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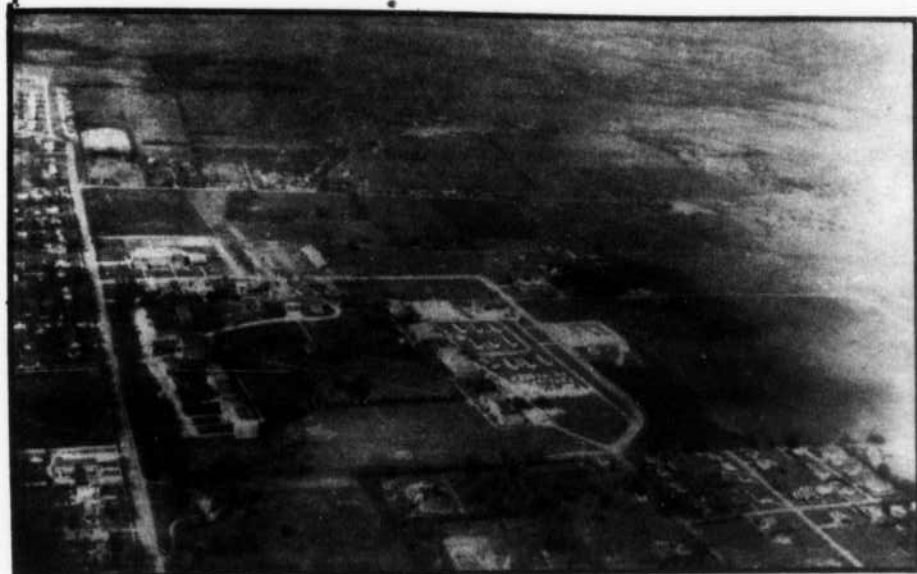
The Weekly Newspaper of MTSU

New Student Edition

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
SIDELINES

Editor 898-2337

Murfreesboro, Tennessee



1958

1982



1966

1996

New
Student
Edition



From The Editor

New Students:

Welcome to Middle Tennessee State University and the world of higher learning. It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to our beautiful and expanding campus and hopefully enlighten you on some of the higher points that Murfreesboro and MTSU has to offer.

Now that you are crossing the line of education that will take you from the standard seven hour days of classes to days that are designed especially to fit your needs, you will find the time you spend out of class is solely yours and no one else's. This opens doors for all new experiences, some to be enjoyable and some to be strictly learning ones. Before we explore the new experiences available, classes are one subject that we must address.

The fact that you are going to attend college means you do have to sign up for some classes, and attending them regularly is highly recommended. That may sound like a stupid statement; but coming from first hand experience, trust me when I say that attending classes regularly is a good thing. Upon my entry into college four years ago, I did not take heed to those words and that is how I am fortunate enough to have another two semesters to go before I can graduate. No matter how boring or long winded your soon-to-be-professors are, you will benefit from attending on a regular basis. It might also surprise you at how much professors will take notice to your attendance and how a regular attendance will help keep your GPA at a favorable number.

Now that the somewhat painful and least exciting topic has been covered, we can move on to those new and exciting experiences that I mentioned before. After class is out for the day there are a number of things on and off campus to keep you busy until it is time to return to the den of learning. If you are fortunate to be over 21, I would highly recommend stopping by the Boro or Jonathan's to sit down have yourself a cold import, take in the surroundings and realize how blessed you are, to be able to educate yourself to a higher level.

However, if you would prefer to just roam campus and see what MTSU has to offer you, the first stop should be the Office of Student Programming, they can answer almost any question that you might have about activities that might be of interest. If you want to dive right into your schoolwork Todd Library offers the best

around in quiet and peacefulness. For those of you that are into the internet scene be sure to stop at the Office of Information Technology to set up your frank account and be on your way to surfing the web at any one of the terminal locations.

If some of you, like myself, are more of the outdoors type, I would suggest squeezing in a game or two of Frisbee golf at the Cedars of Lebanon state park, or if regular golf is more your speed Indian Hills and Old Fort golf courses are very good selections. Murfreesboro, although not a thriving metropolis yet, is a wonderful place to get to know. Stones River Battlefield is just up the street for you history buffs and there are plenty of out lying back roads for those times when the need to get away is upon you.

College is more than fun and games and learning experiences, it is also a chance to meet new friends and expand your own culture levels. Some of you will feel the need to rush a Greek organization while others of you will want to join student organizations or become involved in the campus media systems. Regardless of your preference many of you will meet new friends that will become your friends for life. Just think, there may be a person across the room that someday will be your best man or bride's maid at your wedding. There may even be your bride or groom sitting somewhere in the orientation room reading this same letter. Just remember, that you can only get as much out of an experience that you are willing to put into the experience.

So once again, let me welcome you to MTSU and wish you all the luck in the world as you become another class to embark down the road of higher education. Murfreesboro is a wonderful town and has many hidden treasures that can be found with just a little bit of exploring. I have faith that once you become acquainted with this new place, you will be quite comfortable with calling it home.

Good Luck,



Todd R. Cruse

MTSU History

Middle Tennessee State University first opened its doors on Monday, September 11th, 1911 as Middle Tennessee State Normal School. The institution, which was created by the general education bill of 1909, was organized as a 4 year high school and a two year college designated as a teacher training facility.

Murfreesboro was chosen as the site for Middle Tennessee Normal after heavy deliberation between the towns of Clarksville, Cookeville, and Murfreesboro itself.

Andrew L. Todd, a Murfreesboro attorney who served on the State Board of Education is recognized as the founding father of this institution by some people. The MTSU library bears his name in honor of his efforts to help establish this university.

The property that the university now lies on, laid just outside the town limits in 1910. The original eighty acres of property was donated to the Normal School by Tom Harrison and Joe Black, and contained 500 ft of road frontage on Main St. The street that runs from Main St. along the west boundary of the

property was named "North Tennessee Normal Blvd." and was changed to just plain North Tennessee Blvd. when the school's name changed in 1925.

Money was donated by both the city of Murfreesboro and Rutherford county in order to purchase twenty more acres of land (to make it an even 100 acres) and to help finance the erection of the buildings.

The first buildings to be erected for the institution are still standing today. The administration building, and one of the original three, Kirksey Old Main, is now used for classes, computer labs, and holding the offices of certain departments. The original kitchen and dining hall which was one of the first three buildings also has now been refurbished and is being used for the MTSU Alumni Center. Rutledge Hall, a girls dorm was the last of the original three buildings built and it is still being used today as a girls dormitory. At about the same time that the campus was being formed, a house was constructed on the corner of Main St. and North Tennessee Blvd. for the president of the school and it too is also being

used today for its original purpose.

The first boys dorm, Jones Hall, was not constructed until 1921 because of the lack of funds and due to the fact that most elementary teachers in the early 1900's were women and not men.

Opening enrollment on September 11, 1911 was 125 students. Since then the university has grown 140 times its original size. Our peak enrollment to date was 17,424 in the fall semester of 1995.

In 1925, with 333 students and 25 faculty members, Middle Tennessee Normal

School made the transition to a 4 year teachers college, and the publication of the first yearbook came by 1926. By an act of the state legislature in 1943, the "Teachers College" became Middle Tennessee State College and retained that identity until 1965 when we attained university status and became Middle Tennessee State University.

In the history of this university 65,367 degrees have been conferred, including undergraduate, masters, specialist and doctoral, in four more years you will be able to help those numbers increase.

Interesting MTSU facts:

- Sixth District Rep. Bart Gordon is a former ASB (now SGA) president.
- Terry Weeks, MTSU teacher and graduate, was the National Teacher of the Year in 1988
- Former MTSU student Bill Mason is now an aide to Vice President Al Gore Jr. in Washington.
- MTSU graduate James Buchanan is the 1986 Nobel Laureate in Economic Sciences.
- Former Sen. Albert Gore Sr. is a 1932 graduate of MTSU.
- MTSU became a university in 1965.
- The graduate school was added in 1951.

Some dates you may want to remember:

Aug. 14:

- Last day for schedule adjustments for priority registrants.
- Dorms open.

Aug. 15-20:

- TRAM available for students who have not yet registered.

Aug. 21:

- Classes begin.

Aug. 21-22

- Late registration

Aug. 21-26

- Drop/Add

Aug. 26

- Fee payment deadline

Sept. 2

- Labor Day Holiday -- no classes.

Oct. 7-12

- Mid-term

Oct. 17-19

- Fall Break -- no classes

Nov. 28-30

- Thanksgiving Holidays

Dec. 7-13

- Final exams

Dec. 14

- Fall semester graduation

SIDELINES

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Sidelines is the non-profit, editorially independent student newspaper of MTSU and is published every Tuesday. The opinions expressed herein are those of the individual writers and not necessarily those of *Sidelines* or the University.

GAMES GAMES GAMES GAMES GAMES GAMES GAMES

**GAMEMASTER HOBBIES
 WELCOMES
 MTSU STUDENTS**

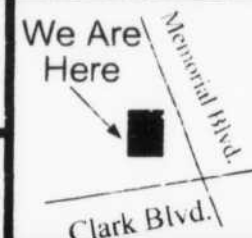
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 ALUMINUM CANS**

WELCOME

NEW STUDENTS TO

PHILLIPS BOOKSTORE

"The Student's Store"

Located in Keathley University Center (KUC)

Dorm Life An Interesting Experience

Dustin Schrimpscher /staff

Like Spam?

How do you feel about taking a shower with about 12 other guys?

Imagine a scenario. It's seven o'clock in the morning and you've just climbed out of a nice warm bed. On your way out the door you loosely pick up your little bag of toiletries — a tube of toothpaste, some after-shave, your Winney the Poo toothbrush, and your own role of toilet paper.

You leave your room and head down the hall in the flip-flops you bought so you no longer have to endure the cold tile in the hall to the bathroom. As you step into the frigid cold of the community rest-room you lose traction with your left sandal and your groggy, still got wrinkle marks on your forehead, early morning face is headed for that grimy green-tile floor. Your reflexes are sharp (hey after all, your young) so you catch yourself on the way just as your lips and nose slap the floor. Your smell like far too much Old Spice, the toothpaste tube is busted, your knuckles are bruised, your knees sting and that Winney the Poo toothbrush is no more. When you get back into your dorm you find your roommate Jazzersizing to Contemporary Christian music in camouflage bikini briefs.

The first two or three times it happens your embarrassed but after three semesters in Felder you get used to spending that food money for a new toothbrush and somedays even walking with a limp.

If people are dreading life in a dorm this will probably give them second thoughts or maybe give them nightmares, depending on their constitution. But think positively, if you've been living off of fast food and microwave burritos for the last three years you'll be fine, if you like to cook then you're screwed. No more of those smelly soaps at mom's house, no more Ralph the dog, no more pudding pops — now you are to live in a cinder block room with someone from somewhere else that you don't know. Perhaps there is reason for concern. But please try not to obsess, minions have passed through these halls and hardly



While most students try to keep their dorm rooms clean, others aren't as conscientious. Students not leaving dorm rooms at least as good as they found them will not receive a damage deposit refund. Mom wouldn't like the idea of you living like this anyway.

any of them have come to there end because of dorm life.

Living in a dorm means that you get out of bed twenty minutes later than your fellow class mates who must race for parking a limited number of parking spaces on Greenland Drive everyday. It's much easier to meet people in a dorm than in an apartment. Everyone there is broke and hardly anyone has to spend much time working to maintain their standard of living. You will find peers while hanging out around pool tables and big screen TVs. Guys, that means girls, and girls, that means guys so buckle down and prepare to be distracted.

An apartment will better provide you with living conditions you're familiar with unless you have some military background. You have a kitchen of your own, a living room and if not a private then an exclusive bathroom. You and your roommates (and you will have roommates) will argue and bitch and whine, and whine, and whine that someone isn't doing there job cleaning. No matter which member of the group your roommates gang up on and call a slacker-slob, the gang is right, he or she is a slob. Nobody wants to do chores around the apartment. The only reason anybody did chores

back home was because dad was standing over them with the car keys.

On the down side, with an apartment comes a list of dreaded *ifs*. In an apartment a bill can be just a measly little bit late when the roommate-punching bag of the week writes the check on Friday and puts the money in the bank on Monday. *If* its February and 15-degrees, and raining and you don't have any money after giving yours to a roommate for the bill; it's three o'clock and your stupid roommate with cash will be at work until nine. *If* it was the power bill then you'll sleep in the dark with all the blankets and dirty clothes you can find piled on top of yourself. *If* it had been the cable bill or the phone bill you would have at least a month to straighten things out with a mild fine. Yes friends, the *ifs* represent regret and being cold and unable to study brings regret. The power bill is the number one cause of both the dreaded *ifs* and double stress money days.

Double stress money days are a reality in an apartment. Uncomfortably close living conditions can bring on dreaded interpersonal conflict in a dorm.

Apartments in Murfreesboro are expensive and hard to find. If you want

to find a reasonable value, a competent landlord and an acceptable move-in-date, expect to spend around 60 hours in drugerous pursuit. If you hear someone say that their friend found a lovely apartment with hardwood floors, central heat and a claw foot bathtub, don't believe it. I'm sure that urban legend will always embrace the statistically rare event.

Melissa Farar, desk team leader for Wood and Felder halls, is proof that miracles do happen. She happened into a great apartment being vacated by a friend after three semesters in a dorm. Melissa chose to live off campus because of the distracting noise around a dorm.

"My rent is only a little more than the cost of a dorm and I can park at my front door," she said.

A dorm represents stability in a time when you may need it. An apartment represents self reliance, freedom and responsibility.

