



# SIDELINES

Middle Tennessee State University

Wednesday, August 10, 1977

Vol. 51, No. 7

Final summer edition

## Reading improvement course to be offered in fall

by Phyllis Skipper

A new education course offered this fall for three hours credit, titled Reading Improvement, SPE 300, is "geared toward improving reading skills," according to Dr. Alma Harrington, instructor for the course.

"The course will provide individualized work in five basic areas," Harrington said, "1) in recognizing words on sight; 2) in figuring out

words through phonetical and structural analysis; 3) in thinking through what you read; 4) in how to study more effectively; and 5) in speed reading."

The course, to be taught in two sections on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:25 to 10:40 a.m. and 10:50 a.m. to 12:05 p.m. in room 123 of the Old Main, is a different concept in that it will not be a "classroom" atmosphere, but a "college reading/learning center."

Harrington explained that the students will be using audio and visual equipment as well as written material.

Students will at first be given the Stanford Diagnostic Reading Test which will tell Harrington what area the student is weak in. "The student will then be assigned work on an individual contract basis," Harrington added.

Harrington noted that it is up to the student to improve and achieve

on the certain areas that he or she is weak in. "I'll pick out the two weakest areas and let the individual work on improving those areas," Harrington said.



Harrington

The course is primarily for those who have a large amount of difficulty in reading skills, "but it's also for the person who wants to improve study skills or learn to speed read," Harrington said.

In addition to the three hour course there will also be a night class offered in speed reading for one hour credit. The class will be held on Wednesday nights from 6 to 6:50.

"This is the first time, finally, we have a course in speed reading offered for credit at MTSU," Harrington said.

## Officers named for Clerical Caucus

Officers for the new year were installed in the first meeting of the MTSU Clerical Caucus Friday, July 15.

Virginia Fowler, secretary of the Geography and Earth Science department, was named president. Fowler has been with the university

### Attention

Faculty, Staff, Administration:

The 1977-78 auto decals have just arrived at the University Police Office. Avoid the rush! Come by the office now to register your vehicle and bring your license number. There will be no charge for the decal.

Registration will also be held for faculty at faculty orientation.

for seven years. Vice president, Diane Cooper, is secretary of Management and Marketing, Marie Steagall, secretary of the organization is also a secretary in the Accounting and Informations department. Treasurer, Grace Prater, is a graduate analyst in the graduate office.

The organization is geared to promoting professionalism in clerical and secretarial lines of work, Fowler said. One of the things the organization will work on this year is additional education for clerical workers. Fowler explained that they will ask members to take the Certified Professional Secretarial Examination, a two day test given

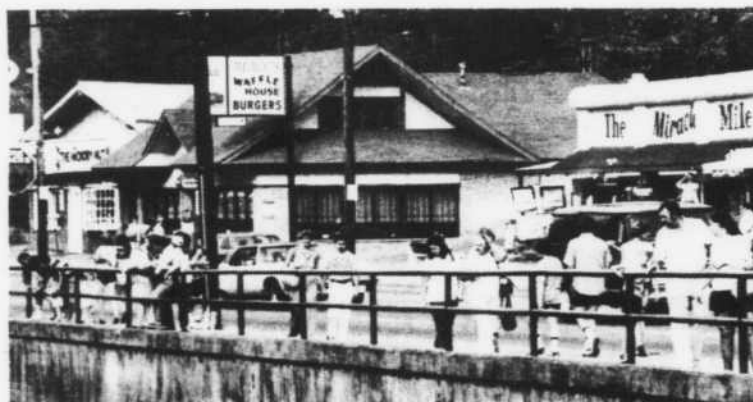
in May for which 24 hours college credit may be obtained.

Fowler stated, "...we have added some additional committees. I plan to be a lazy president as I believe in having sufficient committees to ensure a smoothly-running organization. I am also a strong believer that one cannot be an actual part of an organization without being active; thus I am hoping each of you will sign up for some committee work."

The next meeting will be Wednesday, Aug. 10, at 12 noon in room 305 of the University Center. Fowler asks that anyone interested in attending the meeting bring a bag lunch or something from the Grill.

### Inside

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# TV program professes concern for environment

by Fred H. Powers Jr.

There is a new television show being produced in the Learning Resources Center's telecommunications lab. The new program, **Earth Bound**, depicts man's situation in relation to his environment and the need to protect the fragile environment in which we live.

Although some ecologists feel that the damage man has done to the environment is irreparable, others say there is much that can be done to prevent further destruction of the environment.

According to John Paul Montgomery, MTSU assistant professor in English and host of **Earth Bound**, the show is an attempt "to bring out awareness of the need to protect the environment. Most people are not that aware and many are not able to go out and see it. That's why we're here."

The industrial revolution and progress made in this century have paved over plants and workable land. **Earth Bound** shows the natural food chain and how it works.

