


SIDE LINES

Middle Tennessee State University
UNION
Wednesday, August 3, 1994



They're HEERE!!!
New students invade campus!

In Sidelines

Lee Fowler speaks!

Part I of our EXCLUSIVE interview with MTSU's new Athletic Director

INSIDELINES

SIDE LINES

Departments

Our Duty to the State

MTSU students enter the space age with a solar car. College students are using more condoms.

Highlights from MTSU history.



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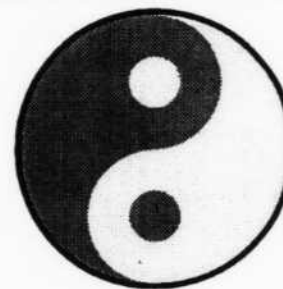
Features

Just what the heck is going on with all the new people? Mike Reed explains the ins and outs of the Customs program. Robin Dixon picks up the pace by reviewing "Speed."

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Sports & Leisure

Lee Fowler, MTSU's new athletic director, talks with Jessica Clayborn about the future of MTSU sports.



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On the Cover

Entering freshmen Debbie Foster and Christa Knipfer (in front l to r) along with their mothers Billie Foster and Debbie Knipfer leave the JUB to take part in the Customs festivities. Charles Hogue caught them on the run.

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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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Yeeeeeeehaaaaaaah!

ummer is well under way and we're already behind in our studies. It's Session IV: the last hurrah, the final chapter in what has otherwise been a pleasant summer.

We noticed the Betas had a party last week that at several points during the evening posed a traffic hazard. It takes a great deal of organization to draw that kind of crowd without being

number of people who trek out to Cannonsburgh to get their picture taken next to the world's largest wooden bucket. Granted, it's a huge bucket. A bucket whose legend has spread to the far reaches of the county. We understand that it's gotten to be a bit of a tradition among the local youth to drag unsuspecting youngsters out there in the middle of the night and have a big laugh at the city's

and located under a sort of pioneer-style pagoda. The constant shade makes snapshots difficult to take. Tourists hoping for a creative holiday photo of the family next to a really big bucket end up with double prints of faceless people standing in the shadows of a big wooden thing.

The new students are touring around the campus now. If you're confused, they're the ones with the name tags from such exotic, faraway places as China and Egypt, although their

accents place them in Smyrna or Chapel Hill.

But we kid the new students. Elevator passes are available by sending \$3.50 (check, money order, cash or RaiderFunds) to *Sidelines* Elevator Pass, Box 42. Haha.

The new students seem to be obsessed with time management. We talked to a few of them about joining

program, how much time will I need to set aside to work for the paper?"

We just wanted to say "calm down." It's only college. There will be plenty of time to work yourself to death after you graduate in six or seven years.

Speaking of six or seven years, we think it's going to take at least that long for federal courts to decide if

Metro Nashville can legally arrest strippers for taking off their clothes. Without

vigilance, it could happen here.

Finally, we at *Sidelines* would like to congratulate *Spy* magazine for finding the funds to start production again.

Saaaaalute.

The System Works

By Mike Reed

dead banjo player with wooden teeth.

Congratulations, Beta Theta Pi, you get a gold star.

Speaking of Uncle Dave Macon Days, we continue to be impressed at the

expense.

"That's a big bucket," is the most the average joe can say in the form of comment.

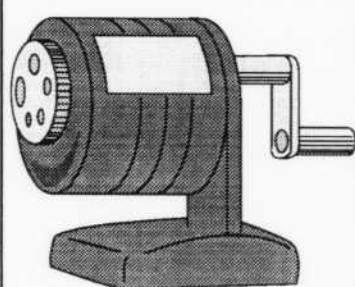
The ironic part is that the bucket is boarded over to keep out drunken teens

Letters to Sidelines

Dear Editor:

In response to last week's "Greek Corner" (*Sidelines*, July 6, 1994), I have a great idea for promoting membership in the Greek social organizations. I suggest that deans Holly Lentz, Paul Cantrell and Barbara Haskew write (in large print) the names of their beloved priorities/fraternities on every tabletop in the bottom floor of the library.

Sincerely,
Doug Rowe
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INDUSTRIAL STUDIES PROGRAM ENTERS SOLAR-POWERED RACE

BUT THEY NEED \$40,000 TO BUILD THE CAR

The industrial studies program at MTSU has been accepted as a contestant in Sunrayce '95, an auto race designed to emphasize the practicality and importance of solar energy.

There's only one problem—the program must raise at least \$40,000 from corporate sponsors for construction of the race car, named the SOLARAIDER.

"It was a very joyous moment when we got the news that we had been accepted, but also a little scary because we have to raise so much money," said Basavapatna Sridhara, MTSU assistant professor of industrial studies and faculty adviser for the project.

MTSU is the only school from the state of Tennessee invited to compete in the event.

"If we can raise some of the funds by the end of July, we can start working on the car," Sridhara said. "We really should finish it by January so we can spend three months testing it." The project team will need the extra time before the race to correct flaws in the car and make final preparations for the race.

Sunrayce gives hands-on experience to young engineers who will enter the work force and contribute to the strength and competitiveness of the U.S. auto industry. The race is a showcase for advances in electric vehicle technology and energy-efficient transportation. It is held every other year.

Sunrayce '95 will be run over nine days, beginning June 20, 1995, from the Indianapolis Motor Speedway and finishing at the U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Golden, Colorado. The race consists of

30 seeded teams and 10 unseeded teams which must qualify for the race. MTSU will be one of the 32 teams attempting to qualify for one of the 10 unseeded spots.

"This is a prime opportunity for industry in this area to play a part in promoting the education of these students who will one day comprise their work force," said Susan Holmes, director of Corporate and Foundation Relations. "We would be remiss if we didn't invite them to participate in this venture."

Holmes said that one way corporate sponsors can see a benefit from their sponsorship is from having their corporate logos stickered on the side of the car, similar to how sponsors are recognized in auto racing.

"Having corporate investment also helps us get the message out that there is a lot going on here," Holmes said.

"The biggest thing has to be the benefit to the students," said Richard Gould, chairman of the industrial studies department. "The students are not unfamiliar with automobiles, but the application with a solar-powered car adds a whole new dimension. This will make use of the things they know, but it will also expand their horizons."

"This is an opportunity for students to apply their industrial studies training in a team concept toward a product," said Earl Keese, dean of the College of Basic and Applied Sciences. "It will also mean tremendous publicity to the university."

Corporations wishing to invest in MTSU's Sunrayce program may contact Susan Holmes at 898-5818.



photo by Charles Hogue

SUMMER FUN?: MTSU senior Suzanne Fox studies for her Federal Tax class near Rutledge Hall. Summer Session IV classes began last Thursday and last through August 4.

