

SIDE LINES

Middle Tennessee State University
Wednesday, July 20, 1994

POEMS & PLAYS
NUMBER ONE

SOLD OUT!

NEW LITERARY REVIEW A HOT ITEM

INSIDELINES



LEE FÖWLER SPEAKS AGAIN!

PART II OF OUR EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH
MTSU'S NEW ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

INSIDELINES

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And they said it couldn't happen here. *Poetry and Plays* is a new literary review magazine originating right here at MTSU. The premier issue includes work by Charles Bukowski and Ray Bradbury.

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Dear Editor:

I am writing this letter in hope that you will include this item in your campus newspaper. You have probably received this kind of request in the past; I sincerely hope that you will honor mine.

Letters to Sidelines

I am 27 years old. I have been incarcerated for two years. I am serving a life sentence. I have no family and very few friends. I receive very little mail. I am not looking for any particular correspondent, I shall gladly answer any letters I may obtain. I just want some correspondence, contact with the outside world. Prison is the worst place on earth. No one is to blame, however, except myself. I will be happy to answer any questions about my court experiences and those elements which brought me to my present situation. I enjoy discussing current events; with so much going on in the world, conversation topics are not hard to arrive at.

I would really appreciate any assistance you can render. Thanking you in advance.

Sincerely,
Mark Travis Merring #94285
Arizona State Prison/Tucson
10,000 South Wilmot Road
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SIDE LINES

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Sidelines is published every Wednesday during the summer by students of Middle Tennessee State University. The opinions expressed herein are those of the author and not necessarily those of Sidelines. We welcome letters to the editor, but all letters must be accompanied by the author's name, address, and phone number (for verification purposes). Letters may be mailed to Sidelines, MTSU P.O. Box 42, Murfreesboro, TN 37132. Letters to the editor will be printed as space allows, and we reserve the right to edit all letters for spelling, grammar, and clarity.

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It was "the big bang" since man first walked on the moon, 25 years ago this week." That's the media description of the collision between fragments of the comet Shoemaker-Levy 9 and Jupiter. That's probably accurate. If those fragments had hit Earth, we'd be in a world of hurt. We didn't notice the collision; our thoughts were diverted by the "situation" in Rwanda, the Tour de France, World Cup '94, the health care reform debate, and the decline of our inner cities. All in all, we have to take the cynical view that if that collision hadn't happened on a Sunday, it might not have made the news at all.

The System Works

By Mike Reed

That would have been a shame. NASA released a videotape of its technicians crowded around a monitor waiting to see the big bang. When the little dots of light appeared on the surface of the big orange dot, the results were, for the layperson, rather anticlimactic. The technicians seemed pleased, though. They'd been following this comet for years, and when that culminating moment of all that work finally arrived, each and every one of them said the exact same thing:

"Absolutely awesome," said one. Camera pans right. "Absolutely awesome," said the next. Camera pans right again.

"Absolutely awesome," ad nauseam. NASA doesn't need a news blurb to get their point across; they can do it by repetition. They can put a man

on the moon, but they can't come up with a few lousy adjectives?

For those of you interested in what your faculty are up to, the 1992-93 MTSU

Record of Scholarly Activity has just hit the stands. It's a madcap rollick with a plot through which you could pilot the USS Nimitz, but the sections on "Advanced Spreadsheet Tips" are fascinating.

According to the latest enrollment figures, there are nine more students this summer than last. Nine.


Evidently the "fastest-growing university in the state" is taking a vacation as well. We can only hope that nine new parking spaces will spontaneously generate. We at *Sidelines* welcome the nine and hope your summer isn't too full of bad things.

Speaking of altercations with the police, we received a letter from an inmate on death row in Arizona (see page 2). Remember, kids, just say no.

And we're saying no to yet another chance to endorse a political candidate in an election year. We're saying no to the chance to grease the wheels of democracy, to backslap with the good ole boys, to using this mighty weapon of journalism for evil instead of good. Some might call that old-fashioned; we call it sheer laziness. What's the point of covering a rally or a photo opportunity? If you cared, you be there, and if you meant to go and missed it, we're just rubbing it in. Besides, none of the candidates has invited us to any free feeds or glamorous cocktail parties with open bars and greasy palms.

We thought that's how the system works.

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'THE GIANT PLANET' UNDER CONTINUED ATTACK BY COMET

GREENBELT, Md. (AP) — Jupiter, already sporting a black eye and a half dozen other scars, is about to be bruised three more times in the same spot by the comet Shoemaker-Levy 9.

Scientists said Monday that three fragments from the comet will hit Jupiter 10 hours apart at approximately the same location.

"You'll have three — boom, boom, boom" said Heidi Hammel of the Space Telescope Science Institute. "You are going to have one heck of a mess."

The first of the three fragments, Q, is expected to hit just before 4 a.m. EDT on Wednesday. R follows 10 hours later and S will be 10 hours after that. Jupiter's rotation time is 10 hours, which means the fragments will hit at nearly the same location on the planet.

Two fragments, K and L, are expected to impact today. They will be the eighth and ninth fragments to hit the gas clouds of Jupiter since the cosmic bombardment started Saturday. The last comet shard smashes the planet on Friday.

Hammel said Jupiter was hit Monday by fragment G, the largest yet of the 21 chunks of ice and rock from the broken-up comet. The impact and massive explosion left a distinctive mark in the planetary cloud tops.

"There is now a black eye on Jupiter," said Hammel. Pictures from the Hubble Space Telescope show a circle, with a black center and a smear of gray resembling a bruise.

The circular portion of the mark is 80 percent the size of Earth, proof of the power of the explosion triggered by fragment G.

All of the fragments are hitting the backside of Jupiter, as viewed from Earth, but the fireballs rise so high that the Hubble is able to spot the cloud poking above the horizon.

Eugene Shoemaker, who is a U.S. Geological Survey scientist and co-discoverer of the comet, said the comet fragment released an energy equal to the power of about 6 million megatons of TNT. This explosion is far more potent than all of the world's nuclear weapons set off at once.

Had this comet fragment hit Earth, he said, "the crater would pretty well have covered all of Rhode Island. It would also blanket the Earth with a fine layer of dust that would blacken the sun."

Nonetheless, Shoemaker said the impact from a G-sized fragment would not be as damaging as the asteroid that hit the Earth 65 million years ago and which may have killed much of the planet's life.

"It's a big event, but it's still not a dinosaur killer," he said of the comet fragment's effect.

After G slammed into Jupiter, instruments on Earth, watching from 480 million miles away, were briefly blinded by the intensity. In some wavelengths of light, the explosion was brighter than the entire planet.

Shoemaker estimated that fragment G was about two miles across.

Pulled by Jupiter's immense gravity, the comet fragments strike the top of the planet's atmosphere traveling at about 130,000 miles an hour. They send powerful shock waves through Jupiter's atmosphere, creating instant heat that may reach 50,000 degrees Fahrenheit.

