

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

Volume 58, Number 26

December 2, 1983

News Briefs

BEIRUT, Lebanon (UPI)—Artillery fire by Druze Moslem rebels forced Beirut airport to close and threatened to engulf Lebanon in a new sectarian violence. The two-day bombardment was the heaviest since a cease-fire Sept. 26 ended three weeks of strife between Druze, Lebanese army and Christian militia forces.

WASHINGTON (UPI)—Lebanese President Amin Gemayel, holding crucial talks with President Reagan and other U.S. leaders yesterday, says he hopes the turmoil in his occupied country can be resolved. Gemayel arrived Wednesday night on the heels of meetings between Reagan and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands (UPI)—The search went abroad yesterday for four suspects in the kidnapping of beer magnate Freddie Heineken and his driver after both were rescued from cold cells where they were chained to a wall for 21 days. A police spokesman said Interpol was involved in the search for abductors.

SPACE CENTER, Houston (UPI)—Spacelab astronauts aboard the shuttle Columbia put on a flashy show early yesterday, lighting up the starry sky with particle beams, and hammed it up with cheering amateur radio buffs on Earth. The six-member crew, working in alternate 12-hour shifts, will return from orbit Dec. 7.

LIVINGSTON, Texas (UPI)—Authorities suspect a Trailways bus was speeding—possibly in a convoy with tractor-trailer trucks—moments before it hit another truck and plunged off a bridge, killing six passengers. The National Transportation Safety Board was investigating. The driver and the five other bus riders were seriously injured.

WASHINGTON (UPI)—Union leaders faced with a hard-line stand by Greyhound officials worked to fashion a new contract proposal yesterday to entice negotiators for the striking bus line back to the bargaining table. A federal mediator met with union heads Wednesday for the first time since the strike began Nov. 3.

WASHINGTON (UPI)—A federal court jury is weighing the testimony of 30 witnesses to determine whether fired EPA official Rita Lavelle perjured herself and used the "Superfund" program to help Republican politicians. A 10-woman, two-man jury was set for its first full day of deliberations yesterday.

Schardt Hall road to be widened?

By MAT WILLIAMS

Sidelines Associate Editor

Widening a one-lane thoroughfare at Schardt Hall may depend on an assurance that safety problems won't occur if the project is undertaken, President Sam Ingram said yesterday.

Ingram addressed the issue at a campus forum sponsored by the ASB yesterday in which students asked administrators questions about the university.

"WE'RE AFRAID IF we open up that thoroughfare there would be a safety problem," Ingram told the students. "If a traffic expert

assures us there will be no safety problems, I'll favor opening it."

Ingram said he has reservations about widening the thoroughfare because it could increase the amount of traffic in the area and thus pose a safety hazard. He added that the "dog leg" was originally constructed for loading and unloading purposes.

The ASB house and senate recently passed a resolution that the "dog leg" be made into a two-way street to avoid head-on collisions that might occur since there is no direction designated for traffic flow

there.

SIMILAR LEGISLATION was passed last year. Ingram took the proposal under advisement at that time. ASB President Mark Ross said in an interview earlier this week that he believes it is time for a definite decision on the matter.

In response to another question, Housing Director Ivan Shewmake said he favors cable television for the J and K Apartments. However, he said that technical complications involving the manner in which the present hook-up system is laid out are delaying the installment of cable.

Each apartment has a hook-up (a small box) which is run in a series on each floor, Shewmake explained. If one hook-up is damaged, the entire floor would lose its reception.

"WE HAVE A LOT of problems keeping the plates on the boxes," he said. "One person could knock out the whole system."

Shewmake said he is presently looking into improving the current hook-up system, but that there is no easy way of rewiring or restructuring it at a low cost.

"If we ever get a reasonable price, yes, I would like to get

cable," he said. "It will improve rentability."

HE ADDED THAT the possibility of getting cable next semester looks fairly slim.

Ingram was also asked whether there will be a fraternity row on campus. He said that it is a possibility and would be enhanced by the proposed extension of Northfield Boulevard. Murfreesboro officials have been negotiating with the university for several years.

"If and when the new street goes through the campus, it will put us in a better

(continued on page 2)

Ross still wants bulletin board

By ELIZABETH PORTER

Sidelines Editor in Chief

ASB President Mark Ross said this week he supports a proposed ASB legislative bulletin board despite his recent veto of a bill on its construction.

And a resolution senators have studied which calls for spring semester confirmation of ASB cabinet members and judges is unnecessary, Ross said in the interview.

THE BULLETIN board would be used to let students know what kind of legislation ASB senators and representatives are considering, and the progress of each bill in the legislative process.

"I said at the beginning of the year that I thought it would be a good idea and I'd like to see something on it," Ross said.

He said he vetoed the bill because it did not adequately outline who should be in charge of the board under future ASB administrations.

The recent proposal designated the secretary of state as the person who should organize the board.