HIGHLIGHTS IN MTSU HISTORY:

AUGUST 6, 1975

The husband was born to be the conqueror, and he should make all the decisions in the home, according to Dee Ratcliff, an instructor for the antifeminist organization Total Woman, Inc.

Ratcliff, addressing a seminar of 30 Murfreesboro women last weekend, said it is better to have a wrong decision by the head of the house than a right decision by the wife. A wife can say she disagrees with the husband's decision, but must let his decision stand.

Total Woman, Inc., organized five years ago by Marabel Morgan, author of the book "The Total Woman," teaches that a wife finds complete happiness only when she is submissive to her husband. A man's wishes should always get top priority, Ratcliff

explained.

According to Ratcliff, a woman—comprised of a body, a soul and a spirit—cannot be a total woman unless she has a firm relationship with God.

First, a woman must accept her husband for what he is. Secondly, a wife must admire her husband's body, intellect and accomplishments. The third step is for the wife to adapt to her husband's life. Finally, the wife must be appreciative of her husband's contributions and should compliment him in front of others.

"In the Bible it is written that a wife is to submit herself to the husband," Ratcliff said. "We don't believe there is a time when the man should adapt to the wife's life."

WMOT AWARDS SCHOLARSHIP TO WOOD

WMOT-FM 89.5, MTSU's on-campus National Public Radio station, has awarded its annual scholarship to Greg Wood, a senior electronic media management major. Wood has worked at the station since enrolling at MTSU.

"My education and previous experience in radio have paid off," Wood said in response to receiving the scholarship. "I'm working with a fine staff and facilities at WMOT."

Wood hopes to graduate this summer and hopes to find a job in a medium-sized market for radio or TV. He hopes to eventually work in station management.

The WMOT scholarship was created in 1992 through funding from private sources and government grants, according to Laura McComb, public relations director at WMOT. Students applying for the scholarship must be a full-time student, a broadcast major and work at the station.

"The scholarship is designated to contribute to the education of bright, energetic student broadcasters," said John High, WMOT station manager.

The scholarship is worth \$2000, and is awarded for tuition purposes through the MTSU Foundation.

"With Greg's proven ability and talent through his work at WMOT, I have no doubt that he will accomplish his career goals," High said. "I'm proud that in some small way we have contributed to his education and experience in these pursuits."

CONDOMS THE NUMBER ONE CHOICE OF COLLEGE STUDENTS HAVING SEX

COLLEGE PRESS SERVICE

The birth control method of choice on U.S. college campuses is the condom, according to a recent national survey.

Two of three sexually active students, or 64 percent, report using male condoms as the preferred method to prevent contraception, while close to half, or 48 percent, say they use birth control pills.

The results are good news to some AIDS education activists, who say the high percentage of college students who report using condoms could indicate that students are taking action to prevent transmission of the deadly HIV virus and other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).

"Intuitively, it seems encouraging that two out of three sexually active college

students say they use condoms, if they use them in a consistent and correct fashion," says Peggy Clarke, president of the American Social Health Organization in Research Triangle Park, N.C.

"Public education efforts at the national, state and local levels have taught students they are not invulnerable to HIV," says Robin Hatzianis, director of communications for the Washington-based Advocates for Youth. "College kids today are beneficiaries of that."

The study correlates with other national surveys that have shown condom use has been on the increase annually among sexually active teen-agers. However, Clarke points out that 36 percent of sexually active teens surveyed

probably aren't using condoms, which opens them to risk of sexually transmitted diseases. In addition, the survey reported that 40 percent of sexually active college students said they have had sex within the past year without benefit of any birth control.

"The general consensus among AIDS awareness educators is the message of prevention has gotten out," says Cynthia Launchbaugh, director of member programs and services with the American College Health Association in Baltimore. "However, while young people are aware, it doesn't mean they're always practicing safe sex."

Overall, the survey also reveals that two in every three college students are

sexually active. The likelihood of sexual activity also seems to increase as students progress through their four years of college. By senior year, 76 percent of students reported having sex, compared to half of all freshmen.

Meanwhile, an overwhelming majority of students, 86 percent, also say they believe birth control is a shared responsibility. Yet despite this belief in shared responsibility, only three in ten sexually active college students report discussing birth control with their partner often.

"This is not that different from the rest of our culture," Clarke says. "People find sex a difficult thing to talk about."

The Greek Corner

TINA DENISE HARVEY CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Fraternities hold summer parties

Beta Theta Pi, Kappa Sigma, Sigma Alpha Epsilon and Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternities held their summer parties over the weekend.

According to attendee Sara MacElhaney, "there was a good turnout at all the parties. Summer parties are cool because you get to see people you haven't seen in a couple of months."

Beta Theta Pi...

Approximately 130 people attended the Betas' party, located at 304 E. Lytle St., Saturday night. The party began around 8 p.m. and lasted until 2:30 a.m.

Anyone was allowed to attend the party. However, "no one under 21 was allowed to drink on the premises," said Stephen Henkel, Beta member. At least three fraternity members were assigned to be designated drivers for the night, and snack food and soft drinks were available upon request for all attendees, according to Henkel.

"We listened to music and danced," Henkel said. "It was great seeing people as they arrived. It was the first time I had seen some of the brothers all summer."

Kappa Sigma...

Peppermint Sun, a Memphis band, was featured at the Kappa Sigma house at 1003 Maple St.

Between 200 and 250 people partied at the Kappa Sigma house Saturday night, according to Joey Prather, Kappa Sigma member.

"The guys in the band were real crowd pleasers," Prather said. "They played an extra two hours."

People began arriving at the fraternity house around 7:30 p.m. The party ended around 4 a.m., according to Prather.

"I've been here five years and this was the best summer party I've ever been to," Prather said.

Sigma Alpha Epsilon...

A "Calcutta Party" at the Garden Plaza Hotel Friday night began the SAE's summer party

weekend. The party was held to auction off brothers and alumni who were participating in a golf tournament held Saturday morning.

All money raised went to the SAE Alumni Association, SAE Housing Corporation and charity, according to Milburn Sender, SAE member.

After the golf tournament held at Old Fort Golf Course, the alumni of SAE provided a barbecue at their fraternity house, at 1111 N. Maple St., at 6 p.m.

By the end of the night, approximately 350 to 400 people visited the SAE house barbecue, according to Sender.

A guest list was used to help monitor partygoers and to "minimize any potential problems," Sender said.

For safety precautions, a fence was placed around the front yard, security was hired and no bottles were allowed inside the party.

"It was great seeing everyone have a good time," Sender said.