Editor's Note: If you have an Internet account on MTSU's system, you can view pictures of the comet collision too! Using Mosaic, open it to: <http://newproducts.jpl.nasa.gov/sl9c/sl9c.html>

This will bring you to the comet home page. For more information about the internet, and Mosaic, contact the Office of Information Technology at 898-2512.

Director Brian Mayzore contributed to this story.



Jet Propulsion Laboratory / NASA

BOOM! Impact of Fragment G of the Comet Shoemaker-Levy 9 on Jupiter. The fireball is seen 12 minutes after impact. The Impact A site is seen on the opposite limb of the planet.

JUDGE DELAYS RULING ON MTSU LAWSUIT

BY BRENT ANDREWS

A Rutherford County Chancery Court judge postponed a ruling last Friday on a lawsuit filed by a former MTSU student and her mother against MTSU, President Walker and English Instructor Bonnie Shipp.

The judge said he would consider a brief, to be filed July 29 by Shannon and Janice Roberts' attorney Kurt Beasley, before deciding whether or not to transfer the \$850,000 suit to the Tennessee Claims Commission.

The lawsuit claims that plaintiff Shannon Roberts' constitutional rights were violated when she was given no reading alternative for the book *Dessa Rose*, which she considered pornographic, in an English composition class during the 1990-91 school year.

It was originally dismissed June 28, 1993, when the plaintiffs failed to attend a scheduled hearing. A new hearing was scheduled when the Robertses proved they did not receive proper notice of the

original hearing.

At Friday's hearing the Robertses asked that the "F" Shannon Roberts received in the class be removed from her transcript, that the chancellor make a declaratory judgment stating that Shannon Roberts' rights were violated, and that the monetary suit be transferred to the Tennessee Claims Commission for adjudication.

"Basically, the judge has given us another opportunity to file a final brief, a final argument of our case," Janice Roberts said. "A student has a right, even in the university arena, to exercise her religious freedom. There should have been an alternative reading."

Roberts claims that the "F" her daughter received in the course was unfair because she was given no alternative assignment from Shipp or from then-head of the English department Frank Ginanni, but says that the grade is only a minor issue in the case.

"The 'F' was just a result of [Shipp] taking a stand," Janice Roberts said. "Yes, we would like the 'F' to be removed, [but the grade] was not the major issue. Her religious rights were violated."

The chancellor will view Roberts' brief after July 29 and forward it to James Floyd of the Attorney General's office, who will formulate a response by Aug. 4.

Floyd claims that the Chancery Court has no jurisdiction in the case, and has filed a motion that the complaint be dismissed. Janice Roberts disagrees.

"They do have certain rights to declare that a wrong has been done," she said.

Shipp was unavailable for comment.

Shannon Roberts passed English composition at MTSU last year, and will begin study at Vanderbilt University in the fall in the nursing program.

BUSINESS COLLEGE GETS \$\$\$ FOR INT'L PROGRAM

MTSU's College of Business has received official approval for an \$86,000 federal grant to help fund Project International, a two-year international business outreach program developed by the college. The grant will be used during the 1994-95 school year.

MTSU and the College of Business will jointly support the first-year effort with \$134,000 in faculty and administrative resources.

"We're very excited about the opportunity that this grant will provide by allowing us to serve this area more fully with information on international relations and trade," said Barbara Haskew, dean of the College of Business. "It will also allow us to infuse more international education into our curricula, and therefore serve the region through better-informed students and prospective employees."

Under the Business and International Education Program of the U.S. Department of Education, Project International will include developing business courses that reflect the international influences in the state and region, as well as developing and maintaining a database of international business activity in the region and subsequent economic impact.

Joe M. Rodgers, former U.S. Ambassador to France and holder

of the Jennings A. Jones Chair of Free Enterprise at MTSU, will be the director of Project International.

At least 15 MTSU business faculty, who will become part of a larger International Task Force, will receive various measures of released time for travel, workshops and research related to the program. Task Force members will begin this fall to develop a proposed new interdisciplinary major in international trade and commerce and expand the international emphasis in the College's MBA program.

BellSouth Telecommunications, the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development, and the World Trade Council of Middle Tennessee are joint partners in the project. They will provide technical expertise and support, help the College develop innovative and interdisciplinary curricula, and assist in increasing public understanding of the impact of international trade on the region through seminars and workshops.

"The university and the College of Business are excited about this project," Haskew said. "This project will enhance MTSU's academic program and help area businesses to better compete in global markets."

HIGHLIGHTS IN MTSU HISTORY:

FEBRUARY 15, 1977
YOUR HONOR, I HAD A BRAIN CRAMP

A military court in Manila, Philippines, has sentenced a former MTSU student and Nashville mechanic to six years in prison for plotting to assassinate Philippines President Ferdinand E. Marcos.

August McCormick Lehman, 28, a graduate of Antioch High School and MTSU, confessed his involvement in seven separate plots to assassinate Marcos and take over the government in 1972.

In a statement to the court, Lehman explained that "now that I have had time to reflect on this attempt to overthrow the government, the least I can say is I was certainly wrong."

Lehman was one of four defendants convicted in the case. The other three were native Filipinos. All received a six-year sentence.

Court records revealed that the various assassination plans included the placing of explosives under a golf course flag pin, pouring cyanide in a salt shaker at a luncheon for Marcos, and a "suicide squad" of trained marksmen.

LOOKING FOR A JOB? HERE'S SOME GOOD ADVICE

COLLEGE PRESS SERVICE

One of the most often-repeated pieces of advice that corporate recruiters give is, "The more you know about our company and the job you're interviewing for, the better your chances of getting an offer."

The truth is, the more knowledgeable a candidate is, the more he or she will shine in interviews. Recent graduates should not consider the interview an information gathering process but a forum for demonstrating their resourcefulness and ingenuity.

Lynn Nemser, a corporate human resources consultant with Partners in Performance, Inc. in Pittsburgh, says graduates who continue to use their "good student" approach to job hunting are the most successful in finding the right jobs.

"Research is absolutely critical. If they start their career explorations the same way they start their courses, they are going to be successful," she says.

There's no shortcut to good research. Use all the sources available. Find out everything you can about the industry in general, and a company in particular, by scanning library databases for current newspaper, magazine or trade journal articles. Also check reference books and the library card catalog for any books that might have been written about the company.

The following sources will help you find the latest information:

* Info Trak, a computer database that surveys most newspapers, magazines and trade journals.

* Value Line Investment Survey, a monthly publication that provides current information on major corporations.

* Business Periodicals Index, a listing of publications that might pertain to the industry

you're researching.

* National Newspaper Index, a daily compilation of news stories from major city dailies.

Ask the company's public relations office to send you a copy of the most recent annual report and a financial statement. These will provide information on the company's earnings, forecasting, competition, and products and services. Also ask for any recruitment benefit brochures they might have.

