

Middle Tennessee State University SIDELINES

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Volume 73, Number 11

Thursday, October 2, 1997

Diverse authors perform works for Writers in Round

□ Tara Larimer/staff

Nationally acclaimed authors Sharyn McCrumb and Tim McLaurin and singer-songwriter Amy Rigby will provide up-close-and-personal performances to all who attend this year's Writers in the Round symposium Monday evening.

Writers in the Round is part of the Tom T. Hall Endowment in Mass Communication. Hall is a Southern novelist and singer-songwriter whose works "represent an extension of the folk tradition in modern country music," said David Eason, assistant dean of Graduate Programs and special programs in Mass Communication.

Eason, who coordinates Writers in the Round, said the program is designed to run at the same time the Southern Festival of Books runs each year.

Now in its fifth year, the program has played host to a variety of talented writers and musicians. Songwriter Lucinda Williams and her father, poet Miller Williams who read the inaugural poem for Bill Clinton, were featured last year. Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist Robert Butler, Lee Smith, Ann Patchett, Don Sanders and music writer Peter Guralnick—whose most recent book is "Last Train to Memphis," an Elvis biography—have all been featured panelists.

"The Southern Festival of Books focuses on books with some kind of southern connection," Eason said. "All of these writers were from the South except Peter, who was chosen because he's written a lot of books about Southern music: rhythm and blues, blues and soul music. We try to bring in some novelists with a music connection. This year we have Sharyn McCrumb, who has a series of novels called 'The Ballad Series' from which she took lines and titles of Appalachian folk songs, so there is even the theme of tragedies traced out in folk music in her novels."

McCrumb is the author of 15 novels, which have been named Notable Books by The New York Times and The Los Angeles Times. She received the 1997 Award for Outstanding Contributions to Appalachian Literature in July, and has just had her first book of short stories, "Foggy Mountain Breakdown," published.

Tim McLaurin is interesting in his many dealings with snakes, some

of which he even offered to bring along to the symposium. His latest of four novels, "The Last Great Snake Show," draws on his knowledge of snakes, as does his epic poem, "Lola," which is told from the point of view of a snake. McLaurin's memoir, "The Keeper of the Moon," was named a New York Times Notable Book of 1992. Critics said his prose "conveys with unusual dignity the integrity of his own experience."

Eason discovered Amy Rigby last spring when she played in Nashville at the NEA Extravaganza, and he asked her to perform at the Writers in the Round Series after seeing her perform again a few months later at a Tower Records show.

"Her music is so distinctive," Eason said. "She's a mid-30s mother and her songs are from a strong woman's point of view but with a sense of humor."

Rigby's solo album, "Diary of A Mod Housewife," was released in 1996 and is "one original, utterly fresh and fun record," according to Stereo Review. Rolling Stone says the songs are heightened by Rigby's "marvelous, honky-tonk-angel voice."

In addition to her solo effort, Rigby was the main songwriter and founding member of two New York City groups, The Shams and Last Roundup. The Shams was a post-modern all-girl group which toured the U.S. several times, headlining and opening for the likes of Indigo Girls, James McMurry and Urge Overkill. Last Roundup released the album "Twister" in 1987, were profiled on TNN and toured the U.S. opening for Bill Monroe, Doc Watson, Dwight Yoakam and the Replacements.

Eason said the Writers in the Round symposium tends to fill up, and encourages attendants to arrive early if they want a seat.

"Of all the things I do at MTSU, this is the most fun," he said. "It's a wonderful event because the writers read their works with a certain capability and passion, and the singers sing, all in a small room with intensely focused attention."

Amy Rigby, Sharon McCrumb, and Tim McLaurin will each perform Monday at 7:30 for a half hour in Room 204 of the Bragg Mass Communication Building. A reception will follow, in which attendants will have the opportunity to speak with the writers.

Lazy days



Clockwise from left, Saneta Morrison, a sophomore speech pathology major, Whitney Norville, sophomore education major, and Charlie Roberts, freshman pre-architecture major, spend the early days of fall lounging in Peck Forest, between Peck Hall and Cope Administration Building. Relax all you can before mid-terms get here.

Photo by Shaun Sidwell

Academic Master Plan completed; community partnerships sought

□ Patti Fosbinder/staff

Middle Tennessee State University reaches for the 21st century with excitement and purpose, according to the new Academic Master Plan which is currently being published and soon to be made available to anyone interested.

"The final version, all prettied up and put together in a professional format, is in the hands of publications," said Barbara Haskew, provost and vice president for academic affairs.

Haskew said there are three main goals to this plan, and each goal has a number of strategies designed to implement them.

These goals are:

- Pursue initiatives in area of competitive advantage. In this area the University will form partnerships with professionals and practitioners in each area of competitive advantage.

These partnerships will identify industry-specific employment needs and propose new educational programs to address them. Programs such as cooperative learning and internships will be a strong focus in this goal.

Areas which are listed as growing in Middle Tennessee include applied science and technology, commerce and agribusiness, education, entertainment, communication and the arts, health and human services, information and computer technologies, law and government and tourism and leisure.

A new department of social work and colleges of fine and performing arts, education and behavioral sciences and health and human services are seen as possibilities in the 21st century.

- Strengthen the Academic Core. MTSU commits itself to strengthening its academic core and improving quality in all of its offerings.

Among the departments in this core are students and faculty, the general studies program, undergraduate programs, the honors program, graduate programs and the library and improved facilities.

- Create a student centered learning environment. Limited funds and increasing competition require that MTSU deliver its services with a commitment to accountability and consumer satisfaction.

These forces challenge MTSU to create a student-centered learning

environment. Areas to be focused on include technology and interactive learning, access and distance learning and investigating limits in interdisciplinary, cross-functional and collaborative efforts on campus.

Haskew said they will be mailing a significant number of these plans to alumni, friends and professionals associated with MTSU.

"We want to send copies to people we think will be interested in our academic goals of the future," she said.

These plans have been compiled by a task force of faculty, students, administrators, alumni, area business and professional leaders and representatives of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission and the Tennessee Board of Regents, which was created in September 1996.

The group was lead by Dr. Robert Shirley, an "expert in strategic planning in higher education" according to the master plan. Together they considered the hopes and dreams of six colleges, 35 departments, over 700 faculty and nearly 300 adjunct faculty.

Star search leads student to Vienna

□ Laura Kizer/special to Sidelines

Reaching for the stars is more than a phrase for Rica French. For this MTSU senior, it is a way of life.

A physics major, she was selected last summer to attend the 12th annual International Physics Conference in Vienna, Austria.

