

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

Volume 73, Number 6

Lee Fowler appointed to
Men's Division I
basketball committee

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Wednesday, July 9, 1997

In the news

NATO invites former communist nations to join

MADRID, Spain (AP) — NATO nations today reached deep into Eastern Europe, inviting Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic to join the alliance at the end of this century. The top ranking NATO official called the agreement "a defining moment."

The decision to invite three of Russia's former allies was revealed by a Western official after a three-hour meeting where NATO chiefs debated how far and how fast to expand. It was a setback for France's effort to immediately include Romania and Slovenia.

A final communique singled out Romania and Slovenia for making progress toward admission, but did not give them a specific date for NATO admission. U.S. and German officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

While President Clinton and the 15 other leaders here must approve the communique, which was concluded at a lengthy foreign ministers' meeting, the outcome did not seem in doubt. It would be a diplomatic triumph for Clinton.

The president alerted NATO allies in June that the United States would insist that the initial expansion include only Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic.

Violence continues in Northern Ireland

LONDON, Derry, Northern Ireland (AP) — Fresh violence erupted across Northern Ireland Monday with fires and riots in retaliation for Britain's decision to allow Protestant marchers through a Catholic neighborhood.

A policeman was shot and wounded on Garvaghy Road, the Roman Catholic enclave in the predominantly Protestant town of Portadown where clashes were triggered Sunday.

In north Belfast, a Protestant man was wounded in a burst of gunfire from the Catholic Ardoyne neighborhood as he stood on the street with a group of other Protestants.

Since the disturbances broke out early Sunday, there have been 776 attacks on police and soldiers, 1,444 gasoline bombings and 363 hijackings, police said today. About 60 police officers and 49 civilians have been injured, and the security forces fired 2,400 plastic bullets in the clashes.

McVeigh's attorneys file a motion for a new trial

DENVER (AP) — Timothy McVeigh did not receive a fair trial in the Oklahoma City bombing because the jurors who condemned him to die were wrongly swayed by adverse publicity and victim testimony, McVeigh's lawyers claim.

McVeigh's attorneys listed more than a dozen arguments in a 180-page motion for a new trial filed Monday in U.S. District Court.

One juror reportedly mentioned to a fellow juror during the trial that "I think we all know what the verdict should be," McVeigh lawyer Robert Nigh Jr. stated in his motion.

"One of the jurors that voted to convict Timothy McVeigh and recommended the death sentence for him had reached this decision prior to receipt of all the evidence and had blatantly disregarded the court's instructions," Nigh said. The judge had erred during the trial when he refused a defense motion to dismiss the juror, Nigh argued.

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Clay resigns from Murphy Center

by Gregg Mayer
staff writer

Internal auditors have been curiously thumbing through the financial files of the Murphy Center Complex searching for potential malfeasance since about the first of June.

Officials are not saying when the audit began, what or who the focus of the Murphy Center audit is, or when the audit will be over.

"When an audit is in progress, we consider it to be confidential," says Brenda Burkhart, director of Internal Audit, after she confirmed that there is an audit taking place in Murphy Center.

However, a former employee of Murphy Center and his fiancée say they know exactly why there is an audit being done and they are pointing fingers at the former manager of the complex, Major Clay. Clay has been on administrative leave since June 15 and will be officially resigned from the university on July 15. He has been temporarily replaced by Ed Barlow, who will also continue his position as manager of the Motor Pool Transportation Services.

Allen Ambrose, a former lead crew worker at Murphy Center, and his fiancée Jennifer Loftis, a temporary worker at Murphy Center who has not been called to work since late March, say they were stopped from working after Ambrose went to Human Resources with complaints about Clay. Clay says Ambrose was fired because he failed to perform his job properly. Loftis has not been formally let go, and she remains on payroll although she hasn't been called to work in several months in spite of signing up to work on numerous occasions. Temporary employees work on a job-by-job basis.

Ramona Taylor, director of Human Resources, says she remembers Ambrose approaching her with complaints about Clay—"He was very upset with Major," she says—but she has turned over her notes from the meeting to Internal Audit. Internal Audit will not release the notes.

Ambrose and Loftis told "Sidelines" Clay forged their signatures on time sheets, belittled them on the job, and "in essence threatened" them to work overtime hours when they did not want to.

"I was asked to sign blank timesheets (sic) on a regular basis," Ambrose writes in a grievance letter addressed to the President's Office. "When I refused because of past discrepancies in hours, my signature was then forged by Major Clay or someone in his office."

Loftis says she was also asked to sign blank time sheets "at least three times."



photo by Celeste Castillo/staff

The 24 year old Murphy Center is currently under its first internal audit. The building is home to MTSU athletics.

Clay denies any wrongdoing while on the job at Murphy Center and further asserts that he was "pushed out by higher execs" at MTSU. He contends that Ambrose's and Loftis's charges are misunderstandings between himself and two "dissatisfied employees."

"I didn't realize how important playing the game was over performance," Clay says, adding he refused to obey unspoken formalities imposed on administration at higher levels.

"You don't talk back to people," Clay says. "You say 'Yes, sir' and 'No, sir.' It's about being a 'good boy.'"

The "higher execs" Clay refers to include Deborah Roberts, director of Finance and Administration and Clay's superior. Clay says Roberts encouraged him to resign over the telephone after the audit had begun; Roberts denies doing so.

"I did not approach him and ask him to resign," Roberts said. She says she isn't sure why there is an audit being done in Murphy Center, isn't sure why Clay resigned, and adds that she hasn't looked at the Murphy Center budget to see if there is anything wrong. Internal audits, she explains, are not "uncommon" on randomly selected departments at the university.

Clay, since leaving Murphy Center, has hired an attorney. Although the reasons for doing so are still ambiguous, Clay says he has the attorney "if necessary." He did not specify if the legal representation might be necessary because of the

audit at Murphy Center.

Clay explains that he and his secretary Rita Whittaker did sign time sheets for employees "so they could get paid." He says he always called the employees—including Ambrose and Loftis—to make sure it was all right to sign their time sheets, and adds that it is not uncommon practice in campus administration to do so. Ambrose and Loftis deny ever receiving a call from Clay or Whittaker. Whittaker declined comment to "Sidelines."

Taylor says that she is aware of other instances when administrators signed employee time sheets, although she could not recall specific departments. She says she always reprimands the department heads when this occurs. No one has been fired for signing time sheets since Taylor was appointed director of Human Resources in January 1994.

Al Bartolotto, custodial and special-events supervisor at Murphy Center, says Clay was an "excellent" manager.