A man with a deep respect for life and nature, Montgomery speaks of



John Paul Montgomery, modern day philosopher who talks about the world, ecology and contemporary problems of modern society.

photo by Pat Daley

"the delicate balance—the ceaseless transfer of the sun's energy to plants, to insects, to animals, and man—a life cycle."

Montgomery also noted "a need to relearn our world" in order to protect the environment in which we live for future generations. Noting the vanished American frontier he added, "I want my children to have the beauty of nature to enjoy."

**Earth Bound** is produced and directed by Van Fox, director of telecommunications at the LRC. Actual production and filming of the show is done by Fox and a few dedicated student crew members in the LRC television studio.

**Earth Bound** will present award winning films in ecology and energy. The show is aimed at all audiences because environmental concern is everyone's business.

According to Fox, **Earth Bound** gives the man with something to say the media through which he can say it. The show gives "one man's humanitarian view of the world with emphasis on ecology and energy," he added.

Fox had nothing but praise for Jerry Paul, a mass communications major at MTSU, for his efforts and talent in writing the theme song for **Earth Bound**. Fox added, "he should be recording in Nashville."

**Earth Bound** will replace *Syl-la-ba-loo*, another Fox production, for the next eight weeks. The show airs each Saturday at noon on WZTV channel 17.

## Student killed in head-on collision

An MTSU student was killed Friday in a head-on auto collision in DeKalb County, becoming the second student or former student to be killed in an auto accident within the last week.

Pamela Jo Mahar, 19, a McMinnville senior, was enroute to a family picnic on Highway 96 when she lost control of her car on loose gravel and collided head-on with a car driven by Ted Murphee, 16, of Rising Star, Tex.

Mahar was pronounced dead on arrival at DeKalb County General Hospital, while Murphee was transferred to Rutherford Hospital and listed in satisfactory condition Saturday.

An MTSU graduate, David Heath, 23, of Murfreesboro, was killed July 28 when his car collided with a train on Sanbyrn Drive.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. Sunday at Love-Cantrell Funeral Home in McMinnville, with burial at the Gardens of Memory Cemetery.

Mahar is survived by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mahar; and one sister, Shery Cowans, all of McMinnville; on brother, Paul Mahar, of Paris; and a grandmother, Dixie Cunningham, of Madisonville Ky.

## University farm theft still being investigated

No arrests have been made in the Monday, July 18 theft of two university farm's vehicles and the case is "still under investigation," according to Sgt. Hendrikson with the University Police.

Thieves cut into a fence bordering the Stock Dairy Farm on I-24 and drove away with a Ford tractor and a John Deere bush hog worth \$13,685.

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# Woodcarving course offers hobby, consumer tips

by Buddy Burnette

Basic Woodturning and Woodcarving, an offering of the Continuing Education department, is a class designed to provide "not only a lifetime hobby, but very important consumer information," according to Dr. Robert Armbrust, instructor for the course.

The class, which meets on Thursdays at 6 p.m. in Room 111 in the Industrial Arts Building, is composed of students who would like to learn the basics of woodworking.

"We have offered the class for about a year, and class size has varied. The first class offered was very large, but this summer the enrollment has slipped a bit," Armbrust said.

"However, I enjoy teaching the class and derive a sense of pleasure in seeing students learn something that is a bit of a lost art, woodwork by hand, and also knowing that I am imparting some information on how important woodwork is to industry," Armbrust added.

Wood models are used to make molds, models, and other useful devices of industry, Armbrust said.

The intentions of the students taking the class seem to revolve around one main theme, an interest in woodwork.

"I am particularly interested in the woodturning part," Mark Wilson, a UT graduate, said. "I've never had much chance to practice much in this area, and I felt this class would help provide me with the basic information I needed."

Larry Willeford, an Oakland High School student, said, "I took the class as a start to a hobby that I think I will have a lasting interest in."

Students in the class learn the safety procedures needed to protect themselves since the tools used are sometimes razor-sharp. The sharp-



ness is essential to quality work, and Armbrust emphasizes the importance of safety to the students' enjoying the course.

Another potential feature of the course, the building of antiques, is explained by Armbrust.

"There are two definitions for antique materials in this country. The government's definition, anything over 100 years is an antique, is, of course, out of reach for this class. However, the second definition which the furniture trade says is anything made before the advent of machine tools, can, in a sense, be applied because if a piece is made without the use of machines, if it is made by hand, it can, in my opinion be considered an antique."

"And one of the purposes of this class is to teach by-hand methods."

Armbrust began his interest in woodworking as a youngster working with his father, a cabinet maker. He said his family has been woodworkers for generations, his grandfather being a cabinet maker and carpenter.

Armbrust said most people take the class to learn a lifetime hobby, but another reason was given by Linda Hunt, a Riverdale High School student, "It's fun!"



photos by

Jack Ross



[clockwise from top left] Larry Willeford operates a lathe; Linda Hunt carves a design in wood; and instructor Robert Armbrust demonstrates the use of a table saw while Mark Wilson looks on.