Truth is stranger than fiction

We all heard the horror stories. As high school seniors those lurid tales of perverts trying to give you the wink, the roommate that never showers or band sessions at two o'clock in the morning gave us pause- and they should have. After all, your roommate can affect both how well you enjoy and how well you do in college. Fortunately, you will find that most of those stories are just that, stories.

Did you catch that? Most of them are stories.

Nearly every myth is based in some sort of fact. On a college campus as big as MTSU, third in the state if you didn't know, strangeness occurs on a regular basis and some of those mythological roommates come to life. Take the plight of my good friend Ben, for example. He was late getting his dorm paperwork in before his freshman year. He was in such a hurry to fill out the forms and what-not, that he filled out one questionnaire too honestly. You remember the one housing uses to match people together as roommates? Well, he told them he had Attention Deficit Disorder. As a result he ended up in Smith Hall paired with another gentleman with a psychological disorder. Poor Ben was roomed with a schizophrenic. He wasn't just roomed with any schizophrenic, he was roomed with one that refused to take his medicine!

For nearly a semester, Ben dealt with a man who screamed in the middle of the night for fun. He lived with a person who believed that the FBI had planted a listening device inside his skull and told everyone that the president of First State Bank had tried to kidnap him. The final straw was drawn when Ben woke to find his roommate sitting on the foot of his bed smoking pot with a pair of scissors taped to his back and Jimi Hendrix's Purple Haze playing over and over on the stereo. Before the first call to turn down the music came, Ben was packed and gone. Housing found him a place a couple days later.

College is about gaining experiences. Ben gained a little more than most. He tells me that all you can do is go with the flow sometimes. If you find yourself in a similar situation, my advice is to run—as hard and fast as you can.



&



welcomes you to MTSU

FALL Highlights:

august 18:

CONCERT.....

NOUVEAU X

ON CAMPUS

on the KNOLL: 6:00pm

presented by campus

Christian Organizations

august 21:

WELCOME PARTY
5:30 pm
Ice cream,
games, etc.



PARKING LOT

FEATURING:

Way fm 88.7

Mercy Machine

august 25:

THIRD DAY

concert

6:00pm-Belle Aire

august 27:

COFFEE HOUSE

8:00pm music, people, coffee

august 28:

Tom Toombs Concert!

Juggler & Mime, 6:30 pm Belle Aire

in concert

THIRD DAY



AUG. 25-6:00PM

september 20-22:

Experience.....

WHITE WATER RAFTING

defy the current....

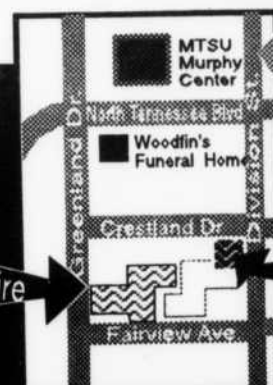
weekly schedule

Sunday school.....8:30am & 9:45am
Worship.....9:45am & 11:00am
Discipleship Training.....4:30pm

Contemporary Service

starting: September 8
casual dress, drama, praise band

Tuesday Coffee House.....9:00pm
Wednesday Prayer & Share.....6:00pm



Belle Aire College House

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Crestland Dr. & Division St.
call Steve Turner: 890-6977



**AVOIDING
A TICKET IS A SNAP**

YOU COULD LEARN A LOT FROM A DUMMY.*



The Brothers of Kappa Alpha Order ...



Welcome all new students to MTSU, and would like to encourage all students to participate in Fall Rush 1996. If you have any questions concerning Fall Rush, contact Scott Collier at 895-7976. We also invite you to join us at the Kappa Alpha House during Fraternity Rush.

MTSU student carries Olympic torch

Ryan Durham, a mass communications major, took part in the transporting of the Olympic torch across Middle Tennessee in June.

Durham, a graduate of Summertown High School, was selected as a Hometown Hero in the Coca-Cola sponsored event. The MTSU junior was nominated in a 150 word essay written by a former high school advisor, Ricky Skillington of Lawrenceburg.

The Olympic torch reached Middle Tennessee on Thursday, June 28 and passed by such landmarks as the Bell South Tower, Ryman Auditorium, and the State Capitol in Nashville. The torch stopped at the Parthenon in Centennial Park to end a daylong sports celebration in Nashville. Gov. Don Sundquist and others participated in the finale. The torch then wound its way through several Middle

Tennessee communities including Triune, Eagleville and Shelbyville before making its way into Alabama and Georgia.

Nighty -seven Tennesseans were selected as Hometown Heroes to take part in the 15,000 mile, 42 state torch relay. The relay, when completed, will stop at the Olympic stadium in Atlanta, Ga.

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- * Planning your semester
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- * Reading and understanding your textbooks
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- * Test-taking techniques
- * Critical thinking
- * Career planning
- * Overcoming anxiety
- * Writing essays and papers
- * Oral presentations
- * Using the library and other resources

To enroll:

Look under University 101 Seminar in the schedule book to select a time that is convenient with you. Enter the information on your **TRAM** worksheet.

For more information:

Contact:
Faye Johnson
Assistant to the Provost and Vice President
for Academic Affairs
119 Cope Administration Building

Don't Miss Out New Students.....

Yearbook photos will be made during orientation from 11 am to 2 pm in the KUC Lounge on the following dates:

**July 9, 13, 19, 24
August 6**



★ ARAMARK

WHAT'S HOT?

Raider Dining welcomes incoming students and wants to be sure you're aware of the **HOT** places to eat on campus.



Raider Dining

A variety of cafeterias with everyone's tastes in mind. Whether you want a hearty breakfast, a full course meal, or an afternoon snack, the **four** dining halls are more-than ready to meet all of your hunger needs.



Corlew Dining Hall

An all-you-care-to-eat cafeteria with salad and fresh pasta bars, hot entrees, desserts and RAIDER DINING'S own ITZA PIZZA.



Keathley University Center Grill

The KUC GRILL offers a somewhat different atmosphere with Pizza Hut and Chick-Fil-A. Gretels Bake Shop tickles your sweet side with their home made cookies, pies, cakes, and of course ice cream. Grill

Works offers everything from eggs to cheeseburgers. While healthier fare is available at both Salad Garden and Deli Corner.

The KUC GRILL accepts Raider and Budget funds and Cash.



Woodmore Dining Hall

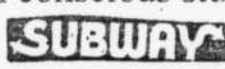
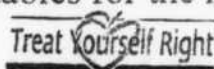


An unlimited seconds cafeteria with salad bar, food bar, hot entrees, etc. and the friendliest staff on campus.



James Union Building

The SUB has Taco Bell, Subway and Grill Works, and on top of that, JUB offers our own "Treat Yourself Right", consisting of entrees and vegetables for the health conscious students.



Take advice: seek advice from advisor

Helena Silva/staff

If you think the last thing in the world you need, now that you're in college, is more advice, you couldn't be further from the truth.

So here's a little advice on advice. If you know what you want to major in, seek out your assigned advisor for the college of your major. If you have not yet decided on a major, the college advisors can be helpful in giving you information on their specific area. They can refer you to the advisors of other colleges and answer general questions about university life, such as deadlines for add/dropping classes, who the good professors are, and where to go for more good advice.

Get to know your advisor well. Find out that person's schedule, his or her office hours and phone number. Even if you only see them before registering for each semester, you are better off than not seeing them at all. They are there to help you get on the right track and guide you through so that you don't waste valuable time taking the wrong

classes, and advise you on career choices and, in some instances, can be an excellent job reference.

Another excellent place to go for assistance in determining a major is the Counseling and Testing Center. A survey offered at the Center called Career Decision-Making (CDM) can be very helpful and enlightening. It is designed to show where interests lie and what career choices go along with those interests. Also available at the Counseling and Testing Center is a computer program called Systems of Interactive Guidance and Information (SIGI) which goes more in depth to help you figure out what you would like to do as a career.

There is an abundance of resources here at MTSU to help you in your never-ending quest to find the perfect niche in life. To sum it all up, my advice to you on advice is simply this: take it! Find out who your advisor is, get to know him or her, utilize the available resources, and enjoy the road to success and happiness.

Regents approve 3% tuition hike for 1996-97 academic year

Sara Way/staff

Following a recommendation from Dr. Walker, on Thursday, June 20th, the Tennessee Board of Regents has approved a 3% tuition hike beginning this fall.

Duane Stucky, Vice President of Financial Administration, said that full time, in-state, undergraduate students will see a \$25 increase per semester.

Undergraduate tuition, which was \$832, will now be \$857.

Hit harder will be out-of-state students, who will face a 5% hike, from \$2,065 to \$2,168 - an total increase of \$103, he said.

Julie Goodyear, spokesperson for the Board of Regents, said that the state would not contribute its share of the inflation-related increases - determined using a formula by which state money is apportioned to schools - for the second year in a row.

"The . . . state had other priorities, including TennCare,

welfare, and Families First. . . [it] could not fund higher education."

Families First is Gov. Sundquist's new welfare plan.

Stucky said that the increase is due to increases in inflation. He added that fee increases are generally matched to inflation increases.

Tom Tozier, public relations, seemed to agree, noting that inflation over the past two years has been 5.7%, while the tuition increases have totaled 6% over the past two years.

"They appear to have simply rounded up" he said

David Chambers, Financial Aid, said that the tuition hike will not affect financial aid. The Pell Grant Award will go up for students receiving a full Pell Grant. Students not receiving a full Pell Grant will have to come up with the extra \$25. "Both UT and the Tennessee Board of Regents went with THEC's recommendation of 3 percent and 5 percent increases,"

Academic programs offer outstanding, unique study

Gregg Mayer/staff

AGRICULTURE

Outstanding, unique, and variegated programs are the foundation to an excellent university. At MTSU, students are offered a wide selection of majors, from agriculture to business to philosophy, so that they may choose from the hardest of physical labor to the highest ascetics of the mind, or anywhere in-between. And within all of these choices, MTSU offers a select, elite group of programs which stand out amongst the nation's best. For incoming freshman, these elite programs are the most appealing. Many out-of-state students who have chosen MTSU did so because one of these nationally acclaimed, elite programs appealed specifically to them.

Below is a compilation, chosen by the staff at *Sidelines*, of four of the MTSU programs which stand out amongst our nation's best:

AEROSPACE

Although you won't see Tom Cruise wearing his aviator sunglasses and chewing bubble gum around the MTSU campus, you will see 450 other people who have similar ambitions of taking their dreams into the sky by majoring in aerospace at MTSU. The aerospace program, headed by Ronald Ferrara, is accredited by the Council of Aviation Accreditation.

As part of the explosive expansion at MTSU, the aerospace program is soon to have two new buildings. These buildings will feature state-of-the-art flight simulators, wind tunnels, and new, high-tech computers. The MTSU aerospace program will also build a new airport, only two miles away from campus, so that students will have closer, convenient access to the 15 planes owned by MTSU.

MTSU also has its own flight instructors and flight mechanics, which is something only about half the universities in the nation have, according to Ferrara.

For information about requirements and options for aerospace majors, contact your advisor, or call Ronald Ferrara at 898-2788.

Do you agree with Wordsworth, Thoreau, and Kaczynski in that we should go back to nature? Forsake industry and live off the land? Well, you will have plenty of hands-on experience if you join the over 400 agriculture majors at MTSU.

The agriculture program is divided into three sections: horse science, plant-soil, and agribusiness. Each section provides plenty of hands-on experience as well as a low teacher/student ratio. MTSU also has a full-operational dairy, with 150 cows ready to be milked, as opposed to the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, which closed its dairy two years ago.

However, the best part for out-of-state students in the MTSU agriculture program is that they pay in-state tuition. Known as the Common Market plan, MTSU allows any out-of-state student to major in agriculture and enjoy all of the luxuries of MTSU with an in-state, low tuition. The Common Market is used by certain states, including Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama and Kentucky, because of the sparse amount of universities offering a quality agriculture program like MTSU.

For information about the agriculture program and Common Market tuition, contact your advisor or call Harley Fautch, agribusiness department head, at 898-2523.

NURSING

Do you have the courage to wear white polyester and to tell strangers to bend over? If so, you can join the over 600 students in the MTSU nursing program who are just that audacious.

The nursing program at MTSU has one of the highest success rates nationally: over 90 percent of MTSU graduates pass the nursing licensing exam (NCLEX) on their first attempt. And unlike most universities, the MTSU nursing program admits students every semester, rather than just once a year like most universities, according to Judith Wakim, nursing department head.

Also, almost 40 MTSU students intern each semester at various locations, including the prestigious Vanderbilt Hospital, and the Veteran's Administration Hospital.



Dr. Andrew Guilliford teaches his museums class out side during a power ou. This class, in the History Department, is just one of the many unique opportuni that can be found in most of MTSU's academic major choices.

For information about your requirements and options of being a nursing major, contact your advisor, or call Judith Wakim at 898-2437.

MASS COMMUNICATIONS

Whether you are the next William Buckley or Kurt Cobain, the MTSU mass communications program is one of the nation's largest, and best places to burgeon.

The MTSU mass communications program is saturated with unusually fine equipment: three professional

recording studios, a mobile production unit, and top quality graphic labs.

"Most universities would not have all of these," said Deryl Leaming, mass communications department head.

About one-half of all out-of-state students at MTSU are recording industry majors (RIM), which is a sub-part (though only by semantics) of the mass communications program as a whole. Close to 1000 students major in the RIM program at MTSU, which is the nation's largest program available, said Rich Banett,

RIM department head.

The modern, high-tech John Bragg Mass Communications building, the unusually young, talented faculty, and the close proximity to Nashville for hundreds of mass communication interns, makes MTSU the ideal university to pursue an education in mass communications.