French presented research on how the study of open clusters helps to determine the age of the universe.

The conference, hosted by students for students, allows participants to exchange ideas and see what others have accomplished.

"The conference brought things into perspective for me," French said. "It showed me that if you do something you love, the opportunities are out there. You just have to look for them."

The daughter of W.R. and Paulette Sirbaugh of LaVergne, she also was selected to work with National Optical Astronomy in Tucson, Ariz. There she studied data received from the Hubble Telescope.

French, granddaughter of Paul L. and Nar Seal of Woodbury, says after graduation this May she hopes to attend graduate school and earn a Ph.D. in physics.

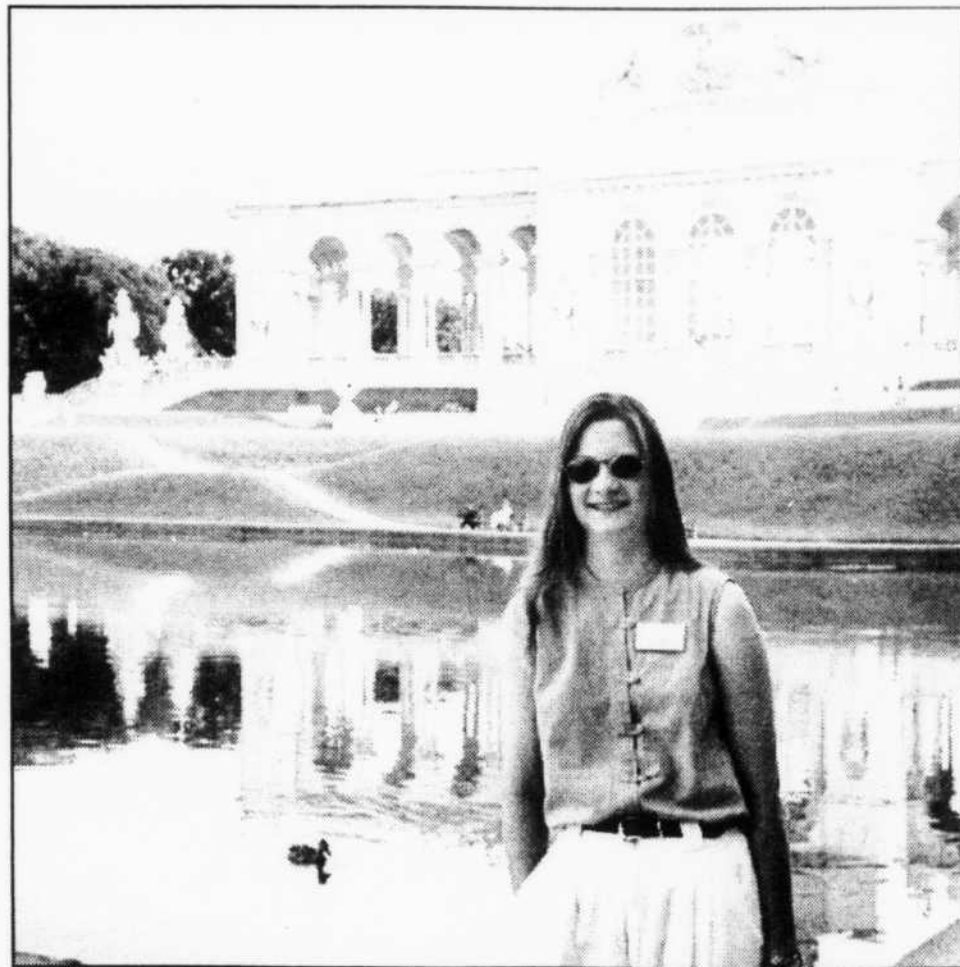


Photo from News Services

Rica French does some sightseeing in Vienna, Austria while attending a conference.

Nursing will provide depression screening

□ Brooke Lewis/staff

Depression is a disease that affects everyone.

This Thursday, October 9, the nation will recognize this fact by holding National Depression Screening Day and MTSU will be helping by hosting a screening for all students here on campus.

The screening is to be held at the Cason-Kennedy Nursing Building in room 109. The hours that the screening will be available are 12:30 p.m. until 3 p.m. This is a free service provided by faculty and nursing students here on campus.

Other sites are available in Nashville and other surrounding areas for commuting students and those who cannot make it between 12:30 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Although this will be the first time MTSU has hosted a depression screening, it will be the seventh year for National Depression Screening Day to be recognized nationally. This year there are going to be over 3,000 sites between the

United States and Canada.

"The concept behind it was that there was to be both education and screening," said Mary Judy Campbell, one of the faculty here on campus who is assisting with the screening.

"We want to teach people about depression so they can be better screeners themselves," said Campbell. "All of us will experience depression but not all of us will experience clinical depression."

According to recent facts published by the American Psychiatric Association, 80 to 90 percent of those who suffer from depression can be effectively treated, and nearly all people who receive treatment derive some benefit.

Depression is the third cause of death for people in or around the college age, which would be about 18-24. According to Campbell the stress of being more independent in college and taking on newer responsibilities are some of the reasons depression rates are higher for college students.

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On Campus

MTSU

To have information placed in the On Campus section of the paper, come by the "Sidelines" office, which is located in James Union Building room 308, and fill out a form located on the table by the door. Information must be submitted in person. The deadline for Monday's edition is Thursday at 5 p.m. and the deadline for Thursday's edition is Monday at 5 p.m. A new form must be filled out for each edition or the information will not be run.

Oct. 3

Sankofa & Erudite Emancipators invites all Tech students and staff to bring their cars by Lee's Chicken on Memorial Blvd. between 4 and 6 p.m. so they will be clean for Homecoming!

Oct. 6-Nov. 5

Revelations, The Next Millennium Prophecy, a seminar presented by the Seventh-Day Adventist Student Fellowship, will be presented at 7:30 p.m. in KUC 322. For more information, contact Perry Loudon at 563-2669.

Oct. 6-7

A Gamma Beta Phi meeting will be held at 5 p.m. in KUC 324. Information concerning the \$250 state scholarship and important dates for October and November will be given out. For more information contact President Cindy Trail at 849-3603.

Oct. 7

A Jazz Set will be presented in the JUB Tennessee Ballroom from 8-11 p.m. Anyone interested in getting dressed up to "slow it down" is invited by the Sankofa & Erudite Emancipators. There will be a \$5 charge at the door.

Students are invited to a Career Placement Orientation with resume writing and interview preparation at 11 a.m. in KUC 322. They will discuss placement services, resumes, campus interviews and employment opportunities. For more information contact Martha Turner at 898-2500.