"He reorganized everything over here," Bartolotto says, adding that anytime Clay corrected an employee, he did it "professionally." Bartolotto, who called and told Ambrose "his services were no longer needed" at Murphy Center, says Ambrose was fired because he wasn't doing his job. He says Loftis is still on the payroll, but isn't sure of the last time she was called to work.

Roberts says Clay was an employee she could depend on:

"If I needed him [Clay] to do something," Roberts said, "he would do

it."

In a formal review of Clay's performance on April 21, signed by Roberts, she writes in Clay's areas to improve: "respect shown for departmental colleagues; other institutional employees, departmental employees and director; tone used with those noted previously." Clay cites this as evidence that he wasn't "playing the game."

Clay claims he has another administrator on tape asking him, "What part of the as* don't you like to kiss?" The administrator, who will remain anonymous, denies ever saying such. The tape could not be obtained by "Sidelines" for verification.

In support of Ambrose's and Loftis's charges against Clay, Jack Stephens, a former custodian at Murphy Center who now works for the Tennessee Livestock Center, says Clay had "his own way of doing stuff."

"If you had a little bit of your own brain, and wanted to do things on your own," Stephens says, "he [Clay] didn't want you."

On several occasions, Stephens says, he signed blank time sheets to be filled in by Clay later.

"I got out of there before Major left," Stephens continues. "More or less, if you had a brain, he didn't want you around."

A current custodial employee of Murphy Center, Brad Lantop, says Clay was a "satisfactory" manager.

"He never did anything to me," Lantop said. "He never signed my time sheets."

Pathfinder finds ancient floods

By Matt Crenson
AP Science Editor

Calif. (AP) — The first chemical analysis of a stone by the Mars Pathfinder robot geologist has yielded a surprising result, indicating it might be a kind of volcanic rock common on Earth, scientists said today.

Data from the Sojourner rover's alpha proton X-ray spectrometer suggests that the football-sized rock nicknamed Barnacle Bill might be a kind of andesite, the second most common type of lava on Earth.

"We were not expecting to see a rock of this composition," said Hap McSweeney, a scientist from the University of Tennessee.

He said he had thought from pictures of the rock that it might be basalt, another common type of volcanic rock.

However, he emphasized there was no confirmation that Barnacle Bill was formed by volcanic action, suggesting it could also be a sedimentary rock.

Data also showed that sunrises and sunsets on Mars are longer and brighter than on Earth because of the amount of dust in the atmosphere, said Nicholas Thomas of Germany's Max Planck Institute.

"You can see sky is bright as the sun is going down. That's caused by dust," he said as he showed a tall and narrow picture of a slice of sky.

On Monday, scientists displayed photographic evidence that torrents bigger than any flood ever seen on Earth once swept across the spot

where Mars Pathfinder now sits.

The pictures show boulders stacked by powerful currents, giant ripples in the rocky landscape and stains left behind by long-evaporated puddles.

Such features are unmistakable evidence that dramatic floods scoured the martian landscape more than a billion years ago, scientists said.

"This was huge," Pathfinder scientist Michael Malin said Monday. "I'm in hog heaven looking at these pictures of Mars."

Geologists have known since the Viking missions 21 years ago that giant floods once swept the now-dry planet. But the Pathfinder pictures are the most powerful yet.

"My hope is within the next couple of days to quantify the magnitude of this flood," Malin said.

In its first days on Mars, Sojourner has rolled no more than a few yards since leaving its perch on the Pathfinder lander.

But even so, scientists were delighted with the rover's capability to reach rocks that would have been beyond a stationary spacecraft's reach.

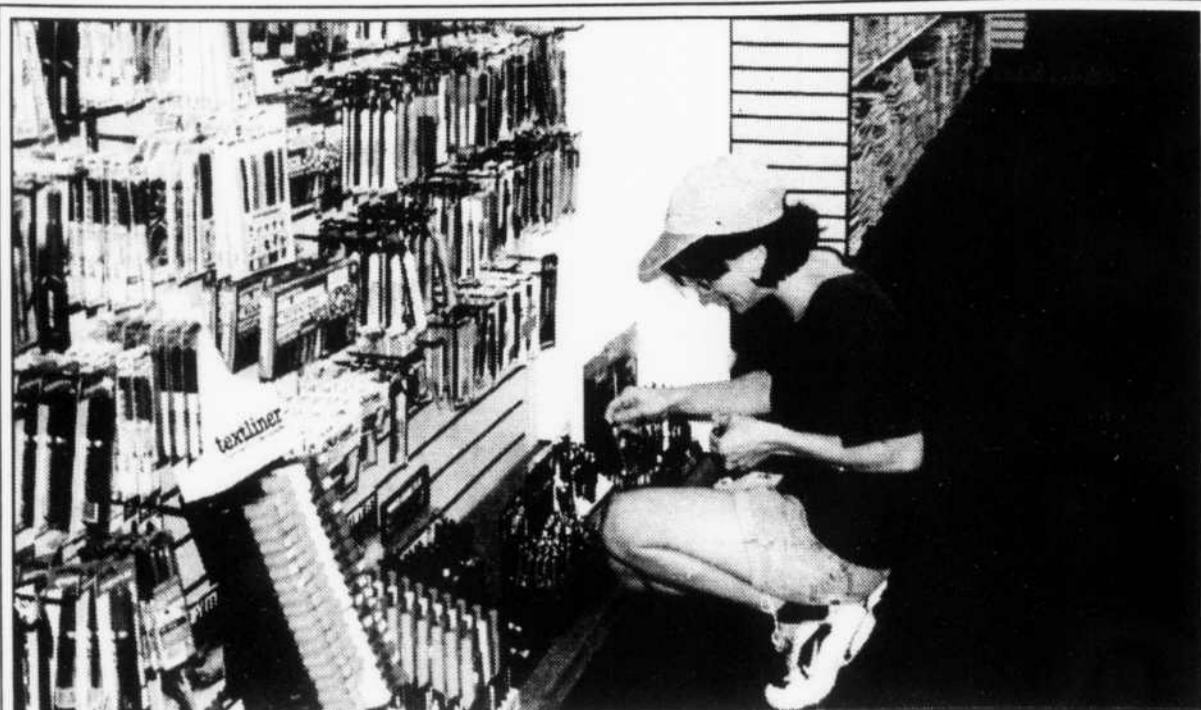
After three days on Mars, scientists had put behind them the anxiety over communications problems the rover had during the first 24 hours.

The surface phase of the mission began at 10:07 a.m. Friday, when Pathfinder bounced to a halt on a cushion of air bags after plunging through the thin atmosphere.



photo by Susan McMahan/staff

Leah Moss, a sophomore history major from Clarksville, separates cake slices while working at the KUC Grill last week.