Sigma Phi Epsilon...

The brothers and alumni of Sigma Phi Epsilon began their weekend playing golf Friday night at Indian Hills.

Attendees made use of the pool and volleyball court at the Sig Ep house and also played softball and basketball, according to Jonathan Reeves, Sig Ep member. A disc jockey was hired for entertainment.

"This was the most fun I've had all summer," Reeves said. "About 250 people showed up."

Designated drivers were available if needed.

Final words, but fun isn't over...

"We have summer parties to designate a day where alumni and active brothers have a chance to see each other and have a good time," Henkel said.

The members of Tau Kappa Epsilon will hold their summer party this Saturday at their house. Sigma Chi will hold theirs Saturday, July 23.

Kappa Delta prepares for Fall Rush

The Delta Pi chapter of Kappa Delta sorority held their second Rush Workshop of the summer over the weekend to prepare for Sorority Rush in the fall.

"This is basically a time for the members to build props and practice skits and songs that will be presented to girls going through rush in the fall," said Lori Shelton, president of Kappa Delta.

The workshop was held Friday, Saturday and Sunday in Cummings Hall dorm.

"We worked about 20 hours over the weekend," Shelton said. "We want to be prepared for Rush."

Every member of the chapter was required to attend, according to Shelton.

"We polished skits and songs, but the workshop is also a time to spend quality time with the sisters," said Stacey Martin, Kappa Delta member.

Sorority Rush is scheduled for Aug. 24 through Aug. 29.

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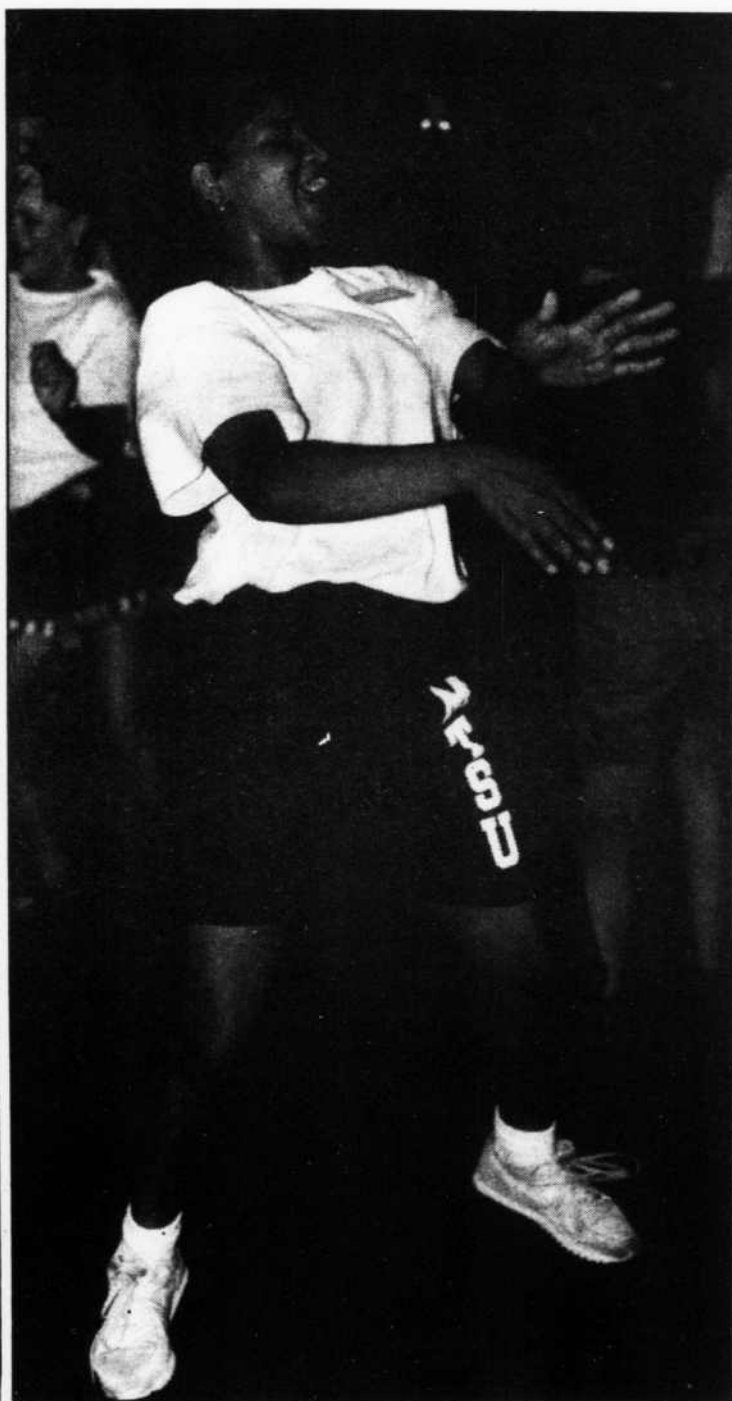
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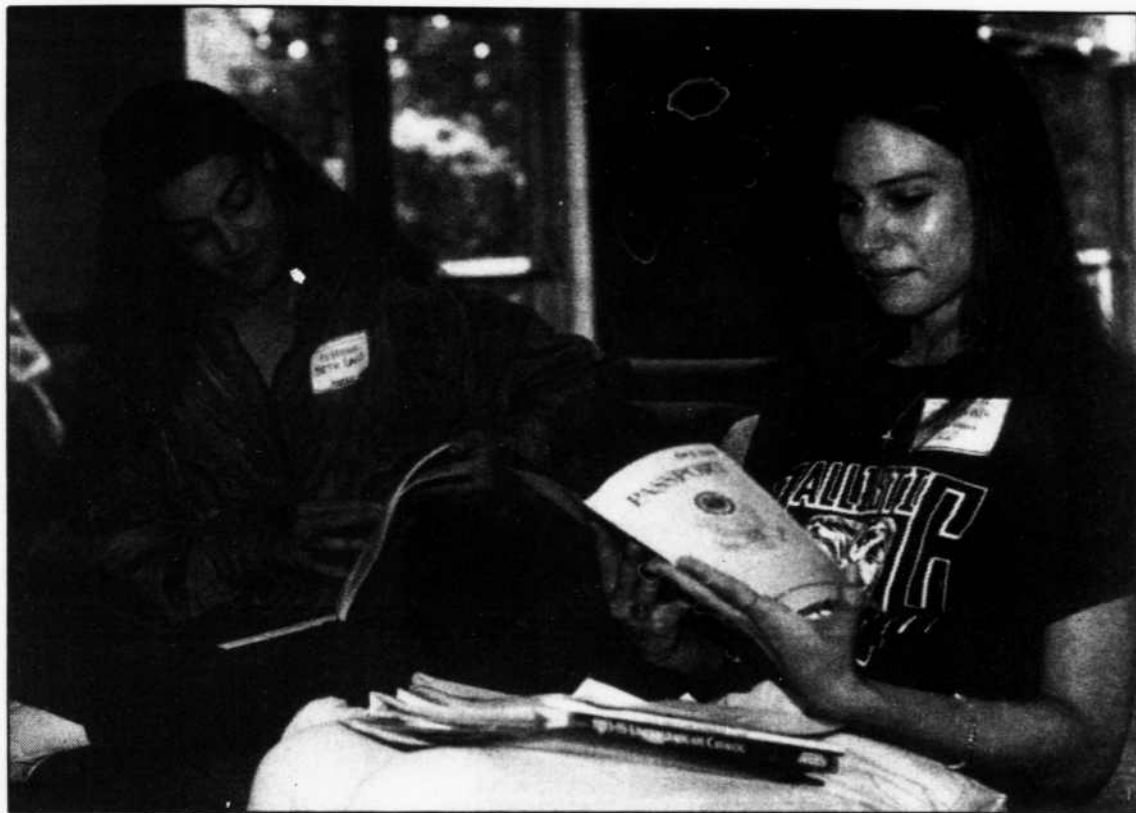
They're Heeeere!