Oct. 8-9

Students are invited to a Career Placement Orientation with resume writing and interview preparation at 3 p.m. in KUC 322. They will discuss placement services, resumes, campus interviews and employment opportunities. For more information contact Martha Turner at 898-2500.

Oct. 9

Bruce Foster from Samford University will in DSB 241 from 1-3:30 p.m. to talk with students about admission to Samford's McWhorter School of Pharmacy. He will be available to answer any of your questions about pharmacy school in general.

Oct. 14-15

Any students interested in learning more about Gamma Beta Phi and find out member requirements is invited to an information meeting at 3:15 p.m. on Tuesday or 4 p.m. on Wednesday in KUC 324. For more information, contact President Cindy Trail at 849-3603.

Oct. 21

Brown University will present "When a Kiss is Not Just a Kiss" at 7 p.m. in LRC 221. Sponsored by Peer Educators, it will include a short, interactive drama about sexual assault. Questions and discussion will follow. For more information, contact Tressa Cherry at 898-5453.

Oct. 22

The National Coalition of 100 Black Women is sponsoring a "Night of Fun" at 9 p.m. in Murphy Center Gyms 1 and 2.

Fun will include a Spades Tournament from 9:30-midnight, a dance contest from 12-12:30 a.m. and music all night by DJ Trav.

Continuing Activities

The Japan Center of Tennessee in cooperation with the Tullahoma Fine Arts Center will sponsor a Japanese Doll Exhibit at 401 S. Jackson Street, Tullahoma, Tennessee. The exhibit will be held during the month of September 1997. Museum hours are Monday through Friday 10 a.m. through 4 p.m. Evenings and weekends by appointment. \$2.00 donation appreciated. Call for more information please call The Japan Center of Tennessee at (615) 898-2229 or Tullahoma Fine Arts Center at (615) 455-1234. They will also sponsor an Origami Exhibit in the lobby of the Argie Cooper Library, 100 S. Main St., Shelbyville, Tenn., through October 17. For information call The Japan Center of Tennessee at (615) 898-2229 or the library at (615) 684-7323.

LDSSA is holding Institute Classes every Wednesday and Thursday at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. in Peck Hall 105 and every Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Smyrna Chapel. For more information, call Sid Sandstrom at 355-0558 or check out the LDSSA home page at www.mtsu.edu/~ldssa

Campus Crusade for Christ will hold a CRU meeting every Tuesday night at 7:30 p.m. in Mass Comm 104. For more information, call 867-3054 or 848-6741.

Presbyterian Student Fellowship invites everyone to their Wednesday Night Supper and Worship each Wednesday at 6 p.m. at 615 N. Tennessee Blvd. For more information contact Rich Zeigler at 893-1787.

The Seventh-Day Adventist Student Union will offer "Praise and Worship" at 7 p.m. every Friday in KUC 314. A bible study will begin soon. For more information, contact Heather Norman at 898-3112.

Church of Christ Student Center invites everyone to "Raiders for Christ," a fellowship of Christian friends, praise time, Bible study, videos and more, Monday nights at 7 p.m. in KUC 324. For more information contact Mike Stroud at 896-1529.

The public is invited to view Kirsten Skiles' recent work in metal Oct. 14-Nov. 21 at the Appalachian Center for Crafts in Smithville. Skiles, the gallery director at St. Mary's University in Minnesota and co-owner of Koka Metalsmiths, will also instruct a workshop, "Blacksmithing: Natural Forms in Iron," November 22-23. For more information contact Casey Hyland or Gail Looper at (615) 597-6801.

A Japanese doll exhibit, sponsored by The Japan Center of Tennessee in cooperation with Volunteer State Community College, will be held Oct. 15-Nov. 15 in the LRC library. For more information contact the Japan Center at 898-2229.



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A magical evening is offered

Vickie Gibson/staff

An art professor and students from MTSU will join magicians from Chicago, Indiana, Georgia, South Carolina and Middle Tennessee in presenting a public magic show Saturday in Murfreesboro.

The show is in memory of two founding members of the local magic club who died this past year, said Ollie Fancher, associate art professor at MTSU and one of several local magicians to perform on the show.

"It is going to be a very big show with some top performers coming in to honor two magical friends," said Fancher, who is a charter member of the Middle Tennessee Magic Club, the Sam Walkoff Ring 252 of the International Brotherhood of Magicians, which is hosting the magic show.

"This is a different kind of show, one that will have many magicians in the audience," said Fancher. "This is a must-see show for anyone interested in magic."

The show is in memory of Sam Walkoff of Murfreesboro and Ed McClarty of Shelbyville. Both were very active in the local club and in promoting the art of magic in the Middle Tennessee area. The Walkoff and McClarty families will be guests at the show and all proceeds from the show will be given as memorial gifts to charities.

Walkoff is well remembered by the MTSU community for his years of teaching the magical arts on campus. He taught magic classes through the university's continuing studies department, the Serendipity summer children's program, Campus School and Murfreesboro's parks and recreation department. He was known for his wit and jokes and continued to perform despite many physical difficulties.

McClarty, who was best known as Ronald McDonald to millions of children in the area, was owner and manager of the Shelbyville McDonald's for many years. After his retirement, he opened a magic shop called Yesteryear Magic and Fun. His humorous performances included everything from balloons to flaming swords. He was Middle



Magicians demonstrate a magical effect in this 1980 photo which pictures Ed McClarty and Sam Walkoff (at left), in whose memory Saturday's show is being held. Also pictured are MTSU associate art professor Ollie Fancher (third from left) and former MTSU student Tom Gibson, who will be among the local magicians performing.



Ed McClarty



Sam Walkoff

Tennessee's representative for IBM and a member of the Order of Merlin.

The Middle Tennessee Magic Club meets every first Tuesday of the month at the Center for the Arts on College Street in Murfreesboro. Anyone

interested in magic is invited to the meetings which begin at 7:32 p.m.

Several local magicians will be performing close-up magic beginning at 6:30 p.m. before the stage show starts at 7:32 p.m. at Riverdale High School's

auditorium on Warrior Drive in Murfreesboro. Tickets are \$10 adult, \$5 children under 12. For tickets contact Fancher in the art department or call 848-3275 or 890-8499. A limited number of tickets will be available at the door.

New sidewalks predict future construction work

New sidewalks and wheelchair ramps should be completed Friday in preparation of the remodeling of the KUC.

Expansion of Phillips Bookstore and a new and improved plaza are the reasons for the remodeling.

"When the fence goes up," said Tom Tozer of News and Public Affairs, "the front and west entrances to the KUC will be closed temporarily, and access will be through designated front doors and the wheelchair ramp on the east side."