For information about your requirements and options as a mass communications major, contact your advisor or call Deryl Leaming at 898-5872. For specifics on the RIM program, call Rich Barnett at 898-2578.

**Got a Problem
HELP
May be just a phone call
away
898-5151
Office of the Ombudsman
OM-BUDS-MAN -- An official who assits
students with problems; one who helps**

Campus Recreation a great break from the old grind

Rich Guider/special to Sidelines

Quick—taking into account the time-dilation theory—if a chicken can lay 2.5 eggs in 35 minutes, how long will it take a one-legged cricket to kick the seeds out of a two-inch slice of kiwi fruit?

Give up?

Next question: If you're feeling REC-less and want to take a breather from adding wrinkles to your brain, what can you do? Hint: This department and its facilities offer everything from Aerobics to zooming down a 60-ft. water slide.

The Recreation Center is less than one year old, but it, along with the activities offered, have more than impressed those who visit and participate in what all Campus Recreation has to offer.

"Campus Recreation's mission is to offer activities and programs that interests every individual of the MTSU

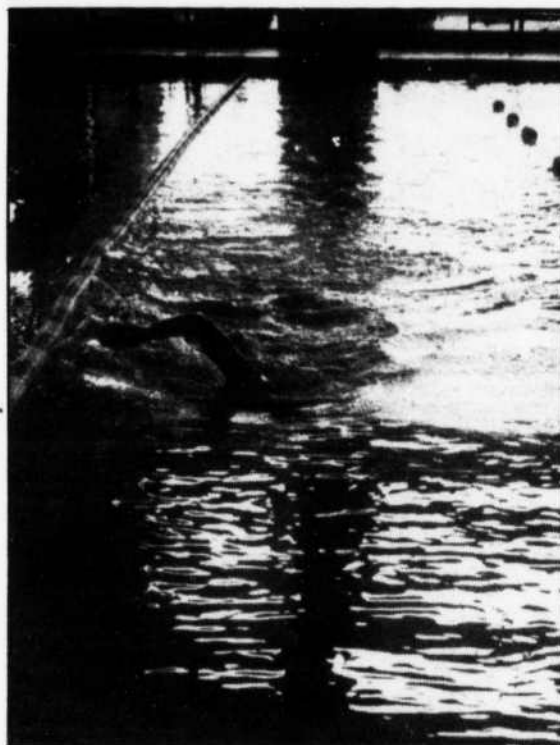
community," said Glenn Hanley, director of Campus Recreation. "We have received many compliments from students, faculty and staff that take advantage of what is offered through this department."

Campus Recreation is comprised of five major programs including aquatics, fitness and wellness, intramural sports, outdoor recreation, and recreation for the disabled.

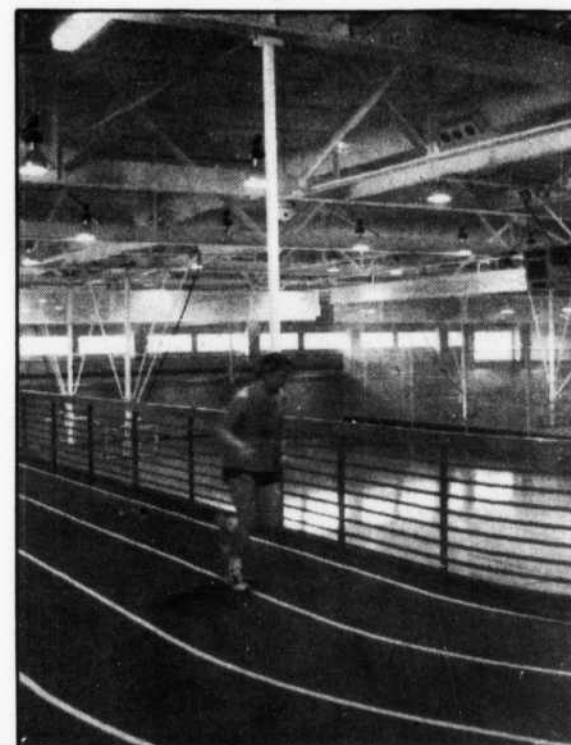
Campus Recreation plans to increase locker availability by building more locker rooms onto the existing building. An outdoor pool for the already existing sun deck is also in the works. The construction of these two areas is planned to begin next spring.

The Recreation Center is open Monday-Thursday, 6 a.m.-11 p.m.; Friday, 6 a.m.-10 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-8 p.m.; and Sunday, noon-11 p.m.

And don't worry. You don't have to answer the first question to get in.



A swimmer, above left, enjoys the pool while a student, right, takes a jog around the indoor track of the multi-million dollar recreation center which opened last fall. The center offers many activities for exercise and enjoyment.



Killed 11/1/89



Killed 3/18/92



Killed 5/14/93



Killed 12/5/92



Killed 6/23/93



Killed 12/29/89



Killed 3/29/91

**DRUNK
DRIVING
DOESN'T
JUST KILL
DRUNK
DRIVERS.**



Killed 11/8/92



Killed 2/27/94

If you don't stop your friend from driving drunk, who will? Do whatever it takes.

FRIENDS DON'T LET FRIENDS DRIVE DRUNK.



U.S. Department of Transportation

Dining Delights

Murfreesboro has places to suit your eating fancy as



Toot's

New place, new town, new friends, new school, and new adventures in drinking and dining. Murfreesboro offers many fine places to dine and hang out, depending on your preference:

Toot's

Here is a place that will remind you of Hooters except the wings that Toot's has to offer are enormous. You might even think that the chickens were abnormal by the size of their wings. Toot's also has wonderful burgers and beer galore. The oysters, frog legs, and fried pickles adds to Toot's laid back, easy going, eat with your fingers atmosphere.

Marinas Italian Restaurant

For those of you that love italian food there is only one place to go in town, Marina's Italian Restaurant on the Square. The menu ranges from lasagna to chicken parmesian and almost everything in between. My suggestion is the eggplant parmesian, it is moist and quite tasty. Marinas offers a lunch buffet that is very reasonably priced with a selection that will surely satisfy the pickiest eater. If you really want the true Italian eating experience Marinas' calzones are a must, prepared with a number of fresh fillings and wrapped in a tasty crust, they are always to die for.

Demos'

There is only one thing to say about Demos' Steakhouse: STEAKS! Demos' has the best steaks Murfreesboro has to offer. The atmosphere is pleasant and the service is good. If steak is what you are hungry for Demos' is a must.

527 Mainstreet

This bar is becoming part of MTSU history and has great potential when a good band comes through town. Mainstreet has a few pool tables and alot of chairs. The accoustics make the show quite enjoyable, while the beer is good and cold too.

Jonathan's on the Square

Jonathan's is a new comer to the town of Murfreesboro, and they have made quite an impression since they have been here. Their beer selection on tap is quite extensive and their pizza is very tasty. The service is quite good and they have the one thing that all bars need, a patio that opens onto the town square.

The Boro

A long time favorite of MTSU students, The Boro offers a wide selection of both draft and bottled beers. Although the atmosphere begs out for washing machines The Boro has not yet become a laundry-bar. Pluses include live music, pool tables, and a patio with a view of Murfree Center. If you're around for lunch time The Boro offers a number of grill items you could stand to check out, however, if you are watching your colestoral you should stay away from the burgers. The beer is actually more expensive than it could be but since The Boro has legendary status, the patrons don't seem to mind.

These reviews are the views of Todd Crus, Dustin Schrimpsheer, and members of the Sidelines Review Board. The opinions expressed are those of the individual writers and not necessarily those of Sidelines or Middle Tennessee State University.



527 Mainstreet



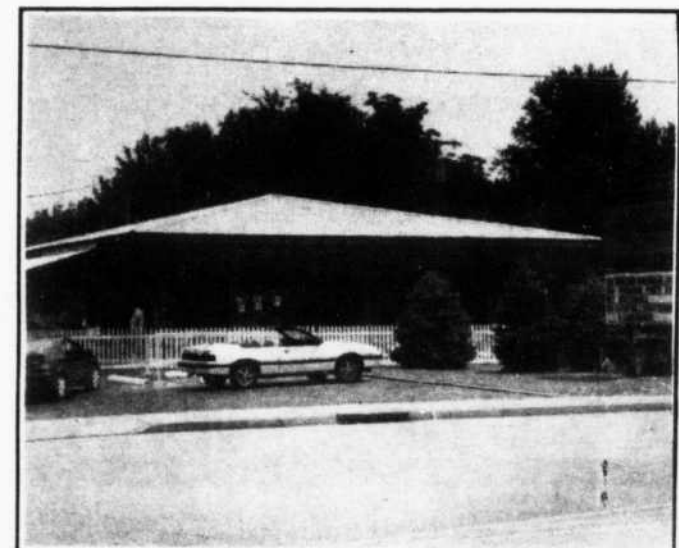
Marinas



Jonathan's



Demos'



The Boro

Preserving MTSU's past while building funds for its future is goal of Alumni Foundation

Gregg Mayer/staff

Supporting the students of MTSU like a proud family, the Alumni Foundation is constantly trying to improve the MTSU campus by fundraising year round.

"Everything the alumni does is geared for the students on campus," said Marie Kirk, director of Alumni Relations. "We're the first people freshman meet at CUSTOMS."

CUSTOMS is the initial program most freshman take part in to familiarize themselves with the MTSU campus. The Alumni Foundation has a representative at every CUSTOMS presentation.

The Alumni Representatives will hand out brochures to every freshman at CUSTOMS detailing the historical aspects and proper appellations around the MTSU campus. For instance, KOM is short for the Kirksey Old Main building.

Freshman will also receive a key chain with an MTSU logo and other knick-knacks from the Alumni Foundation at CUSTOMS.

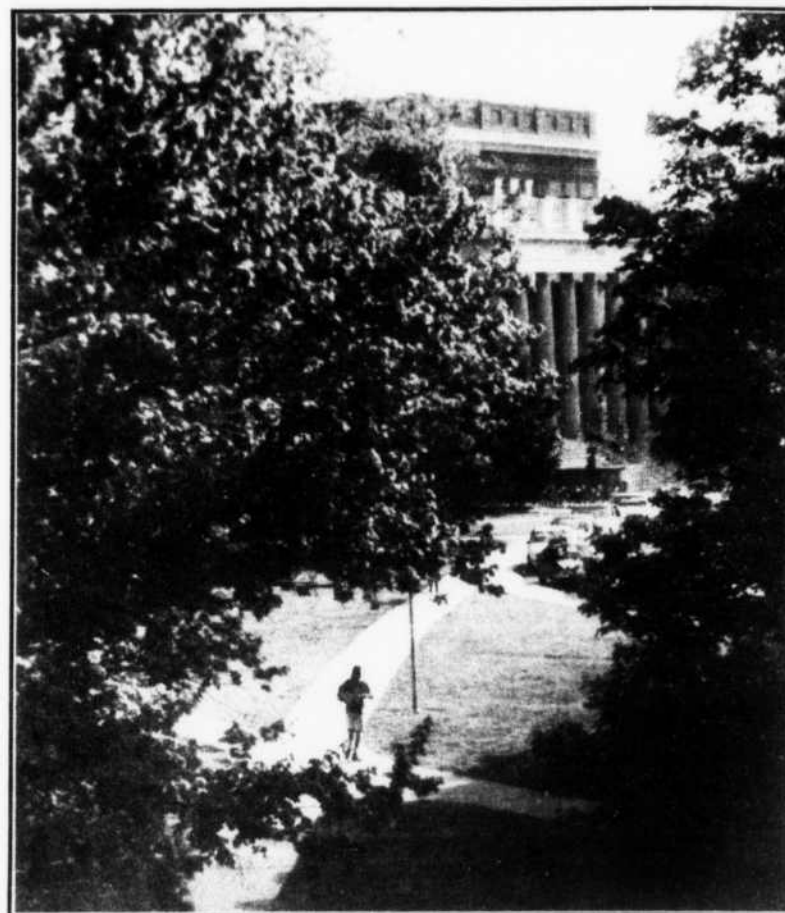
As for the current projects the Alumni

Foundation is working towards to benefit the entire campus, endowment scholarships top the list.

The endowment scholarships are for juniors and seniors only (sorry freshman) with at least a 3.0 GPA. For full details regarding how to apply for an endowment scholarships or more information regarding upcoming scholarships from the Alumni Foundation, go to the Alumni Foundation building and ask for the guidelines.

And while you are at the Alumni Foundation building, take some time to look around at all of the new renovations. Built in 1911 as a food service building, the Alumni Foundation has recently refurbished and redecorated the building so that all of MTSU's graduated family can come back to a nicer place and visit.

The Alumni Foundation currently has over 50,000 alumni on their mailing list. Every MTSU graduate is immediately placed on the mailing list and receives a newsletter published quarterly.



A student takes a stroll through the ancient trees adorning the lawn surrounding the campus near Kirksey Old Main. Campus often provides the opportunities for peace and solitude in the midst of all the hustle and bustle.

Midlander

a part of MTSU's history for 75 year

Have your photo made and order your copy today. Don't be left out of history.