Renee Meisel, a junior history major from Shop Spring, Tenn., selects a pen at Phillips Bookstore last Monday afternoon.

photo by Susan McMahan/staff

Professor receives group's first educator award

Staff Reports

Paula Thomas, professor of Accounting at MTSU, was recently selected to receive the Tennessee Society of Certified Public Accountants first Accounting Educator Award in recognition of her classroom teaching and involvement in her profession throughout the first 20 years of her career.

Thomas said she was surprised and very appreciative to have been nominated and selected. She was one of five finalists considered.

"Dr. Grasty nominated me back in early spring, then I

prepared and submitted all the necessary materials in April," Thomas said. "I didn't hear anything, so I assumed I didn't get it. In June, I got a letter that congratulated me on being selected."

In his letter of nomination, Dr. William Grasty, chair of the Accounting department, expressed that Thomas "would set the standard for future recipients of the award."

Grasty went on to write that Thomas has served as interim chair for the department "at various times during my absence and did an excellent job each time... and

has an outstanding record of research and publications."

"Paula is an intelligent, enthusiastic, articulate, resourceful and extremely conscientious individual...who is highly regarded by her colleagues and MTSU and by members of our profession across the country," stated Dr. Rick Elam, dean of the College of Business, whose own background is in accounting.

Thomas said she is grateful and proud to be the first recipient of the award, which will be presented to her at the TSCPA's first meeting in the fall.

Lack of affirmative action means blacks, hispanic enrollments in law schools drop

by Karen Brandon
Knight-Ridder/Tribune News Services

LOS ANGELES—In 1957, University of California law student Marvino Peguese notes, nine black students ushered by federal troops entered Little Rock, Ark., High School. Forty years later, he angrily observes, one black student, at most, will enter California's prestigious Berkeley law school.

"Even Little Rock had nine," said Peguese, a black student who is about to enter his final year at Berkeley but says he would not make the same choice again because the university no longer has affirmative action.

"It is very telling that here we sit at the end of the 20th century dealing with problems we confronted at the beginning of it."

California, the nation's most populous and ethnically diverse state, stands as a bellwether of a future without affirmative action. In recent days, the news of plummeting black and Hispanic enrollment at the public law schools that have served as springboards to state and national leadership has intensified the state's highly charged political atmosphere.

A routine appointment to the university system's governing board has grown into an ideological battle, and the widely admired university system is working to find a way to operate within its new rules while not alienating minorities.

For the first time, the public graduate schools are bound by admission policies that prohibit considering an applicant's race, ethnicity or gender.

The policy, the result of a Board of Regents vote last year eliminating affirmative action policies at the University of California's nine campuses, is being phased in.

The stark numbers from Berkeley, where the fall's incoming class of 270 is expected to include one black who had deferred admission from last year and 18 Hispanics, have been echoed by sharp declines in applications and admissions at the University of California's two other public law schools.

Undergraduate admissions will be subject to the same rules beginning with applications for freshmen entering next spring.

Though California voters widely endorsed Proposition 209, a ban on affirmative action in state government, it has not been implemented, pending the outcome of court challenges.

Similar shock waves are coming from Texas, where a state supreme court ruling has also ended racial preferences for incoming university students at all levels.

The law school at the University of Texas at Austin has received tuition deposits from 494 students, 21 of them Hispanic and four of them black. At the undergraduate level, tuition deposits show 2 percent of the incoming freshmen are black and 13 percent are Hispanic, a drop from last year's freshman enrollment, in which 4 percent of the students were black and 15 percent were Hispanic.

Officials cautioned, however, that the percentages may change as they receive more deposits.

"Personally, I think it's devastating," said Juan Zabala, assistant dean for administration. "Large states like Texas and California should be producing lawyers representative of the population."

Even Ward Connerly, a University of California regent and leader of movements to end the use of racial, ethnic and gender preference policies in the university system, state government and across the nation, said he was shocked by the numbers.

"The university and all of society need to accept them for what they are: a bucket of cold water in the face that there is a huge problem in terms of black students being competitively admissible based on the standards we have established, grades and test scores."

"Obviously, we need to be focusing on what we can do as a society to see that more students can be competitively admitted on the merits of their performance rather than on the basis of skin color."

Connerly said he was even more sobered by a recent finding by a university task force convened to find ways to reach out to various racial and ethnic groups. The state's African American and Latino students scored substantially lower than Asian American and white students in every income category, the group found.



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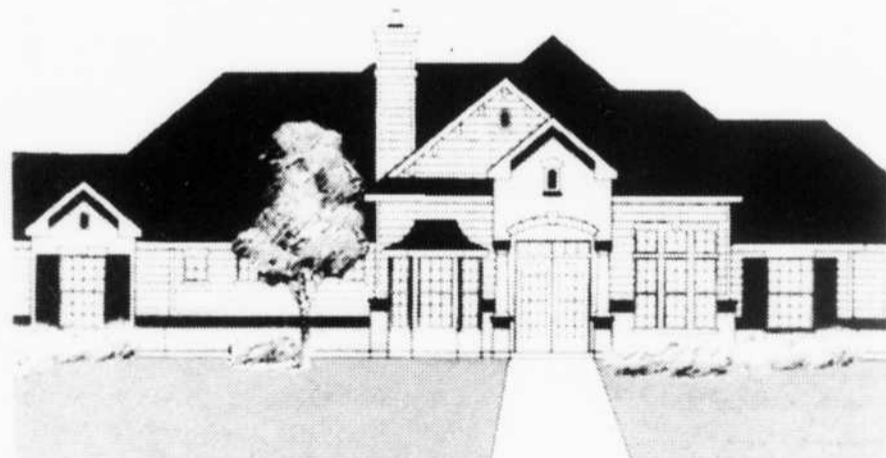
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On Campus



The ACT-COMP exam will be given in the Tennessee Room of the James Union Building at 8:30 a.m., 1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. on Monday, July 21. All graduating seniors are required to take this test. For more information, please contact Ruth Watson at 898-2854.

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Students return from Japan

by Celeste Castillo
staff writer

Thirteen MTSU students—eight undergraduates and five graduates—recently returned from a two-week field study program in Japan.

The program was from May 13-27 and was organized by Kiyoshi Kawahito, professor of economics and finance and director of U.S.-Japan Economic and Education Partnership Project in the college of business.

"This is a great international education program, home-grown and inexpensive, which MTSU can be very proud of," Kawahito said in an assessment report.

"Future programs can be built on this experience."

Prior to their trip, students attended several orientation meetings, did some preparatory reading and viewed video tapes. They studied the culture, economy and businesses of Japan while on their trip.

"It was a very, very good experience," said Mariya Plaengnam, a junior at MTSU majoring in management. "There were many things that I got to see that you normally wouldn't get to on a regular trip to Japan."