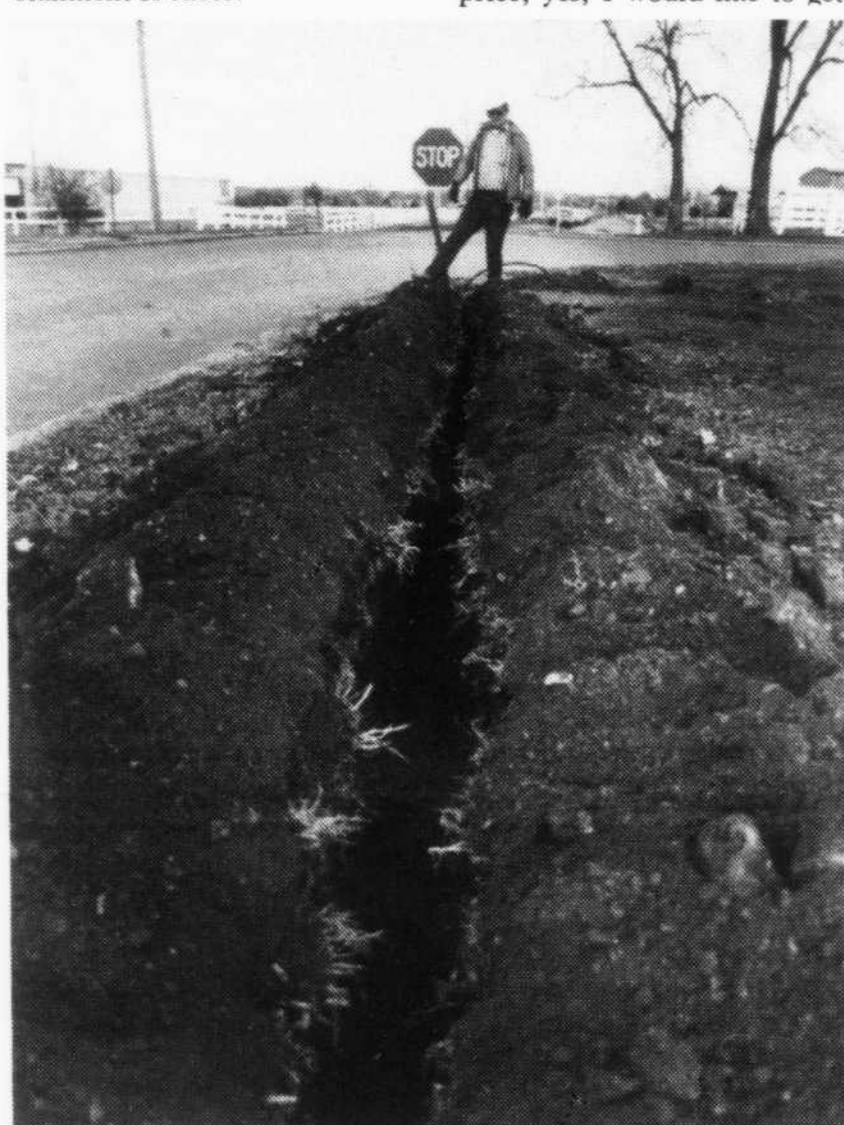
THAT POSITION, however, is not required by the ASB constitution and future presidents might not have a secretary of state, Ross said.

"We could build a board without legislation, but future administrations wouldn't be required to keep it going," he said. Ross said he believes the speakers of the house and senate should be jointly responsible for the board.

"I told a joint session last Wednesday that it is not my job or right to look over legislation before it is introduced," he said, adding that there are congressional liaisons who are available to help write and research legislation. He said the veto could have been avoided had the bill been more thorough.

IN REFERENCE TO the confirmation bill, Ross said

(continued on page 2)



Telephone man

Photo by Mike Poley

John Rogers, an employee of Wright and Lopez, supervises the installation of new telephone lines near the Art Barn yesterday afternoon. The lines are part of the new university-wide phone system currently being installed by Southeastern Telecom.



Runnin' toward empty

Photo by Mike Poley

This runner sets the pace for the rest during a leisurely trot around the track at Jones Field yesterday afternoon.

Officer says illegal search not conducted

By ELIZABETH PORTER

Sidelines Editor in Chief

A Murfreesboro police captain Thursday said he did not conduct any illegal searches for alcohol at the Kappa Delta sorority's annual Barn Dance Nov. 18, as a KD member has alleged.

Captain Hiram Lester said he confiscated only alcohol that was in "plain view," and did not search pocketbooks during the dance, which took place at the Rutherford County Agricultural Center, where alcohol is prohibited.

KD MEMBER Robin Lowe stated in a letter to the editor and in a telephone interview Thursday that she and others saw the policeman open another KD member's pocketbook and go through it.

During the event, vandals broke out the headlights on Lester's automobile, cut a tire and threw a whiskey bottle through the back windshield.

(continued on page 2)

Flying Raiders fly high

By GINA FANN

Sidelines News Editor

MTSU's Flying Raiders, the only precision flying team in the state, will attend national competitions in April after placing third in a regional contest last month.

Eleven members of the team returned from Auburn with a flight safety award in addition to their third-place ranking, due primarily to the team's ground crew and flight safety seminars, Flying Raider Mike Gay said yesterday.

"THE THREE MEMBERS of our ground crew were highly responsible for our bringing the safety award home," Gay said. "That and our flight safety seminar that we had the first weekend in November."

Team members were evaluated on their awareness of safe flight preparation, as well as in-flight safety.

"All the judges served as safety judges, too," Team President Brian Hilliard said. "They were going all around the area, looking for anything to write down."

ONLY 20 POINTS separated the Flying Raiders from the first-place team, a group from the Florida Institute of Technology.

"We were real pleased with the performance, especially since it was our first time in a new region," Gay said. "We were going in semi-blind and came out with a third place."

(continued on page 2)

Spring test program for graduating seniors localized, accessible

By BARBARA BROWN

Sidelines Staff Writer

Locally developed tests and a greater choice of testing times are improvements over last year's testing of MTSU seniors before they graduate in May, an MTSU professor said recently.

Psychology Professor Harold Whiteside, who will be working with various departments in developing the local tests, said exams given previously were nationalized and did not necessarily test students on what they actually

were taught in MTSU courses.

"THIS WAY WE can test what we do here," Whiteside said. "We know what we offer and that the tests will be measuring what we have tried to teach the students. The best way is to test the job we tried to do."

Graduating seniors will be offered a variety of testing times throughout March and April, which Whiteside said will be more convenient for students than past use of only one testing date.

There are no pass-fail scores

given for the exams. Scores will not determine whether a senior graduates, and there is no cost to students except a few hours of their time and effort.

BUT CANDIDATES for graduation in May will be required to take the exams in order to receive a diploma in May, Robert Jones, associate vice president for academic affairs, said. Otherwise, the diploma will be withheld until August.

Two or three diplomas were withheld last year, Jones said, but about 590 other students

cooperated with the program.

Seniors are required to participate in the program as part of an effort initiated by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission several years ago to improve the quality of education in state colleges and universities.

"WE ARE NOT so much interested in individual scores as we are in a group's overall performance," Jones said.

THEC is trying to introduce a performance element into the formula determining state funding for higher education

institutions, Jones explained, rather than using "simple head counts or other kinds of quantity measurements" as a basis.