## Non-credit classes scheduled

The MTSU Continuing education office has a long list of continuing ed classes to be offered this fall. These classes are open to anyone whether or not they have graduated from high school or college. These classes may not be taken for college credit with the exception of three classes offered for one hour college credit.

Classes for non-credit are as follows:

Private Pilot Ground School; Ball Room Dancing; Energy Conservation for the Home; Faculty Physical Fitness Program; Investments; Gymnastics for Children; Scuba Diving—Beginning; CPS Review; The Beautiful You; Poise-Modeling-MakeUp-Wardrobe; Needle-

point—Techniques & Design; Beginning Piano—Level II; Beginning Piano—Level I; Beginning Piano—Adult class; Real Estate Fundamentals; Water Safety Instruction; Snow Skiing; Rapid Reading for Adults; Bridge Fundamentals; Creative Art Workshop; Quilt Making; Pottery; Introduction to Drawing; String Instruction; Tae Kwon Do Karate.

Courses offered for one hour credit are:

Yellow Brick Road; Mathematics in Early Childhood Education: Curriculum Materials and Methods; and Today's Child, Tomorrow's World.

For more information contact the Continuing Education office, 898-2462.

## 1976-77 grants total \$1,315,000

Institutional research and project grants for the 1976-1977 fiscal year total \$1,315,000, following a \$21,800 grant for an aerospace education workshop, according to Linnell Gentry, director of institutional research, projects and equal opportunity.

In addition, grants totalling \$536,000 already have been approved for the new year, of which \$96,000 has been granted to the MTSU Day Care Center. Other fundings include a grant to the Diagnostic Center.

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**Editorial****B.A. requirements need revision**

You say to your prospective employer, "I have a B. S. degree in English." And you find your employer asking why.

Your reason: because you didn't take four semesters of one foreign language.

If you had taken four semesters of French, German or Spanish, then you would have graduated with a BA.

MTSU seems to take pride in the fact that they graduate fewer Bachelor of Arts students. Advisors in English, history, art, music, etc., will be quick to tell you that you should take four semesters of foreign languages and graduate with a BA. Their reasoning is that employers think it strange for a humanities major to graduate with a BS degree.

Well, your advisor may be right. But why does this university take such pride in something so unreasonable?

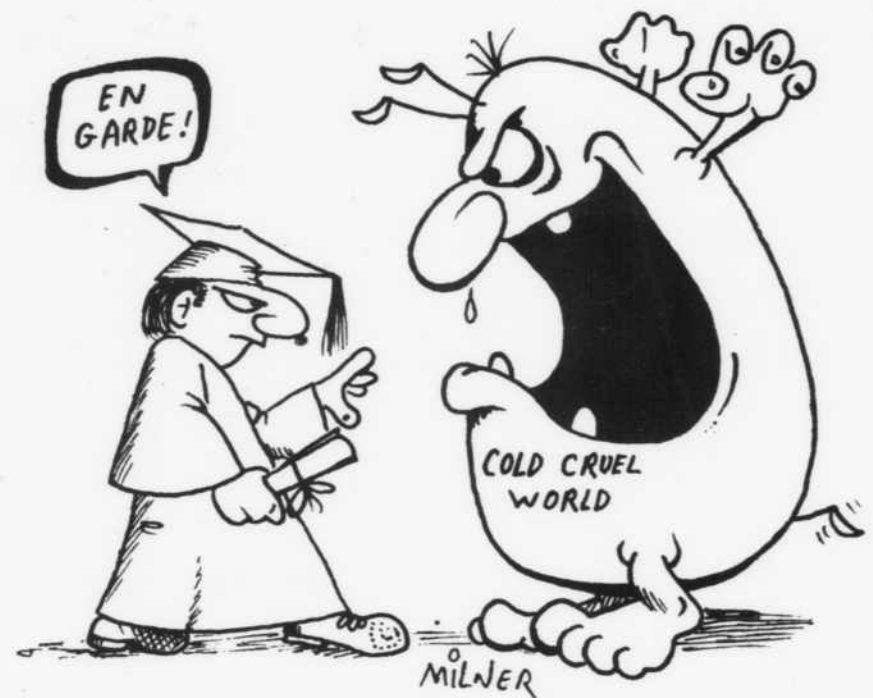
The requirement of four semester hours of one foreign language is too strict. And that's why only 16 out of 824 May graduates graduated with BA degrees.

Foreign languages are necessary to those students who wish to take their careers to foreign lands or who wish to be translators. And a loose background in foreign language is beneficial in literature, for example. But, why should a history major have such a complete background in German? Is it necessary?

We don't think so, and if your one of those many students who want to graduate with a BA degree, but don't feel confident enough to take four semesters of one foreign language, or don't have the time, then you probably don't think it's necessary either.

Now if the university will not see fit to lower the requirement of four semesters of one foreign language then we're stuck. But why couldn't the university change the policy to four semesters of a combination of foreign languages? It seems to us that a requirement such as this would better the graduate, not lessen his knowledge.