"Upon the student's return, they were expected to complete and submit written reports within a specific time frame for evaluation and grading. The two-week study was to be the equivalent of a three-hour

summer session course.

"The program was a smashing success," Kawahito said. "The students learned and enjoyed a great deal. The field study trip will remain as a cherished memory throughout their lives."

Students spent time in Fukushima, Tokyo and Kyoto/Osaka. Overnight lodging included family hosts, youth hostels and a Buddhist temple. They traveled mostly by rail and occasionally by bus, subway or taxi.

The group visited two financial institutions, Kenshin Credit Union and the Tokyo Stock Exchange. They traveled to the manufacturing facilities of Nissan, Toshiba and Bridgestone-organizations. Also on their agenda was two political institutions: the Diet and the Liberal Democratic Party Headquarters.

Other visits were with students from Fukushima and Kansai Gaidai universities, Kansai Women's Medical College, MTSU alumni, Japanese school children and families.

While at Fukushima University, a sister institution of MTSU, students participated in tea and fragrance ceremonies and kokeshi-doll making. They met with the university president, attended a luncheon, toured the campus and took a bus trip to a neighboring elementary school.

Their study included taking part in numerous lectures and discussions led by Japanese

professors, executives and political leaders.

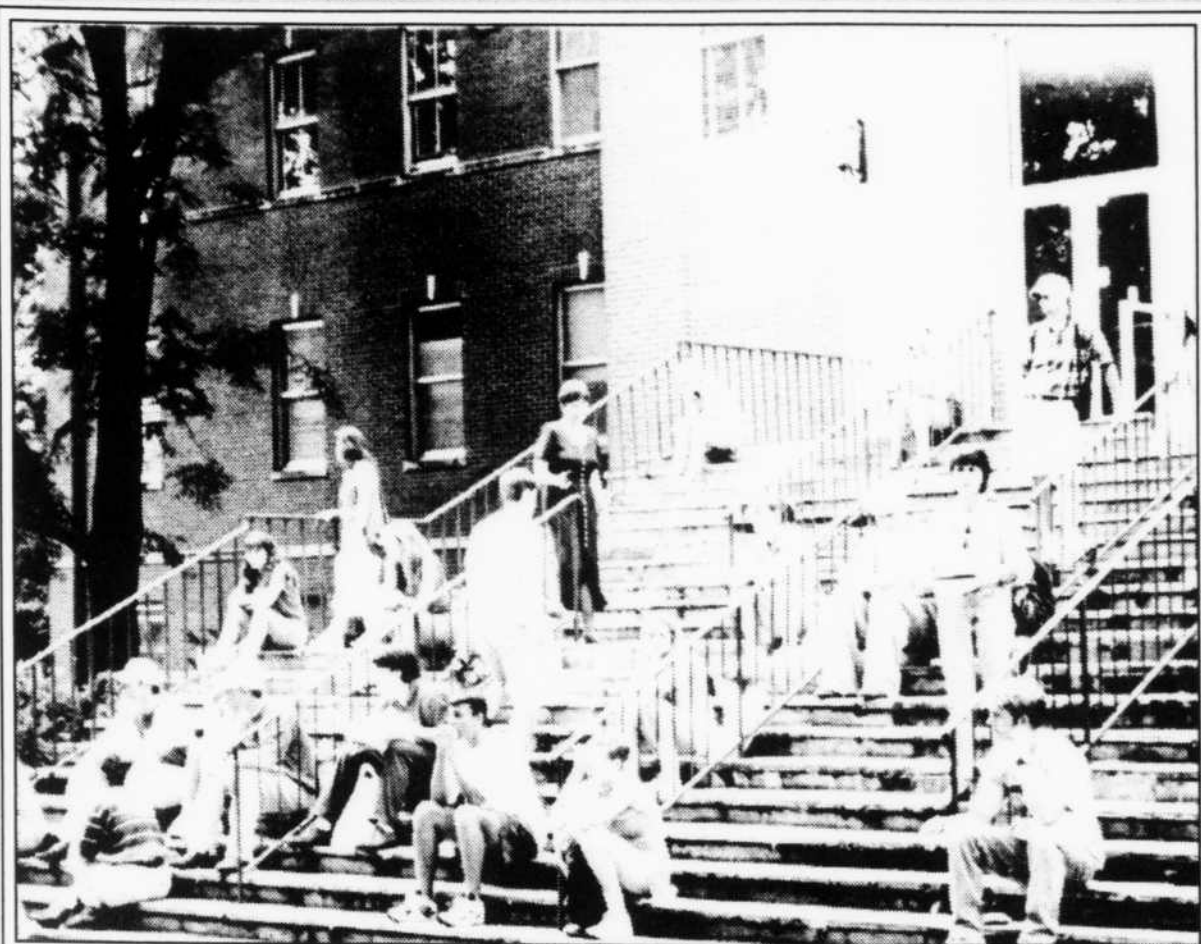
MTSU alumni sponsored a half-day sightseeing bus tour of Tokyo that included side trips to various shopping and entertainment districts.

The president of Nissan, once a resident of Tennessee, visited with the students as did several Bridgestone-Firestone executives who were also former Tennesseans, according to Kawahito. The Tennessee offices of Nissan, Toshiba, Bridgestone-Firestone and Mitsui were helpful with making touring arrangements, he said.

Because of grants awarded to the project by the Middle Tennessee Japan Society and the Japanese Foundation, the cost to each participant was much less than normal. Kawahito pointed out that even though costs were kept low, thanks in large part to the hospitality of individuals and organizations, funding is always a factor in making this opportunity available from year to year.

"There exists no assurance of any grant to assist future undertakings," Kawahito said.

The students who participated in the trip are: James Varnes; Virgie Chaffin; Danny Charousatha; Mark Finley; Jonathan Hicks; Jason Hill; Jeremy Matheson; Cynthia Moore; Merin Morris; Nori Pearson; Mariya Plaengnam; Micheal Smith; Lara Moore, a Tech student who will transfer her credits she received from MTSU.



Customs students await the arrival of their Student Orientation Assistant (SOA) on the steps of the James Union Building last week. The Customs new student orientation program is continuing every week on campus through the beginning of next month.

Professor walks listeners through history

by Susan McMahan
news editor

An MTSU professor is taking Tennesseans on "A Walk Through U.S. History." History professor Fred Rolater has developed a series of radio broadcasts for MTSU's WMOT radio station to introduce listeners to United States history.

Rolater said the broadcasts will cover "everything from the arrival of the first Indians to Bill Clinton."

The series, which consists of 50 four-and-a-half minute broadcasts, was available for broadcasting beginning July 4.