Customs gears up
to welcome
the new batch

By Mike Reed
Photos by Charles Hogue



YOU SHOULD BE DANCIN': Student Orientation Ambassador Estella Reed dances into the night at the Customs student get-together Monday night at the James Union Building.



MAKING TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS: Beth Davis and Jenny Shipps from Smyrna look over their orientation materials before their next "Port of Call" session.

MTSU can be a mystifying place for the uninitiated. The buildings have names like Quill E. Cope, James Union and Andrew Todd that don't mean much to the average person and don't hint as to the activities inside.

The new student is thrust into a world of strange places, people and customs. The transition is traumatic for parents and students alike. The next two weeks have been set aside to ease the tension of this transition through the Customs program.

Customs is an orientation process headed by Associate Dean of Students Holly Lentz.

"We try to teach the the new students college terminology, how to read a schedule book and how this differs from high school," she says. "The transfer students usually pick up on this a little quicker because they're more familiar with these things."

For new students, Customs is a two-day process in which they're split into groups with national designations (England, Italy, Ivory Coast, etc...). Student orientation ambassadors (SOAs) give guided tours of the campus, answer questions concerning anything from housing to banking, and generally act as a friendly host to the new students and their parents.

"The parents are invited, too," says Lentz, "though they follow a slightly different agenda."

And follow the agenda they must. The two days are filled with activities, banquets,

presentations, workshops, parties and tests.

"A lot of people think that it's just a campus tour and registering for classes, but it's a lot more than that," says Lentz. "They go through panel discussions on date rape, safety and health issues."

The afternoon is spent meeting with deans from the different colleges.

Academic advisers are assigned and questions concerning curriculum are answered.

During the late afternoon, students explore the upper floor of the KUC where campus organizations, departments and groups have set up presentations aimed at attracting the new students into their particular fold. You attend a "port of call" (minority affairs, financial aid, military science, campus religious groups, etc...), and you get a stamp for your "passport."

"They have to get two stamps to register for classes," says Will Rogers, a first-year SOA. "It's just a way to let them know

"A lot of people think that it's just a campus tour and registering for classes, but it's a lot more than that."

Holly Lentz, associate dean of students

what's going on."

That evening, President James Walker addresses the new students and their families at a banquet in the Tennessee Room. This is followed by a "student get-together" in which the new students are encouraged to "let their hair down."

The second day is mostly spent registering for classes.

So far 938 students have gone through the program, and that's only the first two sessions. There are six more to go.

"We have people signing up all the time," says Lentz. "It's impossible to say

how many will go through."

Customs offers opportunities for returning students to make a little money as well.

"There are about 20 slots for SOAs," says Rogers. "A lot of people don't realize that these jobs exist. You have to fill out an application and then Dean Lentz interviews you and she makes the decisions concerning who gets hired."

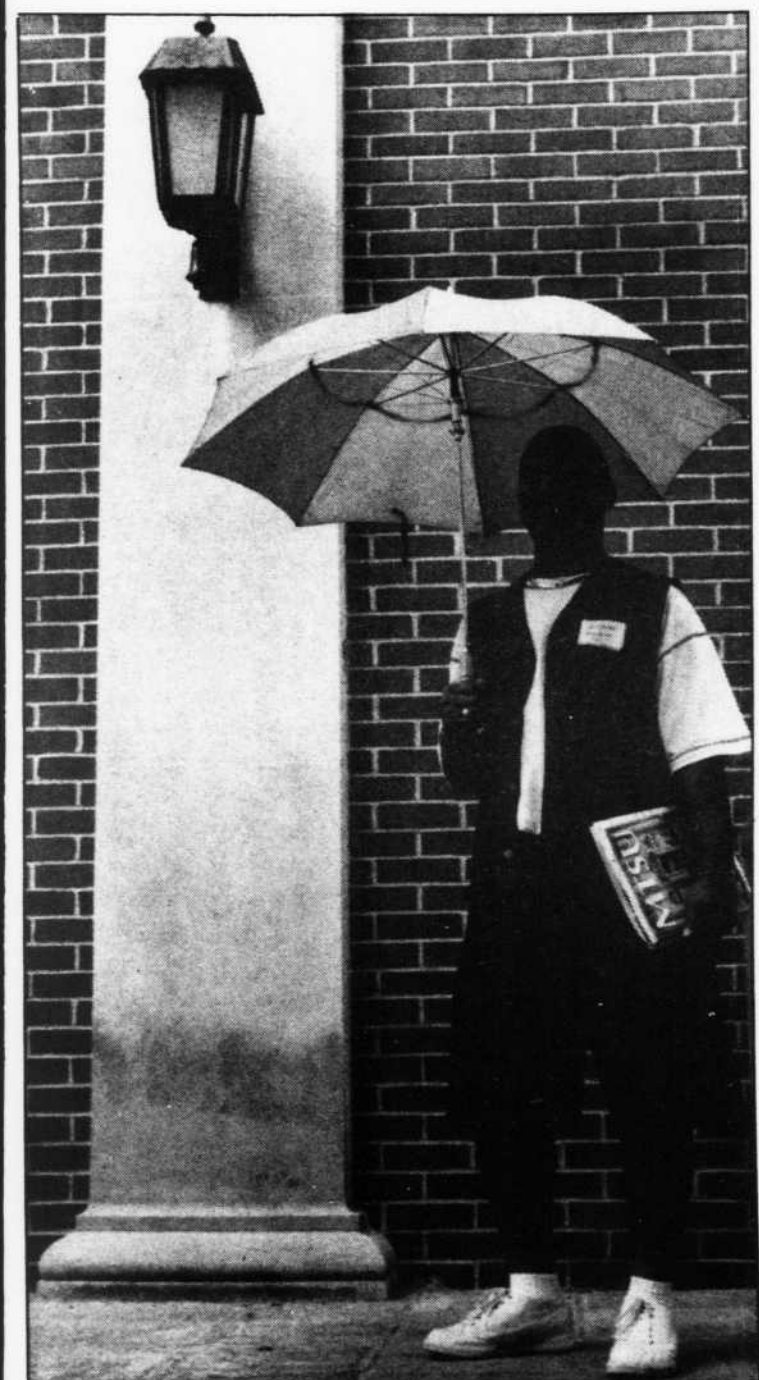
Drew Bergman, president of the Student Government Association, serves as an SOA.