For instance, taking a little of each language would broaden the student's knowledge. The student would have more diversity in education.



A transfer student told us that she came to MTSU with two semesters of Latin. She wanted to graduate with a BA degree but MTSU didn't offer Latin, and she didn't have time to start all over with the foreign language requirements.

The student had a problem, and she probably isn't the first in the history of MTSU to encounter such a problem.

Most universities don't even have particular requirements for a BA or BS degree. If you're a humanities major, you graduate with a BA. If you're a science major, you graduate with a BS.

Why does our university have such unfair requirements? It may be well worth your trouble to find out and make known your disagreement through the ASB office.

**Letters****Pre-registration has drawbacks**

To the editor:

I would like to respond to the letter of Kathy Cushman appearing in the *Sidelines* of July 28. I think Ms. Cushman and the MTSU community deserve to know our plans for registration, specifically pre-registration.

During the past year several members of the Admissions and Records staff and the director of data processing have reviewed our registration system and the registration systems of other schools. We have paid visits to UT-Chattanooga and East Tennessee State, since both schools use a pre-registration system employing on line terminal data entry.

Our concerns were to develop a system that would be efficient, both in terms of the time it required and the costs incurred. Presently we spend two days for Fall and Spring registration and a day each for Intersession and Summer registrations.

Pre-registration as handled at these two schools would require approximately four weeks each term, that is, we would spend the month of November pre-registering for Spring.

Also, at UTC they have an entire office dedicated to registration. The director of registration supervises a clerical staff and also prints the class schedule and makes classroom assignments. At MTSU, the assistant director of records plans and supervises registration as well as supervising the academic records section of the records office. We do not have the staff necessary to operate a pre-registration system.

We have made changes in the registration process which will be effective this Fall that will decrease the lines, particularly in the beginning

steps. No longer will students have to crowd in lines to receive their assessment receipt cards. This operation will be handled on the track area at Murphy Center, where registration will begin. Also, more space has been provided for vehicle registration.

Although not perfect, our present system has some advantages. A student can enter one building and complete the entire process: register for classes, pay fees, have an I.D. card made and validated, register a vehicle, rent a refrigerator and have a picture made for the annual.

Also, the student has complete freedom in selecting when he wishes his classes, and to a great degree, which instructors. Most importantly, we register about 10,000 students in two days. This allows more time for instruction. Five years ago it took us four days to register 8,000 students.

One very important advantage is the cost. We operate a very inexpensive registration system. The equipment necessary to convert to a system such as UT-Chattanooga or ETSU would be expensive and we would need additional staff to monitor such a system, and more computer programmers to create the system.

We are not satisfied with our present system, but it does allow certain advantages we feel are important. I appreciate the opinions of Ms. Cushman. It is through such constructive criticism that we hope to discover problems that we who work with the systems constantly often overlook.

Cliff Gillespie, Dean  
Admissions and Records

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*Sidelines* is published every Thursday by, for and about the students of Middle Tennessee State University. Editorials and columns reflect the opinion of their authors and not of the MTSU administration, faculty, staff or newspaper adviser, Glenn Himebaugh.

**Helpers, ideas needed for homecoming week**

To the editor:

Yes, I know what you're thinking, you're thinking "sure summer school is fun but isn't there some creative way that I can start preparing for fall semester?"

Well, this is definitely your lucky day, because I have a suggestion. One of the most exciting happenings in October is Homecoming Week, and one of the most exciting reasons is because the whole student body gets involved.

Preparations are already under way for Homecoming and we need some bright new ideas.

So get involved. Contact either Chip Clark (box 3731), Denise Veazey (box 8157), or come by the ASB office and help us have the best Homecoming ever.

Denise Veazey  
Box 8157



# Gatlinburg native finds joy amid tourism hassles

**Editor's Note:** Laura Lewis, a senior Mass Communications major, is a resident of Gatlinburg; here, she offers an "insider's look" at the tourists who throng her hometown.

by Laura Lewis

My little town is a nice place to visit. Honest!

Each year, over three million visitors drive through its boundaries on their way to Great Smoky Mountains National Park. And at least half that many decide to stop and spend their vacations here—fighting their way through jungles of souvenir shops, conquering snarls of traffic and, the greatest feat of all, trying to discover a motel which still has its "vacancy" sign on.

These are the people who realize that the true sense of adventure lies not in the peaceful wilds of the Great Smokies, but right in the heart of my own little town—Gatlinburg, Tenn., which boasts a year-round population of 2,800.

During the peak summer season, the Parkway (Gatlinburg's main strip) becomes a scene of immobile traffic and hoards of carefree vacationers.

The Gatlinburg resident is left with only one alternative—to find a permanent resting spot until the clock strikes 12 at the end of Labor Day weekend.