By taking a representative sample of the institution's students each year, strengths and weaknesses in their education can be detected. The school will be awarded funds depending on improvements shown within a period of time, Jones said.

THE MAY GROUP of seniors was determined by the state to be the best represen-

tative sample, Whiteside said. When the tests were first initiated, they were given to groups of volunteer students. This was not considered a true representative sample, however, because it appeared that only "top" students volunteered to take the tests.

Whiteside will be working with the academic affairs office 80 percent of the time as "his major assignment on campus this spring," Jones said.

"MTSU didn't come up with

(continued on page 2)

Campus Capsule

GRADUATE STUDENTS enrolled for fewer than 12 hours and undergraduate seniors who plan to attend graduate school the next semester following graduation must notify the post office by Friday, Dec. 9, if they desire to retain their present post office box.

SEE YOUR ADVISOR week is Nov. 28-Dec. 2. The Schedule of Classes booklet has been placed in faculty post office boxes and is available to students in front of Room 102 in the Cope Administration Building. Advisors should provide trial schedule forms for their advisees and indicate approval of course selection by signing the forms in the appropriate space. The signature is required for students to enter the card bank area.

THE BIOLOGY Club will meet on Dec. 3 at 6:30 p.m. in Room 100 of the Davis Science Building. Dr. Curtis Mason of the physics department will speak on cryogenics. The meeting is open to the public.

APPLICATIONS ARE now being accepted for graduate senate positions. Forms can be obtained from the ASB office, Room 304 at the University Center.

THE FOREIGN language department is offering elementary Japanese courses for the spring semester. Japanese 111, open to all interested students, will be taught Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from noon to 12:50 p.m. Japanese 112 is an intermediate course open to those who have taken 111 or the equivalent with the permission of the instructor. Japanese 112 is scheduled from 1 p.m. to 1:50 on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

OMEGA PHI ALPHA sorority will be selling candy canes and poinsettias on Dec. 7-8 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in front of the bookstore in the University Center.

STUDENTS INTERESTED in enrolling in Creative Writing, English 351, for the spring semester should submit an example of their work to the English department by the end of this semester.

Schardt

(continued from page 1)

situation," he said. "I am cautiously optimistic we can work it out with the city."

"EVEN IF WE get the row, we would still have problems getting the approval of the [state] attorney general," Ingram added. The attorney general's permission would be needed to sell any state

property to the city for the road and right of ways.

Addressing another issue, Shewmake said unlimited visitation in dormitories would be impractical because of building design, specifically the bathrooms shared by either quads or entire floors.

OTHER QUESTIONS included:

- Would free admittance to the MTSU vs. Urbana game Monday as a promotional tool to stimulate fan interest be possible?

Otis Floyd, executive assistant to the president, said a free admittance would not be feasible, and would cause problems in the area of those community members who presently hold season tickets.

Ross

(continued from page 1)

confusion over the confirmation of three ASB justices earlier this semester occurred for reasons not covered in the bill.

The proposal would require nominations for the president's cabinet and ASB judges to be presented to the senate for confirmation during the spring

following ASB elections. It would also bar any confirmations later than the first two weeks of the fall semester.

"They're implying I didn't do my job," Ross said, adding that he has documentation he sent memos to Senate Speaker Ron Malone in ample time for the three to be confirmed. The memos instructed Malone to notify the nominees when the

confirmation hearings were scheduled.

In an earlier *Sidelines* story, Malone said there was simply a mix-up about the notifications.

Dean of Students Paul Cantrell gave administrative approval to the three judges when the Senate failed to confirm them because there were cases pending that needed to be settled, Ross said.

Flying

(continued from page 1)

MTSU's flying team transferred to the National Intercollegiate Flying Association's region nine earlier this year to avoid traveling so far, Hilliard said.

"IT COSTS A LOT to take a team to a competition," he said. "If we get to go to

nationals, it'll cost \$15,000 to get us there and back."

Since the trip will not be funded by the university, the group plans to solicit donations from aviation-related firms in Nashville for travel finances, as well as continuing monthly "nickel-a-pound" public flying

days at Murfreesboro's Municipal Airport.

"We're going to get into high gear on our fund-raising in January," Hilliard said. "We were afraid we were kind of getting into overkill by doing the public flying every Sunday, so we're planning to go back to once a month."

Officer

(continued from page 1)

Damages were estimated at \$1,300, according to detectives. Police have not yet determined who is responsible for the damages.

The dance, a fund-raiser for the Crippled Children's Hospital in Richmond, Va., was advertised in the Nov. 8 issue of *Sidelines* as a "BYOB" event with set-ups provided.

HOWEVER, A CLAUSE in the rental contract for the building and a sign over the concession stand at the center both state that alcohol is prohibited there, according to a secretary in the county agricultural extension office.

KD President Melanie Davenport said Thursday afternoon that the organization sent a member to rent the facility, but she was not informed of the clause that prohibits alcohol. Davenport said she did not see Lester

search any pocketbooks at the dance, and that the sorority has had alcohol at past Barn Dances with no problems.

Lester, who was hired to work security at the dance by KD, said that he could have "shut the party down" when he saw that alcohol was being carried in, but didn't because KD members told him they had invested quite a bit of money and needed to try to recoup their funds.

"WHEN THE PARTY started, people were coming up with bottles and drinks in their hands and made no attempt to cover them up," Lester said. "I told them that they couldn't bring alcohol into the building, but that if they took it back to their cars, they could come in."

After working at the door for about two hours, Lester said, he went into the Agricultural Center and saw liquor bottles on top of the concession stand

and in cabinets in the room behind it.

"It was a clear violation and I poured whatever I found down the sink. There were no purses searched," Lester said, adding that he did look into cabinets and the refrigerator after he saw persons putting liquor bottles into them.

LESTER SAID THAT there were pocketbooks obstructing the view of some of the liquor, but that he did not open any to find it. He said the closest he came to searching anyone was to "pat down" the jackets of males who were attempting to conceal bottles under them.