"It's not much money, but that's all right," he says. "It's a lot of work. We'll be here until 11:00."

Fancy presentations and guided tours aside, Customs goes a long way to ease students into college life. That's a transition that isn't easy to make or to try and ease. The Customs information packet alone has enough brochures and pamphlets inside to confuse even the expert student who has spent years weaving in and out of the MTSU system.

The Customs program serves as a first impression of life at MTSU for incoming students. The information they're presented with is useful, helpful and honest. There are no negatives for students to fixate on or worry about. It presents MTSU in the best possible light—a happy place where students are willing to answer questions and point out objects of interest.

One hopes the new students remember that impression and keep it with them when the pressures of finals roll around.



LET AN UMBRELLA BE YOUR SMILE : Entering freshman Monty Bell waits out the rain before heading to his next session.

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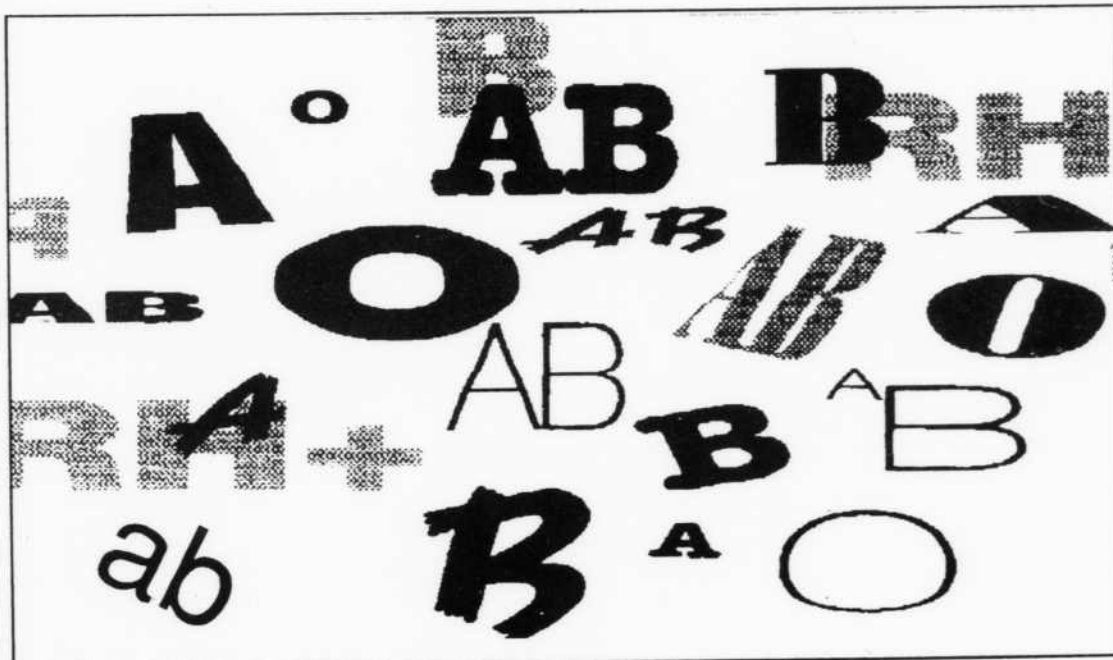
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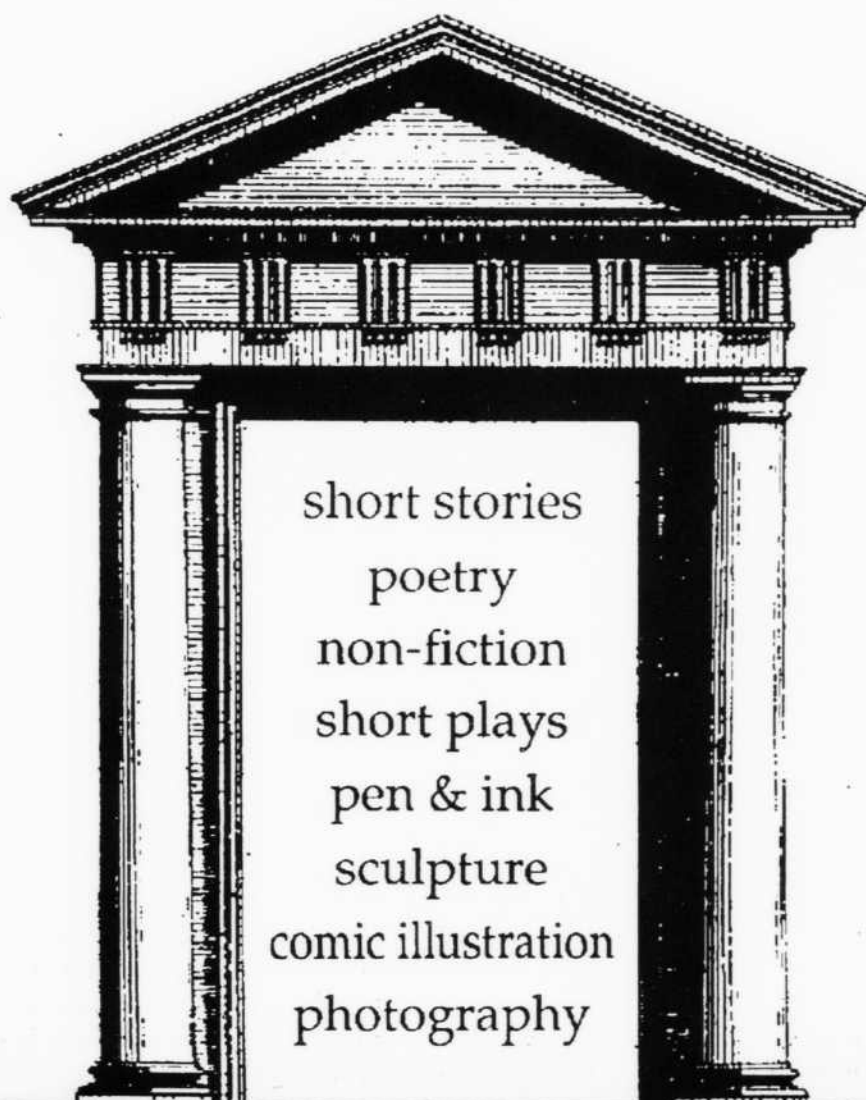
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- MOVIE REVIEW -