Call the university's alumni office and ask if there are any graduates who work for the companies in which you are interested. It's especially effective to talk to someone who is in a job similar to the one you want. Call those people and ask to meet with them, if possible. Otherwise, ask questions on the phone. Your goal is to find out what to do, if you are capable of doing it and if you're right for it. Also ask if they could help you in any way.

Another strategy is to make a personal visit to the store, facility, office or corporate headquarters before you interview. This will help you get the feel of what it would be like to work there. Don't be afraid to chat with a receptionist or other employees you encounter. Be straightforward and ask them what it's like to work there and if they can give you any advice.

(At MTSU, contact the Placement and Student Employment Center in the KUC for more information concerning questions to ask an employer, as well as job characteristics and personality traits employers look for in a graduate.)

* The information, knowledge and insight you gather during this research process will give you confidence for interviews and crucial information with which to tailor your resume.

NOW THAT YOU KNOW WHAT TO ASK, HERE'S A JOB FOR WHICH YOU MAY APPLY

WATERBURY, Vt. (AP) — A medical librarian bared all in her application. Superman said he'd give up his day job. And a variety of children and pets have nominated their parents, masters and themselves.

Ben & Jerry's Homemade Inc., the decidedly unconventional maker of premium ice cream, is on the hunt for a chief executive to replace co-founder Ben Cohen. He plans let someone with a stronger business background lead the growing company.

By midday Friday, 19,352 adults, children, superheroes and animals had sent in applications. More entries were waiting to be counted.

"Help! I'm stuck with 'Mr. and Mrs. Fast Track' in California," one toddler crayoned on the back of a poster-size photograph of himself next to a Holstein cow. "They need new careers and I need a real backyard."

It all started when Cohen said he planned to get out of day-to-day management in favor of marketing and other pursuits. But in typical Ben & Jerry's style, Cohen and co-founder Jerry Greenfield turned the search into a marketing event.

The two unveiled their "Yo! I Want to be CEO" campaign a month ago, asking anyone interested in becoming chief executive to send a 100-word essay and a lid from their favorite Ben & Jerry's flavor.

Ben & Jerry's is hedging its bets, though — it hired an executive search firm to supplement the contest. But that hasn't kept the applications, both serious and tongue-in-cheek, from flowing in.

An office in Ben & Jerry's headquarters that was converted into CEO Command Center is stuffed with applications from all over the country and at least a dozen other nations.

"Some are three-dimensional, some are two-dimensional, some are in a dimension beyond this universe," said company spokesman Rob Michalak.

Take the medical librarian, for example. Her resume and 100-word essay have already been recorded and filed away. But her photo is getting lasting attention.

In it, she lies surrounded by strategically stacked piles of medical textbooks and references.

She's not wearing a stitch.

"We're discovering people of incredible talents," Michalak said.

Superhuman talents, too.

A Superman suit sent by Jack Ross Williams of Santa Barbara, Calif., dangles from the ceiling in one corner of the cramped command center office.

"Due to recent layoffs at a major metropolitan newspaper I am looking to replace my day job," Williams wrote. "After hours I spend my time fighting to protect truth, justice and the American way. Even when I'm not using my powers I love to work hard and have a great time."

"Ideally, I seek a position which allows me the opportunity to provide super premium ice cream products with maximum value and satisfaction to a deserving planet."

Other applicants included dogs and cats. Some wanted the job themselves; others suggested their owners.

But the burning question remains: Will someone really land the job through the contest? Or is this just more Ben & Jerry's hype?

"Yes, somebody could actually be included in the process that comes to us by the way of the poster campaign essay contest," Michalak said.

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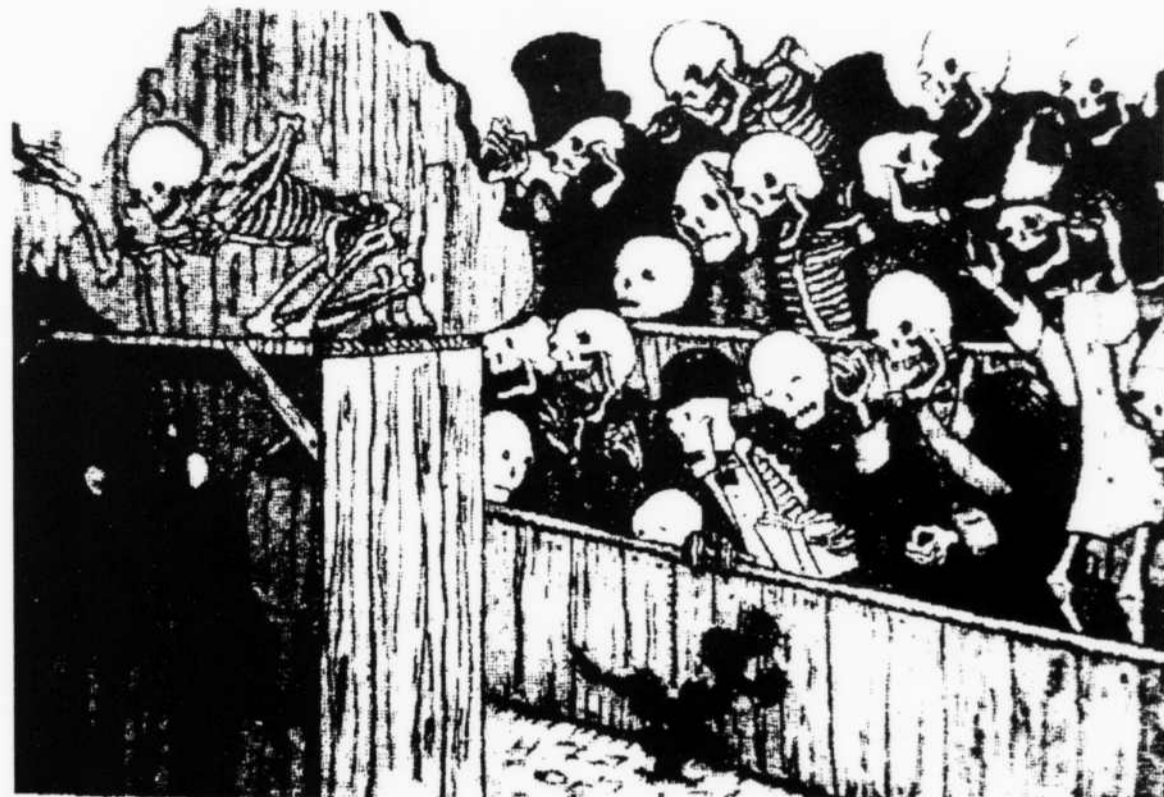
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Literary aspirations

**MTSU's new
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review
magazine
features work
of
international
artists**

**By Robin Dixon
Contributing Editor**



CARE TO SEE MY ETCHINGS? Teatro by Matias Longoria is a sample of the work featured in *Poetry and Plays*.