Disabled Students Services

Welcomes You to MTSU

Our Office is here for you:

- As an advocate for you
- To identify barriers preventing disabled students from achieving equal learning opportunities
- To keep records of all disabled students
- To recruit and make available academic aides and auxiliary aids
- To work in conjunction with Developmental Studies Program and the University Counseling and Testing Center



Come by our office if we can help
Keathley University Center 120 • 898-2783

Student organizations provide opportunities for involvement

Keith Russell/staff

Picture this: It's the end of your first week of classes at MTSU, and all in all, you're doing all right. Sure, that first day when you were lost for three hours in Peck Hall (the prevailing theory on campus is that the architect who designed it was chugging moonshine at the time) was a little embarrassing. And yeah, you still manage to get on the wrong colored Raider Xpress bus which, after a leisurely half-hour tour of the parking lots, leaves you stranded halfway between the Art Barn (don't ask) and Alabama. No big deal. And so what if your new dorm roommate practices voodoo, or that your advisor has more tattoos than a B-movie biker chick? These are all what you call valuable learning experiences. Right?

Sure they are. Besides, you've had your own share of victories, too. You only take two laps around Peck Hall to get to your class now, and while your roommate does sacrifice live farm animals, he also happens to have the best entertainment system this side of Music Row. So you see, it's not all bad. In fact, it's about what you'd expect from an institution of higher education (the emphasis here being institution).

But all kidding aside, your experience at MTSU is far from complete if you simply let yourself get caught up in the humdrum—however far-fetched—of the daily student routine. Truth be told, perhaps as important as the time you spend your college years inside the classroom is the way in which you spend it when someone isn't shoving a book in your face. As a wise human once said, "School is fine, as long as you don't let it get in



Students find their muse outside the KUC Grill.

the way of your education." Which means, in other words, to get involved with the world around you.

Lucky for you, the microcosm that is MTSU happens to be one of the more plentiful and diverse sources of extracurricular activity around. But don't take anyone else's word for it. Find out for yourself. Whether your tastes are inclined toward climbing the social ladder, political and civic activism, getting professional experience, or even just finding a cool group to hang out with, this campus is just oozing with an opportunity to be anything but bored.

Probably the best place to start on your search for out-of-class amusement is the Keathley University Center, located a stone's throw away from the library, in the middle of campus (there are a few buildings that make sense around here). The KUC serves as a honeycomb of student services, with more flavors for student involvement than a Baskin-Robbins franchise. And on the first floor on the other side of the mail boxes from the bookstore, there's a row of offices that can help you begin your taste test.

The Associate Dean of Students Office, headed by Dr.

Gayle Stevens and located in room 122, keeps a directory of all official student organizations on campus, and can tell you how to get in touch with one of the more than 150 groups at MTSU, from the Advertising Club to the Zeta Tau Alpha sorority. In addition, a great number of these groups will be outside the KUC on September 4 for an Organizational Fair, letting you get up close and personal with their members.

"They just need to come by and see us, and we can take it from there," says Sherry Ferguson, the office's secretary. And even if you come to the conclusion that none of the current organizations (at last check, there were no voodoo clubs) suit your needs or expectations, you can simply create your own. "They just need to find a faculty advisor, and fill out the necessary paperwork in the packet we give them," says Ferguson. Included in the packet are tips on how to hold successful meetings, assistance in writing the new organization's constitution, as well as a checklist of requirements to make sure you don't hit any snags along the way.

Next door to the Associate Dean of Students is the Multi-

Cultural Affairs Office, which has a number of programs to help minority students who are new to MTSU. Among these is a successful mentor program which places an interested new student with a successful upper-class student or faculty member—usually from the new student's declared major—to help in the progress of getting to know people.

"It helps (the new student) get oriented to the system," says Sherrie Murray, who is also coordinating a New Welcomes Symposium, to be held for new students on August 24. The office also will sponsor a number of other events throughout the school year.

Continuing along this involvement highway, it's also a good idea to double park for a few minutes to check out the Raider Assistance Program (RAP). The program, still in its first few years of operation, assists students in finding volunteer organizations that interest them and need their help. Once again, students simply need to pop their heads in the door to get started.

But we've still only scratched the surface of ways to avoid watching another episode of Oprah. This being an election year, you might be in the mood for a little campaigning, MTSU style. If so, the Student Government Association (SGA) could be your cup of tea. Elections for five freshman senate seats will be held in late September (petitions to run will be available August 21), and positions in the House as well as the judicial branch—even traffic court!—are also for the taking.

"[SGA] gives you a voice in a sea of 17,000 students, and it's a great way to make friends and get some connections with the school," insists senior Susan

Guin and current SGA Speaker of the House.

Guin has also taken advantage of another one of the more popular ways to expand one's social horizons: joining a fraternity or sorority. Fraternities begin recruiting pledges during the week of September 8, while sororities have their rush from September 4-9.

For those of you who don't want to take the time to learn a Greek alphabet, how about getting some use out of the one you already know? MTSU has a number of student publications that are regularly published, including Collage, a biannual magazine featuring student creative writing, photography, and artwork, as well as the fine source of information, entertainment, and intrigue that's smudging your fingers with newsprint as we speak. Students can call the Student Publications office or simply stop by the Sidelines or Collage offices, located on the third floor of the James Union Building. The only requirements to join are a 2.0 GPA, and that previously mentioned knowledge of the English alphabet.

So there you have it. Everything to get involved with on campus. Well, almost everything. There's still the football games (including Homecoming and Totem Bowl), the Rec Center and intramural sports, jobs on campus, outdoor music concerts, and even a solar-powered race car that needs help being built. The point is, there is just oodles of ways students of all shapes and sizes can find their niche. With so much going on, you're bound to run into something that will catch your eye. Once that happens, your education can really begin.

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**THE 25 FRATERNITIES &
SORORITIES AT MTSU
ARE AN EXCELLENT WAY!**

Membership recruitment (Rush) is the time to get to know the individuals in each fraternity and sorority. Participating in Rush will give you the opportunity to be a part of one of the most exciting aspects of the MTSU college experience. For more information, or to inquire about one of the United Greek Council fraternities or sororities, contact the Office of Greek Life at 898-5996 or come by KUC 310.

Panhellenic Sorority Rush
September 4- 9, 1996

Interfraternity Rush
September 8- 13, 1996

The benefits of the Greek experience

By Daniel F. Percy/
IFC Vice President

Imagine that it is the summer after your senior year in high school. You have just graduated and you are planning your exciting college years. As you stumble out of bed around 11 a.m., you decide to go check the mail. All of it, as usual is for your parents, except one item. It is a pamphlet from one of the Greek-letter organizations on the campus you plan on attending in the Fall.

This occurred with me the summer before my freshman year of college, but I never even read most of the pamphlets I received. I had the "Animal House" image of fraternities and I just didn't believe that I would fit into the Greek community. I was originally dead set against "going Greek" until I talked to many people who were already in the system and could explain the benefits.

When I did join the Greek community three years ago, I then had the unenviable task of convincing my parents of these benefits. They brought up the

common arguments that "going Greek" would take too much time away from my studies, it would cost too much money, hazing or the compromising of morals might be involved, and it is like buying my friends. At the time, these questions caused me to hesitate and wonder, but now I have realized that as valid as each one may seem, they are each easily answered.

All fraternities and sororities on college campuses have grade requirements both to become a member and to stay a member. In order to go through Rush at Middle Tennessee State University, a male or female must have at least a 2.3 out of high school or, if applicable, a 2.3 on all college work attempted. To get initiated into either organization, the grades a student must achieve range from a 2.3 to a 2.7. To assure these standards are met, most organizations have required study hours for those seeking membership as well as those who have already earned that honor. In testimonial, my grades for last semester were a

3.8 while holding Social Chair and also a job that pays for my fraternity activities.

Another major question, especially for parents, is how much is joining a fraternity or sorority going to cost. No one can argue that membership in any organization does not cost something, but the issue is what you get for your money. The money a member contributes goes to pay for national insurance, on-campus costs, non-alcoholic events, and other beneficial activities. Sororities on campus pay an average of \$40 to \$60 a month for their dues, while Fraternities pay between \$50 and \$80 a month. What is the difference in paying \$50 a month for a house and other events or going out two or three times a week? One night out on the town costs in the neighborhood of \$10 to \$30 by yourself, and just imagine when you include a date.

To address a main worry of many men that look at rushing a fraternity, hazing may still occur in some isolated incidents, but it is no longer being tolerated by fraternities

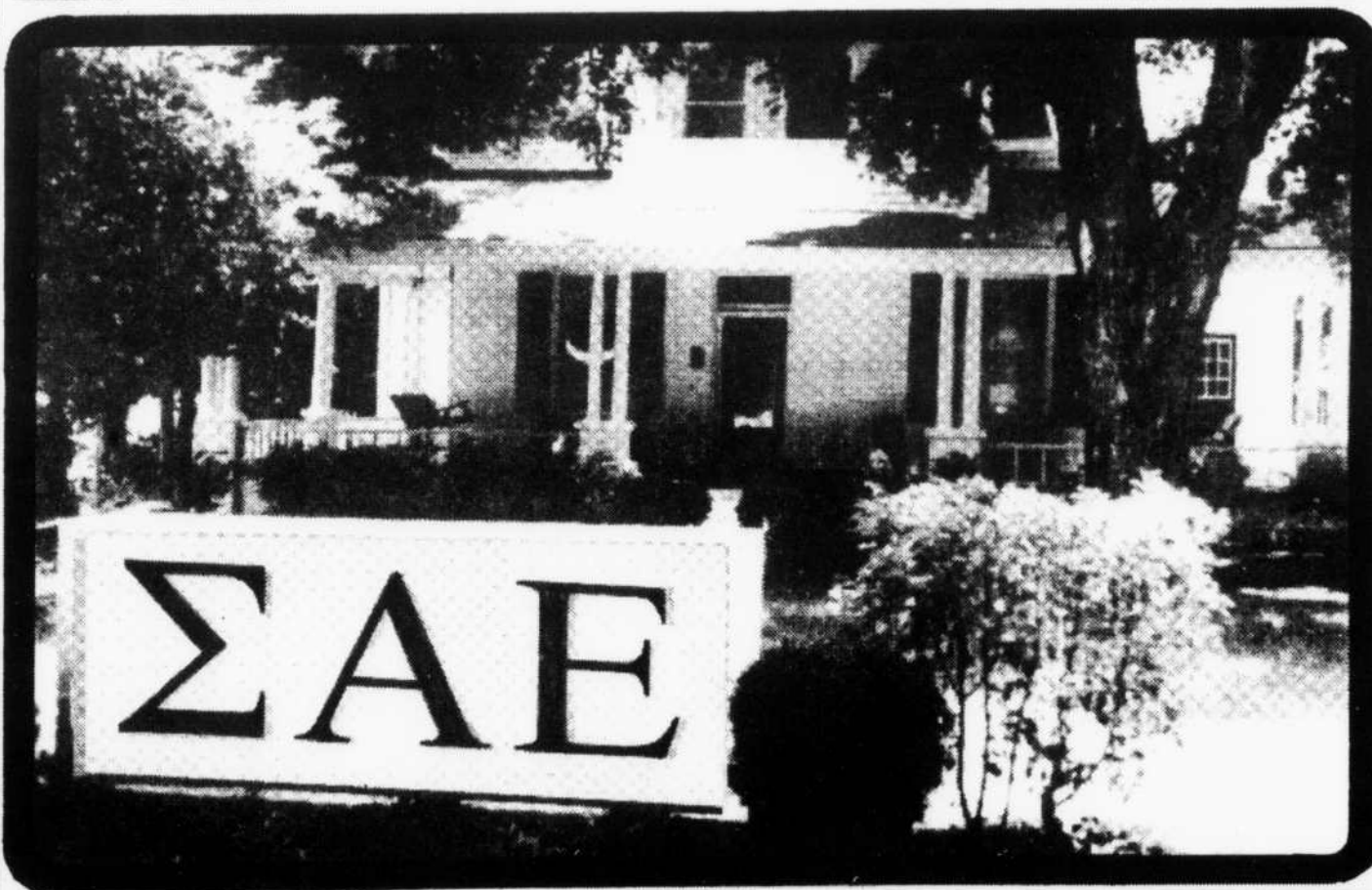
as well as the college. Any reports of hazing will automatically be sent to the National Headquarters of the Greek member and will also be examined by the Interfraternity Council, the Panhellenic Council, and the United Greek Council on campus, the governing bodies of the fraternities and sororities. In order to totally end hazing, however, a person must be strong enough and self-confident enough to not allow themselves to become victims of someone else's stupidity and irresponsibility.

The last argument is one that usually is very important to females that go through Rush. Just because you may pay the same amount as someone else to be in the same organization, this does not require that they must become your friend. This situation does provide the circumstances under which friendships can flourish, just like join a church or a gym that puts one in social contact with others. You are joining a group with common interests and obtaining many opportunities to better yourself as well as the

group with which you are involved.

As a three-year member of a fraternity, I have been exposed to many that have questioned what I have gained from my affiliation with such an organization. Joining a Greek-letter organization can help you maintain a constant level of study, can actually save you money in the long run, and can expose you to the Brotherhood and Sisterhood that so many college students look for. Leadership opportunities are abundant in each and every organization. Fraternities and sororities also benefit the school and community by participating in a variety of philanthropies. My advice to anyone that wants to fully experience college is to at least consider joining a Greek-letter organization with which they would feel comfortable. The most important fact about any fraternity or sorority, however, is that you can only get out of the Greek community what you are willing to contribute.

Σ AE Welcomes you to **MTSU**



When visiting the
University this
summer, feel free to
stop by our house
located at
1111 North Maple St.
or call
893-9941 if you have
any questions.

Campus media keep you informed



Word! WMTS supported def-jam on the knoll. Save your Friday nights for free outdoor music. You can even treat your sweetie to a pizza in the KUC when it's over. Rap...Pizza...This is living!

Sarah Way/staff

Mass Media is everywhere here at MTSU.