The new sidewalk will enable people to walk from

Todd Library toward the LRC in front of the fencing.

The benches in front of the KUC will be moved to a temporary location outside the construction area for continued use.

Bookstore expansion plans include more sales and display areas, and the new plaza will have additional seating, more lighting and landscaping.

"It will be an ideal place for gathering and socializing," Tozer said.

The project is expected to be completed around May 1998, depending on the weather and other factors.

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Today's students learn interviewing skills, how to make a good first impression, how to manage this impression, etc. I wonder if the next generation of students will be taught how to act on their instincts.



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Remember: All MTSU students
recieve a 10% discount at any time.

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Viewpoint

MTSU offers weekend festivities

MTSU is known as a "suitcase college." Each weekend the same thing seems to happen. We pack up our books, clothes and other necessities and head to our homes.

Many students feel that MTSU and the Murfreesboro area have no activities to offer, but this is not the case. This weekend alone students will find activities galore to occupy their time and offer entertainment.

Homecoming is in full swing and there are still several activities on the agenda to take part in.

Tonight students can participate in the Pep Rally and Bon Fire and possibly find out who the new Homecoming Queen will be. Friday and Saturday the festivities will continue with an Office Decoration Contest, Special Olympics Bowling, the Parade and Float Competition, the Alumni Center activities, and let's not forget the Football Game.

For those active students, there are other offerings available as The Second Annual Heart of Tennessee Scottish Celebration will also be in full swing.

The activities for this celebration will begin on Friday at the Murfreesboro Holiday Inn Holidome, with several discussions and seminars on Scottish culture.

Saturday from 9 a. m. to 5 p. m. you can be a part of several events as a full day of Scottish Celebration festivities have been planned for the MTSU campus. Come out and enjoy the somewhat ancient music, dances, games and food that are kept alive by the Scottish spirit that abounds in many of our students and Murfreesboro residents. This is a cultural event that you will not want to miss.

Homecoming and The Scottish Celebration are both worth remaining on campus for. Instead of going home, invite your friends and families to the campus so that they can also share in some entertaining events.

Once the campus activities are over, take a ride around the Murfreesboro area and enjoy one of the many restaurants or take the time to see a local band at the 'Boro, Mainstreet or Planet Sun.

Entertainment exists in this quaint little town, but you will have to get out there and take part in it to fully enjoy everything that is offered.

Stay here this weekend and find out for yourself. You will be glad you did.

Getting the most out of your MTSU experience

Thomas Van Dervort
Political Science



My long experience in teaching and advising students at MTSU has given me much insight into the needs of students, and the advantages of the many resources that this institution offers. I came here when MTSU was still a college, primarily dedicated to teacher preparation, and I have witnessed its growth to a fully accredited four-year university offering a great variety of undergraduate and graduate programs in preparation for professional careers.

I have learned from my own experience, the experiences of my students, and from contact with other institutions that MTSU offers an exceptional opportunity for students to develop their talents and abilities, and to become anything they truly desire to become. MTSU is no longer a minor institution of higher education. It is one of the few major institutions in the South that provide quality education, at an affordable price, with great emphasis on personal instruction and student/professor interaction.

Like many of my colleagues and students, I suffered for many years with the notion that MTSU was a backward institution, with a provincial student body and faculty, offering only marginal educational opportunities. I have studied at elite institutions in the United States and abroad, and my children have experimented with education at other institutions. But I have become convinced that MTSU has many advantages that its students should become more aware of, and learn to appreciate. It is still a relatively small institution which takes pride in close interpersonal interaction between the student and the professor. Yet, it is now large enough to offer exceptional opportunities for students in all major areas of professional development. My own children experimented by attending the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and decided to graduate from MTSU. They are both engaged in professional careers in the areas of social studies teaching and executive management in the insurance business. Their successes, and my own experiences, have taught me that MTSU offers a foundation for successful development that is equal to, or better than, any other institution in the southeastern region of the United States.

A Twenty-first Century Education
Life in the 21st century will demand a highly literate population that is able to adapt to a rapidly changing technology, occupations and life styles. It is estimated that the average person will change occupations four to five times in his or her lifetime. This means that in order to be successful one must become an educated person who is capable of continuous and independent learning.

Extreme specialization at the undergraduate level is probably undesirable. That is why we require you to take broad general studies courses and demand a major and one to two minors to complete your degree at MTSU. Your choice of major does not lock you into a particular occupation. The objective of the university

prepares students for life by providing a broad foundation and exposure to a breadth of knowledge that should liberate your mind and open new vistas for future exploration. An educated person is one who has learned to read and write and think on their own. Such educated persons will be able to succeed in the 21st Century because they are adaptable and confident enough in themselves to survive the vast changes they will encounter.

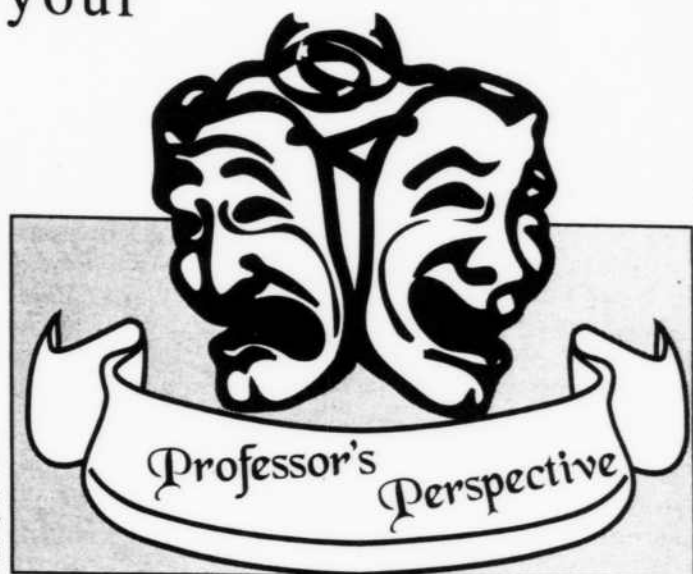
Planning Your Future

There is a major difference between a "job" and a "career." A job is when you do someone else's dirty-work and they pay you for it. A career is when you do what you really want to do and people pay you for it. In order to develop that career that you really want, it may be necessary to accept a number of jobs. But select jobs that are related to that ultimate career choice.

