

Wheel tax for students undecided

By JANE MIER
Sidelines Managing Editor

Apparently, MTSU students who register to vote in Rutherford County will have to buy a wheel sticker, if the county commissioners agree with Commissioner Homer Gannon.

"I see no reason why the students shouldn't buy a sticker if they register to vote and declare their residency here," he said.

Gannon said the commission

has not yet decided whether students should pay the tax or not, but added he had briefly discussed the situation with County Attorney Ellis Benson.

An act to add \$10 to the current private act which requires a \$15 wheel tax is being drafted. When the draft is passed by the commissioners it will proceed to the state General Assembly, Gannon explained. It must then return to the commission and be ratified by a two-thirds majority.

"The wheel sticker would then become law and would probably take effect by April 1," he said.

Amy Williams, registrar of the Rutherford County Election Commission, said that some students had been registering to vote, but not "too awful many."

"You have to declare residency on the voting application. Requirement for residency statewide is 20 days," Williams explained. "I'd say that students are just as

responsible as anyone else."

Associated Student Body President Kent Syler has been talking to other student government leaders in the state about this situation.

"Nashville and Knoxville have sticker taxes but Vanderbilt and UTK students do not have to pay," he said. "We're trying to find out how they are exempt. It could be that the communities appreciate their student bodies more than Rutherford County appreciates its."

"It disturbs me that anyone would let this right to vote be taxed," Syler exclaimed. "We're not only registering to vote on local matters, but we'll be voting for senators and representatives and even the president of this country soon. We'll be setting national policy."

Section I of the proposal states that "for the privilege of using public roads and highways" a special tax "for the benefits of the county" shall apply to and be

"levied upon each (motor driven) vehicle" and its driver.

Anyone caught without a sticker is liable to be charged with a misdemeanor, Gannon stated. Penalty is a fine of \$20-50, court costs and purchase of a sticker.

"It is a possibility that students may be taxed but I think it's remote. I don't think the courts will allow it in the end," Syler said. "When the first student receives a ticket, we'll act."

Sidelines

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Amidst a hustling, bustling world, this solemn figure seems unhurried as he ambles through the shadows of Peck Hall. photo by David Mudd

Cole is fired from ASB due to conflict

ASB Cabinet member Doug Cole was told by ASB President Kent Syler in a telephone conversation Sunday to turn in his office key and clean up his office.

Cole, who had been assigned to work on the fraternity row project, never did any work on fraternity row after accepting the position, Syler said.

"He hasn't been up to the office in three weeks. I don't see any reason for carrying around dead wood," Syler commented, "so I called him and asked him to turn in his key."

Cole contends he told Syler three weeks ago he did not want to work on the fraternity row project. He said he did not think fraternity row was what the majority of students wanted and said it was not the most realistic idea at this time.

Furthermore, Cole said he often goes to the ASB office in the afternoon, but that he had been sick for one week.

"Everybody knew I was sick," Cole said, "Besides, there are only two or three other cabinet members that I know of that come up to the office on a daily basis."

Syler said Cole never told him he was sick.

All requests for activity fee funds are reported

Twenty-one requests for ASB activity fee money have been turned in to the Activity Fee committee, who will make recommendations after evaluating the request.

- The Associated Student Body requested \$7,273 for the ASB secretary's salary
- Three hundred dollars was requested by the ASB for voter registration drive.
- The ASB requested \$1,000 for a social activity for the university. This request also received ASB backing.
- Student United Nations requested \$500 for an Emergency Loan Fund. They also requested \$500 for the Annual International Banquet and Talent Show and \$2,000 for a Student United Nations performance scholarship for academics.
- Gore Hall applied for \$1,000 for lobby renovation.

- Sims Hall ask for \$450 to rent video tapes of recent movies. In addition to this they requested \$350 for a scholarship for one Sims Hall resident each semester and \$1,500 for a dorm block party with Beasley, Gracey, Judd, Smith and Sims Halls.
- The Forrest Raiders applied for money for the expense of field training exercises. They did not specify an amount.
- Phi Mu Alpha music fraternity requested \$1,000 for the 1980 Phi Mu Alpha stage band show.
- The MTSU Chemical Society asked for \$200 for expenses and \$100 for chemistry expenses.
- Two hundred dollars was requested by the Student Nurse's Association for a pinning ceremony.
- The Ideas and Issues committee requested \$550 to supplement bringing speaker Peter Genkins to MTSU.
- Phi Beta Sigma requested \$750 for a program for Black History Week.
- Eight hundred dollars was requested by the MTSU Energy Council for a shuttle bus service to Nashville. This request received ASB backing by the house, senate and ASB President Kent Syler.
- Sigma Alpha Epsilon applied for \$500 for production of 1980 MTSU pageant.
- Sigma Delta Sigma requested \$150 for a Handicapped Awareness Day.

- Two thousand five hundred dollars was requested by the Fine Arts Committee to aid in the cost of bringing the Nashville Symphony to campus.

Dean of Students Paul Cantrell said activity fee committee members will be contacted and asked to put the requests in order priority-wise before a meeting is held.

"Once we compare and find out where we're at, we can start making requisitions," he said.

The Activity Fee Committee is chaired by Cantrell. Members are Francis Ginanni, English instructor; Harold Smith, Director of Student Programming; Marilyn Chance, Nursing instructor; and students Doug Cole, Susan Denny and Bobby Flowers.

Carlton has next say

By CYNDI CLINE
Sidelines Staff Writer

Robert Corlew, dean of liberal arts, refused to elaborate about the Hillman issue yesterday to an ASB senate committee investigating the tenure controversy.

However, Corlew told the committee: "As far as Ralph Hillman (speech and theatre assistant professor) is concerned, I would rather not comment about someone in the review process. Other teachers would think that I was being unfair if I gave publicity to one of them and not to the others," Corlew said. "It's in (Jack) Carlton's (vice-president of academic affairs) hands and the university committee's. Even then, the president has to approve of it."

Corlew said that Larry Lowe, speech and theatre department chairman, had assured him if Hillman had to be released, the

classes he currently teaches would not be dropped.