You'll find us trapped everywhere—behind cash registers, under restaurant trays heaped with food and buried under masses of souvenir tee-shirts, stuffed black bears, gooey candy apples and Rebel flags. You name it; we got it. And we very happily will sell you anything that's not nailed to the floor.

For three summers, I worked in one of the town's grocery stores. All summer long, day after day, I weighed the tourists' peaches, sliced their deli sandwiches and set out their cans of pet food, sardines and baby formula.

To top it off, I was a regular Chamber of Commerce—directing

people everywhere: from the laundromat to the nearest liquor store.

And I was a great target for amusement.

You may think that all these people come here to browse through our unique gift boutiques or to ride the chair lift. Not so. The ultimate trinket any tourist really wants to carry back with him is the memory of seeing a real live mountaineer.

One day, a particularly obnoxious man from somewhere north of the Mason-Dixon line entered our market. He hadn't come to buy anything—that was just a facade. He'd come to find the Northerner's idea of novel entertainment: the Tennessee twang. No, it's not a bluegrass group. It's an accent. MY accent, to tell the truth.

I rang up his order and proceeded to tell him (in my usual native tone): "That'll be five-ninety-five."

I should have recognized the familiar anticipatory gleam in his eye before I spoke. He leaned back

*'we don't like to be made  
fun of but we love  
the attention'*

and let out a great roar of laughter.

"Say that again," he urged.

I obliged, whereupon he burst into more peals of laughter and, nudging his wife, began to mock me.

Well, that was going a little bit too far, I decided, so I let that Yankee have it with my own rendition of a Northern accent.

"See George? his wife reprimanded. "You've been going around making fun of the accents around here and now you've finally found somebody who's making fun of yours."

Sobering up somewhat, the man turned to me and assured me that he meant no offense.



"Aw, shucks, that's all right," I drawled in my hillbilliest twang. As they were exiting, I shouted out in my most neighborly manner, "Thank-yew, sur, and y'all hurry back right soon!"

We Gatlinburgers don't like to be made fun of, but we love the attention.

That's why I got a job working at a glassblower's shop one summer. Tourists love to stare at our hands—eagerly awaiting the creation of a candle, pottery dish or taffy log—anything which can be labeled "genuine mountain craft."

I found that tourists were just fascinated watching me paint colors on glass elephants. Admittedly, it was a small, insubstantial task. But there was something self-satisfying about having people cluster around me, absorbed in observing the "craftsperson at her work."

Who was I to tell them that the most tedious hazard of the whole job was being careful not to drop the glass elephant on the floor?

I certainly wasn't planning to

ruin the tourists' vacation. Even though they jam our streets and force into the confines of the great indoors, with mountains of hillbilly hats, forests of "invisible dogs" and streams of frozen custard, I like tourists.

They add color to the city, they are our only source of income, and anyway, who else cares enough to tour our wax museums, miniature golf courses and hillbilly stores? Who else greets the merchandise in our shop with the amazement of children in Santa's Land?

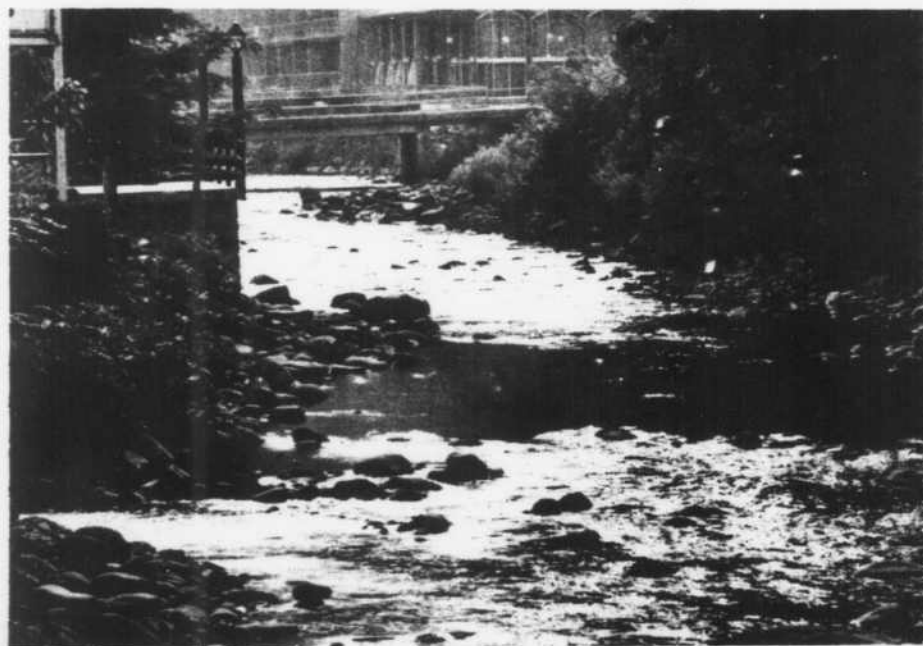
Certainly not us locals. We're too busy thinking about where we're going to go on OUR vacations!