"I was hired to do a job, and I was there to enforce the law," he said. "It would have been to my advantage to shut the party down, but I didn't."

He added that he is sure the vandals damaged his automobile because he wouldn't let them bring liquor into the dance.

Spring

(continued from page 1)

this idea," Whiteside said, who will be available as a consultant for any department wanting his help in constructing valid, reliable exams.

WHITESIDE ADDED that he has had "great support" so far from people involved in developing the exams.

Based on a point system developed by the state, the school can receive funds to aid in 5 percent of the education and general portion of the equipment and travel money, and computer services for students and faculty.

MTSU will receive more than \$700,000 this year based on last year's test results, he added.

"THAT'S A significant amount of money," Jones said. "It's enough that we are convinced we should be participating in the test program."

"But we also hope to derive

some better understanding of the quality of the education and any changes we can make," he added.

MTSU's total budget is "in the neighborhood of \$36 million," Jones said.

"THE STUDENT PAYS around 30 percent of the real cost of his education per year," Jones said, adding that taxpayers pick up the tab for most of the remainder.

The tests may be an inconvenience, but they are "an investment in the future of other Tennesseans—the future students," Whiteside added.

"BY DOING THE testing, we are showing accountability to the people putting us here," he said. "The taxpayers have a right to know how we are doing."

"Even though there are no pass scores, students are encouraged to do their best," Whiteside added. "If somebody doesn't take it seriously, they will not help


us."

Major field exams are used to test each student within his specialty, and this year will, in most cases, be developed by each department. Tests previously taken for each major were the Graduate Record Exams, which are also nationalized tests.

IF A CERTAIN degree of improvement is shown, Jones said, the exams will not need to be given except once in a five-year period.

The tests must be given that often in order to show improvement in performance at certain levels, earn maximum points in the state's system, and thus to continue receiving the designated state funds, he explained.

Graduating seniors taking the GRE this May are majors in biology, chemistry, mathematics and computer science.



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MTSU Photo by Jack Ross

Biology award

Dr. George Murphy, right, presents Betsy Drewry of Murfreesboro with the annual Rucker Scholarship. Drewry, a freshman biology major, is the first recipient of the award, which was established in honor of Dr. Ellis Rucker, a former member of MTSU's biology department who retired in 1979. The scholarship is restricted to Rutherford County students in appreciation for donations made to the Biology Club through the newspaper recycling program.

TSU student drinks self to death

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (UPI)—Teachers and friends who knew Van Watts say he wasn't the type of person you would ever think of ending up dead from an overdose of alcohol consumed at a fraternity party.

Watts, 20, of Birmingham was found dead Wednesday morning in a house in Nashville near the campus of Tennessee State University, where he was a student.

NASHVILLE POLICE said Watts died of an alcohol overdose after attending a party the night before with members of the fraternity he was pledging, Omega Psi Phi.

Officials said the young man's blood alcohol level was .52 percent, more than five times the legal intoxication level (.10 percent for the state of Tennessee).

Police said Watts died from drinking too much alcohol in too short a period of time. Students said the fraternity was noted for parties where

"Omega Oil, a concoction of powdered soft drink and grain alcohol, is served.

AUTHORITIES SAID no criminal charges were pending because Watts drank what he did on his own.

A 1981 graduate of Phillips High School, Watts was a junior in the mechanical engineering program at Tennessee State. An older brother also attended the predominantly black college.

John McAphee, Phillips High band director and a friend of Watts' family for 10 years, said the way the young man died was not in keeping with his character.

"I THOUGHT ABOUT his nature and how this was so unlike him," McAphee said. "But in a situation where he was being tested and compared to others, perhaps he chose to do things to give him an identity of his own."

McAphee described his former student as "always the tops, always able to do

anything."

In high school, Watts played trombone in the jazz, marching and concert bands and was in church chamber groups at Sixth Avenue Baptist Church. He also was in the all-state band his senior year.

HE GRADUATED fourth in a class of 208 and won the Birmingham Exchange Club's cup presented to the outstanding senior. He had been a member of the National Honor Society, school student government association and the basketball team.

"He was personable; he never was a discipline problem," said Phillips High Principal Clarence W. Tolbert. "This takes me by great surprise because Vann was one of our outstanding men that made you wish you had more like him."

McAphee said fatigue from classwork and peer pressure may have been factors in Watts' death.

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Local Ticket Sales: Tickets will go on sale at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, December 5 at the University in the Office of Student Programming (Keathley University Center, Room 309) for across the counter sales (check or cash) ONLY. The Ticket Office at the University will be open Monday through Friday (except holidays) from 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. For more information about ticket sales at the University please call 898-2551.

Out of Town Ticket Sales: Tickets will go on sale at the main Centra Tik Office in Parkview Towers in Nashville beginning also on Monday, December 5. Centra Tik will handle all mail orders. Please send a self-addressed stamped envelope, a certified check or money order for the tickets you want, plus 50c with your order to "Best Little Whorehouse" c/o Centra Tik, Parkview Towers, 210 25th Ave. North, Nashville, TN 37203. Phone orders with credit card reservations may be made through Centra Tik by calling 615-320-7171.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

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Sidelines is published every Tuesday and Friday by the students of Middle Tennessee State University. Editorials and columns reflect the opinion of their authors and not of the MTSU administration, faculty or staff.



Success of ASB hinges on student awareness

Every student at MTSU is a member of the Associated Student Body, yet students do not believe the ASB has any effect on their careers here.

Unfortunately, very often the only persons who know what is going on with the ASB are the senators, representatives and various other ASB officials. For various reasons this semester, *Sidelines* has not had the kind of coverage of ASB activities that would keep students well informed and interested in their student government.

Lack of reporters and time are, in part, the reasons for this information gap. When the editorial staff realized that in order to get dependable, comprehensive stories concerning ASB issues, we would have to get them ourselves, editors began covering the ASB.

As journalists, it is our job to ferret out information, however difficult that task might be. We realize that we have not carried out that responsibility to the fullest in every instance. (The press often has problems maintaining omnipotence).