"The problems of declining enrollment in the liberal arts school were also discussed. 'The dean's point of view,' said Corlew, 'is to look at the staffing needs of the department, when the department has exceeded its allotted expenditures. Since the number of liberal arts has declined, I can not always recommend tenure.'

"I really can't blame people for not majoring in liberal arts because they can't find jobs in that area," he said.

Since the enrollment in classes of liberal arts has dropped, Corlew said class sizes are going to have to be increased and liberal arts teachers will have to increase their student loads.

"If students want a smaller student-teacher ratio, they

(continued on page 3)

Shuttle bus service ready to begin soon

By ZEBEE MC CULLOUGH
Sidelines Staff Writer

The MTSU Energy Council has selected Graylines as the bus line to run the proposed shuttle service from Nashville to Murfreesboro for commuting students.

Bids came in Monday, ranging from \$600 to \$1305. Graylines' bid of \$600 a week, or \$120 a day, was chosen.

Nashville commuters interested in the Carpool/Buspool plan need to meet with David Grubbs, head of the Energy Council, Friday, Feb. 8, in the UC Theatre at noon.

"Letters are going out to all the Nashville commuting students advising them of the meeting Friday. We will decide what route should we take and where the stops will be then," Grubbs said.

"We will have quite a few that will want to ride five days a week and there will be some that will ride three days a week and some two. We probably will give priority to the five day students," he continued. "We hope we can accommodate everybody. Possible routes could be Nolensville Road, Murfreesboro Road, and I-24."

The commuter bus will leave Nashville and get to the campus before 9 a.m. classes then leave campus around 3:30 or 3:45 in the afternoon, reaching Nashville about 4:45, Grubbs said.

This time will be a good time because Graylines has another commuter service to Hendersonville from Nashville that leaves at 5 p.m., he added. Also, the Hendersonville commuter bus gets to Nashville in the morning at the right time for the Nashville-Murfreesboro bus to leave.

(continued on page 3)

Inside

- Herring's book is dream come true. P.2
- MTSU is rated against UTK, Tech and Auburn. P.3



- Groundhog predicts 6 more weeks of bad weather. P.4
- Nostalgic magicians popular in all fields of entertainment. P.5
- Murphy Center is liked by opponents. P.6



Wayne Rollins, head resident of Smith Hall, met with housing director David Bragg Friday to inspect rooms damaged by leaking radiators and steam condensation. Residents began reporting unbearably high temperatures, loud, knocking noises, water leaking from radiators and soaking carpets Wednesday. Bragg blamed the situation on a faulty boiler. Many employees have recently quit the maintenance department, but repairs are scheduled as soon as possible.

photo by Eddie Braswell

New novel is department's big event

By ZEBEE MC CULLOUGH
Sidelines Staff Writer

Robert Herring's new book, "Hub," could be one of the biggest events that has happened in the English department this year.

Herring, English assistant professor, described it as a dream come true and the first printing of his book will be 25,000 more copies than the average first printing.

"I'll be working with an editor making some changes here and there," Herring said. "John Bark, the writer that addressed a group in the LRC last year, said a period of time for a novel, from its point of being accepted

to publication, is similar to a baby's conception to birth. That's similar to "Hub" — nine months to a year. That gives them time to promote and to make all the editorial changes. It's a much longer process than I ever dreamed."

"Hub," accepted by Viking Press, is an adventure novel which takes place on an island in the Mississippi River 50 miles north of Memphis, in a little town where Herring grew up as a boy.

"It's a real life story; it really covers my youth," he explained. "It's not an autobiography but I know the area."

In the book, two little boys are trapped on an island when the river rises suddenly, flooding the area. Also trapped on the island is an old man who stays with the boys. On the other side of the island roams a killer, who attempts to murder the three. Since they have no weapons, they have to outwit the killer in order to survive.

Going to class on ice can be difficult for handicapped

It's hard enough to get to class when the sidewalks are covered with ice, but it can be even harder for the physically handicapped.

"I had quite a bit of trouble because of ice on some of the ramps," said Jeff Moore, who travels with the aid of a walker. "No one minded when I asked them for help," he said, noting that one of his main problems was his feet couldn't grip the ice.

However, Wally Cantrell said, "I think I was better off than most able-bodied people. I saw a lot of people falling all over themselves when I was moving right along." Cantrell uses a wheelchair to move about.

He added there were several slippery sidewalks next to "K" Apartments and the Agriculture Building which caused problems for the handicapped. One ramp at the Old Gym was covered by

a one-fourth inch layer of ice, which made it impossible for the handicapped students to enter the building.

"It takes longer to get to class when the sidewalks are iced over, and my wheels would spin sometimes," said Bart Dodson, who also uses a wheelchair. Sometimes the ice accumulated on his wheels which made it even harder to travel.

Harold Jewell, director of maintenance, said that considering the large campus and the thickness of the ice, his men did a good job.

"The custodians for the buildings handle the walkways and steps around their buildings. The grounds crew puts salt and gravel on the streets and salts the walks, but it was too cold for the salt to work a lot of the time," he said.

Jewell added that the ramps and curb cuts had no priority over the sidewalks.

Calendar

Tuesday
HPERS: CPR Course, AM 204, 3-6 p.m.
Buchanan Players: Musical Production, DA Auditorium, 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday
Interfaith Council: Meditational Time, UC Theatre, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Personnel Office: Training

Program for New Employees, UC 305, 2-3 p.m.
Thursday
Sigma Delta Sigma: Basketball Ticket Sale, UC Basement, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Southeastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association Championships, Room G-102 & Blue Raider Room, MC, 6-9 p.m.

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Sidelights

WISE begins publishing newsletter

Women's Information Services for Education (WISE) is planning to begin the issuance of a weekly newsletter including future conferences, workshops, meetings, etc. which will be of interest to faculty, administration and students.

The newsletters will be sent to members of the Concerned Faculty and Administrative Women (CFAW), the mother organization of WISE.

A list of forthcoming events will also be available at the WISE office, room 206 of the JUB.

For more information, contact WISE at 898-2193.