There are two radio stations, WMTS-station 88.3 FM and WMOT-station 89.5 FM as well as Channel 8 Television, a student newspaper, *Sidelines*, a yearbook, *Midlander* and a student art magazine, *Collage*.

WMTS plays mostly underground alternative music and is on the air from 9:00 A.M. - 2:00 A.M.

Each DJ gets to play whatever he or she want as long as five new releases are played each hour.

WMTS also has specialty shows such as Rock/Reggae, Dance/Techno, and Alternative Christian shows. They support local musicians by broadcasting local band releases and co-sponsoring music showcases such as *Music on the Knoll*, an free outdoor concert held on Friday afternoons in front of

the KUC during the Spring and Fall.

WMOT plays Jazz and Blues and carries three programs from National Public Radio News Programs: Fresh Air, All things Considered, and Morning Edition. Most of the WMOT staff is made up of students. WMOT is on the air twenty-four hours a day.

To work at WMTS or WMOT you must be a student and complete one semester of training. This training grants you the privilege to volunteer for your own radio show. An informative meeting will be held at the first of the semester for all those interested in working in one of the radio stations.

Channel 8's line up consists mostly of Telecourses for the office of Continuing Studies. Some more traditional programs include Bullen's Recollections, ENT and many others.

During the regular

semester students do a morning show three days a week. Channel 8 does not show any commercials, but they do run a non-profit information bulletin board. They also show class schedules.

All students are welcomed to get involved with Channel 8, just contact Dr. Bob Spires at 898-2217 for more information.

For those interested in print communication, Campus publications has student positions available. *Sidelines*, the MTSU newspaper offers jobs in copy-editing, news writing, feature writing, and graphic design. Likewise, *Collage* and *The Midlander* both offer positions. Anyone interested can find out more by stopping by JUB 310.

If you are considering a career in the media check one of these out. If you think you'll find a job without experience, you better start flipping burgers now.

Come Visit the Adult Services Center

serving adult students at MTSU

Come by to meet other adult learners and to learn more about our services and the OWLs organization.

KUC 320

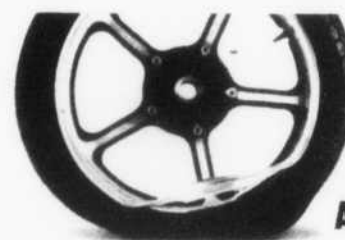
7:30 - 7:30 -- Mondays - Thursdays

7:30 - 4:30 -- Fridays

and join

OWLs (Older Wiser Learners)

MTSU's Student Organization for students with adult responsibilities who are returning to college.



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BY TWO BEERS
AND SOME COLD MEDICINE.**

To your body, alcohol and medicine can seem very similar. Both can affect your balance, coordination, and ability to see accurately. Skills that are essential to riding. After drinking or taking medication, don't ride. That's the best prescription for your safety. **MOTORCYCLE SAFETY FOUNDATION**

PLACEMENT AND STUDENT EMPLOYMENT CENTER

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SUMMER JOBS FAIR - JANUARY 29, 1997

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Surviving Campus

A really honest look at how to navigate and survive your first few months

Jeremy W. Stanley/staff

I was planning a safari to the woods to fight off attack coons and rabid squirrels when my editor called with an assignment. He serves me the poop, "We're doing a special on survival on campus and after your last piece which I read 10 times and really loved, I know you can help us out." If it isn't already obvious, this guy knows how to get on my good side. "You live on campus, share your insights with your fellow man." I scoffed at the idea and he knew he had me. So now I'm stuck staring into my coffee wondering what I can tell you that someone else hasn't. Then it came to me, everyone gives advice but few tell it like it really is. So with out further adieu, welcome to the First Totally Honest College Guide: For Those Misguided Folks Who Know Everything Except What is Important by Deepthroat Stanley.

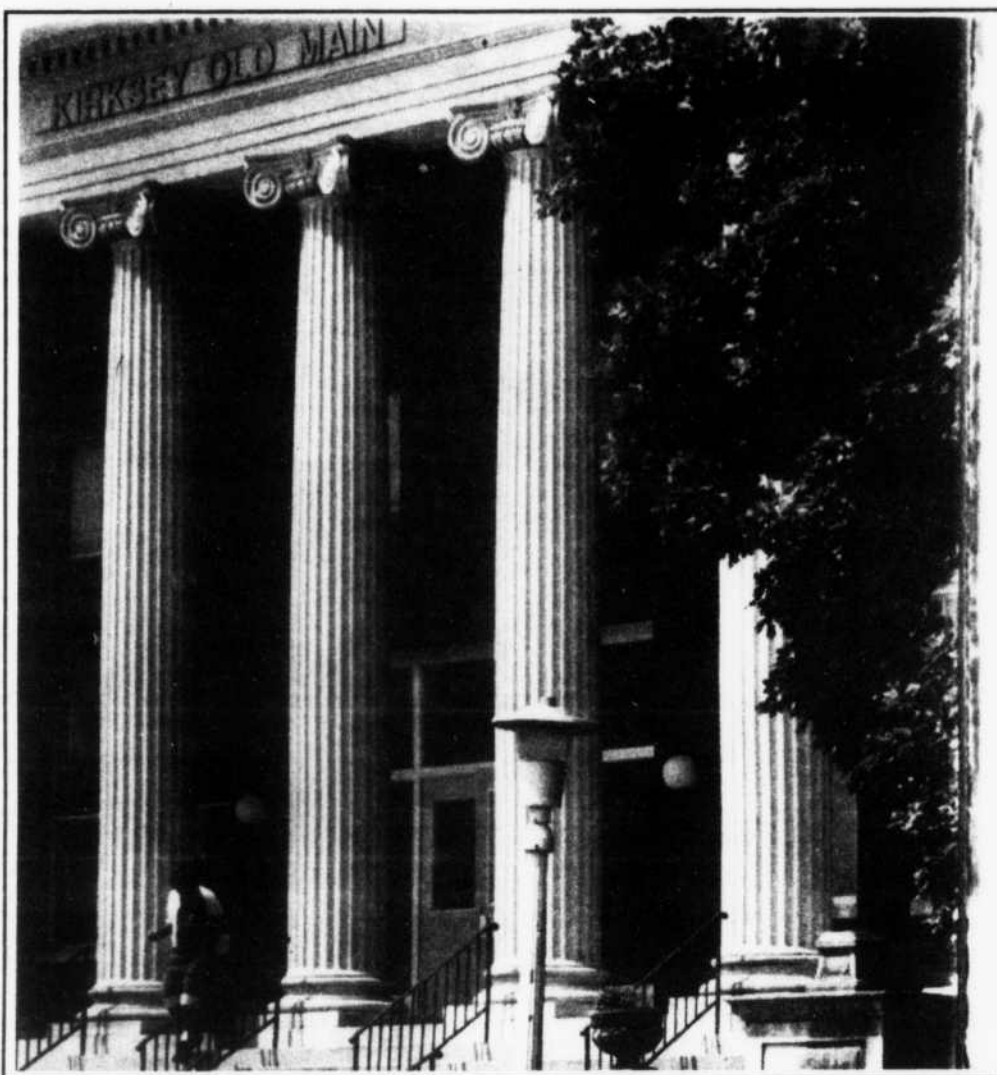
Self-Reliance

In college your best bet is to take of yourself. Ralph Waldo Emerson said it best when he claimed, "Discontent is the want of self-reliance: it is infirmity of will." So what is self-reliance? To the college student it means bringing everything you'll need without relying on your roommate. I know you called the guy or gal and worked out what your bringing but such arrangements are rarely completely successful. Be on the safe side and bring everything you feel you're going to need. In my case this includes a TV, microwave, fridge, word-processor, a trunk with a lock, and a number of other essentials. Some might conclude that I am being eccentric or even selfish. Well if so, it is a selfishness with a purpose. The less you share with your roommate, the less likely you'll have conflicts with them.

The living web of life

You can take self-reliance too far. Few do, however, because the human being is hardwired to desire companionship. You'll find that one of the best things you get out college are friendships. These relationships are more than just ways to satisfy your need to bitch about your teachers, and believe me you will, they serve a greater purpose. Like my Cherokee Indian, Scotch Irish, German ancestors used to say, "You don't help you don't eat." Let me tell ya a good network of friends can be essential to living on a budget. Eating on the weekends can be tough if, like me, you have a budget of two hundred dollars a month. If you can go together on a meal once in a while, it can take the strain out of your wallet.

Your friends are a great source of rides if you're transportation impaired and they also serve as a fine source of entertainment. I don't know how many times I have looked at my friends and



Kirksey Old Main is a campus landmark but be prepared to suffer foul climate conditions in the building.

just busted out laughing. Seriously, friends are a great resource. The more diverse they are the better. Cultivate friends and your college years will be much more enjoyable.

Eat Cheap

I just thought I'd mention the sixth food group that so many college students have no deficiency in. This wonderful food stuff has filled my belly many a day and is quite possibly the cheapest of all cuisine at the astounding price of ten cents a package.

Following a food theme I have some how fallen into let me inform you that you need not pay for a single meal on weekends. With more than 15 places of worship around MTSU and in the Murfreesboro area, all of them interesting in taking in college students, there are free meals to be found almost every Saturday and Sunday.

Exploring those strange new worlds

If you are looking for a library on campus look somewhere else. There is one under construction now but our current facilities would be inadequate for a high school in Honduras. Don't get me wrong, our school is academically excellent but students doing research must bight and eye-poke each other for

materials. I suggest starting research early and becoming familiar with both internet and the drive to Vanderbilt.

Finding your classes can be quite an enterprise, so I have a few suggestions. Go find the room before classes start. This will give you piece of mind and you won't be late for your first da. Even though this is college, some professors are particular about disruptions.

If you have a class in Peck Hall, and you will, carry with you a ball of twine or a pail of red paint to mark your way. This labyrinth I have no doubt was built by Daedalus himself, and I contains bones of many a luckless scholar that had forgot which floor their class was on. I myself mark the walls with post-it notes with little arrows on them.

Foul climate characterizes Kirksey Old Main (KOM). In any given room, be prepared wear a coat or strip down to the barest necessities. There is no rhyme or reason to this building's climate control. On one occasion, I swear I saw clouds condensing in the third floor hall near the computer lab.

When it rains at MTSU the mud flows like beer, so I suggest knee boots. I know they went out of style with the Nazi but they keep your little toes dry. Be aware that a lot of construction is going here. This affects not only in what

you wear, but what dorm you want to live in. There is nothing worse than the sound of a bulldozer in the morning.

Parking at the end of the rainbow

As soon as you get to MTSU you'll hear about the parking situation. I won't squander my wit on such a beaten subject. My survival guide advise buying the most expensive parking tag: the \$25. This gives you the opportunity to park just about anywhere. That way you can become an expert at finding parking places without restrictions. There will still be times when you'll have to walk. I'm sorry, but this is a fact of life you'll have to deal with.

And the winning number is...

For God's sake, keep a copy of your mailbox combination. It's all the postal workers can do to get our mail to us a week late. Let's pretend we are grownups, shall we.

A paper a day keeps the insanity away

With the above tirade out of my system, we can move on to a more scholarly discussion. I mentioned earlier in self-reliance that I owned a word processor. Not all of us can afford one, but fortunately, MTSU provides facilities for writing papers. Computer labs can be found in the Learning Resource Center (a great place to learn about the internet and call up nasty pictures), the third floor of Kirksey Old Main (take a fan), the basement of Lyons Hall, near the lobby of Wood/Felder and in the Bragg Mass Communication Building (were you will find my smiling face eight days out of the week). I give you this information because you will find that you will be doing a lot more writing than most of you ever have before. I had an old English teacher who called his dictionary his crony, these computer labs should become yours. They're great places to work and you're already paying for them. Visit one, there will always be a lab assistant that will do his best to confuse you.

I could go on. I could warn you that if you are going to wash clothes over the weekend (fifty cents a load, a quarter to dry them), get your change during the week. There is no place you can get quarters on campus during the weekend. During the week the best quarter machine can be found on the third floor of Keathley University Center in the grocery store. If I keep going the fun of self discovery might be lost for you.

Go into your college career with your eyes open. In that way you won't be disappointed. There will be things about MTSU you don't like but I believe the good out weights the bad here. I'm staying and I am pretty sure you know how I feel about the place.

AC/DC

An Enriching Experience

Honors Program challenges students in and out of classroom

Yanetra Mitchell/staff

It's tempting, after graduating high school and entering college as a freshman, not to want to seek accelerated courses and challenge yourself intellectually beyond the already demanding basic curriculum. Deciding to pursue a higher education and choosing a college or university already had put you through two arduous tasks. Why should you undertake an extra workload—especially if you don't have to?

Why? Because there is an Honors Program awaiting you at Middle Tennessee State University.

The Honors Program at MTSU is an intellectual experience as well as an enrichment program. Operating since 1974, the honors program works to provide interested students, who meet the specific requirements, with advanced instruction from a proficient professor. Honors courses also limit most classes to only 15-20 students in order to give the student a more personal classroom setting.

"We group high-ability students together in a small classroom setting," Dr. John Paul Montgomery says, director of the program. "Then we send [a professor] in [the classroom] who has proven proficiency at teaching, and who is willing to spend quality time inside and outside the classroom."

Since 1979, Montgomery has taught honors courses at MTSU and directed the program since 1991.

"We're creating the environment of a small college with the resources of a large state university," Montgomery adds. "It's the best of two worlds."

Entering freshman must meet certain requirements before participating in the Honors Program. The student must either score 26 or better on the ACT, or achieve a minimum 3.50 high school grade point average with at least a 20 composite score on the ACT.