Ray Bradbury submitted to him. So did Charles Bukowski and some guy from New Zealand. All in all, he received about 1,500 poems and 18 plays. His literary journal, *Poetry and Plays*, is already a sellout at Williams Booksellers and if you want a copy from Phillips', good luck.

If you ever look around Gay Brewer's office, you'd hardly believe he is an English professor, let alone editor of a literary journal. The outside of his door has a nice little story about a nerdy professor who goes on a killing spree. Inside his office, you will see anything from a pinup of Bill Cosby and Robert Culp in *I Spy* to an autographed picture of Muhammad Ali.

Muhammad Ali?

"That's another story altogether," he says jokingly.

Or is it.

"I was this high when I first met him," says Brewer, extending his arm at the same level of the desk. "He was big, or at least it seemed that way since I was so small."

After that first encounter, Brewer continued to keep in contact with Ali through

correspondence, which is how he obtained the autograph. Correspondence also happens to be the way Brewer got Bradbury and Bukowski to submit poems for the journal.

"Both of them responded after the first letter," he admits. "I think one of the reasons the journal is a hit is because it has some of the last things Bukowski wrote before he died."

The funds to publish *Poetry and Plays* came from a variety of sources. Even with support from the Virginia Peck Foundation, the MTSU Department of English, and the Tennessee Chapbook Fund, the sellout of the journal doesn't exactly equate to financial success.

"Because of my keen business sense, the cover price of the journal is \$5, which is actually less than it cost to produce it," says Brewer. "Actually, most journals operate at a loss. We hope when all the dust settles we'll be in the clear."

With names like Bradbury and Bukowski, Brewer admits that the competition for selection is stiff. Submissions are open to anyone, as long as they make the Oct. 1 - Jan. 15 deadline.

"I wish we could have had more Tennessee writers," Brewer says. "But we do have Polly Cook, who did the cover, and Robert Reid."

Brewer plans to repay his "debt" to Bukowski by writing a book on his life. In the meantime, he is already planning for next year's *Poetry and Plays*, and the submissions are steadily coming in.

"I'm really not sure how I'm going to top this year's journal," he reveals. "But there will be a few surprises and some big names for next year."

Big names?

"Oh, I can't tell you who."

A few copies of the first edition of *Poetry and Plays* might still be found at Williams Booksellers Ltd. or at Phillips' Bookstore on campus (good luck once again). Other contributors to the journal are assistant editors Claudia Barnett (drama) and Frank Ginanni (poetry), and advisory editors Ellen Donovan and Bonnie Shipp.

"Even though I didn't write anything in the journal," says Brewer, "I hope that it reflects some part of me."

THE NEWLYWED NOMADS IV: BRINGIN' IT ON HOME

BY BRENT ANDREWS

Editor's note: Periodically this summer, Sidelines has run the accounts of roving reporter Brent Andrews and his wife Ginny as they take their honeymoon trip to the West coast.

The rain that had driven us from the Oregon coast let up as we headed to Portland, taking with it the curtain of gloom that had settled over us the past couple of days.

The Oregon coast is lovely, lush and brilliant green, but the same rain that creates the splendid plant life wreaks havoc on summer beach vacations. We were tired of being in the car, where we were quickly losing space to the growing pile of things we had acquired we left home, and we were looking forward to making sense of the pile at our hotel in Portland.

We found our hotel after 30 minutes of taking sporadic turns, mostly onto one-way streets heading exactly opposite our desired direction with large signs reading "NO TURNS." With a map of the sprawling city, we set out to see what Portland was all about.

We soon found the map was useless. I threw it in the back seat and began taking random turns,

choosing my direction by intuition and peeking down the streets. We got a pretty good tour of Portland that way, and when we found ourselves heading across the Willamette River on a street from which we could not turn (of course), we weren't concerned. We were headed toward what looked like a suburban neighborhood, and I thought it would be nice to see one, so we

ove on.

At a long uphill curve in the road toward the hills, I saw a sign that said "Washington Park" and turned. We had by accident found the large city park and rose garden that Portland is famous for, and we enjoyed the ride through thickly forested park grounds to the gardens. Once there, we wandered among the flowers, viewing and sniffing hundreds of different roses, each unique, some brightly colored and lightly scented, others with a striking color emanating a rich, fragrant perfume which filled the air. When the rain began again we were both sorry. The rest of Portland awaited us, though, and we left feeling happy and lucky to have found the park.

We returned our car to the hotel and began walking around the "City of Roses," which boasts a large downtown area with free public transportation on a supposed-simple-to-use system called Tri-Met. After wrestling with a Tri-Met booklet featuring happy youngsters easily navigating the city, we decided to forgo the color-coded buses because we had no idea where one might take us. We remarked on the exceptional intelligence of Portland children, since two Tennessee college students couldn't figure the system out, trashed the booklet and continued on foot.

Getting an early start the next day, we drove to Mount Hood, which at 11,239 feet is the highest peak in Oregon. We stopped for the night at Timberline Lodge.

The next morning dawned bright and cold. I rented a snowboard, eager to try a new sport.

I thought I would be a snowboarding pro right off, imagining myself catching many feet of air on well-laced moguls, surprising the locals with difficult tricks and skill unheard of in a beginner. Wrong!

A moment after I fearlessly strapped on the board, I slid sideways down toward the lift, totally out of control. Trying to keep my composure, I careened toward several people in front of me, managing a polite but strained "excuse me." They needn't have worried, though. I hit the ground long before they were in any danger, dragging my arms out behind me, making a snow angel. I sat up and fumbled with my boot (as if they were too loose).

I considered trading in the board for some nice safe skis but decided against it. Instead, I somehow managed to get onto the lift and the top of the mountain--alive.

It was the biggest mountain I had ever set boots on, looking down a mile of steep ice and snow, wondering how I was going to get back to that tiny lodge. I stood on the board gingerly, arms at right angles, and began moving. I did well for 10 feet or so, but when I started picking up speed I sat back. It wasn't easy to just sit, though, so instead I fell onto my sore backside with a bone-rattling thump. I glanced around to see if anyone was looking. No--they were moving smoothly down the mountain, as I had dreamed the night before, and I sat there, clueless. It was too cold to just sit. If not, I might still be there, watching everyone else jump and spin their way down--but I moved, and my backside paid.

I was at the bottom, sweating and bruised, by the time I figured out how to stop without crashing.

