanting to see but knowing we had to. It really wasn't that bad, at least not as bad as it sounded, but the bumper was definitely bent. Not badly, but it was enough. The car, which had 23,000 miles on it when we left home, had its first battle scar.

We got back on the road in silence, miserably waiting for something to fall on the road from under the car (like the engine or the transmission or something equally vital), but the expected crash never came. By the time we got back to the campground, we assumed that the only damage done, miraculously, was to the bumper. Nonetheless, it was the last time we would leave the safety of a paved road for the rest of the trip.

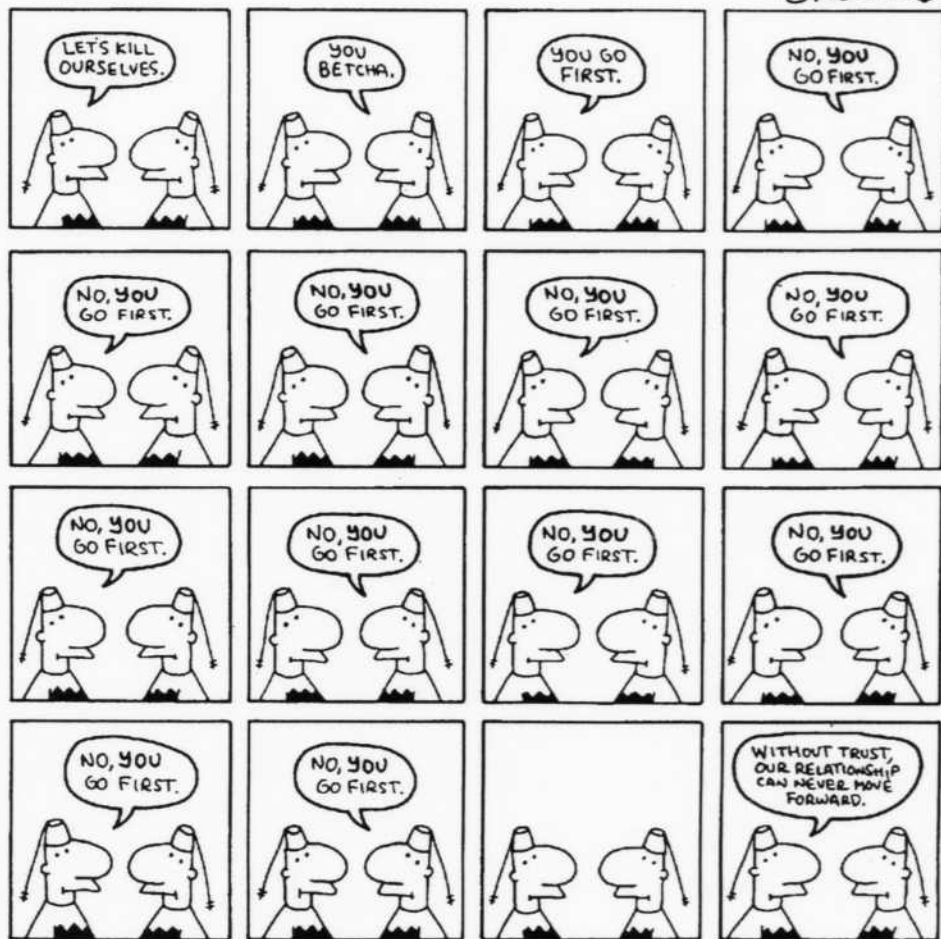
The rest of our time on the coast was spent in the car, avoiding the rain that fell relentlessly. We moved north, hoping the weather would clear as we did so, but it did not. We saw the sea lion caves in Newport in the rain, and put on most of the clothes we had brought when we wanted to brave the cold and wet and see something that couldn't be seen from the car, and by the end of our second day on the coast we were ready to head to Portland and escape the deluge. It seems that there is no place more miserable than the beach when it's raining, and we decided that if we ever live in Oregon we will take our vacations in Baja, California.