ASB President Mark Ross has been most cooperative and informative when we have approached him for information. However, there has been only a minimal effort from the ASB office to publicize its activities. Often, when *Sidelines* has called the ASB office, persons present have not been able to tell us when meetings were scheduled.

We have discussed this problem with Ross, and he has assured us that we will be placed on the ASB mailing list, so that we can receive meeting schedules and agendas. It may be a little late, but it is progress.

With these matters in mind, we wholeheartedly support the proposal for a legislative bulletin board that would

help to keep students and the student press informed of what is happening in the ASB. Not only do we think it a good idea to publicize ASB legislation in this manner, we believe the legislative board could also notify students of the time and place of ASB Senate, House and committee meetings.

Meetings of Tennessee's state and local governments are open to the public at all times, with a few exceptions, under the "Sunshine Law." Section 8-4401 states: "the general assembly hereby declares it to be the policy of this state that the formation of public policy and decisions is public business and shall not be conducted in secret." The law also states that governing bodies shall give adequate public notice of meetings that are required by statute, ordinance or resolution, and shall give adequate notice of special meetings, as well.

In section 8-4402, "government body" is defined as "the members of any public body which consists of two or more members, with the authority to make decision for or recommendations to a public body on policy or administration."

We believe the ASB falls under this law, because it is in a position to affect the policies of this public institution. The ASB consists of persons elected to represent students to the university administration, to the State Board of Regents, and even to the state legislature.

With this in mind, it is possible that ASB officials have violated the "Sunshine Law" this semester. To our knowledge, there is no method of notifying students and the press at MTSU when ASB meetings take place.

ASB President Ross has stated in the past that he is not convinced that the ASB

is governed by the "Sunshine Law."

It is to the advantage of ASB officials and students alike that meetings be publicized, and attended. If the Ten-

nessee "Sunshine Law" is not enough, then ASB legislation to remedy this situation should be considered at the first possible opportunity.

Cockroach letters deny true issues; deeper student comments needed

Lately, "From our readers" seems to be an inappropriate title for our letters to the editor column, because very few of them reflect knowledge or comprehension of the editorial content of *Sidelines*.

This week, we received three letters expressing disdain for the story of Robert, the deceased cockroach. (Two of them appear below, the other did not seem a serious rebuff.)

One MTSU student has criticized the editorial decision to run these letters in our newspaper. He states that they have "no purpose." A more thoughtful consideration brings to mind, however, a very pointed message contained within these silly, somewhat amusing letters.

Dreaming up Robert, instead of analyzing the threat of nuclear holocaust or various forms of human injustice still experienced in this country, seems the epitome of psychological denial, which was discussed in a recent editorial about political apathy among students.

Sidelines welcomes letters to the editor. It's a shame the majority we receive are about sports, concerts and cockroaches—two of which this editor has already termed "bullshit" in comparison with the world turmoil of the 1980s.

If you are discouraged by the content of the "From our Readers" column, write something thoughtful, controversial, unusual. We'd love to hear from you in time for the last two papers this semester.



From Our Readers

Cockroach letters serve no purpose, need to be stopped

To the editor:

I have always believed that it is the job of the editor to edit and choose stories that will eventually fall under letters to the editor, but in the past few weeks you have failed to meet these goals.

I am specifically referring to the letters about Robert the Cockroach. I find it hard to believe that you had no choice but to print these stories, and above all to drag them out until they are meaningless to the reader. For what purpose, I ask you, should such sensationalism be allowed to promote the life of a cockroach?

You have probably thought about it long enough so I will give you the answer. For no purpose at all. It is hardly believable that among a population of 11,000 students there is no argument or no discussions about subjects we are bombarded with daily, and I'm not including the life of a common cockroach. If this is continued, for whatever purpose, what next will fall under its sensationalist grasp?

Perhaps we should print stories about an imaginary dragon or, better yet, about a rubber duck that someone takes to the shower. Where will it all end?

The readers of this paper deserve a chance to express their feelings about more pressing problems in their lives. Perhaps now is a good time to call upon the readers to stop sending in sensationalized stories and concern themselves with problems that will have a more lasting affect on their lives. At the same time, the editor must do her part and stop advocating stories that have no purpose. The fate of this paper lies in your hands. I'm sure that I speak for most students when I say I hope you will act accordingly.

Rodney Ritchey
Box 4668

editor's note: Believe it or not, Sidelines has printed every letter to the editor we have received this semester, with two exceptions. It would be nice if MTSU students were concerned enough to write about more pressing issues than the death of Robert. However, it seems that in recent weeks, this issue has preoccupied the minds of countless scholars. For more on this pressing subject, see the above editorial and the following letter.

Rape, hunger on rise; cockroach concerns students

To the editor:

Women are still abused in the job market and in the home.

Nuclear destruction is a viable threat.

The administration, nationally and locally, has instituted or protected procedures that violate the freedom of the press.

Tuition is on the rise again.

So is rape.

So is death—personally, nationally, internationally.

People are hungry.

This list is endless.

How do the inheritors of this campus, the inheritors of tomorrow, express their concerns about the present and their role in the future?

I've counted seven letters about a cockroach dying.

That's funny. It's escapist. But seven is a bit much. I have seen few letters about real issues. Ms. Porter called for an open forum via letters on the editorial page about the ASB appointment issue. No one responded.

Granted, *The Day After* was

milder than promised; it may have made nuclear war less threatening to those who have witnessed real devastation, so obviously make-believe was it. But the issue has been brought to the fore on a national basis. Don't you care?

Turn off MTV. Look at the world with your own clear, frightened eyes. Listen to the fears in the music, don't let it wash over you via video. Read. Indulge yourself in life.

Thinking is not a blight. Thinking can hurt, certainly. But, boys and girls, life hurts. If it doesn't, if you can't feel anything, if life just flows in front of your video-dimmed eyes, you are not living. And, now or tomorrow, living is all there is.

Is anybody out there?

Ellen Harlison
Box 4936

Kennedy showing wakes reader up, serves as reminder

To the editor:

Recently, I had the opportunity to see "JFK: Remembered" with Mark McIntyre at the MTSU Boutwell Dramatic Arts Theatre. The experience was

like stepping from childhood to adulthood in one evening.