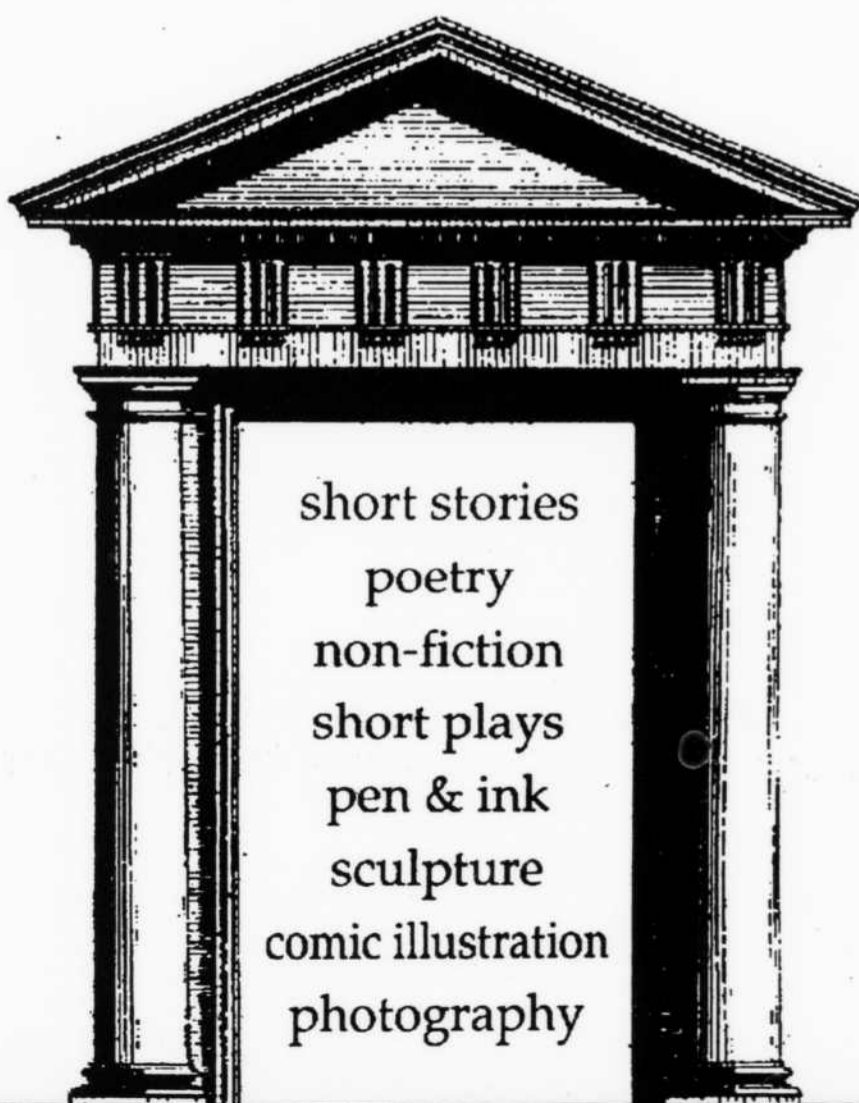
At the top once more, I decided on a different route, to try a jump that others were not executing perfectly. When I got close to the large bump, I bent my knees so I could push at the top, thus propelling myself far into the air. For a brief moment I was the snowboarder of yesterday's dreams, soaring without fear above the smooth white powder, tilting the board back a bit just for looks and enjoying the awe of those behind me. Then, in an instant, the front of my board was stuck in the snow and crash-landed on my head--without breaking my neck!

I got up from what I had decided would be my last fall, but as if Mount Hood had decided to give me one last square kick after a fight, a patch of ice snatched my board from below me and I came down hard. The fall hurt worse than all the others combined, and this time I was not being rushed. I took my time getting up.

I gratefully turned in my snowboard before it was due, changed out of my rented boots and headed into the lodge for some much-needed sympathy.

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Where Do We Go From Here?

A look at the problems of MTSU athletics

By Jessica Clayborn
Sports Editor

Last week, "The Road to MTSU" discussed the personal and professional background of athletic director Lee Fowler. This week's column, "Where Do We Go From Here," discusses some of the problems MTSU athletic department has been facing and some of the possible solutions.

JC: What made you decide to take the athletic director's position at MTSU?

LF: I think [the job] is a good opportunity. I think that the people before me have done a great job. This area is growing so much and there are a lot of alumni [around]. There is really a great opportunity here to be successful. Of course, you always look at jobs and want a chance to be successful and I think there's a great chance for this program and myself to be successful here.

JC: So you do like Murfreesboro and MTSU?

LF: I love it! I love being back in middle Tennessee, since I'm from Columbia.

[Murfreesboro] is such a warm community and my family and I have been accepted so well by the people.

JC: You've spent your entire career with schools that were in athletic conferences that receive national recognition—the SEC at Vanderbilt, and the Metro and Great Midwest Conferences in Memphis. What do you think it will take to put a lesser-known conference like the OVC on the map nationally?

LF: Well, I'm really working with the OVC office along with doing what we need to do here at MTSU because I think it all helps [the conference] grow. I think we're going to have to get some corporate involvement nationally. We're going to have to get some TV contracts where people can see your conference around the country. It all goes together for MTSU to be more successful as the OVC needs to be. I've worked with the OVC office. As a matter of fact, some of [the OVC officials] are planning to meet with me about how to put together corporate sponsorships. Corporate



sponsorships can relieve some of the burdens MTSU and other OVC schools have with expenses when they get together for things like conference tournaments in any sport where we have to pay our athletes' and coaches' expenses to go participate. I'm hoping to get the OVC to the point where they'll have enough corporate money involved where it won't cost MTSU [so much money] to be involved in the tournament.

JC: Some of the MTSU community have argued about leaving the OVC for a more prestigious conference. You were involved with Memphis' move to the Great Midwest Conference. Why or why not would you feel this is necessary?

LF: People come to games because they perceive your team as being good, or the team you're playing being good and recognized nationally. So, any time ... you can better your situation you should move, whether it's making your conference better ... and all the teams better and more nationally recognized, or bettering yourself by getting in a different conference which has TV recognition which carries with it the ability to get sponsorship and more money nationally. It all goes in the overall picture: your conference, your affiliations in the conference ... it helps in selling all your athletic programs because that's something people look very strongly at. The perception of who you're involved with and what level you're involved with is very important in selling tickets and getting students involved as well as

the community. MTSU is still growing, however, so staying in the OVC for now is best.

JC: President Walker has endorsed the idea of a new football stadium at MTSU. You've already been involved in the introduction of a new facility in Memphis (The Pyramid). Is the idea of a new stadium feasible? How far in the future could it come?

LF: I can't predict the future, but I think for our program to go Division I, everybody knows we have to have a new stadium that seats at least 30,000. I think it's definitely feasible ... the economic conditions here are right for it. There are enough graduates [in Murfreesboro] to support a Division I football program.

Come to the games. We need the students to come back to the games. [If] students go and if they have fun, they'll come back and have fun when they're out of school and they're paying.