We moved away from the coast happily, cutting the seven days we had planned on spending there to just two. Not long afterwards, we were following the Willamette River north into the "City of Roses," Portland, and looking forward to a nice hotel, a hot shower, and a good meal.

LIFE IN HELL



LIFE IN HELL



Proceed With Caution!

Tips to make your summer swimming adventure a safe one

STORY BY JESSICA DENISE CLAYBORN / PHOTOS BY BLAIR MITCHELL



FUN AND FITNESS: Caitlin Davis is able to both exercise and have fun by playing ball in the Alumni Memorial Gym pool.

Now that the Fourth of July has passed and the "dog days" of summer are approaching, many Americans are spending their recreation time in water-related activities.

Where do people in Murfreesboro swim? There are various places to choose from. MTSU students are able to swim in the pool in the Alumni Memorial Gym (AMG). The summer schedule permits the pool to be open only on Sundays, Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Fitness swim takes place from 3-4 p.m., and recreation takes place from 4-5 p.m.

The Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation Department has two locations to swim. The Sports*Com, which features both indoor and outdoor pools, is located near the Murfreesboro Airport. Its hours are 10 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. There is also the Patterson Pool, located near the Bradley School on Mercury Blvd, and its hours are from 12 noon to 4:45 p.m.

The number of people who swim at the MTSU pool varies, but according to Beverly Jones, the Murfreesboro Parks aquatic coordinator, the recreation pools around the city attract between 1,200 and

1,400 people per week.

"Swimming is a worthwhile recreation sport because all ages can do it—from the young to the elderly. It can involve the entire family and is good for fitness if you want to stay in shape," Jones said.

Jones also claims that chlorine doesn't do as much damage to the hair, eyes and skin as once believed.

"It's the pH [of the water] that mainly causes the drying of the skin," she said. "Chlorine does cause some drying, but it doesn't have as much [effect] as some people think."

The normal pH of water is seven.

Swimming is fun for many people, but it occasionally leads to tragedy. According to a Memphis television station report, nearly 3,500 children in Tennessee alone were drowned or seriously injured in swimming-related accidents last year.

That's 3,500 children too many, and adults haven't even been considered in this figure.

Jones gives some tips of advice for swimmer safety.

One: Always swim in a supervised area. No one can save you if they don't know where you are.

Two: Always supervise

children. Children are the most likely to slip away from supervision and end up in dangerous areas.

Three: Don't over-exert yourself. Using all of your strength thrashing around in the water will only get you further away from shore if you're in trouble.

Four: No alcohol. As with driving, swimming and drinking don't mix.

Here are a few other tips:

Five: Reflective clothing helps. If you get lost, at least you're more likely to

be seen.

Six: Stay in marked areas. Most tourist areas have limitations on where you can swim by fencing off the location where the water becomes too deep. Know your limits and stay within them.

Seven: Beware of boats. Alcohol and boating accidents are often interrelated. If a person doesn't see another boat, then it's unlikely he or she will see another person.

Have fun swimming and proceed with caution!!



STAY IN GROUPS: Ricky Holiday (left) and Wayne Lee are able to enjoy the pool while remembering to look out for each other.

More suspects arrested in connection with slain soccer player

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Three more suspects have been arrested in the murder of soccer star Andres Escobar, who was shot to death because he scored an own-goal in Colombia's World Cup loss to the United States.

Authorities also said Tuesday that they seized 55 pounds of cocaine, two revolvers and a submachine gun in two

homes where they arrested two men and a woman on Monday.

Escobar was shot early Saturday in the parking lot of a bar in Medellin, Colombia's third-largest city. Police arrested two suspects over the weekend, one of whom confessed to shooting Escobar, said Gen. Octavio Vargas Silva, director of the national police.

At an emotional funeral Sunday, thousands of mourners chanted "justice! justice!" and listened to eulogies from President Cesar Gaviria, among others. Despite Colombia's history of violence, Escobar's death shocked a nation that reveres its sports stars.

The three suspects arrested in Medellin on Monday were at the scene of Escobar's death with

Humberto Munoz, who confessed to shooting the soccer star, police said. They were identified as brothers Humberto and Hernan Dario Velez Correa and their cousin, Luz Mila Correa.