LIVIN' UP TO THE BLURBS: WHEN IN DOUBT, INCREASE THE '*speed*'

BY ROBIN DIXON
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

I've always hated those stupid quotes film companies paste on movie ads. Most likely they're from reviewers you've never heard of in your life and are simply ridiculous. If you've ever read something like, "It's the feel-good movie of the summer," or "It's the seat-of-your-pants, roller-coasting, action-adventure movie of the year," then you are definitely not alone. The worse a movie is, it seems, the more quotes you see on the ad.

Every once in a while, however, you catch a movie that actually lives up to its blurbs.

"Speed" opens with a very disgruntled Howard Payne (Dennis Hopper) setting a bomb to an express elevator. Unless the city of Los Angeles gives him what he wants, \$2 million in "non-sequential, unmarked" bills, he'll blow the emergency brakes on the elevator—killing the dozen or so people trapped inside.

L.A.P.D. S.W.A.T. team members Jack Traven (Keanu Reeves) and his older, smarter partner Harry (Jeff Daniels) outwit Payne by hooking the elevator to a crane (which is conveniently on top of the building). After freeing the would-be-victims, Jack and Harry realize the bomber must be in the building somewhere. When the two finally discover Payne, a bomb explodes and he is presumed dead.

As the world sighs with relief and Jack and Harry receive medals of commendation, Payne is indeed alive and very pissed off. The next day a bus blows up in Jack's face while a nearby pay phone rings uncontrollably. Answering the phone, he discovers that Payne bombed the bus and has set another bomb to a second bus. When the bus exceeds 50 mph the bomb is engaged, and if it goes below 50 mph it will explode. This time, Payne wants \$3.6 million (in "non-sequential" bills, no doubt).

Jack immediately chases after the bus and boards it. With 20 or so scared passengers and Annie (Sandra Bullock) behind the wheel—she had her license revoked for speeding—Jack has to outwit Payne again, or everyone on the bus dies.

It's no small coincidence that "Speed" seems a lot like another action movie from some years ago—"Die Hard." Most of the action in both movies takes place in extremely limited spaces (buses, buildings, elevator shafts, etc.), yet they look larger-than-life onscreen. Both movies concentrate on ordinary people in extraordinary circumstances and have Jan De Bont in common. De Bont was the cinematographer in "Die Hard," and with "Speed" he makes his directorial debut.

It seems rather odd to make a movie based on a single idea, but De Bont has made it work twice in a row. I can almost see a writer pitching an idea about 20 people trapped on a bus and De Bont saying something like, "Let's run with it!"

If a "one-idea" movie seems odd, then screenwriter Graham Yost's past work will really get you. He has written for The Encyclopedia Britannica, Nickelodeon's "Hey Dude" and Fox's now-defunct "Herman's Head." From "Herman's Head" to "Speed," go figure.

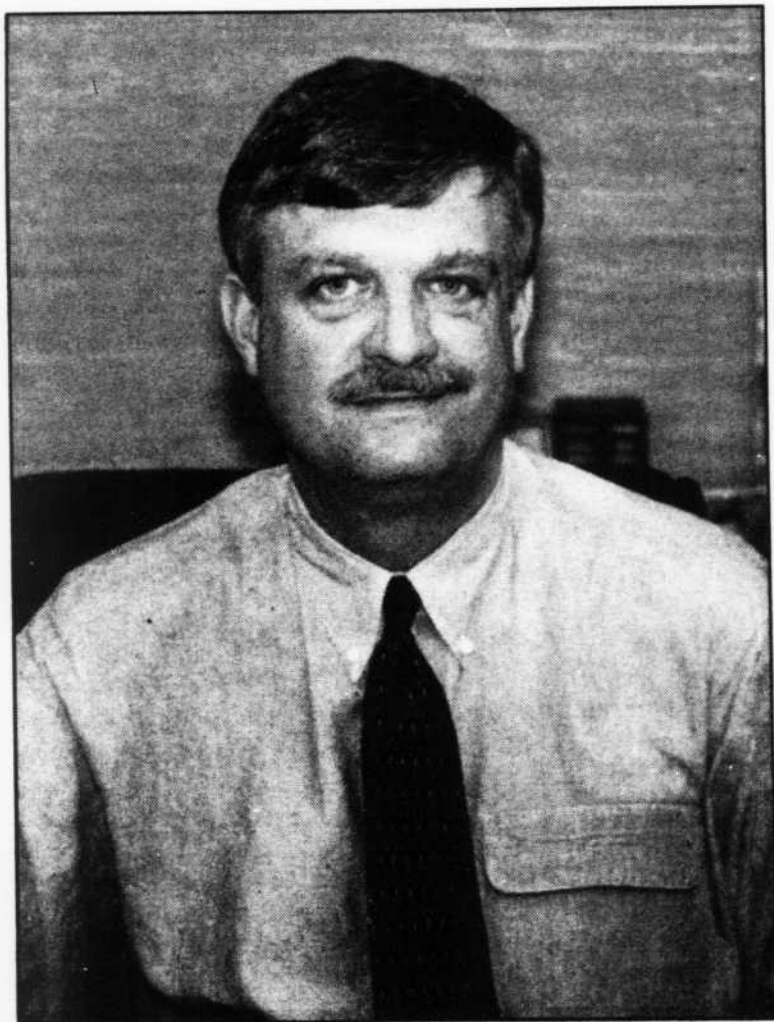
One of the few differences between "Speed" and "Die Hard" is the caliber of acting. Keanu Reeves' character is supposed to be the know-it-all, in-your-face bad-ass like Bruce Willis was in "Die Hard," but he isn't. Jack rushes into situations without thinking them through, he doesn't have the sense God gave a 3-year-old and we actually see him break down onscreen. You won't ever see Arnold, Sly or Bruce on the verge of tears, not on film anyway. To put it bluntly, he's vulnerable. Sandra Bullock's character, on the other hand, takes charge of the situation and provides the only humor in the movie. There's no telling how much "Die Hard" would have improved if Bonnie Bedella had been give a script similar to Bullock's.