Twenty years ago on Nov. 22, I was sitting in a fourth grade room with a teacher whose eyes were red from the terrible news we were experiencing. We all sat in amazement of the news that was coming over the television. Having had no idea of the events that were taking place, all we saw was the President of the United States slumping over in a car, with mass hysteria taking place. Our eyes were filled with hidden tears, as the children's president was hurt...shot...later, to find, dead!

While watching the presentation, those feelings of confusion were brought to the surface and had to be reevaluated, then new determinations had to be established. I had bits and pieces of information that were put into proper perspective in the puzzle that has filled my mind for years. It was a reminder of the events that took place in the years preceding that horrible day.

Although the whole story may never be known, the facts related in "JFK: Remembered" did help to reveal and sort out

all the information assimilated through the years.

The "press conference" was quite enlightening and so realistic. The audience seemed to be engrossed with the knowledge that the actor relayed. There were times I had to remind myself that he was just an actor and that President Kennedy was actually dead.

I found myself wanting to ask him what he would do in today's world situation, although we were in a different time period. That different time period helped me to disassociate myself from my emotions. Although, not totally.

Twenty years have passed since that horrible day took place in Dallas and it seems like yesterday. Although those years have passed, it seems we have not learned anything from the experience and this saddens me. Why should intelligent beings in the 20th century still be experiencing such violent acts? Why should leaders of nations and their families always fear for their lives? I guess we'll never know.

Ann Hittinger
Box 5092

editor's note: Thank you, Ms. Hittinger.

'A Christmas Carol' brings Christmas to BDA

By DEE PARKER

Sidelines Staff Writer

For over 100 years, Charles Dickens' classic tale, *A Christmas Carol*, has been delighting readers and theater audiences with the unforgettable Ebenezer Scrooge, Tiny Tim and the three ghosts of Christmas past, present and future.

Now the MTSU theater has brought that special magic to its stage, if Wednesday night's dress rehearsal is any indication of the performances yet to come from Dec. 1-4 in the Boutwell Dramatic Arts Auditorium.

ALTHOUGH MANY actors and actresses have acted, reenacted and recreated the famous tale, MTSU performers have made the story their own. Apart from the traditional storyline, the 16-member cast bursts into song with Christmas favorites, such as "The First Noel" and "O Come, All Ye Faithful," to open the play.

For more than an hour, the audience reverts to old England during the 1800s and the fictitious world of Bob Cratchit and the ill-tempered Scrooge.

Watching miserly Scrooge reform to a kind-hearted gentleman continues to be a fascinating experience as actor Jack Flannery unleashes his "bah humbugs," insults and biting barbs on a trembling but

undaunted Bob Cratchit. Flannery's performance (and transference) of the crusty old soul, particularly during the ghosts' visitations, is as convincing as it is humorous.

THE 29 ROLES are played by 16 actors, half of whom have performed at MTSU before. However, unlike past MTSU theater productions, three children add marvel and anticipation to keep the play moving, serving as a reminder that Christmas brings out the child at heart. For instance, the little boy Christmas caroling steals a laugh from the audience when he mumbles "what a grump!" after Scrooge yells at him.



Strange visitations by Scrooge's ghost friends are anything but the conventional cut-and-dried visions. The mere appearance of the Ghost of Christmas Past (Eva Wright), wearing a golden robe and eye mask, as she looks at the way things were. The Ghost of Christmas Yet-To-Come (William Smithwick)

dominates the stage in a black, shrouded, voiceless form. In such instances, neither word nor motion are needed to recognize the symbolic importance of the characters.

The only noticeable setback in the play is the slow beginning, which doesn't really draw one into the plot. A street scene with apple girls and pencil boys is nice, but what does it add to the action and understanding of the plot? The business conversations between Cratchit and Scrooge don't add much to the play either, beyond giving the viewer the play's history. Only when Scrooge begins trembling and shaking in his bed after his strange encounters with the ghosts is there any real audience appreciation.

ACT TWO HOLDS the most feeling with the warmth and cheerfulness of the Cratchits' Christmas and the inevitable turnabout of Scrooge's personality. Scrooge's Christmas turkey really hits a high note in humor as the audience laughs at the cloth bird with real tailfeathers.

What will carry the Christmas spirit further is the donation of a new toy and two can good items at both matinee performances on Dec. 3 and 4 at 2 p.m. Other performances of the play will run from Dec. 1-4 at 8 o'clock in the Boutwell Dramatic Arts Auditorium.



Photos by Mike Poley

A frightened Scrooge (Jack Flannery) has a conversation with the ghost of old business partner Marley (Nathan Evans) that helps convince him to change his ways in *A Christmas Carol*.

Black fraternity celebrates 77th anniversary

By STEPHEN LOVE

Special to Sidelines

Dec. 4 will mark the 77th anniversary of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, the nation's oldest and largest black Greek organization.

Nathaniel A. Murray, Robert H. Ogle and Vertner W. Tandy saw the need for black students to unite and form a

highly cohesive fraternal bond. They founded APA in 1906 at Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y. However, many people—even some blacks—felt that the cultural backgrounds of blacks at this time were not strong enough to nurture a fraternity.

ALPHA'S PURPOSE OF formation was to promote social cohesiveness among black students on predominantly white campuses across the nation and in selected countries. Until that time, blacks were limited to study groups while attending college.

APA has been the forerunner of many of the advancements which black Americans have witnessed over the years. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored

People and the National Urban League are two organizations which were formed by Alpha men.

During the early years—and including the present—APA has continued to take the lead in fighting for the enrichment of black life in America. "Go to High School, Go to College" and "A Hopeless People" are campaigns which Alpha has sponsored in efforts to create an enlightened society.

Currently, Alpha is sponsoring a \$1 million fund drive with the dividends to be divided and distributed to the NAACP, Urban League and the United Negro College Fund. The fraternity is also sponsoring leadership role models for high school students



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Disturbing music, lyrics make Midnight Oil unique

By **LYNDA TEWELL**
Sidelines Features Editor

Among the wave of "new music" that has come out of Australia in the last few years, Midnight Oil's sound has got to be the most unique. Its new album, *10-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1*, is a curious yet clever blend of powerful music with stirring, well thought-out lyrics.