Munoz worked as a driver for another suspect, rancher Santiago Gallon Henao, who allegedly bet heavily on the Colombian team and was upset at having lost.

Police said they discovered cocaine while arresting the suspects on Monday, and were investigating whether drug traffickers planned Escobar's death.

Police said earlier that the murder was not premeditated and was not linked to drug cartels or death threats against other members of the Colombian soccer team.

If you're sick of hearing about O.J. Simpson, read this

BY WARREN WAKELAND

OK. I've gotten sick of it. I can't take it anymore—I'm gonna jump. Get the L.A.P.D. ready to take blood samples from my splat.

This past Thursday, the American broadcasting conglomerate known as "the networks" turned over its collective soul to the *National Enquirer*. American television, including ABC, NBC, CBS and CNN, began televising the entire preliminary evidential hearing for the case of *The State of California v. Orenthal James Simpson*.

From here on, these networks will be known to me respectively as OJ1, OJ2, OJ3 and OJ4, similar to how the British Broadcasting Company [BBC] labels their networks BBC1, BBC2 and BBC3. We'll call it the Orenthal James Broadcasting Company (OJBC).

People, this is only the preliminary hearing—this only determines whether O.J. will be bound over for trial. Nothing is going to happen here. There is no jury. There will be no decision from this proceeding. No one is going to be sentenced to death for quite a while. Why on earth are the nation's news organizations going bananananas?

On OJ1 (that's ABC) Thursday, they insisted on identifying everyone in the courtroom. They pointed out O.J. and the attorneys (of course). They pointed out each potential witness sitting in the courtroom before they took the stand. Every time we looked up, we saw the families of the victims. Of course, since all four OJ channels used the same camera, this occurred throughout the entire OJBC system. OJBC pointed out Nicole Simpson's family and Ronald Goldman's family so much that the two families should hire attorneys to negotiate appearance fee rights. They would have identified the fly on the wall if it had been on the witness list.

OJ2 (that's NBC—try to keep it straight) was a little more tame, except they couldn't get Tom Brokaw to shut up. The analysts on OJ2 were pretty entertaining as well. They couldn't agree to disagree. One said having the murder weapon doesn't matter, the other said it's crucial. One said there is enough blood to split for both sides to analyze, the other said no. One said O.J. was picking his nose, the other said there was no evidence of boogers. Personally, I saw no boogers either.

OJ3 (that's CBS) was kind of dull, but with Dan Rather anchoring your coverage, they couldn't help but be dull. Rather had a hard time shutting up, too, but he never makes sense anyway, so we could completely ignore him. They couldn't stop using the graphics that said "Robert Shapiro—lead defense lawyer—high profile Hollywood lawyer," and "O.J. Simpson—charged with two counts of first-degree murder with special circumstances." Gee, I didn't know O.J. was the one charged, and I'm sure no one else in the United States knew either. Everyone thought Shapiro was the one on trial, right?

OJ4 (that's CNN) was the worst. The supposed all-news channel has become the all-O.J. channel. They started broadcasting at 10 a.m., didn't leave until it was over at 6 p.m., ran a prime-time O.J. special from 7 to 8 p.m., then spent 20 minutes of their 9 p.m. one-hour newscast at the O.J. Control Center (the L.A. County courthouse). At least OJ1, OJ2 and OJ3 left at 5 p.m. for local news. Of course, time did stand still Thursday and nothing else newsworthy happened in the United States all day, so OJ4 was justified.