*photos and story*

*by Laura Lewis*



Tourists lounge on the terrace of a Gatlinburg hotel [top right]; a local officer consorts with reporter Laura Lewis [above]; and the Pigeon Forge River winds its way past the resort town [left].





## Sidelines 'Earlybird' OVC preview

# A quick look at football around the conference

by John Pitts  
Sports Editor

Coaches, reporters and fans of OVC football will gather at Nashville's Hilton Inn today for lunch and plenty of talk. The occasion is the conference's annual pre-season "convention of liars," as an unnamed observer once called it.

With football practice less than a week away, the session with the press gives the coaches a chance to assess their strengths [mostly] and their weakness [a little] in a public forum.

Sidelines contacted sports information directors at all seven other OVC schools for this "earlybird preview" of the upcoming football season. The prediction for final standings in the conference race is based on the SID's assessments of both their teams and their opponents.

### Austin Peay

The APSU "pranksters" who spoiled MTSU's homecoming 21-9 are speaking gloomily about the upcoming season. New head coach Boots Donnelly (a MTSU graduate) says "if they list the conference in alphabetical order, we're first. . . if they make us play, we'll be last."

The Governors return five defensive starters, including All-OVC defensive players James Green (defensive tackle, 240 lbs.) and Bob Bible (linebacker, 205 lbs.). Bible was second in tackles in the conference in 1976.

On offense, the Gobs return fullback Waddell Whitehead, a 225-pound runner who gained 678 yards last season. Randy Christophel, the OVC's number three passer last season, will return to guide the team behind a "thin" offensive line.

### East Tennessee

The Buccaneers will have the biggest offensive and defensive lines they've had in a long time. Hopefully, their blocking and tackling will mean a general improvement in the team, which was seventh in both offense and defense.

ETSU seems to have plenty of running backs, but there's not anyone to give them the ball. Dennis Law might be the best wide receiver in the OVC, but again, who will throw the ball to him?

Mark Hutsell, who played in only four games last season, will try to capture the QB spot. Sammy Simpson, a high school star a couple of years ago, will limber up his arm for the first time in two years for a crack at the position too.

The lines will average about 250 pounds, so there's no lack of size. Returning from the service is

270-pound offensive lineman Mitch Davis, who played in 22 consecutive games before leaving for the military.

The biggest thing in the Bucs' favor is that the mini-dome is finally finished, giving them at least a morale boost over last years' 3-7 squad.

### Eastern Kentucky

The 1976 conference champion Colonels may miss graduating Most Valuable Player Everett Talbert, who was the OVC's number two running back last season. Then again, they may not.

Talbert, who trailed only Middle's Mike Moore in the running and scoring category (986 yards and eight touchdowns) may not be remembered for long, because two able tailbacks are ready to fight for the hole he left in EKV's offensive attack: juniors Scott McAllister and Stan Mitchell.

McAllister filled in for an injured Talbert in 1975 and earned All-OVC honors as a freshman. Mitchell has averaged more than 7.4 yards per carry last season as a reserve.

In addition to good running backs, Eastern returns All-OVC performers Ernie House (quarterback) and Anthony Miller (defensive back). House was the OVC's second leading passer (1338 yards and 53.3 completion percentage) while Miller picked off four interceptions.

With seven of 11 defensive starters returning, the OVC's leading defense should be ready for an encore.

### Morehead State

Morehead State is ready to shed its diapers and play football.

The Eagles have 32 lettermen returning and only two of them will be seniors. The team will return 14 starters, including nine on defense.

Head coach Wayne Chapman, a former Morehead defensive coach concentrated on that phase of the game last year. This season he hopes to establish some offensive consistency, and to improve the defense (last in the conference) some.

Quarterback Phil Simms, who was the leading passer in the conference with 1375 yards and five touchdowns, will return to spark the offense. Other standout Eagles include fullback Norman Letcher, defensive back Greg Bright and linebacker Tom Warren.

A pair of fast freshman tailbacks will help the offensive punch, although the Eagles' receiving corps was demolished by graduation.

With last year's freshmen and sophomores a little older Morehead

## ...and some fearless predictions for '77

### Predicted

- finish:
1. Eastern Kentucky
  2. Western Kentucky
  3. Tennessee Tech
  4. Morehead
  5. Middle Tennessee
  6. East Tennessee
  7. Austin Peay
  8. Murray State

### Last Year's

- finish: first [8-2/6-1]  
fourth [4-5-1/3-4]  
second [8-3/5-2]  
seventh [3-8/2-5]  
seventh [4-7/2-5]  
fourth [3-7/3-4]  
fourth [5-6/3-4]  
third [5-6/4-3]

should be better. But with six tough road games (UT Martin, Western Kentucky, Tennessee Tech to name just three) they might not.

### Murray State

Murray State's defense, which helped them to a third place finish in the conference (despite a 5-6 record) returns almost intact. The problem now is getting more points on the board.