To improve your chances of achieving that successful career, you need to begin your planning early in your college life. Select a major that you really like and will do well in. Don't pursue a subject that you hate and can't relate to merely because somebody else told you to, or because you think it's the way to make money. Take summer jobs or part-time jobs that are related to your career interests. Consider the MTSU Cooperative Education program which enables you to work at a career related job, like an internship, for a semester and then return to full-time college work. Most departments on the MTSU campus will assist you in obtaining career related internships. Serving an internship is the single most important method of ensuring success in the quest for a satisfying career.

The best way to predict your future is to create it for yourself. Take some time right now to think about where you would like to be ten years from now. Ask yourself what will it take to get where you really want to go. Identify some person who is already successful in that career and go visit with the. Ask some detailed questions about how they got where they are, and what advice they could give you. You will find that these people are flattered by your asking, and they will be more than happy to give you some of their valuable time. Get to know your professors at MTSU, and especially your academic advisor. If at all possible, find a mentor either on or off campus. A mentor is a person who can be trusted and respected, who will help to provide advice and counsel when making decisions.

Getting Involved in Campus Life
The friends and acquaintances you make while at MTSU will become valuable resources enabling you to network into those careers you seek. Participation in extra-curricular activities such as theater, debate, mock trial competition, band, sports, fraternities, sororities, study groups, and interest groups will involve you in some of the most memorable experiences in your college life. IT is



through these associations that many find mentors and establish networks of communications that will have lifelong importance.

Taking Advantage of MTSU Resources.

Expansion in the technology of communications is perhaps the defining development of the 21st Century. MTSU has made every effort to equip this campus with the new "information age" technology. Open a computer account at the Office of Information Technology and start by learning to use the e-mail facilities to communicate with fellow students and faculty members. Explore the world wide web and find out about how you can use this network to enhance your personal and professional knowledge. Use word processing to draft your reports and term papers. Visit the Learning Resources Center and find out about the many services it has to offer you in your quest to become a self-reliant learner. Use the new Writing Lab to improve your command of written communications. Get acquainted with the services offered by the Placement and Student Employment Office early in your college career. They can help you find career related jobs and summer internships. The Cooperative Education program is another place to check out early while you are planning your career choices.

Conclusion

Your professors and academic advisors are resources and potential mentors for you. They are willing and able to provide advice about those major choices that you will have to make on the way to that successful career. The MTSU Alumni Relations Office also can provide a list of potential mentors from our former graduates. The MTSU Counseling and Testing Center will provide career testing and many other valuable services. The Office of International Programs and Services will assist you in finding opportunities to study and gain experience in other countries. The Office of Student Affairs provides many services including Disabled Student Services that you should check out. Get involved in student government. Volunteer your services to the "Sidelines" or other student publications to gain valuable experience related to your career.

MTSU can only provide the opportunity for you to develop the skills and abilities that will make you successful in the careers you choose. You must make the most of these opportunities by becoming actively involved in the process of becoming a lifelong self-reliant learner.



Sidelines welcomes comments from our readers. However, we ask that, due to space constraints, letters be kept under 300 words.

Sidelines

P.O. BOX 42, MURFREESBORO, TN 37132

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Sidelines is the non-profit, editorially independent student newspaper of Middle Tennessee State University and is published every Wednesday during June and July and Monday and Thursday during the fall and spring semesters. The opinions expressed herein are those of the individual writers and not necessarily Sidelines or the university.

Letters Policy

Sidelines encourages comments from readers. Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words. Authors who want more than 300 words to express themselves should contact the editor. Sidelines keeps its pages open to all viewpoints and all members of the MTSU community. Authors should include their name, address, major, classification and phone number for identification purposes. (Phone numbers will not be published.) Sidelines reserves the right to edit for length, grammar, style and libel.

E-Mail letters to stupubs@frank.mtsu.edu. Send letters to Box 42, MTSU, Murfreesboro, TN 37132 or drop them off at the Sidelines office in JUB Room 310.

Allie Sultan

President of Lambda

For many people, coming out as gay, lesbian or bisexual is a very difficult task. In our society, such sexual orientations are often regarded with disgust, fear and, in the worst cases, hate. MTSU has experienced its share of hatred focused towards its gay/lesbian/bisexual community, most recently in the form of anonymous chalk drawings. Many students have even received death threats as a result of this hatred.

However, gay people are not the only ones who are constantly faced with the issue of coming out. Many of you know people who are close to you who are gay, lesbian or bisexual, and you may have had to deal with the prejudices society has against your loved ones as well. How many times have we been standing around a group of friends and someone tells a gay joke, or refers to someone as "faggot." Now imagine how you would feel if you had a

Everyone invited to enjoy "Pride Week"

family member or close friend who was gay and you were in that situation. Would you speak up, or just laugh it off, hoping that no one notices the hurt you feel?

People direct their hatred toward gay, lesbian and bisexual people for many reasons. Most of this hatred is the direct result of ignorance which breeds fear. It may not be an intentional ignorance, but more likely the result of the negative images of gay people fostered by society. These images (and we all know them well—the myths that gay people can't have committed relationships, are promiscuous and are really "swishy") are overcome little by little each time a person comes out as gay, lesbian or bisexual, or as a straight supporter.

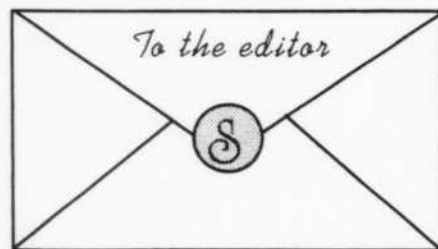
Next week marks the first Pride Week ever to be held on the MTSU campus. Lambda Association, in conjunction with Mid-TN Nashville Pride, will be offering a series of activities in an effort to break down these stereotypes which repress

individuals who are struggling with their sexuality, and to educate the MTSU campus about what being gay, lesbian or bisexual is really about.

The highlights of this year's Pride Week '97 include an "Ellen" marathon, a dance and a "Pride in Diversity" rally, complete with local bands, a raffle and community and student speakers. The events of MTSU Pride Week '97 coincide with the goals of National Coming Out Day, which is celebrated every year on October 11 to commemorate the 1987 March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights. Next week, MTSU will join with hundreds of campuses nationwide in bringing National Coming Out Day to our campus.

I encourage everyone on this campus to check out the festivities this coming week. MTSU is a special place, and we are all in college to learn about ourselves and our peers. So, get involved...you might be surprised with what you discover.