Writing workshop to deal with sources

A women's Educational Equity Grant Writing Workshop will be held in Nashville March 5-7.

The workshop will deal with such items as locating sources, federal regulations, budgets, evaluation plans, management plans and others.

Upon acceptance to attend the workshop, applicants will then receive information on where the workshop will be held and given a list of possible lodgings. For more information, contact the WISE office, JUB 206.

Shuttle bus

(continued from page 1)

"We think that this will work out for Graylines and work out well for our students," he added. "And there may be some faculty there. Thirty-five faculty members commute from Nashville, so we are going to invite them to meet with the students on Friday."

The fare for riding the commuter bus will be \$1.50 per

trip or \$3.00 round trip. This is 68 cents less than a regular commuter rate from Nashville to Murfreesboro. Presently, there is only one commuter service from Nashville to Murfreesboro with Graylines. The service leaves at 6 a.m. and reaches Murfreesboro at 7:15 p.m.

There is no starting date for the bus until the Energy Council meets with the students.

MTSU rates well against other schools

By BILL TROUP

Sidelines Feature Writer

How does MTSU rate against other colleges? According to some transfer students, it rates fairly well.

Although the responses were mixed, most of the transfer students questioned, thought favorably of MTSU. The only real complaint that anyone had about the university was, as one

Hillman

(continued from page 1)

ought to look into attending a private school," he said. "Unless the taxpayer wants to pay higher taxes, the student-teacher ratio will have to increase."

Several other liberal arts majors are currently under study about the decrease in their enrollment, according to Corlew. One of the majors Corlew cited as being under study is the urban planning major of the department of political science.

"The Board of Regents requires for a major to be able to continue at least 10 graduates over a three-year period. Speech and theatre only had 14 majors — nine seniors, three juniors

student put it, "MTSU is a suitcase college; everyone leaves campus whenever the opportunity arises, and people don't make a big effort at making friends."

Patricia Rees is a senior from Nashville who spent her first year of college at the University of Tennessee. Patricia makes it very clear that she prefers MTSU to UT. "UT is very cliquish and

and two sophomores. There are no freshmen," Corlew said.

"The Board feels that departments with low enrollment are too costly to keep extra teachers and to give them tenure. Dr. Lowe and Walker conducted a study in the speech department which showed that they were over the projected cost for that department," he continued.

The last time students became involved in a tenure decision was in 1966 when a history teacher did not receive tenure, Corlew said.

"I think it's a good idea for students to get involved and to know what is happening on campus," he remarked.

it is hard to make friends, but here, I can't walk on campus without seeing people I know," she said about the social life of both campuses.

Academically, Rees feels MTSU is better because classes are personal than those at UT. She said she also likes MTSU because Murfreesboro is a cleaner city than Knoxville. "My room at UT smelled like a Purina Dog Chow factory whenever I opened a window," she commented.

"At UT I was no more than student number 244645," she added.

Other students are still attached to their old schools and are not so enthusiastic about MTSU. One of these students is Fairview senior Tim Huckaby.

Huckaby attended Tennessee Technological University for two years before he came to MTSU and he said, "Tech is a much better place to be than MTSU."

"The reason I came to MTSU in the first place is because the business department here is better," he said. "But personally I'd rather be at Tech."

He said he feels that people at MTSU do not try to socialize with each other. And, more people at Tech stay on campus over the weekends where, as he put it, "People at MTSU flee campus on weekends like rats from a sinking ship."

"Auburn was a huge, beautiful campus but not nearly as friendly as MTSU," said senior Jeff Ellis.

Ellis feels that Auburn is a superior school academically to MTSU, but the social life at Auburn doesn't compare to that of MTSU. "Auburn is mainly controlled by the Greeks," he said, "so it is very hard for an outsider to make friends."

"MTSU is small enough to get to know people, but large enough to meet someone new everyday," Ellis summarized.

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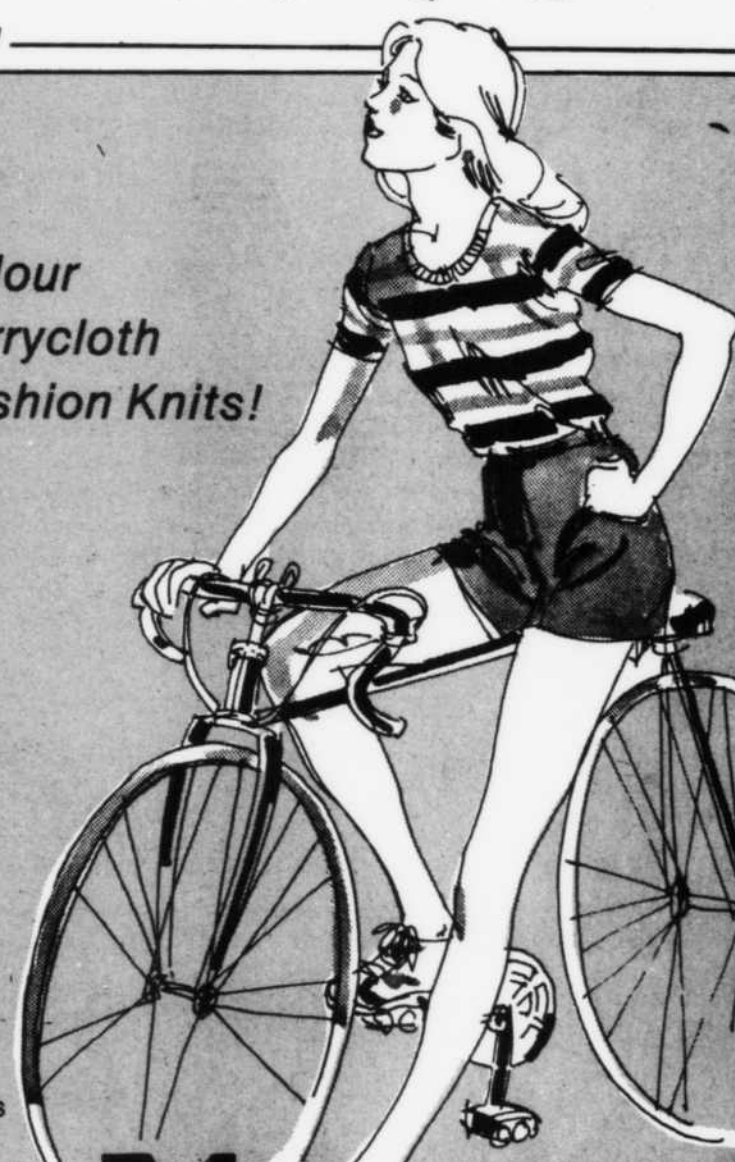
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from the editor

Issues:

*Row, registration
mentioned together*

Whether or not voter registration and fraternity row were planned in conjunction with one another, the two issues do overlap.