To graduate from the program, the student has to meet a set of different requirements. The student, seeking the University Honors diploma, needs to complete a total of 24 hours of courses in Honors: 12 lower division and 12 interdisciplinary study or upper division. Three hours of upper division study includes the honors thesis. However, the student can exceed the 12 hours in both divisions, making sure to earn at least the 12 required.

"The last thing we do, and I think



Honors activities occur in a variety of places on campus. A Celtic band plays, above, during a musical lyceum while a student participates in a poetry slam, right. The program is also offering a variety of other special activities that will appeal to a wide range of interests. All students are invited to participate. For more information, contact the Honors Office in Peck Hall, Room 101.



the most important thing, is the Honors Thesis," Montgomery says. "Alumni are coming back and tell [university faculty] that the thesis is important because it gives students a competitive edge."

After the entering freshman meets the required conditions, he or she can begin to enjoy the program's educational benefits. One especially attractive feature of the program is its flexibility. There are honors classes in nearly every academic department—from accounting to art to sociology and speech—as well as various times and days.

Students can divert from honors study by engaging in several activities faculty members offer students. Every spring, usually during April, the annual Poetry Slam is held, co-sponsored by the Phi Kappa Phi and the Student Programming Fine Arts Committee, students and members of the public listen to and read poetry composed by students and published writers. The International Women's Poetry Reading, another annual event held during March to celebrate National Women's History Month, can also be enjoyed by students and the public. Various readers recite poetry in their native garb and language. Members of the program also organize picnics and firesides exclusively for honors students.

Besides extracurricular activities, honors students also have ways to earn

money for tuition and textbooks through the various scholarships the program offers. The Paul Martin Scholarship awards tuition payments for more than two semesters. The Bart McCash Scholarship awards a determined amount of \$250, and The Junior/Senior Scholarship usually awards \$200, although the amount varies each year. With the Academic Achievement Scholarship, three Honors students are each awarded \$1000. For the student who has reached the stage to write his or her thesis, the program also has a scholarship. The thesis scholarship awards one student \$800.

Honors students have achieved unparalleled success in the quality of their research, and also in their post graduate outcomes. Candace Moonshower's thesis, "A Present Silence" is publishable material; Debra Jackson has been accepted at Purdue's Ph.D. program; Alice Meldrum has been accepted into Yale's summer MCAT review program and then will return to MTSU to continue her pre-med studies; April Perry has been accepted at Regents University to study law. Her thesis won the Political Science Writing Award for the state of Tennessee. Allen Lloyd has been accepted at the University of Tennessee Medical school; Monika Kosich is a graduate research assistant in the MTSU English

Department; Deborah Sain will pursue an advanced degree in psychology at MTSU, and Matthew W. Smith has been accepted at the University of Washington (Seattle), made the second list at Chapel Hill, North Carolina, and was offered, finally, an incredible financial package at the University of Tennessee.

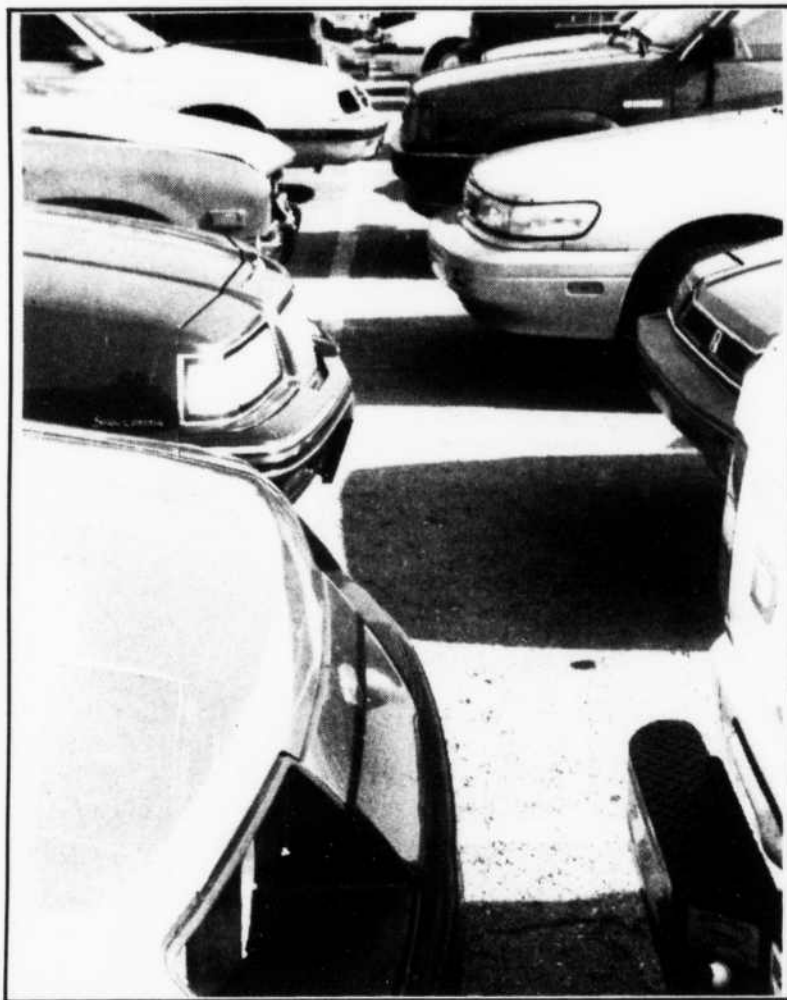
But the program's benefits just don't end there. The computer lab, inside Peck Hall adjacent to the Honors office, was recently remodeled.

"The Honors Center is going uptown," says Montgomery.

High School students outside college walls inquire about the honors program offered at MTSU. Rachel Brewer, a junior at LaVergne High School, seeking a degree in broadcast journalism, plans to enter the program in the fall of 1998. Her expectations?

"I've heard the program is very challenging, but worth all of the required effort because you learn more of what's expected of you in the job market," says Brewer, who learned about the program from her mother, an MTSU student. "I expect to leave the program with valuable skills that would put me one step ahead of the rest in obtaining my preferred position."

And the program will be expecting Brewer and hundreds of more students just like her.



Overcrowded parking lots mean lots of parking tickets. Campus police will do what they can to keep pedestrian traffic safe.

Campus has new Crimestoppers organization

Staff reports

MTSU joined a small but select group of universities when it formed a CrimeStoppers organization for the University. CrimeStoppers is an international organization composed of independent chapters, and the newest one will focus its attention strictly on the MTSU community.

Each CrimeStoppers chapter is organized as a not-for-profit corporation, with a board of directors responsible for distributing reward money in cooperation with a local police force.

The MTSU chapter has both student and administrative members on its board. Generally, CrimeStoppers will only pay for information on felonies. However, the MTSU chapter and the Rutherford County chapter have developed a unique and hopefully beneficial relationship.

Rutherford County CrimeStoppers will continue to pay for information on felonies committed in Rutherford County, which includes MTSU. However, the MTSU chapter will also pay for information about misdemeanors committed on any property MTSU owns in Rutherford County.

"This is particularly important for a campus setting" said Assistant Police Chief John Wagoner. "The majority of crimes committed on campus are misdemeanors, and the regular CrimeStoppers organizations will only pay for information on felonies."

Informants could receive up to \$300" he said. "If someone has information on a crime, they should call CrimeStoppers at 893-STOP (7867). We absolutely maintain caller anonymity."

"When the caller provides information, we assign them a number which they use to claim their reward. The board

of directors has a monthly meeting and at that time a police liaison, Officer Rick Roberts, recommends to the board a reward amount" he said.

"The board can accept the recommendation or go higher or lower, its their decision. The informant is told initially when to call back to find out about his reward."

"When he calls back, a meeting time is set up and we take the money to him."

"All information is kept strictly confidential. We never even know the name of the informant, which is very important. Many people are afraid to reveal information for fear of recrimination."

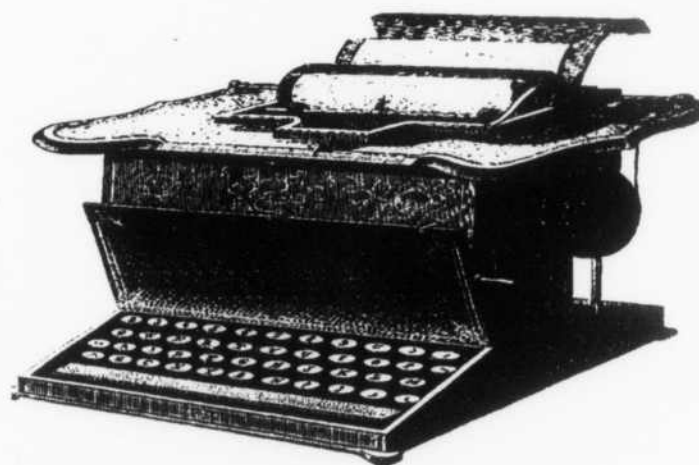
Rewards are contingent upon an arrest, not necessarily a conviction, said Wagoner, so it generally rewards people to call in no matter what information they have. The person who provides the missing link in the investigation, Wagoner said, is the person who pockets the reward.

The Staff of *SIDELINES* WELCOMES YOU TO MTSU

If you want to keep current of all the major news and views of campus events and happenings, become a regular reader of the school newspaper. And if you are interested in joining the staff, there are always jobs available. Visit our office in James Union Building 310 to fill out an application and get more information. We are currently taking applications for:

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MTSU's Campus Police not just 'rent-a-cops'

Mark Gibson/staff

Many first time students see the police cars on campus and the people in them, and assume that they are security guards, or "rent-a-cops." This mistake has caused some people a great deal of trouble.

MTSU is a community of, on any given day, approximately 20,000 people said John Wagoner, assistant Director of the Department of Public Safety. Like any other town of that size, it maintains a completely accredited, fully empowered, police force.

Officers of the Department of Safety are graduates of the state's Police Academy, and are often hired by MTSU after they have worked and gained experience at another police department.

"In addition to traffic enforcement, we are

concerned with the protection of people and their property" he said.

"People who are new to campus and college life in general are often unprepared for how our community works" he said. "They've grown up in an entirely different situation back in their hometown, where people may not even lock their doors at night."

"It can be a tremendous transition for them."

The MTSU police department works hand in hand with local law enforcement agencies, said Wagoner, citing the Rutherford County Drug Task Force as a good example.

"We have a virtual zero-tolerance policy on campus" he said. "Drugs are strictly prohibited on campus, and we put a high priority on keeping them out."

Another factor people may not be aware of, said Wagoner, is the legal changes that occur when certain crimes occur on state-owned property.

"Possession of an illegal weapon is a misdemeanor outside campus" said Wagoner, "but a felony on campus."

Public Safety is not necessarily concerned only with crimes, Wagoner said.

"We have instituted community policing with the addition of a satellite office in Family Student Housing. We want to create an environment where everyone in the community is comfortable with talking to our officers."

Wagoner added that police officers view themselves primarily as educators, with a mission of helping students whenever possible.



Campus Police Officer Dustin Miller takes a ride with two youngsters during a bicycle safety session at the Campus Housing complex. In addition to keeping everyone safe, Campus Police also offer a variety of educational programs and activities to help keep students and staff apprised of new self protection and safety techniques.

Escort Service just a phone call

If you have to go anywhere on campus between 6 p.m. and 12:30 a.m., use the campus escort service provided by the Department of Public Safety. Call 2424, tell the dispatcher where you are and where you need to go, and you will be provided with a uniformed escort. If you are off-campus and will be arriving on campus, call ahead and tell the dispatcher where you will be parking so that someone can meet you.

Parking and Transportation also offers the

Raider Express, a free shuttle which constantly travels between the parking lots and the inner campus. During the day and early evening, just park your car and wait for the bus to come get you.

Throughout the campus are lighted police radio call-boxes. You can recognize them from a distance by the blue light atop them. If you are in trouble, scared, or just need an escort, push the button and you will be able to talk to the dispatcher. Remember, it is better safe than sorry.

Following safety precautions can make your stay campus safe

Mark T. Gibson/staff

After 18 years you probably know the ins and outs of your hometown. You know who you can trust and whom you cannot; where to go for a good meal, where to avoid. You may think that those same rules will apply here at MTSU.

Hopefully, they will. And yet, across the country, college freshman are a group ripe for the plucking because they've been uprooted and thrust into a world where, probably for the first time, nobody is watching out for them.

Well, almost no one. Here at MTSU, we have an outstanding Public Safety Department who will try valiantly to keep you from harm, if you let them.

The director of the department, Chief Jack Drugmond, is a veteran of more years than he'd like me to say. He is a former Secret Service agent, and

has been the Chief at MTSU since sometime back in the dim recesses of the 80's.

In a conversation with the Chief, several areas where new students are prone to mistakes came up, to my surprise. I thought that I had a pretty good grip on what to do and what not to do; apparently we all can learn.

"Statistics show that if a freshman is not victimized in his or her freshman semester, they probably will not be victimized while they are in college" he told me.

What this points out is that the time a person is most vulnerable to scam is when they are new to the campus.

"Remember that the same rules you used back home to pick your friends are still in effect now that you're on campus. Just because someone seems nice to you the first few days you're here doesn't mean that you should trust them right off the bat."

"If you're going somewhere, be sure

to tell someone where you're going, who you're going with, and when you expect to be back. I can't tell you how many times we've gotten a call from someone saying 'Joe Blow has been gone for two days, we don't know where he went.'"

"We've always found everyone, and hopefully we always will. But tell people where you're going to be. Use common sense."

Another problem some freshman face is the chance for petty crime on campus. "Leave your irreplaceable family heirlooms, jewelry, or whatever back home. There is crime on campus. Not a lot, thankfully, but it is here and you need to deal with it" said Drugmond.