Murray's offense was the worst in the OVC last season (they averaged only 11 points per game) but quarterback Mike Dickens will get another chance at proving himself this season.

Hank LaGorce returns to keep the Murray kicking game strong. All-OVC safety Eddie McFarlin will be back to anchor the teams' brightest spot.

### Tennessee Tech

The Tech Eagles will be playing "wide open football" this fall. The only problem is, it may be "wide open" on both sides of the line.

Seven players return to the OVC's best offense [25.1 points per game], including running back Cecil Fore [576 yards and eight touchdowns] and wide receiver

Craig Rolle [38 catches for 909 yards and seven touchdowns].

The Tech defense might be as weak as the offense is strong. Only three starters return from the 1976 unit, which was only fifth in the conference.

One of those returnees is All-OVC defensive end Dean Ratledge (6-3, 235 lbs.) who may think he's in a huddle of strangers when the Eagle defensive unit takes the field.

### Western Kentucky

At Western, the "I" has had it. Coach Jimmy Feix is moving quickly to change offenses to take advantage of a pair of swift running backs (Lawrence Jefferson and Jimmy Woods). With a split backfield rather than the traditional "power I" formation, Western's offense should run much better in '77.

Quarterback Don Bartolomew, who bombed MTSU for three touchdowns last season in his first full game, will return to try and keep his magic alive. In just three games, the Hilltopper passed for almost 600 yards.

Western's tough defense will be pretty much the same, with linebacker Biff Maden anchoring six returning starters.

## MTSU's best woman netter takes M'boro singles title

Kay Wrather, number one singles player for the Raider women's tennis team, captured the women's open singles competition in the Murfreesboro City Tennis tournament last week.

In the finals, Wrather dropped former Raider netter Carol Craig 6-1, 6-1. In the previous round, she defeated her own coach, Sandy Neal.

The tourney was directed by MTSU men's tennis coach Dick LaLance, who teamed with local lawyer and MTSU graduate Frank Fly to take the men's doubles finals against MTSU signee Danny Wallace and James Earle.

Vice President for Student Affairs Bob LaLance, brother of the Raider coach, won the men's 35 singles and teamed with another local tennis player to win the men's

35 doubles, beating his brother and another player.



Kay Wrather



**Pitts/stop: sports opinion**

# Tournament 'juggling act' needs some planning

by John Pitts  
Sports Editor

By Monday afternoon, the people who are concerned about such things will know whether or not MTSU will host the basketball Mid-east Regionals in March of 1979.

At stake is more than just a couple of games in Murphy Center: there's a lot of money riding on the NCAA Executive Committee's decision, to be made by Friday night, which could be either for or against MTSU.

University President M.G. Scarlett, who is obviously very eager to host the NCAA games, called a press conference Wednesday afternoon to talk about the situation.

He was trying to settle some reports that hosting the regional playoffs might interfere with the TSSAA Girls' State basketball tournament, which has been held here every March for several years.

"The NCAA is assuming that we're accepting the bid," Scarlett told reporters at the hastily-called press conference, which no reporters from Nashville attended (or were informed of, I suspect).

Scarlett, reiterating comments made in an exclusive interview in *Sidelines* last week, expressed a desire to negotiate with the NCAA to have the Mid-east Regional games on a Sunday afternoon. The Girls' State finals would have been held on the previous evening.

Scarlett, although noting the NCAA's requirement that the play-off site be reserved for two days prior to the games themselves,



commented "that's just for teams to practice and for the television crews."

In Scarlett's mind, the NCAA teams and television crews could work around the high school tournament, with the collegiate teams getting in their allowable practice time prior to the finals of the girls' games.

The logistics of this juggling act are incredible. Thousands of persons will have to be shuttled in and out of Murphy Center with such precision that even a NASA computer might not be able to follow the action.

On paper, this shuffling of teams is possible, though. But the NCAA doesn't know what MTSU has in store for it. Yet, at least. And from preliminary indications, the TSSAA, governing body for high school athletics in the state, doesn't

like the idea of being snubbed for national playoff games.

Gil Gideon, executive secretary of the TSSAA, said last week that "there's no way we could" have the girls' games in Murphy Center during the same week as Mid-east Regionals. "I don't think Dr. Scarlett understands all of the factors involved," Gideon said.

There is no way to minimize the importance of what is happening. Getting the NCAA tournament, with its attendant national television and publicity, would be a great help to MTSU, both as an academic institution and as a sports program.

The Raiders, if they were lucky enough to win a bunch of games in 1979, might go to the Mid-east Regionals with their best chance of winning a playoff game...in front of their home crowd.

And knowing how Murphy Center crowds can be, there could be a mighty advantage.

The Murfreesboro Chamber of Commerce, a pretty influential group themselves (at least locally) has endorsed the TSSAA tournament as having "the best long-range benefits."

Tom Roberson, the executive secretary of the Chamber, noted that "we had the understanding it was an either-or situation."