It has been brought to the attention of *Sidelines* that the media is responsible for throwing the fraternity row issue and voter registration together. Quite the contrary.

Although fraternity row was initiated last semester, long before voter registration began last month, one of the first steps the ASB took in establishing voter registration was to organize a group of people and teach them how to fill out registration applications. Fraternity houses were the first organizations these people went to to register.

So what was the media to think?

A Jan. 15 story in the *Daily News Journal* said "A push for establishment of a fraternity row on the MTSU campus has prompted a student voter registration campaign with a goal of 1,000 student votes in April city council elections."

Kent Syler was then quoted in the article as saying "That's a very realistic figure when we have 10,000 students here. I don't think we have to tell anybody what kind of impact that many votes can have on the elections."

Syler has often mentioned the two together which would tend to make one believe the two go hand in hand.

Sidelines has only reported the information in the manner in which it has been presented. Therefore, we believe that the ASB should have been more precise in their comments concerning the two issues.

Veggies:

*State vegetable is
ridiculous argument*

The argument as to whether corn, soybean or snapbeans should become the state vegetable is a ridiculous argument going on among Tennessee legislators currently.

The question of a state vegetable arose when West Tennessee Juanita Canada decided to design a quilt bearing the state symbols. She discovered Tennessee did not have a state vegetable.

She discussed this with her representative, Dale Kelley of Huntington, who thought her suggestion of corn would satisfy lawmakers.

However, Nashville lawmaker Rep. James McKinney argued that the soybean should have the honor of being the state vegetable.

Agriculturalists say the snap bean is Tennessee's No. 1 vegetable, and corn and soybeans are actually not vegetables at all. Corn is a grain and soybeans are legumes.

"Soybeans have been the top crop the last five years," McKinney said. "If we're going to be serious about choosing an official state vegetable, it ought to be something other than corn."

After a recent hearing, Kelley said he would consider a succotash-type bill — corn and soybeans — and the proposal was sent to the Agriculture Committee.

"I'm aware corn's not really a vegetable," Canada said. "But I think most people think of it as a vegetable. Corn is historically significant to Tennessee because early settlers and Indians used it as a monetary exchange. In that way it's more important symbolically than soybeans."

With all the current issues that could be discussed, it is rather silly for legislators to sit around and talk about vegetables. It is hard to believe that citizens of Tennessee are more concerned with choosing a state symbol than in discussing legislation more pertinent to their future.

If by chance the legislature does decide on a state vegetable, why not go all the way and choose a state fruit?

Weather:

*Groundhog foresees
6 weeks of winter*

American tradition continues to be upheld, no matter how unscientific it may be.

Saturday the groundhog saw his shadow. How many of us sighed to ourselves and said "Well, six more weeks of bad weather?"

As reasonably intelligent students, we know the little furry creature cannot predict the weather. Nonetheless, we respect the groundhog for his unquestionable role in American tradition. And bad weather or not, the groundhog will continue to be a stable symbol in changing times.

Sidelines

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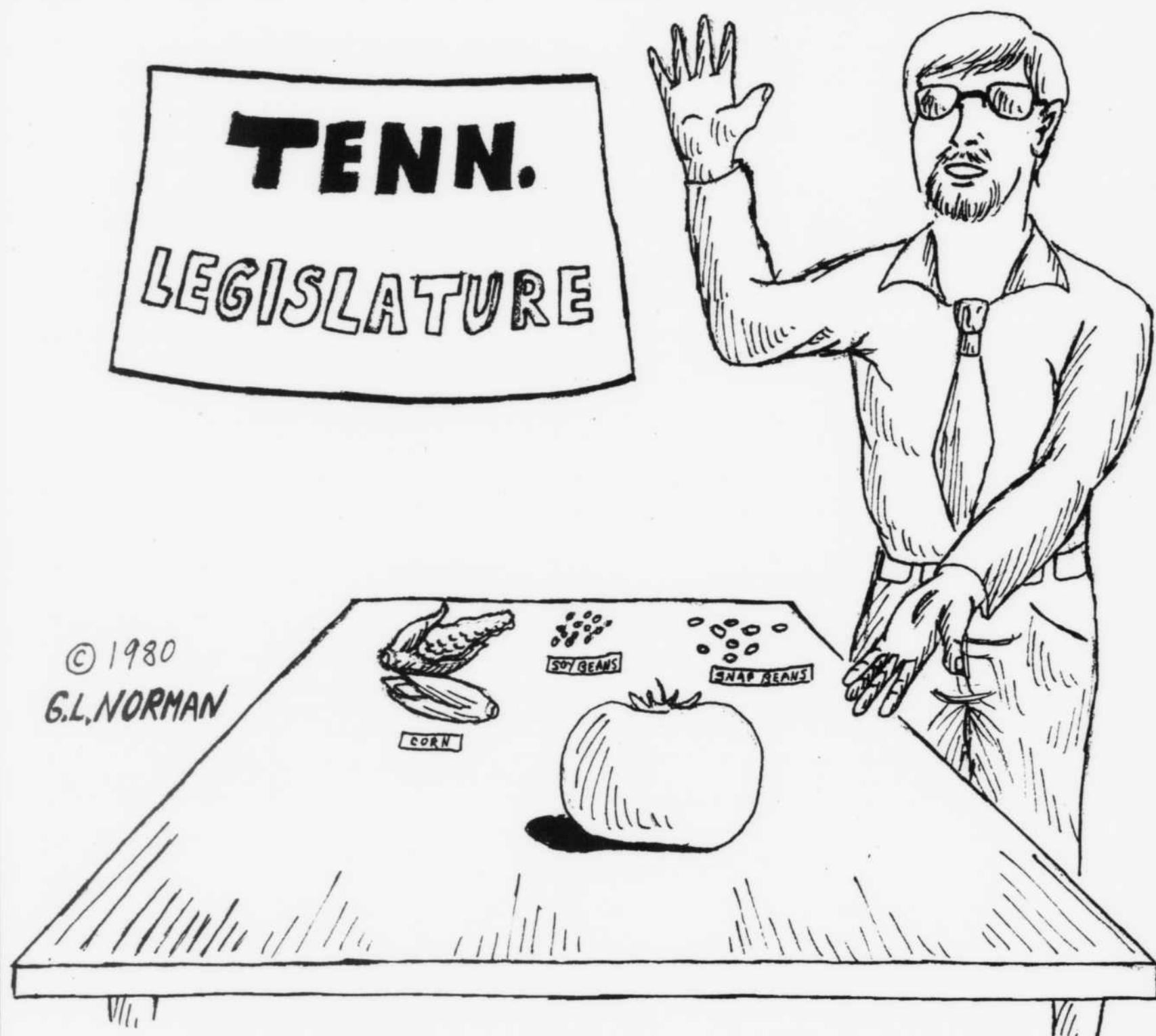
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We reserve the right to edit all copy for space, grammar and libelous content. *Sidelines* will give priority to those letters which are in disagreement with our stated opinions.