From the Mailbox

Football stadium failure of good judgement

To the editor,

At the risk of being pilloried by those who support our school's latest boondoggle as a naysayer, I should like to offer an interpretation of how many of us feel about the new football stadium. I believe it can be said quite sincerely that the stadium may be the most egregious failure of good judgement since the construction of the Maginot Line. When faced with the possibility of a decreased budget and the absolute necessity of building a new library, our band of happy egoists decided that we should pursue the fool's gold of Division-IA instead. What, pray tell, do we receive for the expenditure of tens of millions of the taxpayer's dollars? Why, we get an architectural monstrosity which reminds one of an abandoned cement factory in the former Soviet Union! Its presence begs the question, why do 3,500 fans need 35,000 seats?

Every maladiction facing this university can be traced to one failure: we simply have our priorities out of kilter. The purpose of our university is not to field a Division-IA football team, but rather, to provide us with the best possible educational opportunity.

This folly is symptomatic of a much deeper problem. For some reason beyond my comprehension, we seem to believe that changing our name will convince doubtful outsiders that we are closer to Harvard rather than Columbia State Community College. Many of us feel that they will be more convinced if we spend millions on books for our belated library rather than our athletic department. Our future employers will be more impressed by our ability to utilize space-age technology, which is sorely lacking on this campus, rather than by our string of victories over Austin Peay.

For those of you who would condemn me for not supporting our school, please consider that many of us support it by giving 100% in the classroom. If we do not come out to see the team on Saturday, it is because we do not believe that it represents us anymore than Miss Piggy represents the typical porker out behind the barn. I see no reason to support a team which too often creates problems in their residence hall, or which displays uncommon lethargy in the classroom and on the field. We can only hope that the Board of Regents will continue to ride herd on our fantasies and pray that Dr. Walker will either come to his senses or retire.

Ron M. Spears
Public History
Graduate Student

Professor praises student performers

To the editor,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank publicly the students and faculty members who performed so admirably in a recent concert of the Schola Cantorum, directed by Dr. Raphael Bundage. The concert was presented at the Southeastern Medieval Association's annual conference held in Nashville September 25-28 and co-sponsored by MTSU and Vanderbilt. Professors Polly Brecht (organist) and John Kramar (baritone) were also featured in the concert and gave stellar performances, as

they always do.

As one who's had an opportunity to hear this student group, it made me proud to claim that they were from my home institution. They received a standing ovation from a highly critical audience, including several musicologists, and comments from those in attendance were rave reviews. Members were present from as far away as Japan, California and Canada, and included a number of well-known scholars from such universities as Princeton, Harvard, Emory and the University of Virginia. To put it in the current vernacular, the concert blew them away. Conference participants went away with a clear awareness that MTSU was a university with quality programs, faculty and students. Such recognition from faculty members at other universities can only enhance the value of our students' diplomas.

Students who have not yet taken advantage of the wonderful free concerts that the MTSU Music Department provides are missing an extraordinary opportunity to expand their musical horizons. Take a break from rock music occasionally, and check out the cultural opportunities that MTSU provides in terms of music, art and theatre. It's part of your education, we are fortunate to have so many talented people, many of whom are internationally recognized, on our campus.

Thanks again to all those who were involved for a splendid and moving performance.

June McCash
Professor, Foreign Languages
and Literature
President of SEMA

MTSU home to two radio stations

To the editor,

We appreciate Chad Gillis' support for student broadcasting on campus (WMTS and Channel 8). Just wanted to correct Chad on the call letters for the two (YES TWO) radio stations on campus.

WMTS is the student-run radio station which carries a free form alternative format for the community. We have been on the air for five years now; first on cable then on 88.3 FM. WMTS operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week which is unusual for a student-operated radio station. A majority of student radio stations sign off the air at night. WMTS is unique in that aspect.

WMOT is the professionally-staffed jazz station affiliated with National Public Radio. "Jazz 89" has been on the air since 1969. The format is jazz and blues with a mix of national news and award-winning state and local news features by its news staff.

We want the student population to know that WMTS is working to provide an 'alternative to alternative.' Any student can DJ at WMTS. Let me repeat that: ANY student can be a DJ at WMTS. We had over 100 people show up for our first organizational meeting this semester. WMTS is also considering an affiliation with Pacifica Radio based out of California.

New and exciting things are on the horizon for WMTS. We thank you, Chad, for showing your support... just remember next time...get the call letters correct! (laughs)

Sincerely,
Matt Lane
Production Mgr./Engineer
WMTS-FM

The 1st Amendment:

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

Transfer student wants to read 'off the wall' articles

Undeniable is the fact that "Sidelines" is a school newspaper, and quite good at that. Thus, topics covering the wide spectrum of college events and controversies plaster its pages. But in the bigger spectrum of life, the "wide spectrum" of school becomes a simple channel among the whole cable network of our society. In other words, I am ready to read something off the wall, somewhat useless, funny, and completely random. And sometimes, as with nose-picking, ya just gotta do it yourself. (Even if they could, they would probably not want to!) And hopefully this article is only the beginning, and that other non-school academic related articles will follow.

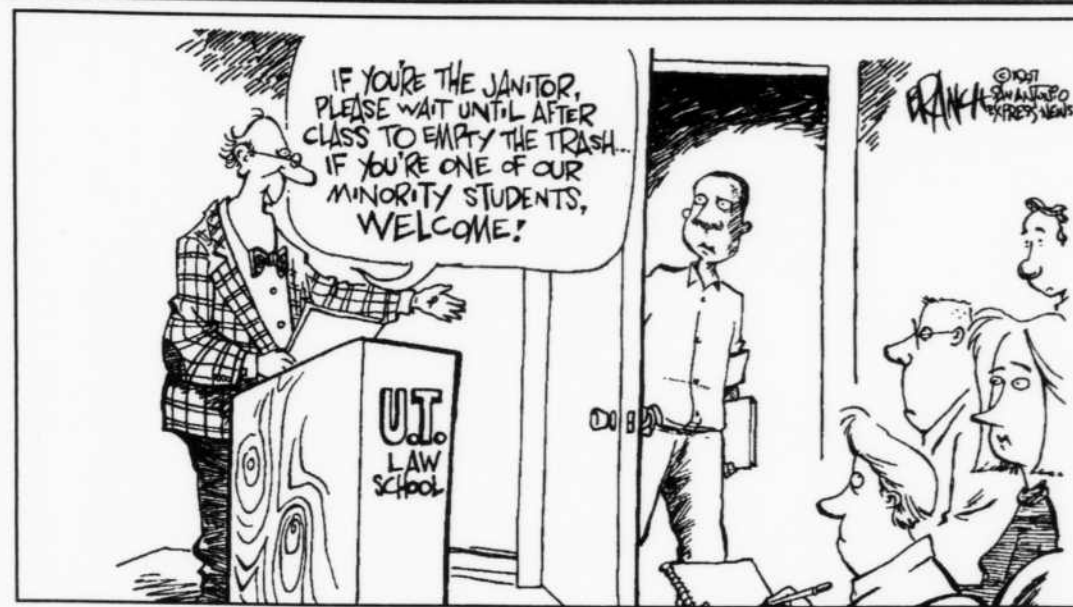
We all have hopes, dreams, fears and bad habits. Why not write about something that more MTSU'ers (in general, individuals in specific) would, could and should possibly relate to? Who knew, but one hypothesis suggests that it is easier to cover our parking problems for the gabillionth time rather than share intimate and personal views on the anti-christ, hang-ups with group sex, one's relationship with alcohol or why group bubblebaths are so endearing. And alas, the bothered and inquisitive bunch still ask, why?... to which I solemnly answer ...why not? (Belushi).