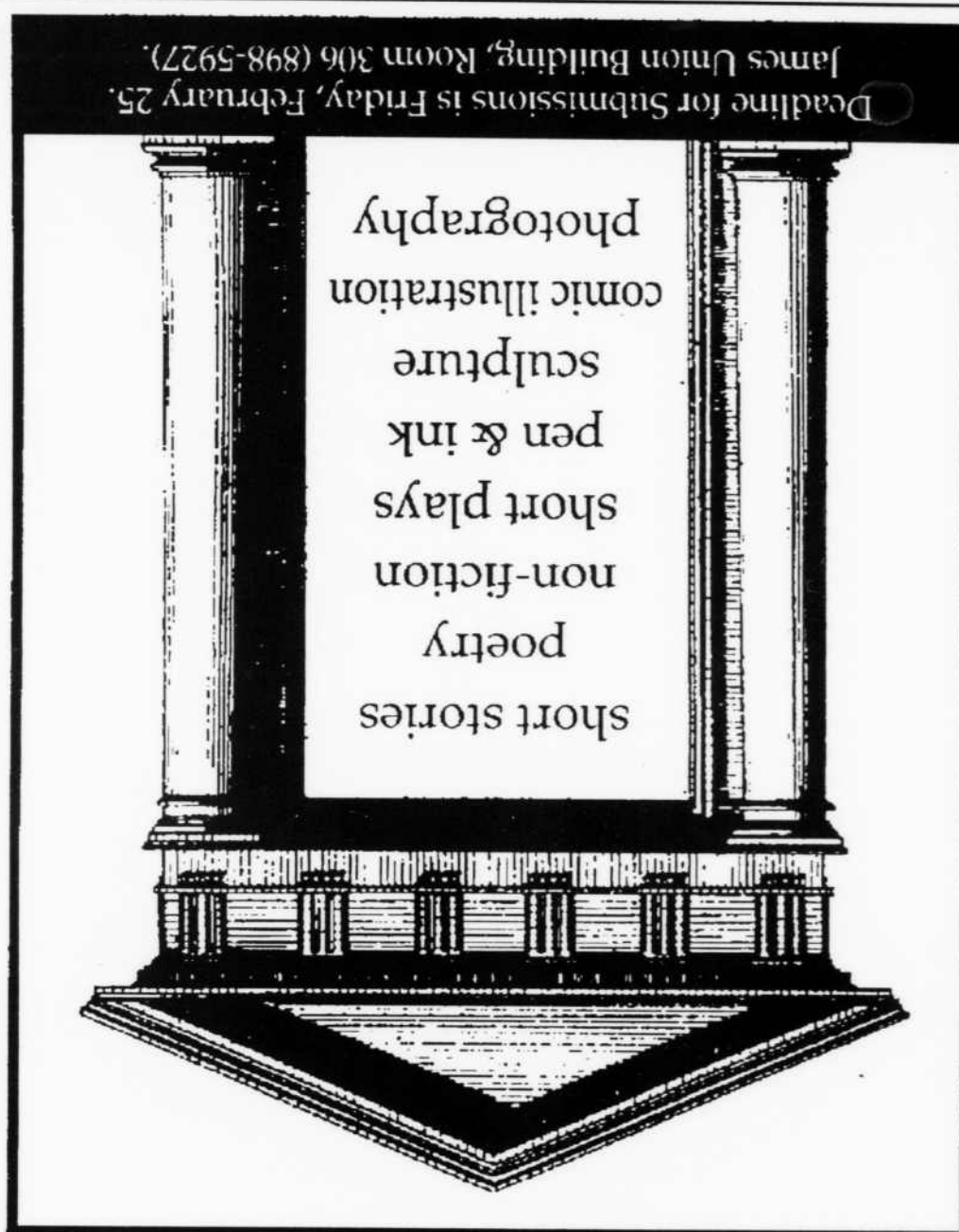
On Friday and Tuesday, OJBC did the same thing. I missed my soap operas. I don't even know what they are or what happens in any of them, but I missed them just the same. How dare OJBC pre-empt the soaps for the OJ news! They're going to do this until the hearing is over! I'll lead the soap revolt. Football players of the world, unite.

You know what the worst thing about all of this is? After the preliminary hearing is done, we are going to have to wait so long for the trial to start to satiate our unquenchable thirst for O.J. gossip and dirt, we'll go nuts!nuts!nuts! Don't worry, though. OJBC will broadcast the whole trial, then the whole appellate process. We may even get to see the Supreme Court decision on the appeal in March 1998.