The big question is can we do it financially ... I think that in cooperation with the Board of Regents and the state and local government we can definitely do it. Now what time period it will take ... after being on the job a month it's kind of tough to say, but the opportunity's there—it's just a matter of time ... whether it's five years, three years, I can't really say. But I think it could definitely change our perception because we would definitely go to another conference. The ingredients are here; we just have to be good stewards of the things given to us to get to that level.

JC: So you support the idea of Division I football?

LF: Yes. Your alumni and friends of the university would have a different perception of you. They would consider the overall program as a major

level as in the SEC, GMC, and Metro. It would really change the perception of the school and make people buy tickets.

JC: Division I sounds good to many, but there are still those who think it's ridiculous. How do you reach these people?

LF: They can look around the state and surrounding areas. There's Memphis; Louisville in Kentucky; Tennessee; and Alabama-Birmingham is going Division I this fall. To get to the prestige level economically, football's got to be involved. We've got to be at that level. The best way to think of it is if we'd been dreamers and dreamed about this ten years ago and today we had Division I football, we'd be in the meetings today with Louisville, Memphis, and Tulane, and we'd be a school in that conference affiliation right now. We have to be willing to perceive that five or 10 years from now if we get Division I football, we'd also be interesting to the people in those kind of conferences. Everyone's always willing to add to their conference ... we have a large TV market, most of our alumni are in Nashville, and Nashville is very important because it's the state capital and it's very important to the TV markets, so all of these things would come together.

JC: You saw both ups and downs in MSU basketball. You saw the "glory days" of Keith Lee and the Final Four in the mid-1980s, only to fall into an NCAA scandal that led to the firing of [former MSU coach] Dana Kirk. However, the "glory days" came back again, allowing you to see the collegiate career of Anfernee Hardaway. MTSU is going through similar problems. Fresh off probation, recruiting is hurt, community interest is low, and apathy is in the air. It will take some work to get the Blue Raider basketball program back to its "glory days." What do you think it will take to bring back community interest?

LF: You've got to win. Now coming off probation, we've got a chance to 'go with both guns loaded.' We've been dealing with guns that haven't

had bullets in them for a while, so you've got to be equal with the people you're competing with. [MTSU basketball coach David Farrar] is just now going to get to the point where he can recruit again. There's no question that our facilities are just as good as anybody else's. It's just a matter of time, but you've got to give a guy time when he's [rebuilding] the right way and doing things that need to be done to build a quality program that will be here forever and not just a flash in the pan. A little time is all it takes. I understand the feelings of the fans and the students ... patience is not something fans and people want to give you. They didn't in Memphis and they won't anywhere else. We've also got to look at things systematically—where we were, problems we went through—and give it a little time to get things where they ought to be. I think [Farrar] has done an excellent job with what he's had. [Coaching] is not the easiest job in the world, especially when the fans are not on your side.

JC: It is impossible for you to accomplish every program of improvement in Blue Raider athletics alone. What can the university community do to help?

LF: Come to the games. We need the students to come back to the games. [If] students go and if they have fun, they'll come back and have fun when they're out of school and they're paying. We just need that force to come back to the games, and that builds for the future because they have fun and become loyal to the program and come back with their kids and it becomes a perpetuating situation. That's what we need to get back to.

JC: Finally, what are your goals as athletic director?

LF: I want to see MTSU reach its athletic potential and be an active part of making it happen. I can't do it alone, but with the help of people on campus and in the community, we can make this a great athletic department.

Americans care about soccer too

Editor's note: Let's face it. It's very American to hate soccer. We love to think of soccer as a sissy European kickball game. That's the best thing to come out of World Cup USA '94—an American-media treatment of the world's game.

This basically means that ABC aired nine matches, including the final last Sunday. Commentary was divided between soccer experts with European accents and American adenoid cases trying to explain the intricacies of what is basically a simple game to an American audience who isn't interested in any game where the final score isn't 114 to 112.

Soccer is brutal. Soccer is universal. Soccer is the sport of popes and kings. Countries have gone to war over soccer. One Colombian defender was murdered this year for inadvertently knocking in the losing goal and knocking the Colombian team out of the tournament. The world takes this game very seriously.

We received a letter to the editor that was so lengthy and so focused on this issue that we prefer to run it here.

M.R.

by Ben Poremski

No one should be fooled by Brazil's reputation for passionate soccer; the skull-shattering blow inflicted by defender Leonardo upon the side of American midfielder Tab Ramos' head was not an action made in a delirious fit of pique due to the pressure of a scoreless match. The Brazilian side has played with an abject humorlessness and grim dullness (for them), to jeers from the fans and press at home and calls for the coach's head.

Nor was it, as Leonardo claims in his apology before the lords of FIFA in an attempt to head off the likely multiple-match suspension, an "accident," and accordingly we are forced to hear his somber testimony of the post-game visit to Ramos' hospital room. He knows, despite the videotaped evidence which looks pretty much like the Rodney King tape in broad daylight and from ten angles, he knows that he didn't do it intentionally. He has too much experience and self-awareness to hot-headedly break an opponent's skull, he says.

Damn right he has too much experience to do anything unintentionally. The Brazilians, like Einstein's God, don't act by chance. They are not beaten because of a poor touch here or a lost step there. They do not make little mistakes. When they lose, if they lose, their loss is due to an epic and sweeping strategy which stifles their vast talent, and a measure of the American team's world-class ability is the success they had in shutting Brazil down, until the little accident involving Mr. Leonardo's elbow and Tab's

cranium.

The American side, with the recovery of Thomas Dooley and Marcelo Balboa from recent surgeries, was almost at full strength entering the World Cup. Only Claudio Reyna, a good midfielder, was unable to play due to injury. After the suspension of John Harkes for two yellow cards in the first round, our side was left with Tab Ramos as the only playmaking midfielder, the only man with the dribbling and passing skills to elude the Brazilians, whose defense relies almost exclusively on attacking the first two or three touches of the opponent to force a change of possession, the equivalent of a "full-court press," which would then set up the "fast break." Any American possession, of course, prevented the Brazilians from attacking, and the hope was for Ramos to find an American striker for a shot at the goal.

Fully aware of the complete reliance of the American team on Tab Ramos, the most effective Brazilian strategy was to take him out of the game. Hence defender Leonardo made the best (and possibly only) defensive play he could have made, which was of course to give Tab a Grade 2 Concussion to the interior this-and-that bone on the right side of his skull. The price for the Brazilians was minute: lose a mediocre fullback. The payoff was enormous: without Ramos, the United States soccer team could not even hold the ball, let alone penetrate far enough to reach the back line, where the ejected player had been positioned, and by possessing the ball for virtually the entire second half, strikers Romario and Bebeto naturally found an opportunity to score. This one goal was enough to beat a team that they had essentially decapitated.