Life is as interesting as we make it, and more fantastic than we could ever imagine. That's why we must not take the small pleasures and details for granted. Within the details of life lie great truths. For instance, holding a small, sleeping infant, now that's nice. Reading a cheap, yet frighteningly accurate, horoscope doesn't complete, but has its own pathetic satisfaction. Unplanned roadtrips (provided, good company), are good too. But so are the smaller components of the trips like detours, sunrises, sunsets and a certain gas station employee in West Virginia that gave me my 19th birthday present, a silver Camel Zippo.

A stranger's smile, clean sheets, children's artwork and a full stock of cereal all make me happy. So does a good musician, a bad "Dead" bootleg and my T-Tops. The discovery of SARK, a woman/writer who is all about happiness, freedom and creativity, she's cool too. (Hint-hint people-check her out). But near the top of the ladder is being recognized for something you're good at, simple appreciation, and love, love, love.

Whether it is a friend you just can't see enough of ("just friends," eh?!), talkin' on the horn to Mama until the wee hour, seeing an old pal and not missing a beat, or, for me, seeing my brother after two full years, that will be grand. We all love somebody and, God willing, somebody out there loves us too. For Love is sufficient unto Love (Gibran). And as they say...the rest is just details.

Nicole Egendoerfer
Sophomore transfer from
Indiana Univ.
Photo-Journalism



Carefully scripted article worthy of praise

Bravo! And again I say...Bravo! The article so carefully scripted by Nina West (around the week of the 29th) couldn't have been a more refreshing piece. Generally, I am not one to spend time

applauding nor refuting the things I read, however I felt compelled to show support for this young lady in her effort for this nice work. I wish for her only the best in her future writing endeavors and encourage her to continue writing close to her heart because that's where the MAGIC lies!

Shannon Keith Harbison

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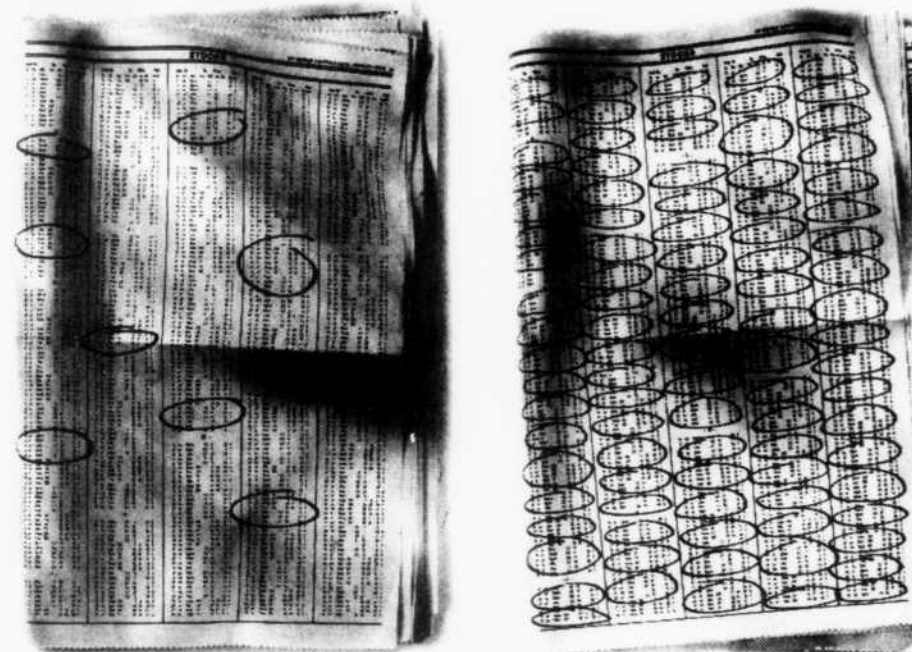
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FDA recommends reading package labels

Stay Fit

Jennie Treadway



With growing concern about an overweight population, the government decided to get involved in helping people eat healthier. Various groups, such as the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Food and Nutrition Board (FNB), decided that changes needed to be made in order for people to design a balanced diet plan.

The major changes that occurred over the last few years were requiring food products and packages to provide its nutritional information, expanding the four basic food groups into a six-part Food Guide Pyramid, and defining certain terms seen on food labels, like "low-fat" and "reduced fat" (there is a difference).

The Nutrition Education and Labeling Act, created in 1990, required every food package to provide a label with various information according to its size.

For a package larger than twelve square inches, such as a soup can, the label must state the common name of the product, a name and address of the manufacturer, the weight or measurement of the package, the nutritional information (known as "Nutrition Facts"), and the ingredients listed in descending order according to weight.

On the "Nutritional Facts" label, the manufacturer must print the number of servings, the serving size, and the total nutrient content per serving size, such as caloric count, fat grams, sodium, carbohydrate, fiber, sugars, and protein. Also provided is the Vitamins A and C, iron, and calcium percentage available in each serving.

The Daily Value percentage, located on the right hand side of the label, are based on a 2,000 calorie diet and sets a moderate standard to maintain a healthy

weight. For example, if the total fat of a food is nine grams per serving, the Daily Value percentage would be 15%, assuming 30% of the calories come from fat.

At the bottom of the label, space permitting, there is information about daily nutrient consumption according to a 2,000 and 2,500 calorie diet. The label also reminds the consumer about the caloric count per gram of fat (9), carbohydrate (4), and protein (4).

Many remember learning about the four food groups in grammar school: fruits, dairy, bread, and meat, dairy, and vegetables. Although servings were designated for each group, serving size was rarely mentioned. Fats and sugars were not even part of the food plan.