Now if we could just see O.J. shower and shave in the morning and go to sleep at night in his cell. I know this would make my life complete.

And whatever happened to A.C.?

Deadline for Submissions is Friday, February 25,
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Prosecution claims upper hand in Simpson hearing

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A limousine driver and a guest at O.J. Simpson's estate told a tale of thumps in the night and a shadowy figure hurrying into the mansion as prosecutors Tuesday sought to establish that Simpson had as much as 75 minutes to commit murder.

Limo driver Allan Park testified he arrived early at Simpson's mansion for a 10:45 p.m. pickup the night of the murders and no one answered the intercom until after he saw a black person slip into the house close to 11 p.m.

"He told me he overslept, that he just got out of the shower and he'd be down in a minute," Park said.

And Brian "Kato" Kaelin, who lives in a guest house on the estate, said he and Simpson returned from a McDonald's dinner about 9:45 p.m. and he didn't see him again until he went out to investigate thumps he heard at 10:40 p.m. and saw Simpson a short time later getting into the limousine.

Earlier testimony at the preliminary hearing has suggested that Simpson's ex-wife, Nicole

Brown Simpson, and Ronald Goldman, a friend of hers, were killed between 10 and 11 p.m. June 12.

Howard Weitzman, one of Simpson's previous attorneys, said he was told by police that the slayings happened about 11 p.m. and that Simpson was at home at that time waiting for his ride to the airport. Simpson's lawyers have not disclosed his whereabouts in the hour or two leading up to 11 p.m.

Simpson, 46, is charged with stabbing to death Ms. Simpson, 35, and Goldman, 25.

Testimony at the hearing has shown only that Simpson had the opportunity to kill. There has been no evidence presented directly linking him to the murders.

And Municipal Judge Kathleen Kennedy-Powell hasn't yet revealed the contents of a bulky yellow envelope that Simpson's attorneys turned over last week. The appearance of the envelope gave rise to speculation that it could contain the 15-inch stiletto that Simpson allegedly bought several weeks before the murder.

What if there's a strike?

BY JESSICA DENISE CLAYBORN

It's a shame that it takes until July to pay attention to baseball. Why, with the NBA and NHL domination continuing into the summer, one wonders why baseball even starts in April. What makes this year even worse is the possibility of a players' strike. It reminds me of Michael Jordan's Nike commercial that did all those "What if?" scenarios. So this week, ladies and gentlemen, let's think "What if" about what could be a very short baseball season. And for all you Rocket and Ranger fans, you can catch up on what you missed the first three months of the season.

- What if there were no baseball?
- What if there is a strike?
- Will Ken Griffey, Jr. hit only 60 home runs?
- Will the Seattle Mariners only win 50 games?
- What if there were no baseball?
- What if there is a strike?
- Will the Texas Rangers embarrass the American League?
- Will they win the pennant being 20 or 30 games under .500?
- What if there were no baseball?
- What if there is a strike?
- Will the Atlanta Braves win the World Series by default?
- Will John Smoltz be forced to end his season with a winning record?
- What if there were no baseball?
- What if there is a strike?
- Will the National League be embarrassed if the Colorado Rockies win the pennant?
- Will baseball be embarrassed if the Rockies win the World Series?
- What if there were no baseball?
- What if there is a strike?
- Will Deion Sanders actually play a complete season of football?
- Will he enjoy playing football?
- What if there were no baseball?
- What if there is a strike?
- Will that right fielder for the Birmingham Barons still be your hero?

Next week: Who's who and who's that on the baseball all-star team.

Clearing the Shelves

AN ARRESTING EXPERIENCE

In an effort to provide MTSU students with useful information, we asked one of our correspondents to detail that most tragic of experiences, getting arrested.

College is a testing ground where one prepares for the adult world by honing his academic and social skills. But there is an experience in life that MTSU students can't learn about in class. It's called being arrested, hauled in, taken in, bagged, brought down, cuffed, given state-issue charm bracelets.

This is the naked city and I'm just some schmuck who's happy to have a cigarette and a dame who's not packing heat, but let me enlighten you to the experience of being arrested.