Please address all letters and other inquiries to: *Sidelines*, MTSU Box 42, or come by our newsroom on the third floor of the James Union Building.

Viewpoints

Tuesday, February 5, 1980



"How many votes for the tomato?"

the last word

by Warren Denney

Wealth, power not purposes of education

If the mood on our college campuses today is a reflection of the future mood of our nation, then we are in serious trouble.

The resurgence of the popularity of fraternities, the ridiculously fashion-conscious coed and a general student apathy are merely the topical symptoms of a new campus sickness... kind of like the warning signals for cancer.

They reflect a much deeper problem as evidenced by a recent national poll taken from this year's college freshmen. In it they were asked what they wanted from life and the top three answers given were wealth, status and power.

Now, I don't believe that the founding fathers of our universities across the land intended them to evolve into Richard Nixon Day Camps.

However, the "American way of life" has indeed had a great influence on our educational system. Why else would kids think that the key to wealth, power and status can be found in an institution of higher learning?

A university should be a place where one goes to gain knowledge, not wealth or power.

Americans have traditionally placed a great amount of importance on the attainment of an education, but at the same time have neglected its real value. Education is not merely a stepping stone to the creature

comforts, it is the way to a higher level of human understanding.

It is a maturation process that has the potential to liberate a person's intellect as well as their spirit. An unlearned man is little more than an animal and an educated man who ignores education's real value is nothing more than a trained animal.

It appears now that our campuses may be filling up with a lot of trained animals. It would be a shame if our schools became nothing more than complex vocational training centers.

But, our school systems will be destined to serve such a purpose as long as Americans believe that success can be measured only in terms of money.

that's life

by Bill Troup

Swinging bachelor's life over-rated

Being a swinging bachelor isn't all that it's cracked up to be. Believe me, I'm finding it out more and more everyday.

I had my first real "bachelor pad" when I was 18. It wasn't the most fashionable place in the world, but I thought it was comfortable, well, that is except for the fact that we had no heat or hot water and the water in the toilet bowl was prone to freezing.

I remember the first time I had a girl over for dinner. My roommate agreed to go to an all-night Clint Eastwood festival at the drive-in movies so I had the place all to myself. I couldn't cook much of a dinner on our hot plate, but I didn't think dinner would be needed — after all, I knew why this girl was coming over (and it wasn't for salmon croquets).

The girl arrived at my place right on time. When she knocked on the door I popped a couple of Certs just to be safe. Before I opened the door, I made a quick check list of everything — wine (MD 20 20),

romantic music (Led Zeppelin), soft lights (disco color organ), scattered copies of G.Q., birth control devices all in place! So I opened another button on my shirt and opened the door. Before I opened the door enough to see her, I welcomed her by saying, "Come on in, sweet lips, I promise to be gentle."

It wasn't her. It was a Moonie selling jewelry. After giving a sermon on the evils of fornication and homosexuality, he left, \$5 richer.

When my date finally arrived, two hours later, I was thoroughly depressed by giving away my last \$5, so my greeting this time was a simple, "Hi, come on in."

"Well, you want me to sit down or what?"

"Oh, sit down please, on the couch, yes."

There we sat — speechless. She held her hands between her knees and looked straight ahead. After about what seemed like an hour I said, "Well, are you a..."

"Uh," she interrupted.

"Aren't we going to eat?"

"Oh, yeah... I didn't really, uh... I mean, well, I didn't think... I mean I thought we could skip dinner and get directly to... desert." Oh, God, I thought to myself, this is it — this is going to be the night!

"Listen, creep, what did you have in mind for tonight? Just what kind of a girl do you think I am?"

"Oh, I'm so sorry, I feel like such a jerk. Please forgive me. I really have a lot of (ugh!) respect for you and I don't want you to think I would take advantage of you."

"That's okay. I just overreacted. I owe you an apology."

We sat speechless for another few moments, and I was sure she was bored and wanted to leave. Then all of a sudden, she said, "You wanna go to bed?"

I fainted. When I woke up the next day, I realized that I blew my chance. I threw up.

Perspective

Tuesday, February 5, 1980

from our readers

'Sidelines' lost in woods on issue

To the editor:

The editorial in Friday's edition, "Syler lacks all the facts on tax, fraternity row," seemed to overlook the fact that a very precious right is being abridged. The fact that our right to vote is being limited is a frightening possibility which was seemingly overlooked in the editorial.