Rolater said that half of the episodes have already been taped and the rest will be completed by December, when the series is set to end.

The tapes will be played

every Wednesday on WMOT 89.5 at 8:35 a.m. and 12:10 p.m.

Rolater said the shows are aimed at the "general educated public" and provide a different approach to learning history.

"I try to make it interesting," Rolater said. "They're not a course for credit."

The show is offered statewide via MTSU's News and Public Affairs computer system.

Rolater said the series can be run on both public and private stations because it is non-copyrighted material.

The show is backed by a public service grant, which enables News and Public Affairs to hire a student worker to publicize and prepare the show.

Although Rolater said that most people inform MTSU when they download the series from the computer, he said that

MTSU doesn't know for certain everybody who is using the program.

"We can't be absolutely certain when somebody downloads it," said Rolater.

The idea for the series came from e-mail messages Rolater distributed on MTSU's All-in-One computer system during the Tennessee bicentennial last year.

WMOT approached Rolater about doing broadcasts about Tennessee history to run in the middle of a National Public Radio program.

Rolater said that he is not sure if he will continue to create broadcasts after the United States History ends, but says he has liked working at WMOT.

"I've enjoyed it a great deal," he said.

Diet drug combination may cause heart damage

by Chris Tomlinson
Associated Press

ROCHESTER, Minn. — A diet-drug combination that is known as "fen-phen" and is taken by millions of Americans may cause serious heart and lung damage, the Mayo Clinic and the government warned Tuesday.

The Food and Drug Administration began sending letters to thousands of doctors asking them to immediately check fen-phen patients for valve problems and report them to the agency.

Doctors wrote more than 18 million prescriptions for fen-phen last year.

The FDA, which wasn't connected to the Mayo Clinic study but independently reviewed the findings, stopped short of recommending that people stop taking the drugs but urged doctors and patients to be "very careful."

Manufacturers of the drug said the research was inconclusive, and the president of the American Obesity Association complained that the study may panic thousands of fen-phen users.

He said it is possible that

simply being obese predisposes people to heart valve problems.

"We will be doing a major disservice to the obese people of this country if this is a false alarm," said Dr. Richard Atkinson of the University of Wisconsin, who has prescribed fen-phen to over 300 patients.

"If it is not a false alarm, it should serve to alert physicians that they shouldn't be slapping people who have five to 10 pounds to lose ... on drugs."

Mayo Clinic researchers identified 24 women who took both fenfluramine and phentermine to lose weight and later developed deformed heart valves.

Eight of those women also developed a potentially fatal lung disease called pulmonary hypertension.

The drug combination has been available since the late 1980s, and deaths in Kentucky and Massachusetts have been attributed to heart failure linked to the diet prescription.

None of the women in the Mayo Clinic study died, though five underwent heart surgery.

The researchers had planned to publish their findings next month in the New England Journal of Medicine

but released them early at the urging of the journal's editors.

The urgency with which the journal and the government treated the information was unusual and reserved for only the most serious public health matters.

Both drugs are available only by prescription and have been approved separately by the FDA, but the agency has not approved the drug combination.

Under law, doctors are free to prescribe the two drugs as they see fit.

Dr. Michael Friedman, the FDA's acting commissioner, said examinations of the valve tissue of five patients strongly suggested that the disorder was drug-related.

At the same time, he said: "The agency is not saying it is inappropriate to use fen-phen. What we're saying is patients and physicians must be very careful."

It is unclear whether stopping fen-phen would halt or reverse the valve thickening, Friedman said. As for pulmonary hypertension — in which blood vessels in the lungs become blocked — the damage is considered irreversible.

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OPINIONS

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Wednesday, July 9, 1997

In student fees debate, claims of First Amendment rights ring hollow

by Clarence Page
Tribune Media Service

WASHINGTON — I wish everyone who goes around arguing for this or that on First Amendment grounds would first be required to read the darn thing.

Some of those who would be in for a big surprise can be found arguing on both sides of a controversy now brewing at the University of Wisconsin.

The controversy, which has erupted in various ways on campuses nationwide, centers around whether mandatory student activity fees can or should be used to fund student activities that offend some other students. (In the interest of full disclosure, I am obliged to mention that I, like many other authors and journalists, have been paid out of student activity fees for speeches I have made on some campuses.)

Three Christian law students sued the University of Wisconsin last year charging the use of student fees to pay for a gay rights group and a campus women's center, among many other student activities, violates their First Amendment rights of freedom of association.

That's right. They are trying to use the First Amendment to put a pinch on speech they don't like. That's not just a stretch. It's a stre-e-e-etch!

If that "freedom of association" argument sounds familiar, perhaps you recall it from the civil rights era. Segregationists used it to defend laws that kept blacks separate from whites in public facilities, even though this is one alleged "freedom" not specifically stated in the First Amendment or anywhere else in the Constitution. The First Amendment protects the right "peaceably to assemble." It does not necessarily protect you FROM speech or people you'd rather not assemble with.

Yet, at least one federal judge has gone alone with this argument. U.S. Judge John Shabaz for the Western District of Wisconsin ruled in favor of the students last November. Last Wednesday the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago began hearing an appeal of that decision.

The question is a heated one because of court decisions that have expanded the explicit meaning of First Amendment protections in several similar cases. The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that workers who must join a union as a condition of employment cannot be forced to pay for the union's political advocacy.

But even that ruling might not apply to some political activities like, for example, lobbying for improved working conditions, that pertain to the central purpose of unions.

Pete Anderson, an assistant Wisconsin attorney general who

assisted in the state's defense of the mandatory student fees, cited a similar case in California where the state's bar association was prohibited from using member's fees to pay for a "nuclear freeze" campaign, since that had little direct connection to the bar's central purpose.

Universities are a different matter, Anderson said in a telephone interview. "The money was made available to any student group, no matter what they believed. It seems to us that for a university that strives to be more than just a diploma factory, it really adds to provide an open forum for all ideas."

Some restrictions apply for groups that discriminate against particular groups or advocate a partisan or sectarian cause. Religious restrictions were not an issue in this case, but they were in a 1995 U.S. Supreme Court ruling that the University of Virginia could not deny funding to a religious student group.

In a concurring opinion in that case, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor raised the possibility that mandatory fees could be susceptible to a challenge on First Amendment grounds. With that, she provided a thin hook on which the Wisconsin law students are hanging their hopes.

That has caused some critics on the other side to howl that, no, no, it is their free speech rights under the First Amendment that are being threatened by the Wisconsin suit. Why? Because a court action that could cut back or completely cut off funding to controversial groups would have a chilling effect on their speech.