The Food Guide Pyramid changed nearly everything, although it still encourages a healthy eating plan. Made up of six groups - bread/grains, vegetables, fruits, dairy, meat/beans, and fats/sugars - the Pyramid places foods in order of nutritional importance. The bread/grain base suggests a larger daily intake, while the small tip at the top of the Pyramid shows that fats and sugars should be used sparingly.

In addition to the expanded groups, the Pyramid lists the number of suggested servings per day. Some diagrams even give an example measurement of a single serving.

The Pyramid also includes a wider variety of foods for each group. Instead of suggesting just beef and chicken for the meat group, the new diagram lists dry beans and nuts for non-meat eaters. Yogurt was included in the dairy group, and the newly added "fat" group includes oils and sugary sweets.

Now that labels are read more carefully, manufacturers want to be sure that consumers are aware of what they are buying. Words like "low-fat", "reduced-fat", and "fat-free" have lured in the dieters to buy foods at any price.

When a food label reads "low-calorie," this means that the serving size is only forty calories less than the original product and "reduced calorie" refers to a 25% reduction from the regular caloric count. "Low fat" means that the product is less than three grams per serving and "fat free" can only be used if the product is less than half a gram of fat.

"Lean" meat can mean several things: it is less than ten grams of fat per serving, less than 95 milligrams of cholesterol, and less than four grams of saturated fat. "Extra lean" still has 95 mg of cholesterol, but only half of the fat and saturated fat content from the lean meats.

When a product is said to be a "good source" of a nutrient, then it must have ten to 19% of the Daily Value per serving. A "high" percentage means that there is at least 20% of a nutrient in one

serving of food.

A major misconception with food labels is the word "light" that appears on a number of products. While most consumers think that anything "light" is near perfect, the truth is that it only offers a third fewer calories or less fat than the original product. Even worse, "light" can refer to color or mass, rather than nutrient content, such as "light brown sugar" or "light molasses."

Even though health committees are making beneficial changes, it is still up to the consumer to do his homework. Manufacturers want to sell their products above the rest, so looking at the front of a package is not enough. Reading the nutrition labels and understanding the information provided in relation to the food guide is the best way to create a balanced diet.

Look out below

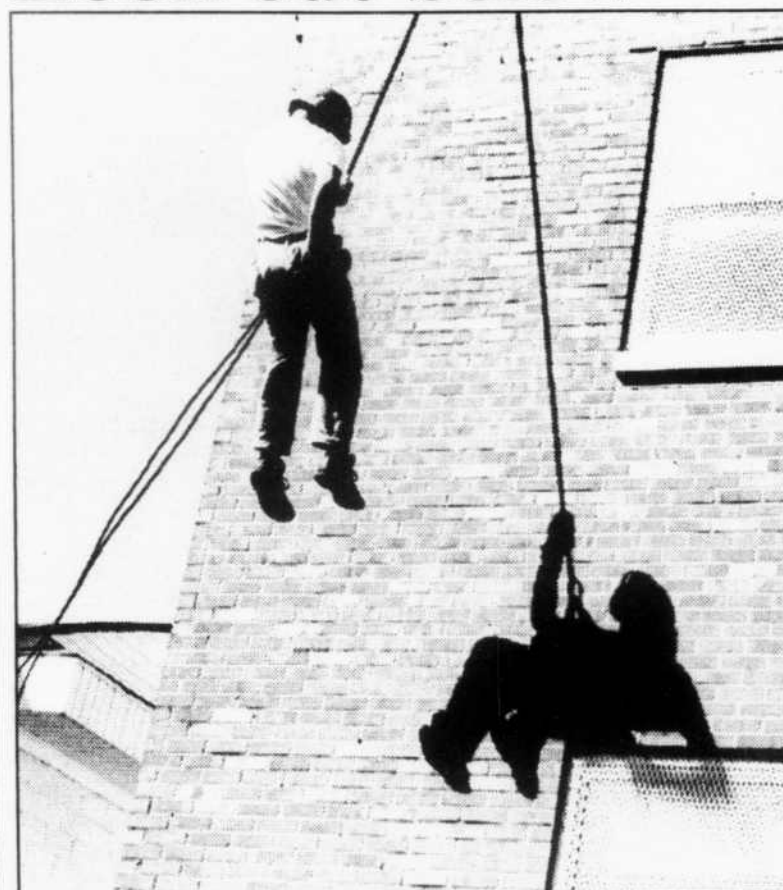
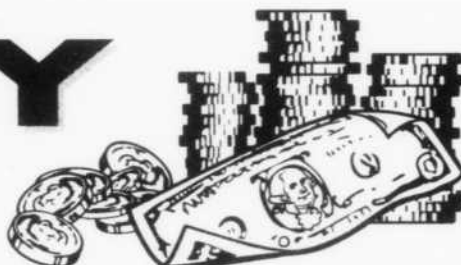


Photo by Courtney Drewes

George Ward, a freshman pre-pharmacy major, practices repelling with the ROTC.

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Belmont University

Dr. Michelle Tooley
Professor of Religion
Belmont University

Mike Bennett
Christian Attorney
in Nashville

Steve Turner
Alpha Omega Ministries
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Sponsored by the Baptist Student Union

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YOU MAY BE HIS ONLY HOPE Derrick Jackson has a disease which can only be cured with a bone marrow

transplant. He is searching for a matched donor who can offer him the Living Gift of Life. Cason-Kennedy Nursing Building, Room 109-113, October 3, 1997 - 8:00 - 4:00 - Cost: \$35.00 For more information call: 898-2437

FREE INFORMATION is available through the MTSU Placement Office, KUC room 328. Come by and receive your complimentary copies of catalogs, pamphlets, and guides to learn how to write a resume and cover letter from various samples, gather information about a particular company, and help with interview preparation. Video tapes are also available for you to view in the Career Library. For more information, come by KUC 328 or call 898-2500.

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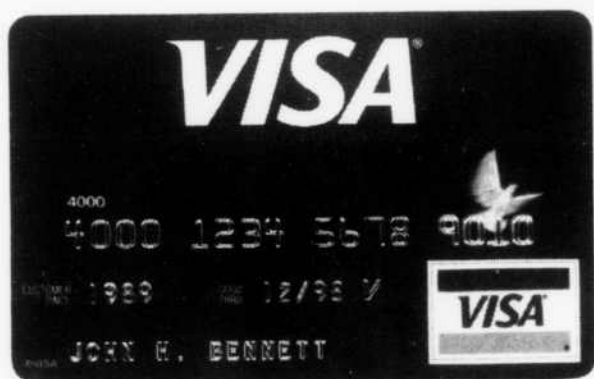
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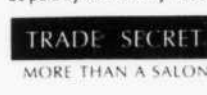
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