Midnight Oil, an extremely popular political rock band from Down Under, combines pulsating drum and bass "beats," classical string instruments such as the violin, a peculiar blend of exotic Eastern tonations thrown in at random, and the ever-present synthesizers of today to get its message across in a

moving way.

THE LEAD SINGER for the Oils, a bald giant of a man named Peter Garrett, speaks to an audience with power of size if not singing ability. But what is being said and how it is presented musically seems to be the main issue here—not whether or not Garrett can carry a tune.

To Oil fans overseas, Garrett's vocal range doesn't seem to matter—it's Oil's stage presence and overwhelming sound that makes all its concerts sell-outs and its four albums silver and gold.

10-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1 went gold in its native country within *three days* of its release, and it is easy to see why. The album opens with a song called "Outside World," and it is quite unlike any other song I have ever heard before. Garrett's lilting, haunting vocals remind one of Bowie with the way they are mysteriously presented, like a great truth that is about to unfold. The lyrics uphold this: "It's the summer of another year/ A little world weary, a little more to fear...." It's something we all feel, and the

soft, pulsating back-beat reinforces it.

"**OUTSIDE WORLD**" fades into the next tune, "Only the Strong," a powerful rocker that captures Pink Floyd's paranoia. An anti-American sentiment is presented in a couple of songs: "Read About It" (Bombers keep coming/ Engines softly humming/ The stars and stripes are running for their own big show) and "US Forces" (US Forces give the nod/ It's a setback for your country), but perhaps it isn't bad for the United States to see what "representatives" from other countries see, think and feel.

The songs all fade into one another, telling one big story with a central message: man trying to communicate with a world gone insane. Between

"Read About It" and "Scream in Blue" is a beautiful, well-orchestrated bridge that carries one along in sound until it ends in what sounds like a jet leaving the scene of a war. After this bridge is a calmness—"Scream In Blue"—that rhapsodizes that love is needed in the "final hour."



Unusual chord progressions, disturbing lyrics and music written in a minor key make *10-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1* an album that will be remembered, and Midnight Oil a band that can't be forgotten.



Midnight Oil, a popular Australian political rock band, has a debut album in the States. Entitled *10-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1*, their music should make waves here as it has Down Under.

Blues revival brings Nighthawks to Mainstreet

By **LYNDA TEWELL**
Sidelines Features Editor

Lovers of rhythm 'n' blues will be flocking to Mainstreet Dec. 3-4 to see the Nighthawks, a blues-rock band which has somewhat of a cult following across the states and a newly-released album.

The band, together with its current personnel since 1974, is not a novice at recording, even though *The Nighthawks* on Mercury is its first LP with a major label. The Nighthawks have made five records under their own name, and individually as musicians, the 'Hawks have backed recording artists such as John Ham-

mondon their own LPs.

FOR THE CONSIDERABLE number of people who have seen them play in clubs—300 dates in 32 states last year—their records have yet to properly capture their tough, blues-rock sound that have made them a popular crowd-drawer for clubs.

"That was one of the challenges of the new record," states Mark Wenner, who handles harmonica and vocals for the Nighthawks. "It's difficult to capture the live energy without doing a live album; you're in a different environment in the studio."

Wenner says that when the

band was born in the early 1970s, it was a bleak period for the blues. But this gave the Nighthawks more fuel to become a success. Working from its base in D.C., the group began to expand its music to other areas, such as Boston and Atlanta.

"The blues revival and the new wave...scene aren't that far apart," Wenner added. "Both were a reaction to what was happening and a return to the basics. Maybe some people think the Sex Pistols are too much, but they may go out to see the Nighthawks."

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Sports

'Just plain big' Memphis State pounds Middle

By MIKE JONES

Sidelines Sports Editor

MEMPHIS—The old theory of "the bigger they come, the harder they fall" was disproven conclusively Wednesday night as the big Memphis State Tigers downed MTSU 74-47 at Mid-South Coliseum.

The Tigers, with a front line composed of giants like 6-foot-10 All-American Keith Lee, 6-foot-9 powerhouse Derrick Phillips and 6-foot-5 leaper Bobby Parks, denied the Blue Raiders room to maneuver

under the basket, as well as denying shot after shot.

IT WASN'T THAT MTSU was completely dwarfed, but that the Tigers were just plain big.

"I'll say this: Memphis State is the most awesome basketball team I've seen in my 12 years of sitting on the bench as a coach," reflected Blue Raider Head Coach Stan "Ramrod" Simpson, who coached the 1981-82 Blue Raiders to a victory over Kentucky in the first round of the NCAA

playoffs that year.

"Man-to-man, we knew we couldn't play with them. That's the main thing. They had too many positions to go up against.

"THERE WAS NO ONE real guy to key on. There are no two or three guys to key on," the coach added. "Memphis State just doesn't give you that opportunity."

Simpson also pointed to the Tigers' size as posing a continuous problem throughout the game.

Tigers Head Coach Dana Kirk captured his 200th win as a college coach with the win.

A TOUGH FULLCOURT trap defense employed by Memphis State early in the game resulted in several turnovers and general confusion at times for MTSU, helping the Tigers amass a 40-25 halftime margin. The Blue Raiders turned the ball over 20 times to Memphis State's 13.

The Tigers, picked last week to finish fourth in the nation by *Sports Illustrated*, led by as much as 29 points before the dust settled.

Offensively, State's plan was fairly simple: get the ball to Lee or one of his fellow workhorses inside and watch them dance.

THE JUNIOR sensation, who added to his overall strength during the off season with a few extra pounds,

racked up a bonanza of impressive stats in all categories: 24 points, 15 rebounds, five assists, three steals and two blocked shots.

Parks had 16 points and five steals, while Phillip "Doom" Haynes had 16 points.

While the Raiders lacked the poise they showed against nationally ranked Georgia in the opening game of the Wendy's Classic last weekend, the partisan crowd of 10,271, along with playing on the Tigers' home floor, may have had something to do with that, Simpson said.