It is even more distressing that *Sidelines* made an apparent turnaround with Friday's expression of opinion on fraternity row. Only weeks ago, the newspaper expressed its support of the proposal. Friday's editorial seems to represent a change in the paper's opinion.

In the editorial you state, "Syler should have already known about the possibility of having to pay the wheel tax." In conversations with the State Election Coordinator's office, spokesman for that office said that such an action could never have been anticipated. The purpose of the voter registration drive is not to stock the city council with "friendly" faces, but rather to more actively engage students in the political process.

Current state policy has made it almost impossible for students

to vote absentee. A time-consuming procedure must be followed to do so. State policy further encourages students to register to vote in precinct near their college or university. However, the philosophy of Rutherford County seems to be that if students vote in the manner which the state supports, then county officials can slap the students' hand by levying a tax on them.

This constitutes a poll tax.

Your argument that the campus organization row was not brought before the House and Senate is ridiculous. Not every ASB project is brought up before those bodies. Their job is to introduce legislation and to voice student concerns, not to determine the course of action adopted by the executive branch

of student government.

We see no need to seek the opinions of students who would be unaffected by the construction of the row. Organizations support it. This program may only affect those students who are members of organizations while future programs may not. However, this does not mean that every ASB program must affect everyone at once.

Several years ago, students protested the difficulty of voting procedures and lack of student participation in the democratic process. Now it would seem that *Sidelines* is protesting students having the right to vote.

It would appear that *Sidelines* can't see the forest for the trees.

Kent Syler
ASB President

Issues should be separate

To the editor:

As one of those "who jumped into the fraternity row proposal" last semester, I must express my disagreement with Friday's editorial, "Syler lacks all the facts on tax, fraternity row."

The editorial indicates an obvious lack of knowledge on the subject(s) broached in the discourse. You have apparently muddled the subject of the proposed wheel tax by throwing in the fraternity row proposal. I feel compelled to point out, Ms. Human, that there are two issues to be analyzed here — lumping them together is proving a disservice to your audience.

When first approached last semester about fraternity row I gave it my whole-hearted support — support which is just as strong today as it was originally. As an independent student, I recognize the importance of an on-campus student organizations row for the overall well-being of the campus.

However, the current voter registration drive has no direct ties to the organizations' row proposal. I understand the arguments that it must be connected in some way, but close examination of the facts would indicate otherwise.

Jeff Ellis
Box 6410

Turning television off will not help to solve the problem, but improving it can

To the editor:

Re: "The Last Word," Jan. 29 *Sidelines*.

You pompous print principle practitioner! Your words are similar to broadcasting — they're air. No problem can be solved by turning television off. What if government decided to turn off the press?

The answer is simply to work to improve television. Anything worth having is worth working for. No major effort, besides entertainment, has put anything into television, thus it is a "vast

wasteland." However, its expediency is a must for the future. Television will totally revolutionize society and two-way cable. It will become a great asset to education.

Remember print is ancient, when television is but an infant. Maturity will come its way; don't turn it off! Jump into it and be a part. As for some of the *Sidelines* writers — don't pop your clutch till your motor's running!

Name withheld by request

as i see it

by Chuck Keller

Union of comedy greats is slowly diminishing

George Burns has a hit single on the country charts. *I Wish I Was Eight-teen Again* rests in the top 40 favorites across the country. The record has been out for only six weeks but reports from sales indicate that George has a good chance of moving up to the top ten.

Why has this recording received so much attention? Most people agree that "Good Old George" isn't much as a singer, but has that certain magic of nostalgia which attracts the public.

You might say that there is a "union" of these so-called nostalgic magicians — Bob Hope, Red Skelton, Jack Benny, Bing Crosby and of course we just can not overlook George.

The deaths of Jack Benny and Bing Crosby has reduced the union's membership, and with last week's death of Jimmy Durante, the membership was reduced once again.

Durante got his start playing the piano in neighborhood honky-tonks.

After being convinced that he should sing while playing the piano, Durante was headlined in the 1928 Ziegfeld Follies where he developed the line, "Be nice to people on the way up. They're the same people you'll pass on the way down."

Equipped with a rough, scratchy voice and a rather large nose, Durante left the Follies for the lights of Broadway and the stage. The stage appearances of the "Schnozzola" soon prompted a move to the field of radio.

Television soon gave Durante the chance to be seen in hundreds of homes throughout the country and the world. And everyone knew that the evening's fun was not over until Durante closed with, "Goodnight Mrs. Calabash, wherever you are."

Most of you are probably wondering why I'm taking this brief trip down Memory Lane. To satisfy your curiosity, we must take a close look at the present.

George Carlin, Richard Pryor, Steve Martin, Martin Mull and many others are know well known because of their moments on television. Without this outlet of publicity, the above mentioned would be nothing but lowly nightclub entertainers and maybe even has-beens.

Thanks to the likes of the "union" in the early days of television, comedy is well accepted in American homes.

Specials with Bob Hope and Bing Crosby were very popular. The first was a comedian with a little talent for singing and the other was a singer with a little talent for comedy. The end product was a comedy team popular in all fields of entertainment.

So to the "union" I say on behalf of lovers of comedy throughout the world: "Thanks for the Memories," "Goodnight and may God bless" and "Goodnight, wherever you are."

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SPORTS SPOTLIGHT

by Eddie Gossage

Wrestling coach Gordon Connell has offered to cut his budget by almost a third in order to save the program.

If Connell and the wrestling team are willing to make the sacrifices they have indicated, the MTSU athletic committee should give them a chance to prove themselves.

The committee will meet Feb. 13 to discuss the possibility of dropping the program. Athletic director Charles "Bubber" Murphy proposed dropping the team at a committee meeting last week, citing inflation as the main reason for his proposal.

Connell said in last Friday's edition of *Sidelines* that he would meet with the committee and make at least three proposals in favor of retaining the program. Among those proposals, Connell is making a motion for the athletic department to cut the wrestling budget from approximately \$21,500 to \$15,000 yearly. Connell said he and the wrestlers will work to raise outside money to supplement what will be cut. The wrestling coach conservatively estimated they could raise \$10,000.