What sets "Speed" apart from other action movies is that it stays true to its genre. It doesn't feel the need to throw in complicated plot twists, unnecessary violence or naked bodies glistening in the sun. It's the seat-of-your-pants, roller-coasting, action-adventure movie of the year.

The Road to MTSU

The people have changed but the concept has stayed the same

BY JESSICA DENISE CLAYBORN SPORTS EDITOR



LEE FOWLER

On June 13, Lee Fowler began his tenure as MTSU's athletic director. Fowler, 42, was the associate athletic director at the University of Memphis (formerly Memphis State University) before taking the MTSU post vacated by John Stanford, who retired this past spring.

Fowler's accomplishments in college academics and athletics are numerous. He earned his bachelor's degree in history at Vanderbilt in 1974, where he also played basketball as an undergraduate. He later earned his master of science in fitness and wellness and athletic administration at Memphis State University in 1986, where he also held positions of assistant basketball coach and assistant athletic director.

Fowler is by no means a stranger to middle Tennessee. Besides attending Vanderbilt, he grew up in Columbia, Tenn. He feels a return to middle Tennessee will be a pleasant experience for himself, his wife Carol, and his three daughters: Ashley, 16, Kristin, 9, and Carlee, 4.

I recently was able to talk

to Fowler about his new job. "The Road to MTSU" is Part One of the interview, focusing on the background of Lee Fowler and the things he accomplished prior to accepting the MTSU position.

JC: When did you first become interested in sports? For example, did you play sports as a child?

LF: Yes, I played basketball and golf ... at Columbia Central [High School].

JC: You played college basketball at Vanderbilt in the 1970s. Do you see a change in the game? Have the rules changed or the players changed since then?

LF: Well, I think that the biggest change is the players are a lot more talented than they were back then. The game has come a long way as far as the ability of players. All kids [in sports] like discipline—the more disciplined [coaches] can make [players] better, and the better coaches can do that. The rules have changed, too. When I was playing college basketball, you couldn't dunk the ball. Kareem Abdul-Jabbar was playing at UCLA then and everybody felt it was an

unfair advantage for him, so they actually took it out for about five years and wouldn't let people dunk. It didn't have any effect on my game, but it did change the game a great deal. There also wasn't any shot clock. A team could get a great point guard and hold on to the ball forever. I think that [adding the shot clock] improved the game so that one team couldn't hold on to the ball.

JC: You took a position as an assistant basketball coach shortly after your playing career. After taking the job, what aspects of coaching did you see then that you didn't see as a player?

LF: I don't think that much has changed. Of course, the NCAA has changed a lot of the rules about how much you can recruit. Back then, you could take parents out; you didn't have rules about how many times you could visit with the parents or go see the kids or how many times they could come see you. They've really narrowed what you can do to cut costs and to make it fair across the board to everybody because those who lived nearby had an advantage over someone who had to fly in to see a kid play. So, they really streamlined the rules as far as coaching and recruiting are concerned.

JC: So you feel that coaches have more pressure now to win now and be successful than they used to?

LF: I'm not sure they have more pressure. I think that maybe the economy has made them have more pressure because you've got to win to make people buy your tickets and come. It used to be more of a family social thing to go to the games in both high school and college. I think it's getting back to that way now. When I was growing up, you went to the high school basketball games on Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday nights. Everyone [who] was in town was at the games. Now that the family through society has broken apart, many kids don't get to

see the games in high school, so therefore, when they get to college, they're not used to supporting athletic events. [Athletic departments] have got to make sure students have fun so that we can get them back to supporting the games at the junior high, high school, and collegiate levels.

JC: When did you first arrive at Memphis State and what position did you take at that time?

LF: I was assistant basketball coach at Memphis State and I went there in April of 1979.

JC: You had basically lived in middle Tennessee your entire life. What made you decide to make a career change?

LF: We had a head coach at Vanderbilt then that was fired. I'd only been an assistant for a year and was interviewing at other places. It was a chance for me to continue with my coaching career and that's when I went to Memphis.

JC: You moved up through the athletic department in Memphis and became assistant athletic director in 1986. You became involved in a program called Tiger Clubs. What is Tiger Clubs and what did the program accomplish?

LF: The Tiger Clubs was a fundraising organization to bring more money and revenue into the [athletic] program. We were very successful through sponsorships and priority seating. We went from a budget of about \$5 million then to \$11 million this year. We were able to get more people involved by donations and corporate sponsorships, so we were very much an external part of the athletic program.

JC: What were some of your other duties as an athletic director?

LF: I was kind of a catch-all. I was involved in the sports information department and also in hiring salesmen to sell [ads in the community]. Anything that had something to do with the program, I was involved in. I also did radio broadcasting for the team and

some TV broadcasting with CBS for the NCAA tournament, so I was basically a PR/external person for the athletic department.

JC: How were you able to get Memphis as a community to become involved in Tiger athletics?

LF: It wasn't just [the university]. Citizens have to feel a certain civic responsibility to get involved with the university since it touches so many people's lives. We created special parking, special seating plans, corporate sponsorships and programs involved with tickets and donations, so it was kind of a total package in which we got people involved and it made [sponsors] realize that the people coming to our games were the people who were buying their products. We tried to make it a win-win situation.

JC: What influence do you feel you had on MSU athletics?

LF: I just think I was at the right place at the right time. My influence was only that there was an opportunity through the help of the fans there to organize and move forward. Lee Fowler was Memphis State and without Memphis State I would have never been able to do what I was able to do there. I really look at myself as a friendmaker for the university, and that's what I hope to do here. I feel that everyone is a potential customer—students, faculty, the guy that doesn't give any money, that just buys tickets, the guy that does give money. I think it's an overall program that you've got to make people feel wanted and needed and then let them see that you appreciate them when they do something.

Next week: *Where Do We Go From Here?* a discussion about the problems in and possible solutions for MTSU athletics.