"Lock up your dorm room, even if you're just going to take a shower. Lock it up even if you're just going to talk to your buddy down the hall. You never know how long that conversation is going to last, and if your room is unlocked, then you're vulnerable."

"Don't leave valuables lying in plain view, whether you're in the library or the dorm lobby."

Department Spokesman Dustin Miller has told me many times that a great deal of the problems on campus are caused not by students, but by people from the community who have no business on campus. I've written enough crime stories for *Sidelines* to agree with that statement.

MTSU is a great college with a fine campus. Unfortunately, we have the same problems every other community has in terms of crime; we're just very fortunate that our crime rate is nothing compared to most other 20,000 people communities.

Enjoy yourself. Welcome to MTSU. You're going to learn a lot in the next four or five years. Use a little common sense and one of the things you WON'T learn will be what it feels like to be a crime victim.



Collage

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the journal of the
creative arts
at MTSU

Solar-powered car project awarded \$2,000 grant from SunRayce group

Keith Russell/staff

SolaRaider II, the team of students and faculty designing MTSU's solar-powered car for the 1997 SunRayce, was recently awarded \$2,000 by race organizers for its entry and design proposal.

The SunRayce organizers, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy and General Motors, awarded the grants to the top 30 design proposals it received from universities across the nation. The criteria for winning specified those with the most "capable designs."

Teams will use the award money to assist in fundraising efforts. Dr. Sid Sridhara, professor of Industrial Arts and faculty advisor to SolaRaider II, said the group eventually hopes to raise \$40,000, with most of the money going

toward purchasing parts for the car.

This is MTSU's second attempt to enter the 1100 mile race, which begins next June in Indianapolis, and ends 10 days later in Denver.

In the first attempt in 1995, the SolaRaider team failed to gain a spot in the race when the car's rear axle broke in the third lap of qualifying.

"Last time we could not raise enough money, and it hurt us," said Smithous of the problems in 1995.

"Hopefully, we can avoid that this time."

SolaRaider II's award-winning proposal centered on correcting some of the design problems which may have caused the rear axle to break, including decreasing the overall weight of the vehicle.

In doing so, team members

were given the chance to receive class credit for their efforts, as well as the practical experience.

"It's a hands-on experience for students" said Sridhara. "They have an opportunity to design something themselves, and at the same time learn a lot."

The car, which was built on campus in the Voorhies Industrial Complex, is nearly completed. The team hopes to begin testing the new version of the car by early next year.

Sridhara says that the project is open to any students on campus that wish to join. Currently, SolaRaider II has ten active members.

The 1995 SunRayce was won by students from M.I.T., who finished 18 minutes ahead of the team from the University of Minnesota.



Students opt for some last minute studying in fresh-air outside the KOM. A breath of fresh-air can be a pleasant distraction. Students catch a study break whenever they can and can usually be seen lounging with books on any imaginable spot.

Get Involved!!!

Student Programming needs volunteers to participate on its many student committees. For an application and more information, come by KUC 308.

Sometimes the campus maps confuse us too



Lost somewhere between KUC and KOM looking for the JUB? Once you find your way, come on up to JUB room 310 and order a copy of MTSU's yearbook, *The Midlander*. Maybe you'd even like to join the yearbook staff? Finding the office is a prerequisite for employment. If you get lost just call extension 2478 and ask for help. While you're on the phone why not order a copy of *The Midlander*? It's just \$20 if you order now. MTSU's *Midlander*, a rotten compass but entertaining nonetheless.

MTSU
MIDLANDER

Where you're going and where you've been.

Under Construction

Construction of new \$31.7m library begins in September

Groundbreaking this fall; opening in January 1999

Mark T. Gibson/staff

A new library should be under construction by fall if every thing goes as now planned.

"Optimistically, if nothing goes wrong, we hope to open the new library in January of 1999," said Karen Bingham, coordinator of collections.

"MTSU's Todd Library is no longer adequate to meet the needs of its students," she said. "Hopefully," she said, "this will not be a permanent problem."

The Tennessee Board of Regents appropriated \$31.7 million dollars to build the new library this summer, according to a press release from TBR. The project has been in the works for several years, Bingham said, and the project should be let out for bids in

August.

"We would like to break ground sometime in mid-September" she said, "which would coincide with the University's 85th Anniversary celebration. The building will take two years to complete."

The new library will be 250,000 square feet, said Kay Fossick, project manager for the new library. This is approximately double the size of the current library.

Bingham said that the new space is sorely needed.

"We have had to take space away from the public areas over the years as the collection has grown. Right now we don't have enough space for students to study or faculty to do their work."

Todd Library is crowded, but improvements over the past

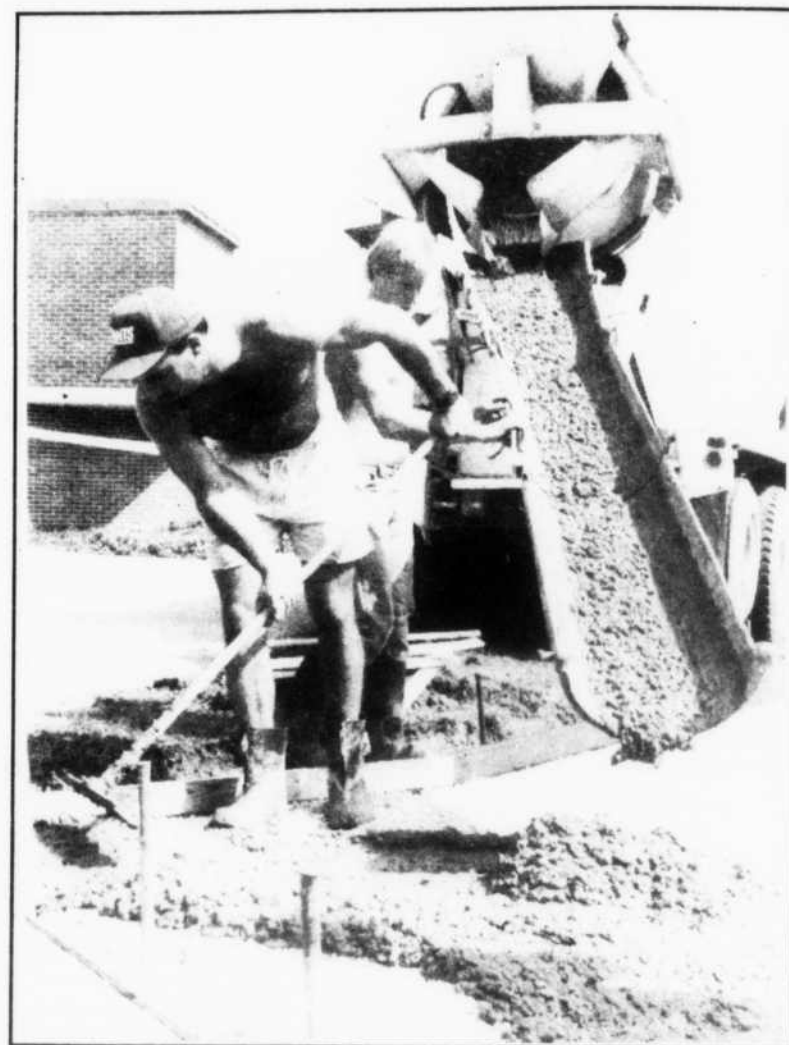
few years have helped the situation somewhat, she said.

"The library does have an electronic card catalog system called PALS; we have a CD-ROM network, databases that we've purchased and put on a network" Bingham said.

There is also internet access via some of the terminals, using Netscape.

The new library will incorporate all of the current technology, but expect some improvements.

"We're currently studying other [library computer] systems now" Bingham said. "The current system in Todd Library will be obsolete by the time the new library is built, and we want to stay on the cutting edge."



Construction workers toil in the summer heat. Campus construction seems to never end.

New gas-fired power plant replacing old steam system

James Neal/staff

In 1998, MTSU will begin drawing power from a new gas-fired co-generation plant, replacing the current coal-fired, steam-generated system.

Plans to build the new co-generation power plant were approved by the Building Commission last Thursday.

William Smotherman, director of Energy Services, said the new co-generation plant will produce 50-percent of the school's electrical needs and from 80 to 90-percent of the school's steam.

The projected cost of the power plant is \$10.8 million to be raised through a 20-year bond issue. "There will be enough savings to pay the bond issue off," Smotherman said.

"The project will pay for itself."

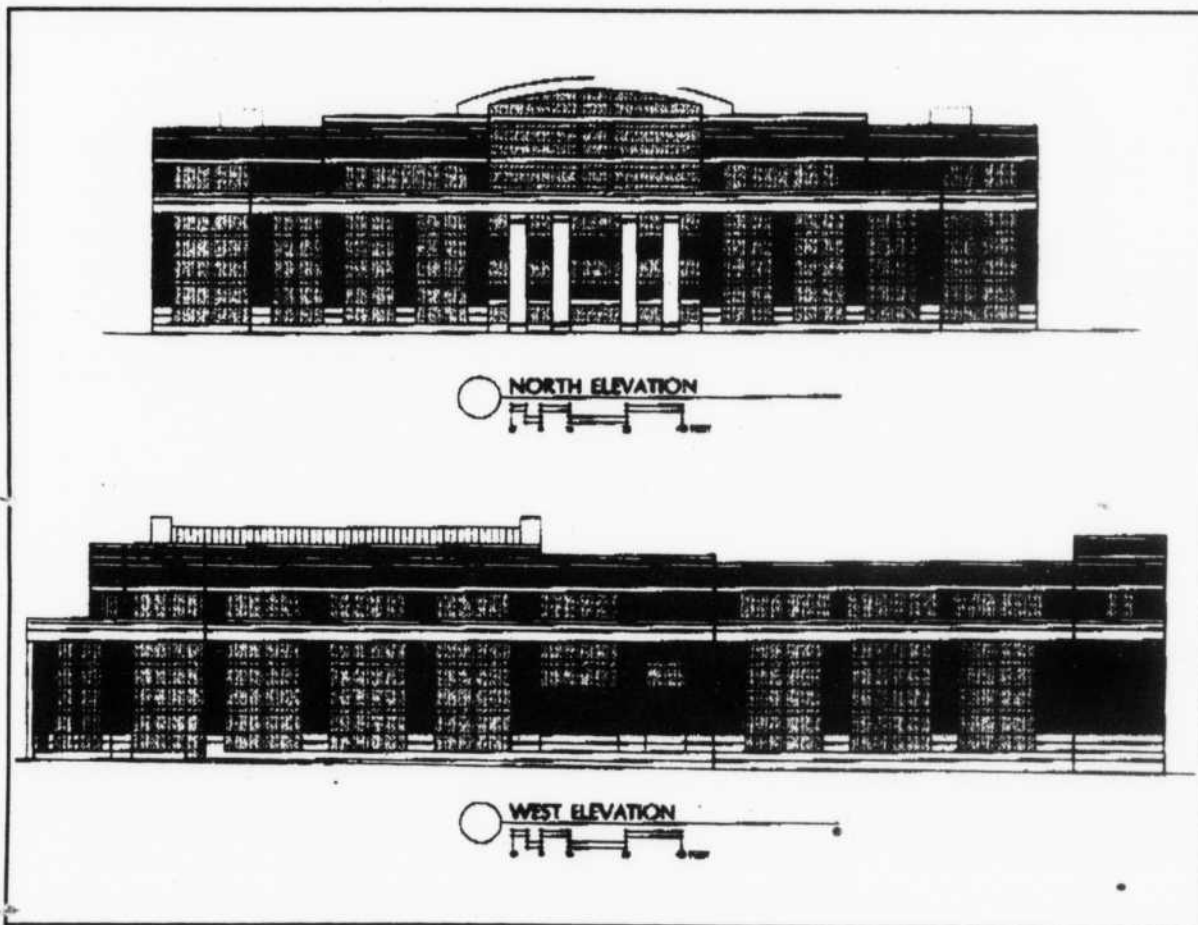
Electricity for the co-generation plant will come from a natural gas-powered turbine. The by-product of the turbine is heat used to make steam. The steam will be used to heat campus buildings and water.

Patty Miller, director of campus planning, said the next step is to appoint a designer. Once the new power plant is designed, the project will be put out to contractors for bids.

"The current power plant will be demolished," she said.

According to Smotherman, the new co-generation plant will be more efficient and self-sustaining, costing significantly less to build than to refurbish the old plant.

The new plant is expected to be operational in 28 to 30 months.



This architectural rendering of MTSU's new library gives an approximation of what to expect on campus within the next few years. The new library will be four floors and fully accessible to our disabled students. There will be about 250,000 square feet in size --double the size of Todd Library. It will also house new and improved technology for library users.

Youths learn about sex from media

NEW YORK (AP) — A third of youths 12 and older say the media encourages them to have sex, and more than half the girls say they learn about birth control from television and movies, a survey says.

Seventy-four percent of youths questioned by the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation said at least one parent had talked to them about sex, but only 46 percent said their parents had talked to them about birth control.

Just over half (55 percent) in the survey released Monday said their parents had discussed sexually transmitted diseases.

Nearly a third (29 percent) said they had had sex and 4 percent said they had at least one child. A third also said they believed some teen-agers have sex because TV and movies make it seem normal.

"It's clear that if teens today are going to make responsible decisions about sex, they need more than the 'birds and bees.' They need practical information about how to use contraception and negotiate sexual relations," said Suzanne Delbanco, a

Customs helps your trip to campus be smooth, entertaining

Dustin Schrimpscher/staff

The education airplane is circling MTSU at 12,000 ft. Check your on-board luggage and be prepared for Customs as soon as you land. Be sure you have shorts and sheets cause your mamma don't work here. You won't have to exchange currencies but you should be prepared to part with the cash you have.