If he is willing to make that sacrifice and do the extra work he must do, the committee owes it to Connell to give him his shot.

The wrestling program has long been the "step child" of the athletic department. Since MTSU competes in NCAA's Division I-AA, the university is required to have only eight sports. Wrestling is the ninth. By Connell's own admission, it seems logical that wrestling be the first place for the department to tighten its financial belt.

Coach Murphy is stuck in between the proverbial "rock and a hard place." He has actively worked to see that the program will be successful. It is of no fault of his that the department, like most on campus, has run into economic problems.

Murphy sees wrestling as the logical cut, too. It is the only sport MTSU has that does not compete for an OVC championship. Therefore, it is considered the ninth sport.

Consider this: What if every department on campus found out that some big cutbacks may be made. In order to save their own programs, everyone offered to cut back their budget one third and worked outside to raise the remainder of the funds.

Wouldn't they think they should receive the chance?

That is what Connell is offering to do. By cutting the budget back to \$15,000 a year, Connell is cutting his program's budget by almost a third.

The members of the university's athletic committee should consider Connell's situation and the proposals he plans to make.

The members of the committee are: Barbara Haskew, chairman, Economics and Finance; Dan Scott, Chemistry and Physics; Charles Dean, English; Marion Hamilton, Elementary Education; Charles M. Murphy, athletic director; Pat Jones, women's athletic director; Lynn Haston, vice-president for administration; and students Mike Kopp and Vicki White.

In their hands rests the fate of the wrestling program. Connell deserves the opportunity. The members should consider what they would do if they were in his shoes.



This cartoon appeared in a Nov. 1976 issue of "Sidelines" in an effort to show the need for scholarship aid to MTSU wrestlers. It is now more accurate than ever as the program is fighting for its life.

Home court advantage? Not in Murphy Center

By SCOTT ADAMS

Sidelines Sports Writer

Guess you've heard the old basketball adage about a team's home court being worth at least five points a game.

Well there seems to be some question around the OVC whether the five-or-so point advantage belongs to MTSU in Murphy Center... or to the opposing team.

When asked where they liked and disliked to play the most in the OVC, players gave several responses for dislike. Eastern got a couple of votes as did Morehead, while Tech and Western got the other two votes. But, all six players that were asked where they liked to play the most said Middle Tennessee.

Of course you have to allow for the fact that Murphy Center is one of the newest and definitely the most attractive facility in the OVC. And that was one of the first things brought up by every player interviewed. But, several of the players followed that statement by saying the fans were pretty far off the floor in Murphy Center, so the crowd noise is hardly ever distracting.

When interviewing these players by phone, I identified myself only as a sportswriter for a campus newspaper in the OVC so as not to bias the answers.

Glen Napier of Morehead and Pete Abuls of Tennessee Tech, two outstanding sophomores, both said they hated the trip to Eastern Kentucky the most.

"Eastern always has a good crowd and their fans are unbelievably noisy," Abuls said. "Of course them having such a good team doesn't make it any easier to go up there either."

Napier echoed those sentiments exactly saying that ECU's fans "are downright hostile. Eastern definitely has the biggest home court advantage in the OVC," Napier said. "You can hardly hear yourself think."

And isn't that what it's all about? There's been a saying in basketball for a long time that a team's fans are the best sixth man around if they are noisy enough. But, of all the player interviewed only Dennis Pagan of Austin Peay came close to saying anything bad about the Murphy Center fans.

MTSU back in OVC race

By CAROL A. STUART

Sidelines Sports Writer

"We ain't dead yet!" head basketball coach Stanley "Ramrod" Simpson proclaimed Saturday night — and with good reason.

After trouncing Eastern Kentucky Thursday night, the Blue Raiders made their way into the midst of OVC gunfire.

OVC Standings

Murray	6-1	.857
W. Kentucky	6-1	.857
MTSU	4-3	.571
Morehead	4-3	.571
E. Kentucky	3-4	.428
Austin Peay	1-6	.142
Tenn. Tech	1-7	.125

with a 75-68 win over Morehead State here Saturday.

"Coming off of our tremendous experience Thursday, we were afraid that our guys might have some problems with coming back down to earth," Simpson said.

But apparently there were no aftereffects. MTSU started the game off like it was a matter of life and death. Only five seconds after tip-off Jerry Beck slammed one through.

The dunk, however, didn't mean that it would be MTSU's game all the way. Morehead only had the lead once in the first half, but they kept the Blue Raiders on their toes.

With less than four minutes left in the initial period, Morehead had surpassed Simpson's squad, 28-27. It was then that leadership stepped out from the wings. Senior guard

Leroy Coleman hit a short jumper to put the team ahead for good. By halftime, MTSU had pushed out to a 7-point lead, 37-30.

The second half began as though the Blue Raiders weren't satisfied. In five minutes, they held a 12-point lead over the Eagles' head and the game in their hands.

Victory almost slipped from their grasp, though. While MTSU's ball handling and shooting went cold turkey, Morehead got its act together and pulled within one point, 50-49, at the 9:50 mark.

Freshman Edward "Pancakes" Perry, who has been a catalyst for the Blue Raiders thus far, decided he didn't like what was going on. He quickly hit a jumper from the foul line and then added two free throws to keep the Eagles out of reach.

Coleman, who was elected team captain last week, also came through in the clutch again. He bucketed nine points in the last nine minutes of the game to shut out all hopes of Coach Wayne Martin's team.

MTSU had four players in double figures. Coleman, averaging over 15 points a game, chipped in 19. Jerry Beck canned 17. Pancakes Perry scored 15, and Chris Harris added 13. Charlie Clay and Eddie Childress led the Eagles' scoring with 17 points each.

With the 75-68 win, MTSU (4-3 in the OVC) not only avenged an earlier last-second loss in Morehead, but moved into a tie with the Eagles for third place.

Lady Raiders continue winning

By SCOTT ADAMS

Sidelines Sports Writer

MTSU's, 63-49 win over UT-Martin in Murphy Center on Saturday night might not look like too much of a massacre when you see the score in the books. But let me tell you, the Lady Raiders had to be happy to get back to their dressing room at the end of the contest.