It is a mighty big stre-e-e-etch of the First Amendment to say that it protects public funding for speech. One hears similar arguments shouted out by Washington supporters of public funding for the arts or the public broadcasting system. It is a commonly heard argument, and it also is wrong. The First Amendment protects free speech. It does not protect subsidized speech.

There is a better argument to be made in defense of an open student-subsidized forum for campus speech: It is, quite simply, a good thing for universities to do, just as many Americans believe public funding of the arts and public broadcasting are good things for the federal government to do.

It is troubling to hear students so intent on silencing groups they don't like that they miss the larger picture. Public education does not end in the classroom. It also comes from an open and bountiful marketplace of ideas.

The best response to objectionable speech is more speech from opposing views. The worst response would be to silence it, especially when the First Amendment, of all documents, is being used as an excuse to do it.



A boring job? Not necessarily.

Perhaps you have a boring job, the kind of job where the most interesting thing that ever happens is when the vending machine gets refills, an event that sends an electric current of excitement through the cubicles. ("Whoa! Dibs on the bagel chips!")

Perhaps sometimes — when you're sitting in yet another totally pointless meeting, staying awake by deliberately inflicting paper cuts on yourself — you think: "I wish I had a job wherein I could go to exciting events and meet famous people. I wish I were... a sports writer!"

It sounds like fun, doesn't it? A sportswriter! You get paid to watch games! You go into the locker room and chat with famous athletic stars!

Unfortunately, that scenario portrays real-world sports writing about as accurately as Road Runner cartoons portray the laws of physics. I know this because recently, for a few hellish minutes, I found myself attempting to do what sportswriters really do, which is try to get intelligible statements from large, mumbling, naked men surrounded by approximately the population of Sweden.

This was my wife's fault. She's a sportswriter, and I had accompanied her to an NBA playoff game between the Heat, representing Miami, and the Knicks, representing Satan. I enjoyed the game immensely. Not only did the Heat win, but also there was a great moment in sportsmanhood history when — you may have seen replays of this — a Heat player named P.J. Brown picked up an opponent named Charlie Ward and set a world indoor record for the Knick Toss.

So I was in a good mood until my wife, on a very tight deadline, asked me if I could go to the Knicks' locker room and get her some quotes from the players. Sportswriters need quotes, because otherwise their stories would basically consist of the score and a whole lot of padding ("The



Dave Barry
Syndicated Columnist

Miami Heat beat the New York Knicks 96 to 81 Wednesday night on a basketball court measuring regulation 94 by 50 feet and made of maple, a hard, close-grained, light-colored wood belonging to the family of...).

So player quotes are critical; the problem is that the players almost never have anything to say. This is not their fault. They shoot the ball; it goes into the basket, or it doesn't. What is there to say about this?

But reporters are constantly badgering the players for quotes. In response, the players have developed Sports Blather. This is a special language consisting of meaningless words and phrases — such as "execute," "focus," "step up," "find a rhythm," "game plan," "mental errors" and "the next level" — that professional athletes can string together in any random order to form quotes, as in: "We made some mental errors, but we found our rhythm and were able to focus on executing our game plan and stepping up to the next level of mental rhythm." You think I'm kidding, but professional athletes regularly make statements just as incoherent as these while hordes of reporters religiously record every word.

So anyway, there I was, clutching a notebook in the middle of a stressed-out group of — this is a conservative estimate — 26 million reporters, all of them on a deadline, shoving their way into the Knicks' locker room. My instructions were to get quotes from a Knick named John Starks, but I couldn't see any Knicks at all. You'd think that, in a fairly

small confined space, it would be easy to locate large, naked men, but all I saw were the backs of sports reporters, who had formed dense, impenetrable clots around what I assumed were the players. I went from clot to clot, getting up on tiptoes, trying to hear what was going on in there, but all I picked up were quote fragments — "level our rhythm," "execute our steps," etc. Finally, a kindly sports reporter named Craig took pity on me, grabbing my arm, yanked me deep into his clot, where I could just barely make out the top of the head of someone I assumed was a Knick sitting on a stool, mumbling quotes at the floor. It might have been John Starks; it might also have been Colin Powell. I considered asking a question, but the only one I could think of was: "Which specific Knick are you?" Nevertheless, I tried to write down everything I heard, then I fought my way out of the locker room and sprinted back to where my wife and several other sportswriters were working, right smack on deadline and badly in need of Knick quotes. They looked up expectantly from their computers as I rummaged frantically through my notes, which looked like drawings by hyperactive preschoolers.

"They planned the game!" I said, breathlessly flipping pages. "They executed a focus!" "Who said that?" they asked.

"A Knick I think!" I said. "He was sitting down!"

"Fine," they said, calmly turning back to their laptops. "Thanks." And the thing is, they actually managed to write coherent stories for the next day's paper. I don't know how they did, and I don't know how they stayed so calm. I was a wreck. I'm happy to go back to just being a fan. I prefer to stay on that level, avoid mental errors, find a rhythm and focus on my game plan. I find it helps if I execute a couple of beers.

Why can't every college class be like bowling?

by Ryan Werner
editor

This summer I had the opportunity to finish two of my four HPERS credits that are required to graduate from MTSU.

I must admit that, at the beginning of the summer, I was not the least bit excited about taking either of the classes for which I had registered.

The first class was golf. I've played golf for years and enjoy the sport, however, the class met each morning at 8 o'clock. Have you ever tried to swing at a little white ball that early in the morning? Not easy. I got through the class and I must say that overall it was a good learning experience.

The second class was bowling. My class met Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday around 3 o'clock at Murfreesboro Lanes. (Actually, Mr. Allsbrook, our instructor, gave us an extra fifteen minutes travel time.) Each day, we would strap on our multi-color bowling shoes, hunt down that extra special ball that you are certain has raised your average thirty pins since the beginning of the class,

find your team members and wait for your lane assignments.

While there may not seem to be anything spectacular about my bowling class routine, there is more to bowling class than gutter balls and grades.

As mentioned previously, the class was divided into teams, usually of three or four. Each week was a different tournament week with each team competing against the others. However, the competition was much different. Instead of tense rivalries between fierce competitors, each team would gladly cheer on their opponents when they got a strike or spare. How about this? What if in our regular classes, say biology, we would congratulate and give a pat on the back to the person sitting in front of us when they ace their exam? Heavens no. We are concerned about ourselves and what grade WE are going to get. The competition in the class room is too intense to recognize those around us that do well. That's a shame.

One of the next things I noticed was the willingness of the students in the class to pro-actively seek out those

they could help. I noticed one day that a guy kept missing to the right. A guy from the OTHER team got up on the lane and showed him what he was doing wrong. How often would we seek out someone to help in our regular classes? We wait until someone comes to us, and then often we are hesitant to help them. We think that maybe they will get one up on us or we want to keep our successes to ourselves.