Customs is a summer orientation program designed to aid new students and their families in making a smooth transition to university life. In its fifth year, the program is instrumental for new students hoping to making a smooth landing at MTSU. The cost for a two day session is \$50 with a room, \$35 without. If you want to bring your mom or dad there is a charge of \$20 with a cost of \$15 each for a room at the inn but mom will be able to find out all about this strange new place her baby will be living and hopefully ease her mind.

Customs will familiarize new students with many on campus ports-of-call (points of interest), that means clubs, fraternities, sororities, academic programs and even

on-campus recreational activities. Those participating in Customs will be "taken by the hand" by Summer Orientation Assistants (SOAs) and shown the way things are. Students have trained since February to make effective visual presentations, be tour guides and even secret informants of not-so-secret secret short cuts to easy living.

Guess what? For their first night in this strange new land the Customs people have booked many of our new-citizens to be in the finest accommodations campus has to offer- Che'z Dorm. There, weary travelers can rest their feet while watching a big-screen TV and get acquainted with fellow new-comers.

Gina Poff is the grand travel agent responsible for this years Customs program. Together with graduate assistant Erin Felder, Gina has scheduled meals, entertainment, informative workshops and even an early opportunity for new students to register for classes.

Everyone ready? Get your tickets ready— that means check books— return your tray to the upright position and prepare for landing! Thanks for flying Sidelines Air.



SOAs put on a happy face in front of the Jame Union building while preparing to show incoming students what campus life is all about. SOAs and their director have a great deal of work and preparation to prepare for CUSTOMS.

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James Union Building Room 206
8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. daily
898-2193

The JAWC is a safe haven for all women and does not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, disability, income, sexual preference, religion, or age

Intramurals offer fun, exercise and competition

Who says you can never return to those bygone days of your early childhood?

Nonsense. Not when a group of overgrown MTSU coeds can return to the glory days of their youth, taking the field once a week to battle in that bastion of kid contests: whiffleball.

Yep, the sport of big plastic yellow bats and hurlers throwing six-foot curves with hole-riddled balls is set to appear inside the Rec Center starting December 2, and is just one of a number of sports leagues and events being offered this fall by Campus Recreation's intramural sports program.

In addition to the aforementioned whiffleball circuit, students can take part in leagues ranging from traditional team sports such as flag football, basketball, soccer, volleyball (indoor and sand), and softball to individual competition in racquetball, tennis, and badminton.

One highlight of the fall

intramural schedule will also be the curiously named "Scalp the Mocassins" Mini-Triathlon, to be held the morning of the MTSU vs. University of Tennessee-Chattanooga (who are nicknamed the Mocassins). Starting with six laps in the Rec Center's indoor swimming pool, contestants will then bicycle four 2.5 mile circuits around campus, after which they will finish by running one more lap around the school.

Other events of note include two separate trips to Atlanta Falcons home games versus the Dallas Cowboys (Oct. 20) and San Francisco 49ers (Dec. 2), a Home Run Derby competition (Sept. 9), and a golf scramble to be held Oct. 11, and the curiously dubbed "Scalp the Mocassins" Mini-Triathlon, coinciding with the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga (nicknamed the Mocassins) football game on Sept. 14.

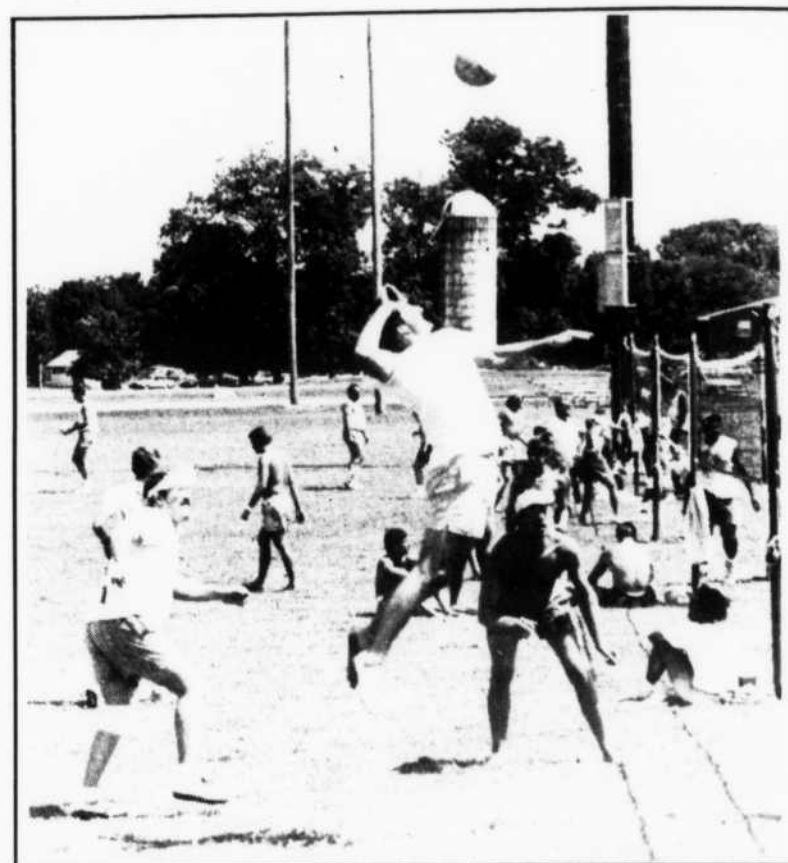
By far the most popular league in recent years has been

flag football, with no less than 80 teams participating in last season. This season Campus Recreation hopes to attract as many 90 to 100 teams.

Games are usually played once a week at night, with seasons lasting four or five weeks before holding playoffs between teams with winning records. The only fee for joining a league is a \$20-per-team refundable forfeit fee to encourage teams to not miss games.

Students wishing to participate in one of the leagues can do so by either forming a team themselves or by signing up as a "free agent," where he or she is eventually added to an existing team's roster in a free agent meeting.

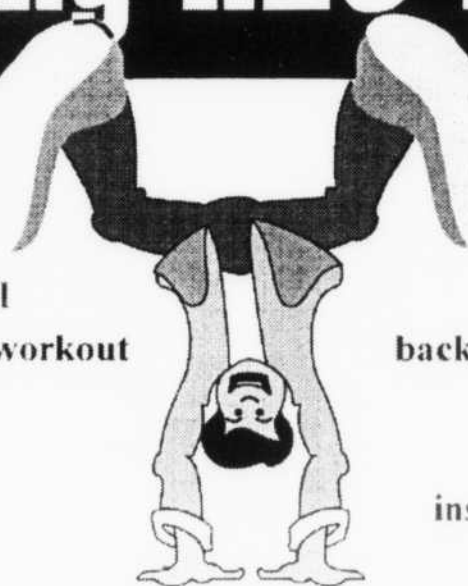
"Invariably (a free agent) will be picked up by a team captain," says Intramural Sports director Wayne Taylor. But even if someone isn't selected by an existing team, Taylor notes, more teams can be formed by pooling together left-over free agents.



The US Olympic Volleyball team gave him a "don't call us, we'll call you" speech but intramural sports can fill his Olympic sized hunger for competition.

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Blue Raiders to tackle Gators in 'The Swamp' in 2000

If there's one thing people love, it's a sacrificial lamb.

The Harlem Globetrotters had the Washington Generals to kick around. The NFC? They could always depend upon the Buffalo Bills to fold like a scared card shark come Super Bowl Sunday. History gives us even more examples. The Indians at Little Big Horn had their George Custer, Ronald Reagan his Walter Mondale, Lucy her Charlie Brown, the island its Gilligan—the list goes on and on.

Now, it looks as though you can add the MTSU football team to the names of those willing but hopelessly overmatched against its foes.

In continuing its efforts to bolster its schedule in preparation for the move to Division I-A in 1998, the school announced Friday that it signed a deal for a meeting in 2000 with (gulp) the University of Florida Gators. In Gainesville.

By adding the Gators, last season's defending SEC Champions and a perennial national title contender, MTSU has strengthened an already formidable roll call of opponents in the years to come. Since announcing its intentions to move to Division I-A last August, the Blue Raiders have inked to play the Big Ten's Illinois and SEC schools

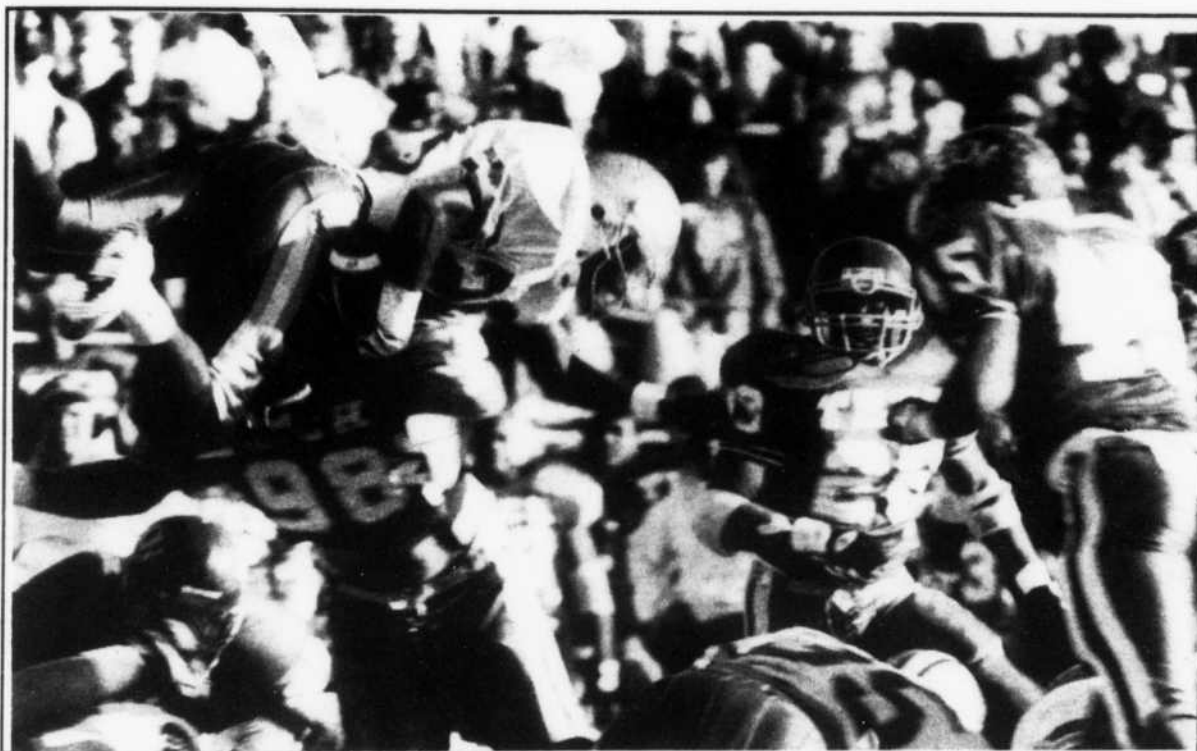
Mississippi State and regional rival Vanderbilt in 1998, as well as soon-to-be rivals Alabama-Birmingham, Northeast Louisiana, Jacksonville State, and Arkansas State (who have all agreed to play one another for the next four years). Mississippi State will play MTSU again in 1999.

The first home game against a major college program will most likely be Vanderbilt in 2001, which will be played in the expanded football stadium. Construction on the stadium, planned to seat approximately 30,000 when completed, is scheduled to begin following this season's

final home game against Totem Bowl rival Tennessee Tech.

"The East Side (student section) stands will be torn down and rebuilt because we need the extra seating in time to be able to meet the attendance requirements for 1997," said MTSU Sports Information Director Ed Givens. In order to be awarded Division I-A status by the NCAA, the school must have an average attendance of at least 17,000 in 1997, with the requirement growing to 20,000 the following season. MTSU must also schedule at least seven Division I-A opponents in each of its first four years after moving up.

As for the Blue Raiders chances to avoid being swallowed by the Gators in the hostile confines of the Swamp, they appear to about as good as a bucket of chum in a shark TV documentary. Last season Florida thrashed its SEC competition—including a regular season 62-34 drubbing to eventual no. 2 ranked Tennessee—before ultimately falling victim to the steamroller known as the Nebraska Cornhuskers, who routed the Gators 62-24 in the Fiesta Bowl to win the national championship. MTSU had a record of 7-4 in 1995, failing to qualify for the Division I-AA playoffs.



Not yet a sacrificial lamb for the slaughter, MTSU Blue Raiders strikes while the gridiron is hot. The Blue Raider football team has been testing the waters of I-A level competition for the past few years and has gone up against teams such as Florida State, Texas A & M, Hawaii and Nebraska. The team will travel to 'The Swamp' in Florida in 1999.



High school students from around Middle Tennessee work to improve their game at MTSU Basketball Camp, one of many sports programs held during summers.

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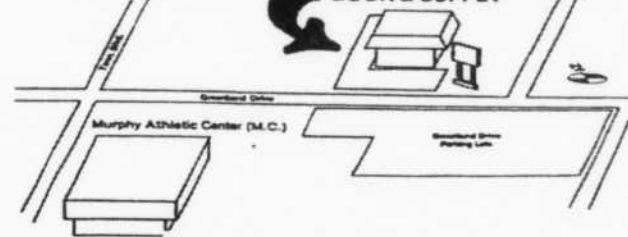
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