Anyone worthy of being arrested will know in advance there's a warrant out for them; it's nice to feel wanted. First you contact your attorney—or, as they call them in the big house, "mouthpiec," "ivy-league gunslinger," "weasel in a suit," "briefcase-toting Moses." Next, call a bail bondsman or "travel agent." Now you're ready for the excitement. You turn yourself in, "get off the lam," "come in from the cold," "give it up."

Now, don't just turn yourself in, make it an event. I mean, you're doing most of the work here, treat yourself. Bet one of your friends a hundred dollars you can get arrested before they can, or talk your "ivy-league gunslinger" into a car chase on your way to jail. I waited until my birthday.

Once you arrive at jail, go to the warrant officer and proclaim, "I'm here to turn myself in, but only if you can promise me and my family police protection." After all, they are just people doing a job that offers little excitement. Just once, let them feel like they're on a cop show. It'll cheer them up and break the tension.

Now, if you're lucky, the warrant for your involuntary stay with the state will be waiting on you. If it isn't, you have to wait for the cop, a.k.a. "bull," "Hoover," "flatfoot," "screw," that has your warrant. This took two hours. I never knew it was so difficult to get arrested. I mean, I'm sitting in the lobby of the jail trying to get arrested and they tell me to wait or come back later.

Once the "G-man" gets there with your warrant, he'll ask you if you have any weapons or contraband on you. And no, he doesn't think it's funny when you say, "Oh, I got a couple of hits of crystal meth in my back pocket."

Now you're taken to the booking area where you see the only bit of reality that exists on a cop show: paperwork. They inventory your belongings and read you the warrant. Unfortunately, some of the "Hoovers" might try to hone their skills playing "good cop/bad cop," but it's very entertaining.

I was disappointed when they didn't fingerprint me, but they did take my "school picture" or mug shot. Then you wait while they run a NCIC check on you which lets them know if you are a serial killer in another state. It makes perfect sense to me. If you've successfully avoided being arrested for a felony, it's only natural to turn yourself in for a misdemeanor.

Now they set your bail, which means you find out how much it costs to get out of jail between the time of your arrest and your trial. Your "travel agent" will ask for 10 percent up front, which means if your bail is \$1,500, you give him \$150 and you're free to leave. You're also notified of your court date at this time.

Now you're a free man again. You wonder if your clothes have gone out of style while you were "on the inside," or you look forward to going to your favorite establishment and waiting for someone to bump into you so you can say, "Back off—I just got outta the joint."

Court is a different matter; it is where you see how far your "weasel in a suit" can stretch the truth and not only get away with it but be respected for it as well.

Well, now you, the MTSU student, are better prepared for life. And should you ever get arrested, here are two tips: cigarettes really are worth gold "on the inside," and never ask a man what he's in for. Ask what he's accused of.

Editor's note: "Kristin Rocko" is the pseudonym of a person who, for reasons known only to himself, wants to be referred to as Kristin Rocko.

Classifieds

0. Notices

Interested in losing weight? Research subjects needed for safe, effective weight loss experiment. Call 848-0179, ask for Rhonda for information.

Anyone who is interested in more information on becoming a Hospice Volunteer for Home Technology Health Care Hospice of Tennessee, please call Roxie Phillips, Volunteer Coordinator, at 449-7372 or 1-800-889-HOPE. WITHOUT YOU THERE IS NO US.

Money for any worthy cause—books, rent, food? Fast loans or buy gold, designer items, jewelry—other valuables. GOLD-N-PAWN, 1803 N.W. Broad St. 896-7167.

2. Personals

Adoption: Kind, caring schoolteacher and fishing enthusiast husband wish to share their love of learning and the out of doors with infant in warm, loving family. Please call Sharon and Keith collect: 401-521-4968. Thank you so much for helping us.

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Need a job? MTSU's Student Employment and Placement Office can help point you in the right direction. Some listings are available as well as resume and interview advice. Call 898-2500 or come by KUC 328.