Here's a thought: Perhaps if sometime down the road you are doing well in a class, maybe you could tutor someone who's not doing so well?

Overall, I commend Mr. Allsbrook and his enthusiasm in teaching the course and the students that were in the class. This class could offer everyone a lesson, not only in bowling, but in life as well. Students, it is important that we recognize the achievements of those around us and be quick to help those in need of it. Teachers, it is important that you are as enthusiastic as possible about your classes. Your enthusiasm wears off on the students. All of us could use a little positive attitude every once in a while.

Sidelines

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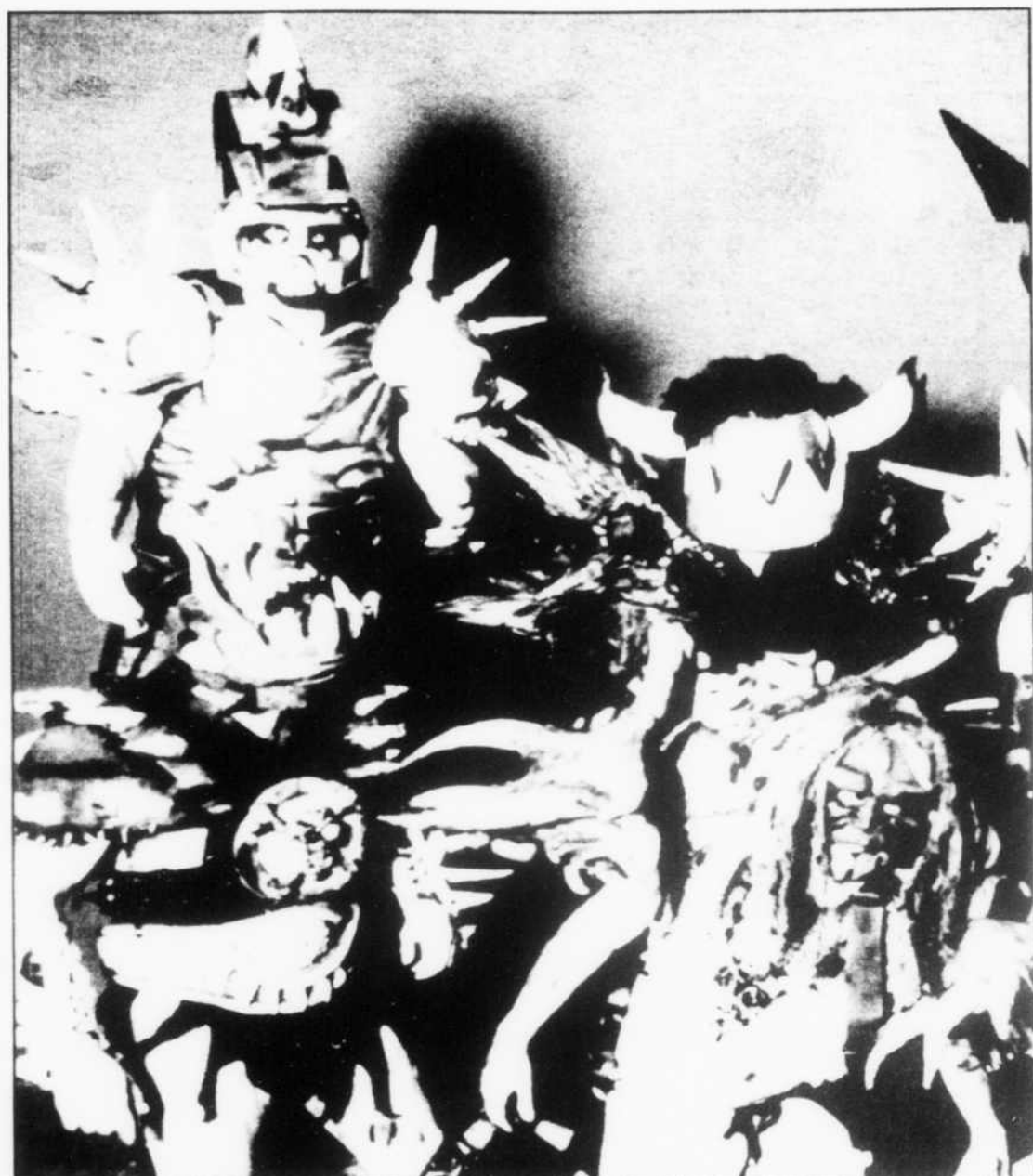
FEATURES

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328 Welcomes Antartica's Best



Members of GWAR invaded 328 Performance Hall last Thursday to a welcome response of a sell out crowd. Members pictured above include clockwise from top left: Beefcake the Mighty, Balsac Jaws of Life, Flattus Maximus, and Sexecutioner.

photo provided

by Chad Gillis
features editor

Antarctic demigods from Slave Pit Incorporated invaded Nashville last Thursday with intentions of unleashing a most savage assault on the collective psyche of the consumer classes.

The world, once again, faced ultimate invasion from outerspace as that lovable outcast group of mutated, short tempered, long armed, upwardly mobile aliens known as GWAR unleashed an army of slaves upon the capitol city of Tennessee.

The band sports members and memorabilia such as Techno Destructo--vocals and brain-ripping claw, Jizmak da Gusha--drums and big stick, and Balsac the Jaws of Death--guitar and sensitive attitude.

The evening started with the industrial attitude of Puncture and continued with the Electric Hellfire Club. After a considerable wait fans were subjected to the sounds of Antarctic boat horns and were greeted by an 8 foot Frenchman. Fog rose as the emcee announced the legendary accomplishments of the band in question. The stage, set in gothic ruin with a nuclear fallout shelter to the immediate right, soon filled with alien figures and complete hysteria.

When asked if the band has influences Beefcake the Mighty--bass and spear responded with, "no. We invented and created everything. We are influenced by everything: Monty Python, serial killers, other bands, cartoons, comic books, the newspaper." Streams of red, yellow, green, and milky white found their wet way to patrons amidst the mad area that was Slave Pit Incorporated.

GWAR claims to have been banished to Earth billions of years ago for committing intergalactic crimes and according to Beefcake they are still here because they are

bumbling idiots that have tried and failed miserably to leave this desolate planet thousands of times.

Their home galaxy is not the only area the band has been banished from. The list includes Richmond, London, North Carolina, and the entire country of Canada, which is where Oderus--lead vocals and two-handed sword hails from.

When asked if their intentions were to continue the trend Beefcake responded mildly, "there should be no one left to banish us from Nashville after the show is over, those we don't kill will probably just run away."