But is this an either-or situation? Can MTSU host both tournaments without stepping on so many toes that nobody will ever want to conduct anything in Murphy Center again?

The present situation, with its press conferences, angry letters and apparent coalitions (either pro-NCAA or pro-TSSAA), could have been avoided.

All parties concerned—the president, the MTSU athletic administrators, the TSSAA officials, local businessmen and other concerned individuals—could have sat down initially and discussed the situation freely and openly and reached a good, agreeable decision.

However, since everyone in this mess thinks they are right, that idea was overlooked. If MTSU gets the NCAA tournament and then tries to host the state playoffs as well, I hope their "juggling act" is a little more successful than the fanfare which is preceding it.

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## Intramural game of the week

**Pool's quickness fells tall foes 60-52**by John Pitts  
Sports Editor

Pool and the Gang withstood several spirited challenges by First Avenue Monday afternoon to finish play with an undefeated record and the summer three-on-three basketball title.

Good outside shooting and plenty of hustle led Pool to a 60-52 win over their taller opponents.

In a battle of present and past MTSU basketball players, Pool's Sammy Burrell led all scores with 28 points. Teammate Wendell "Pool" Porter was close behind with 22, including the winning basket.

For First Avenue, which finished with a 6-1 record, former Raider center Greg Laravie netted 26 points, while teammate Mike Matlock fired in 14 points.

Pool and the Gang took an early lead which they stretched out to 12-6 before First Avenue rallied back to 14-12. Then Pool ripped out to a 30-20 advantage at the half.

(In three-on-three, halftime is called when the first team reaches 30 points. The game is over when a team reaches 60.)

In the second half, Laravie and Clint Dennison began dominating

their smaller but quicker opponents, and rallied again to trail only 38-36. But Burrell and Porter, both guards, began out-quicking First Avenue and built up to a 44-36 lead.

First Avenue closed one more time, cutting the Pool team lead to two points (50-48), but Porter and Burrell outlasted the challenge, scoring five of the last seven baskets made to post the win.

...Pool's center, 6-8 basketball veteran Gil Thompson, sprained his ankle in the first half. He was replaced by a smaller but tougher opponent MTSU middle linebacker Morris Bell, who kept the 6-8 Dennison in check in the final minutes of the game.

Burrell was named "Most Valuable Player in the summer basketball league. Other members of the all-summer team include:

Centers: Gil Thompson (Pool and the Gang), Larry Hurt (PGAA's) and Laravie.

Forwards: Ed Hill (PGAA's), Ray Bonner (Trailblazers), Toby Miller (Mike and Co.) and Matlock.

All-summer guards included Arthur Hutcheson (PGAA's), Roy Mack (Factory Road), Porter and Burrell.

**Up, up and away...**

First Avenue forward Clint Dennison goes high in the air for this shot. Looking on are members of Pool and the Gang [from left: Gil Thompson, Sam Burrell and Wendell Porter.

photo by Jack Ross

**IM Softball**

## FINAL STANDINGS

"A"	6-1
SAE	5-2
Mt Sinai	5-2
Bookstore	4-3
"I" Dorm	4-3
Salsosos	3-4
Bookstore Ladies	0-7
Late Shows	0-7

## THURSDAY'S SCORES:

Bookstore 5, "I" Dorm 3  
SAE 16, Salsosos 2  
Mt Sinai won by forfeit (Late Shows)  
"A" won by forfeit (B'stre Ladies)

**IM basketball**

## FINAL STANDINGS

Pool and the Gang	7-0
PGAA's	5-2
First Avenue	5-2
Trailblazers	4-3
Mike and Co.	3-4
Desparados	2-5
Factory Road	1-6
Mean Machine	1-6

## MONDAY'S SCORES:

Mike and Co. 60, Factory Rd. 50  
Trailblazers 60, Mean Machine 52  
Pool and the Gang 60, 1st Ave. 52  
PGAA's won by forfeit

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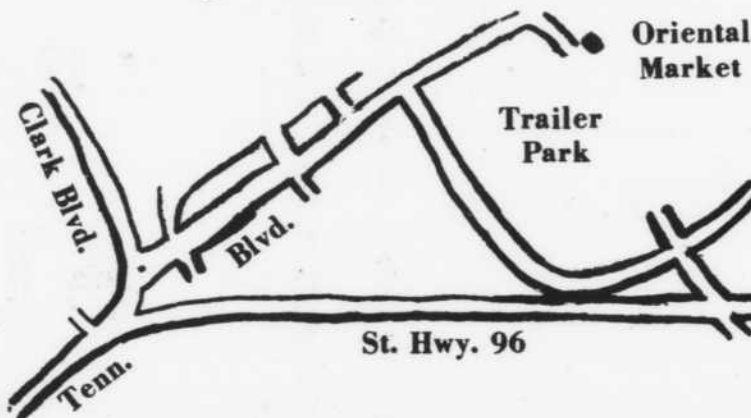
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