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Housekeeper/Mother's Helper needed for professional family. Two small children; one mildly handicapped. 8-20 hours/week, mostly afternoon/early evening

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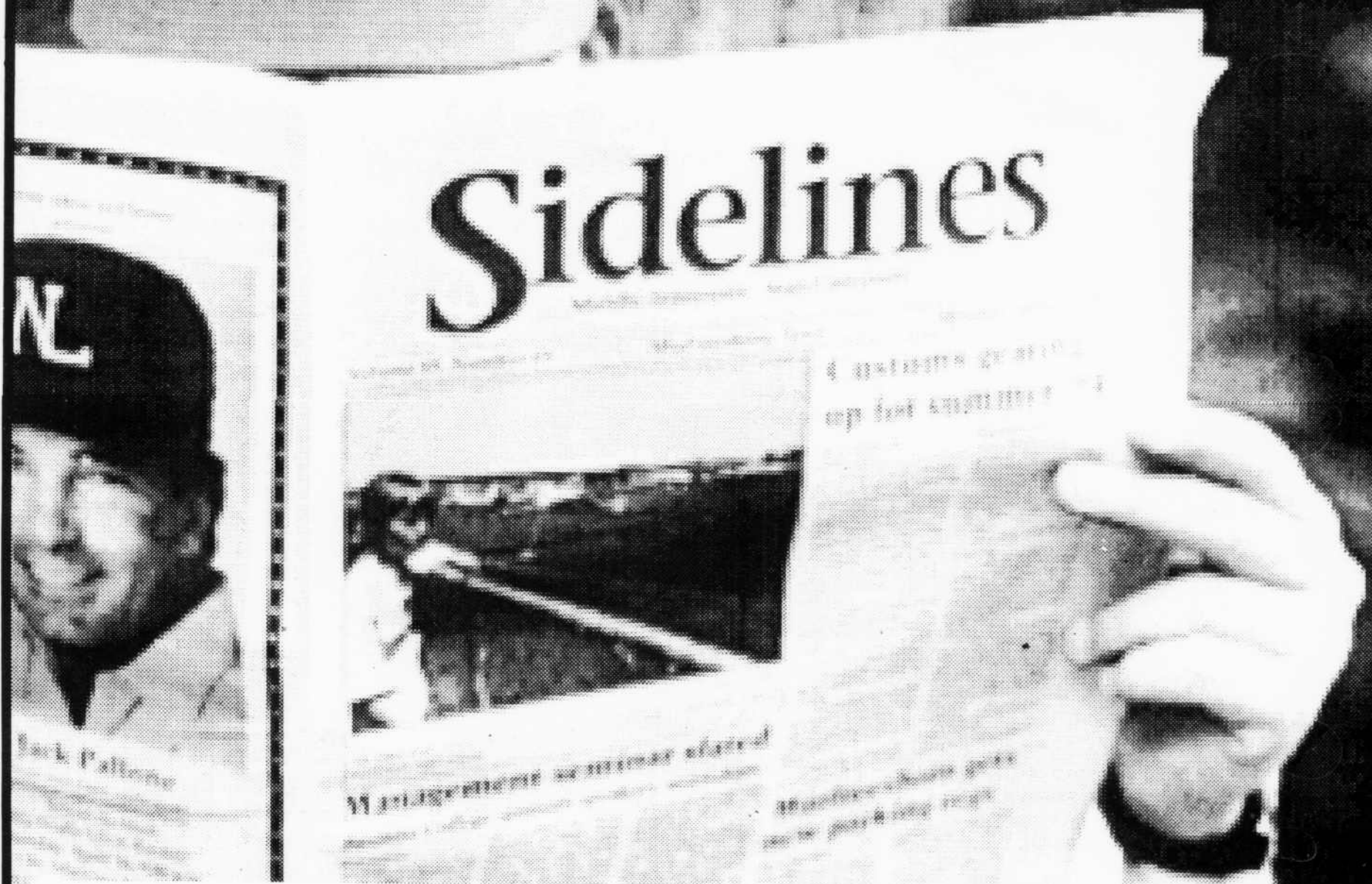
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Eddy Dyer
MTSU student



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