What is to be done? Thankfully, the Brazilians face opposition the rest of the tournament in European teams experienced in unsporting play, countries whose players make the Knicks look like parochial-league cellar-dwellers. When the Division I professional league begins play in this country next year, American players will be better prepared for strategic flagrant fouling, and the necessary recruitment to fill the domestic player minimums will turn to Latin leagues in Miami and Los Angeles, hopefully giving Americans the equivalent of a Gullit if not a Roberto Baggio. My highest hope is for a blood-vengeance "friendly" rematch against the Brazilians, played again in America, in which we will be at full strength and prepared, perhaps with spiked helmets, for these deplorable "world-class" tactics.

The Great Mascot Debate

I didn't expect any letters, but I did receive one and since I promised to print letters concerning the mascot, I will keep that promise. As always to the silent majority, thanks for reading and tolerating me, my sarcasm, and my humor this summer.

JDC

Dear Sports Editor:

I'm not politically correct, but I will say this; I believe in the golden rule "do unto others as you [would] have them do unto you." Perhaps, in the past, mascots have been used as tokens. Tokens representing an overexaggerated image of a certain group, essentially showing disrespect.

I propose we scratch "Ole

Blue" and Nathan Bedford Forrest and forget about honoring some type of animal or some hero from Civil War times. I propose we honor some recently fallen heroes; the people who serve in the special forces of the military. Our mascot could be a commando dressed in blue battle fatigues with a blue bandanna around his head. We could be known as the MTSU Commandos.

People who have already formed the opinion that my proposal is stupid, I've got this to stay. You have the right to dismiss my idea, but please consider it. This idea holds special meaning to me since I'm a Navy vet and had an uncle in Vietnam.

Commandos prepare the way for ground forces to advance further. They undertake missions that are too dangerous and too technical for regular forces. They lead the way and don't follow. Just think, we could be the first school to undertake a bold step in a new direction. We could be the first one not to take on a traditional mascot as our own such as a civil war hero, revolutionary war hero, Viking, animal, etc. We can lead the way in being different than other schools. This move can make us truly unique.

One last thought: as MTSU modernizes, so should our mascot.

Eddy D. Dyer
Box D-769

WHAT ABOUT CORKED BATS?

CHICAGO (AP)—So why would Albert Belle want to cork his bat, anyway?

A bat filled with cork can hit a baseball farther than a completely wooden model, although it won't turn a bench-warmer into Babe Ruth.

"If you hollow out the barrel and lighten the bat, you can swing it faster and that means you can hit it better," says Rex Bradley, vice president of the company that makes Louisville Sluggers. "Players do it for bat speed, but many of them believe it just makes the bat more lively."

Belle was suspended Monday for 10 days for using a corked bat. He is appealing the penalty, meaning he can continue playing for the Cleveland Indians until a hearing is held July 29.

"Corked bats don't make the balls go 500 feet," said Chicago White Sox manager Gene Lamont, who asked Friday night that Belle's bat be checked. "But it makes a ball go 380, not 370."

"I don't think players cork their bats to hit tape-measure home runs. I think they do it to hit more home runs," Lamont said.

In most cases of corking, players have a hole — ranging in diameter from the size of a pencil to a dime — drilled about 12 inches down into the barrel. The wood is hollowed out and cork is stuffed inside, which might lighten the bat from, say, from an average of 33 ounces to 31 1/2.

It may not sound like much, but to a major leaguer, that might be all it takes to turn a long fly out into a cheap home run.

The cork may also expand, putting additional pressure on the surrounding wood.

"That makes it a better piece of timber," Bradley said Monday night. "You've made the wood harder and increased its density, and that lets you hit it farther."

All that without sacrificing the size of the barrel, which provides more power.

Belle receives bats from Louisville Slugger, although it was not certain whether his guilty bat was one of those models. Louisville Slugger supplies about two-thirds of all bats used by major leaguers.

Bradley stressed that Hillerich & Bradsby, which makes Louisville Sluggers, does not cork bats for big leaguers. He said the company has corked bats in the past for test purposes, not for playing.

Where ballplayers get their bats corked is usually a big secret. It takes skill to cork a bat without leaving a trace — if done poorly, a bat can split and reveal the tampering.

In 1987, a bat used by Houston's Billy Hatcher shattered, showing that it was corked. He was suspended for 10 days, just like Belle. In 1974, a bat used by Graig Nettles split, showing that it was stuffed with superballs, and he was ejected.

NBA Dispute Resolved In Court

NEW YORK (AP) — A federal judge ruled Monday that the NBA's salary cap, college draft and right of first refusal do not violate antitrust laws.

Lawsuits filed between the NBA and the NBA Players Association in recent weeks have prevented teams and players from signing contracts while Judge Kevin Duffy decided the legality of the issues.

The salary cap was put in place during the 1980s when several teams faced serious financial problems. It guaranteed players 53 percent of the gross revenue from the teams.

The right of first refusal allowed teams to retain a free-agent player from going to another team if they matched the salary terms offered by the other team.

Duffy, while ruling in

favor of the NBA, urged both sides to return to the bargaining table.

"No court, no matter how highly situated, can replace this time honored manner of labor dispute resolution," he said. "Rather than clogging the courts with unnecessary litigation, the parties should pursue this course."

Charles Grantham, executive director of the players association, said he could not immediately comment on the ruling. "I'll have to look at it with my lawyers," he said.

Jeffrey Mishkin, an NBA lawyer, did not immediately return a telephone message for comment.

Duffy's ruling followed a one-day trial last week that included testimony from players Buck Williams, Dominique Wilkins and Danny Manning.

All three testified that restrictions on the players prevented them from full enjoyment despite multi-million dollar salaries.

If Duffy had ruled that the salary cap and draft were illegal, all the rookies drafted last month would have become unrestricted free agents and there would be no limit on what teams could offer prospective signees.

In his ruling, Duffy noted that the case was the fourth lawsuit over the years to result from disputes that came up when the two sides were negotiating contracts.

He said both sides were "using the court as a bargaining chip in the collective bargaining process. Each is truly guilty of this practice."

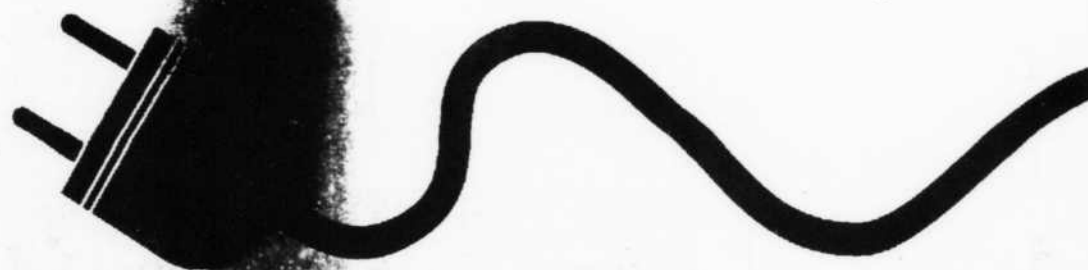
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Clearing the Shelves

NEVER SAY DIE, VINCE MOTLEY CRUE'S NOT-SO-TRIUMPHANT RETURN

Veteran heavy metal band Motley Crue calls its current American concert tour the "Anywhere There's Electricity" Tour.