"WE'RE DISAPPOINTED that we didn't play a little better, but I'm not down on the team and their effort," Simpson said.

The Raiders shot 36.8 percent from the field, hitting 21 of 57 shots. Memphis State, which upped its record to 3-0 with the victory, shot 49.3 percent from the field, hitting 35 of 71 shots.

Guard LaRae Davis again led MTSU scoring efforts with 18 points. Center Raleigh Choice had eight points, while forward Bruce Buck had six.

MTSU, now 1-2, travels Saturday night to Nashville to face Tennessee State before returning home Monday night to host Urbana.



Photo by Keith Tippitt

Memphis State's Phillip "Doom" Haynes drives for a layup, knocking down MTSU's Maury Mapes. Andrew Turner of the Tigers (10) looks on. Memphis State beat MTSU 74-47 Wednesday in Memphis.

Donnelly, Corwin pick up OVC honors

Eight Blue Raiders selected

FROM STAFF REPORTS

MTSU Head Football Coach MTSU Donnelly, who led the Blue Raiders to an 8-2 record this season, was named Ohio Valley Conference Coach of the Year by the OVC Media Association, it was announced yesterday.

Eight members of the Blue Raiders were named to the All-OVC squad, also selected by the 30-member group.

DONNELLY, WHO just completed his fifth year as the MTSU head man, raised his collegiate coaching record to

39-34 with his third consecutive record.

Quarterback Mickey Corwin, a junior, was named the OVC Offensive Player of the Year, along with being selected as the team's signal-caller.

Also named to the team from MTSU were junior tailback Vince Corwin, senior offensive guard Roger Carroll, flanker Marshan Jolly, placekicker Kelly Potter, defensive tackle Jeff Spencer, cornerback Steve Puryear and defensive end William Thomas.



Photo by Keith Tippitt

Memphis State center Keith Lee, a 6-foot-10 All-American, clears a rebound during the Tigers win Wednesday over MTSU. Blue Raiders Bruce Buck (52) and Doug Lipscomb (34) head back down the floor, while Tigers Derrick Phillips (35) and Bobby Parks (22) look on.

Equestrian squad wins at two events

FROM STAFF REPORTS

MTSU's Equestrian team attended two intercollegiate shows at Hiwassee College and the University of Tennessee last weekend, bringing home a total of 78 individual awards

along with several other honors.

Sixteen first place ribbons and trophies were won by Tracy Suiter, Sherri Higdon, Megan Green, Marie Wade, Lisa King, Sherry Pewitt,

Ashley Hudson, Dawn Drake, Chrissy Mackie, Beth Oden and Joe L. Morris.

SECOND PLACE finishers from MTSU included Janet Ross, Laurie Beasley, Chrissy Mackie, Elesa Jackson, Missy Miller, Tracy Suiter, Karen Gibson, Melinda Lee, Lacy Sisk, Megan Green, Sally Bowling, Cathy Louthan, Laura Robinson, Lisa King and Jim Blankenship.

MTSU also took nine third places, 13 fourth places, 13 fifth places and nine sixth places.

At Hiwassee, Sheri Higdon received the award of High Point Rider and Megan Green was reserve High Point Rider.

Simpson tries to rebound Raiders in time for Tennessee State Sat.

By DON TILLET

Sidelines Sports Writer

Stan Simpson and his Blue Raiders will try to overcome Wednesday night's 74-47 loss at fourth-rated Memphis State and turn their attention to Saturday evening's encounter with Tennessee State in Nashville.

The Big Blue Tigers host the Blue Raiders at 7:30 p.m. at TSU's Gentry Center.

"WE'VE GOT TO snap that out of their minds," Simpson said yesterday, referring to the defeat at Memphis. "Hopefully, we learned a valuable lesson."

Turning his attention toward Tennessee State, a

bitter rival, Simpson compared the Tigers to his club.

"They are extremely quick. They also have a tradition of going to the boards. They crash the boards so hard. As for us, we have only been out-rebounded in three of our last 60 games," Simpson said.

TENNESSEE STATE, winless in three games, has had problems in shooting the ball, as it has experienced long cold spells in each of its contests this season. Simpson warns, however, about the Tigers' ability to put the ball in the hoop.

"Ronnie Cage has a 24 point scoring average, and he will present a problem for us. We can't afford to go into a cold spell," Simpson said.

Simpson is also concerned with the Tigers' defense.

"IT WILL BE a great

problem controlling the tempo on a team that changes defenses so much," the coach said.

One of the Raiders' pluses will be LaRae Davis, who is coming off a 9-for-14 outing at Memphis and has been consistent the Raiders' most perhaps performer to this point.

"I just hope he can continue to show consistency," Simpson said.

The MTSU-TSU series, which is tied at 5-5, has been an intense one, and the Blue Raider mentor warns that he will have to do "something special" to get his club ready for the Tigers.

With a win in Nashville Saturday, the Raiders will even their record at 2-2 going into Monday night's meeting with Urbana of Ohio.

Soccer club closes out winning slate

The MTSU Soccer Club recently completed a 7-1-2 1983 fall season in the Greater Nashville Amateur Soccer League, winning the regular season championship and finishing second in the league tournament.

1983 marked the first time the league has had a fall season.

THIS YEAR'S EDITION of the team was led in scoring by George Dergerberg, who scored 10 goals, tying him with former soccer ace James Bofil for the club career scoring record.

The team scored 61 goals this season, breaking the season scoring record of 45, set in 1981 when Bofil led the team with 13 goals.

MTSU last won the GNASL Championship in the spring of 1980 when it won both the regular season and the tournament. The team had second place finishes each spring from 1981-83.

Since beginning in the fall of 1978, MTSU has won 69 games while losing only 19. While scoring 340 goals during this time, MTSU has held its opponents to 140.



Photo by Keith Tippitt

MTSU's Russell "Slim" Smith powers past Memphis State All-American center Keith Lee during action from the Blue Raiders 74-47 loss to the nationally ranked Tigers Wednesday in Memphis.

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