Because, the matchup would have to be likened to that of, say a .357 Magnum against a dime store popgun, or maybe even better, a 12 gauge versus a BB gun.

In other words, no contest.

The Lady Raiders, who chalked up their eleventh win in

a row, blasted out to a quick 17-0 lead, hardly allowing UTM to get the ball into their front court.

And just when the Murphy Center crowd of about 1,000 started to wonder if the game would go down in the record book as one of the few shutouts in college history, Amy Underwood hit a jumper to put the Lady Raiders on the board with 10:29 to play in the half.

MTSU's Ily Portik, who had 18 first half points, answered with three straight buckets, and the Lady Raiders were off and roaring again.

The Lady Raiders' sticky full-court press was the key in the

first half, as it has been ever since head coach Larry Inman started using it exclusively midway through the year.

UTM retreated to the dressing room at the half down 37-14, after committing 15 turnovers (10 of those came on steals by MTSU) and only hitting six of 27 shots from the field for 22 percent.

"A game like this gave our other players a lot of game experience, and it was good to see us get somebody down and really put them away," Inman said.

Inman started the regulars in the second stanza, but pulled

the season will hold."

The Blue Raiders go on the road this week with a Thursday night game against Tennessee Tech and a Saturday night game in Akron. Only one home game, against Murray State on Valentine's Day, remains on the schedule.

them when the lead got to 30 with a little under 15 minutes to go. The second stringers played the rest of the game, except for about 1:18 seconds, when the "first group" went back in after the lead dwindled to 14.

Portik led all scorers with 22 followed by Wright and Coleman with 10 apiece. Coleman also jerked down 14 rebounds to lead both teams.

In last night's action, MTSU beat Tennessee State for the second time this year, 69-55. MTSU had a 48-13 lead at halftime, but emptied the bench to give the subs some valuable playing time. Portik led the team with 18 points.

but nobody seems interested," Norris said.

With only one home game remaining, the likelihood of student interest picking up is

pretty dim. But if the coaching staff can keep bringing players to MTSU the caliber of Jerry Beck, Leroy Coleman, Chris Harris, etc., then the future can only get brighter.

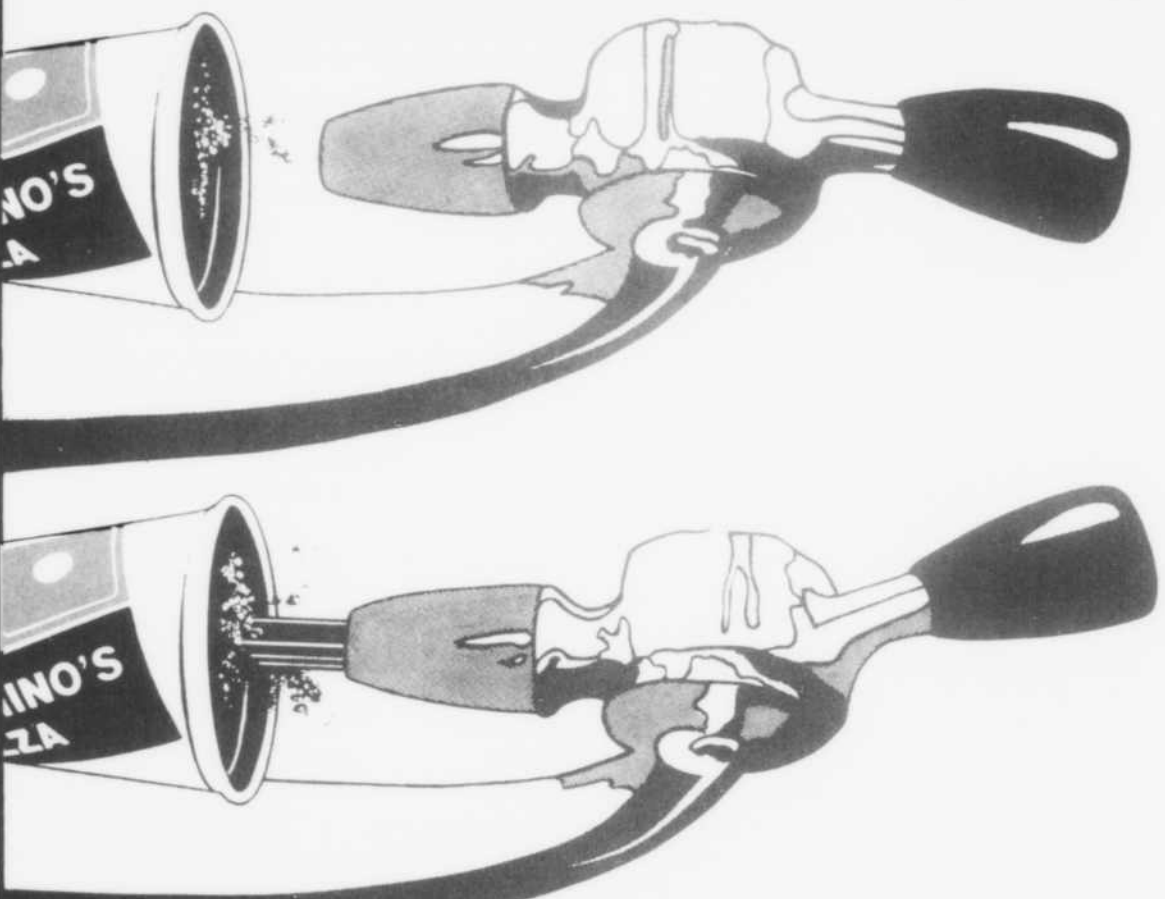


Murphy Center

photo by Don Harris

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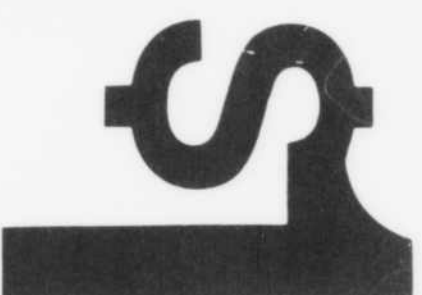
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