Unfortunately, the band itself short-circuited midway through last Saturday night's performance at Starwood Amphitheater and never was able to fully get the lights back on.

Crue, which stormed out of the influential L.A. club scene in the early '80s to become one of metal's premier acts of that decade, returned to the Nashville area for the first time since

Concert Review by Drew Reynolds

1989. During this five-year absence, the band has seen its ups and downs.

As the '90s began, the group appeared to be on a roll, with an unprecedented new multimillion-dollar record contract and a successful greatest hits package (1991's *Decade Of Decadence*). More recently, however, the band has encountered its share of problems. A lineup change and ensuing legal battles (original lead singer Vince Neil left in a less-than-amicable split and sued his former bandmates), record company disputes (as evidenced by expletive-laden onstage comments from bassist Nikki Sixx), and even personal setbacks (drummer Tommy Lee's wife, actress Heather Locklear, divorced him), all seem to have taken their toll on the group.

Attempting to put aside these difficulties, however, Crue came into the Starwood show with a new album, a new front man, and a self-described new sound. *Motley Crue*, the band's long-anticipated sixth studio album, was released earlier this year and features Neil's replacement, John Corabi.

Before a backdrop of chain-link fences and dismembered mannequins, the group began the show in high gear with solid versions of "Hooligan's Holiday," the first single from *Motley Crue*, and the early Crue classics "Livewire," "Shout At The Devil," and "Wild Side."

Lead singer Corabi proved to be a worthy addition to the band's lineup, doing an admirable job of covering Neil's vocals on the group's earlier material, and singing with even greater confidence on the new songs. His rhythm guitar work also adds a new and welcome dimension to the band's sound.

The show's early momentum slowed noticeably toward the middle of the set, which featured several songs from the latest release, including "Misunderstood," the current single. The small but vocal audience, and the group itself for that matter, seemed to be less interested in the new songs than in the band's older material.

Unfortunately, the group blew a fuse with the next two segments of the show. After a torturous 10-minute drum solo, the band regrouped at the front of the stage and proceeded to play a pseudo-acoustic mini-set, which included tepid versions of "Home Sweet Home" and "Don't Go Away Mad," as well as an ill-advised cover of the Beatles' "Revolution."

Following the "Unplugged" segment, the band showed signs of recovering with a strong version of "Kickstart My Heart," but the damage had already been done. After "Primal Scream," the band abruptly cut its set short, leaving the stage without returning for the usually obligatory encore.

Helping to salvage the evening was King's X, the second act on the bill. Touring in support of *Dogman*, its fifth album, the Houston-based trio showcased their unique blend of intelligent songwriting, inventive arrangements, solid musicianship and strong stage presence in an entertaining, although too-short, performance.

Question: What do you get when you take a generic death-metal band, make an Andrew "Dice" Clay wannabe the lead singer, and add cheesy keyboards?
Answer: Opening act Type O Negative.

And you thought Spinal Tap was funny.

SAY AAAAAAAH:

ONE STUDENT'S ENCOUNTER WITH TENNCARE

BY WARREN WAKELAND, NEWS EDITOR

I have recently had an experience with our state's new health care system, TennCare, that has convinced me more than ever that the government health care proposal being made by President Clinton is a bad idea.

See, TennCare, when it was announced by Gov. McWherter, was hailed as a wonderful model for how the entire U.S. of A. can have health care. The whole idea was this: you hurt yourself, you go to the doctor, you get fixed up. Badabing, badaboom. Easy.

Not so.

On the Sunday when we had that torrential rainstorm that gave Murfreesboro almost three inches of rain in two hours, I was working for my pizza delivery store when I slipped in a hole while running from car to door with pizzas in hand. The next morning I woke up with a very sore right foot.

Now I hate doctors. I do not go to a doctor unless I cannot take the pain of an injury I might have sustained. I haven't been to a dentist since I was 7. I haven't had a checkup since I was 15. I am considerably older now.

After a week of walking around with my foot hurting, I finally went to MTSU Health Services to have it looked at. I am poor—I can't afford to spend money on a doctor unless they're digging a hole for my casket.

Health Services said they didn't think my foot was broken, and told me to take these Motrin horse pills (which are four times stronger than what you can get over-the-counter) for a week. If it still hurt then, I should go get it X-rayed.

I took the pills, and when I ran out of the supply from Health Services, my foot still hurt. I decided I'd have to spend the money for the doctor, even though I'd have to bounce my bills to do so. Then, out of the blue, it hit me—TENNCARE!

I decided to call the TennCare hotline to find out what was all about. If it was going to cost me less than going to a doctor's office myself, then I would be all for it.

I picked up the phone Monday morning and called the hotline. I was put on hold for the next available operator. Twenty minutes later I was still waiting for the next available operator. Finally, I stopped waiting and hung up.

Meanwhile, my foot still hurt. I went to the store and bought more Motrin to tide me over, fearing an addiction.

Tuesday morning, I picked up the phone again. Dial TennCare, wait, wait, wait. Thirty minutes later, I hang up. I called for the third time around 12:30 p.m., waited 15 minutes and finally got to talk to somebody.

The lady on the other end of the phone was very helpful. She told me the process by which I could qualify for the program, and I qualified.

When I got to the hospital, I spent about 30 minutes filling out forms. I lost count of the questions I asked when I got to number six. Each answer I got raised more questions. As I filled out the forms, I wondered to myself, "What if I had been hit by a car and was unconscious and couldn't fill out these forms?"

After finishing with the forms, I sat in the waiting room and waited for a doctor. And sat. And sat.

Finally, I saw the doctor and got the X-rays done. Turns out there was no break. Thank goodness—I hate casts. But the process took a total of 3 1/2 hours from the time I placed the first call to the time I left the hospital.

The best thing about it was that I didn't have to pay anything to get my foot X-rayed.

If the process is this slow for serving 4 million Tennesseans, how slow is it going to be for 250 million Americans?

From my experience, I can honestly say that TennCare should be a good thing for people like me, paying their own way through school and earning enough money to buy soup or dinner. It should work for college students who are not dependents of their parents. But it doesn't.

TennCare is supposed to be a good example of what national health care under the Clinton administration will offer. If this is true, we are in trouble. If my experience is an indication of national health care to come, I'll find the money for my own doctor, thank you.

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'Condoms should be as easy to get as a copy of the *Sidelines*. But after reading some of these editorials, I strongly advocate birth control. I'd hate to see the offspring of some of these people.'

Brian Miller
Student

Sidelines

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LINES**

**HOLD FIRMLY
BETWEEN THE
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