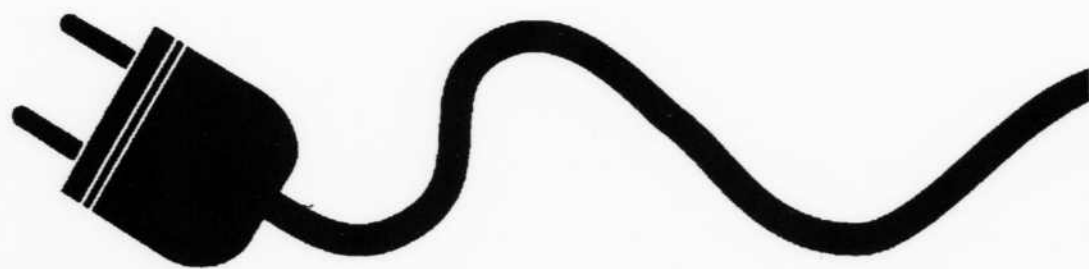
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The Great Mascot Debate Part Two

BY JESSICA DENISE CLAYBORN

I'm taking time out to apologize for the non-controversial news that has been printed in the *Sidelines* sports section this summer. If you think MTSU is a suitcase college during the fall and spring, then you should realize news isn't abundant in the summer.

So to keep you, the reader, happy, I've decided to start a column to hear your voice on a sports-related topic. Last fall *Sidelines* editor Jason Whatley created controversy with a discussion about changing the mascot back to the "Blue Raiders," a Confederate group lead by General Nathan Bedford Forrest during the Civil War. Because of the sensitivity of the issue and Whatley's political affiliations, he received character attacks instead of honest debate, so, as usual, nothing was accomplished.

I try to believe there is good in everyone. I don't think Whatley was trying to offend anyone. However, we all have personal biases, and because of these biases, no one is willing to meet halfway. I'm willing to meet halfway.

What do you think about Forrest being our mascot? I think he could make a comeback. If the administration could have someone riding a horse dressed in a blue military uniform and waving an MTSU spirit flag instead of a Confederate flag, it could be something everyone can enjoy.

I'm not trying to be "politically correct." Since when has trying to help others and to make them happy become such a hateful thing? For those who claim to believe in God and the Bible, it is commanded of all men to be kind to others, but of course, I forgot some people only quote the commandments of God that benefit themselves and ignore everything else. I'm a black female, and I try to listen to both sides and analyze them accordingly. No one is always right or wrong, but most of the time I feel I'm the only person in the middle since most people claim to be superior to their counterparts.

I realize that not everyone who waves the rebel flag is racist, but I also know that not everyone who wears a Malcolm X T-shirt and cap is racist, either. If that's the case, Charles Barkley and Michael Jordan are some of America's richest racists. We also must realize there are people who use these trademarks to perpetuate their racism, and because of these people, we often have a tendency to blame everyone of that particular race for the hatred of a few.

Well, where do you come in? I want to hear from you about the issue. There isn't much time left this summer, so get a pencil or pen and some paper and start writing. You've heard my viewpoint, now I want to hear yours.

The rules are as follows: (1) Simply state why or why not you think we should use a real raider for our mascot. (2) All letters must have names and P.O. boxes (street addresses for those who have no box). (3) Send all mail to *Sidelines*, MTSU Box 42, ATTN: SPORTS EDITOR.

Don't be afraid to write. I'm not a Republican, Democrat, or a Perot person, just a Christian, but still don't be afraid. I have seen and heard it all. I'm not part of the political "religious right." I'm not a member of the NAACP, NOW, Ku Klux Klan or Nation of Islam, so that should take away some of the desire to accuse me of being involved in a special interest group. I'm not politically correct or incorrect, just honest—and that has no title. Most importantly, I'M NOT A FEMINIST!!!

If I get enough responses, I will try to print in each issue at least one letter from each side, space permitting. The sports editor has the right to edit for length and/or clarity, but your main ideas won't be omitted. If I only get letters from one side, then that will be the only side you see, so don't blame me—blame yourself for not writing. I will keep a tally of letters from each side. If I get no letters at all, I'll also let you know that.

Letters that do not discuss the school mascot but primarily blast Republicans, Democrats, liberals, conservatives, Bill Clinton, Rush Limbaugh, or Ross Perot won't be tolerated or printed (in the sports section, anyway). C-SPAN (Murfreesboro Cable Ch. 37) will be more than happy to get those letters, so save it for them. All letters criticizing the editor of *Sidelines* should be sent directly to the editor of *Sidelines*, who will decide for himself whether to publish them or not.

So call your friends, family, and enemies and start writing. I'm waiting to hear from you!!!

BASEBALL '94-- A THING OF THE PAST?

BY JESSICA DENISE CLAYBORN

I made an error last week when I said in my editorial that I'd discuss the baseball all-star selections. I didn't realize at the time that the game would be over by Wednesday. Sooooo, we'll discuss something else about baseball—like the upcoming strike.

You should have noticed I talked about a strike in an affirmative term. I think there will be one. I don't exactly know when, but anytime money is involved, you can bet it's going to happen.

According to the owners, the players are about to break them financially. They claim that salaries are getting so out-of-hand they won't be able to afford their franchises in the future, particularly in the small-market cities of Pittsburgh, Milwaukee, Minnesota and San Diego.

The players don't believe them. They think that the owners have plenty of money to pay them. After all, if they couldn't afford it, how about using the money they're making on those big TV contracts? It's obvious players don't trust anyone high in baseball administration. And the owners trust the players just as much.

According to most sports magazines and TV programs, most people agree with the owners. The public is sick of rising ticket prices and less excitement on the field. They think the work ethic has left the game and that complaints for more money are ludicrous.

Ken Griffey Jr. seems to feel the opposite way. When he was questioned about the public's lack of sympathy for the players Monday on ESPN, he began to respond by, "The public just doesn't understand what we're going through" I wish I could tell you what else he said, but due to sudden nausea I had to change the channel.

Sorry, Griff, I just don't feel sorry for anyone who makes \$5 million plus who says he's being abused. If that's the case, then I'm sure you can find several million people who wouldn't mind taking your place.

When will the strike be? First they said July and then August and now September—oh, why don't you quit talking and strike if you're going to. I'm sick of hearing about it. And if you're going to strike, why not wait until October so I won't have to see the disastrous playoff system in action.

What does baseball really need? How about a COMMISSIONER? Remember "the late" Fay Vincent, the guy the owners ran out of town? Boy, I sure bet they miss his leadership now. They found out that they didn't have the answers after all. They found out that firing Vincent just because he wanted the Cubs to play in the National League West (like they were really threatening to take the East pennant) was stupid. Now they're learning the hard way.

How long will the strike last? You've heard those shining reports of at least a year and a half, and that might be possible. That can give someone with some sense enough time to find a commissioner, put baseball back into four divisions that are geographically correct, and force WGN News to come on an hour earlier.

In the meantime, have fun watching those TBS James Bond movies every night, Braves fans.

I can't believe it. I actually wrote a baseball column that didn't make fun of John Smoltz.

NOTE FROM THE SPORTS EDITOR:
Due to the the fact there's a O.J. network near you, there will be no more O.J. Simpson stories printed in my section unless something drastic happens.

Classifieds

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