GWAR gets their ideas from television and seems to mock society as a whole. They claim to be on a mission to acquire and consume all that they desire. This is another reflection of their type of imitate that leaves some questionable sick to the stomach. GWAR is the most original and authentic theatric show on the circuit today. The costumes, lighting, music, vocals and crowd synergetically merged into an unworldly and unreal realm of mass destruction.

Techno Destructo asked for and received Slymenstra Hymen's hand in marriage, a twenty foot T Rex attempted to devour the band, and several attack penguins hoarded the stage and tried to thwart the efforts of the Antarctic aliens.

The marriage ended in a metaphoric divorce, the dinosaur was slain, and the penguins did not prevail. This night belonged to GWAR and rightfully so.

"It's very theatrical," said Beefcake. "Buckets of blood, costume changes, fire breathing, and rock and roll, it's got it all."

Nashville will never be the same and may have to wait another year for the next invasion. GWAR has been at this evolution of mayhem for over a decade now and the end is no where in sight.

Customs

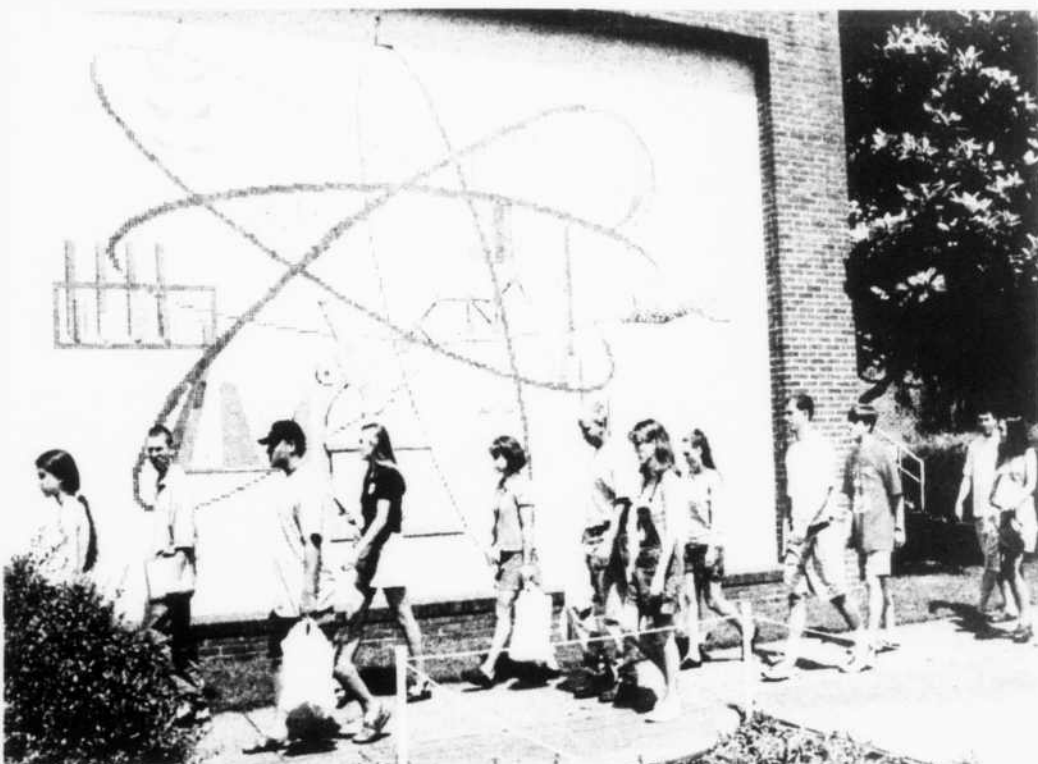


photo by Susan McMahan/staff

Fall Freshman parade around campus in numerous groups trying to prepare for the semester ahead. Customs is held yearly in an effort to familiarize new students with MTSU.

Sullivan on Mad TV

By Ian Spelling
College Press Service

Truth be told, Madonna and Sullivan ARE the young comedienne's parents. It's just that her parents aren't THAT Madonna and THAT Ed Sullivan. Her mom works as an antique dealer and her dad served as a New York State assemblyman.

"What's really funny is that my mother was in the Peace Corps and before she met my dad, she dated a man named Jesus," Sullivan recalls, laughing as she sits in the restaurant of a Manhattan hotel. "Could you picture if she married him! It would have been Madonna and Jesus getting married."

And it would have been perfect grist for the "Mad TV" comedy mill, which seems to pick up steam each week. Airing 11 p.m. Saturday nights, Sullivan and the show's cast poke fun at everything and everyone, and they do it pretty well. Sullivan, who is 27, single and lives in Los Angeles with her two cats, not only turns up as characters she created, such as the rude Vancomie saleslady, but also does spot-on imitations of Hillary Clinton, Kathie Lee Gifford, Drew Barrymore and Alicia Silverstone.

"I didn't do comedy like this before 'Mad TV,' so I really didn't understand it at first. But we all play to our strengths," says the Manhattan-born Sullivan, who attended college at Northwestern University, performed in numerous school drama productions and later found herself acting professionally in the likes of "Party of Five," "Herman's Head," "Models, Inc.," "The Golden Girls" and other TV shows.

"The people with standup backgrounds will do the monologues, and I'll do a lot of the longer scenes with characters. We all balance each other out."

"At first I was really nervous. It's been very hard work for me," Sullivan adds. "Kathie Lee Gifford, for example, was really, really hard for me to do. I thought Drew Barrymore would be hard, and it was. Watch 'Boys on the Side' once and it's cute. Watch it six times and you want to throw yourself off the roof. I listened to Drew's voice on tape over and over, and I acted into a mirror to get it right. In regular acting, you don't want to watch yourself, but to do an [impersonation] you have to do it. I guess I'm

getting used to it."

When "Mad TV" debuted two years ago, much ado surrounded the fact that it would go head to head against that aging comedy dinosaur "Saturday Night Live." While "SNL" had suffered its fair share of critical slings and arrows, it remained a formidable presence and few gave "Mad TV" much of a chance. Fortunately for "Mad TV," the show won critical praise, FOX didn't demand "E.R."-like ratings and, because the show feels younger in spirit, it reached and continues to reach a different audience than "SNL."

"I remember all of us thought, 'Mad TV' versus 'SNL,' great idea. Yeah, right.' I expected maybe six weeks of work," Sullivan says, laughing. "But we pretty much blew a lot of people away. I think our show is faster than 'SNL' and edgier. What's great is that both shows are doing OK. We both get to stay on the air, and everybody is happy."

Sullivan jokes that after "Mad TV" she can handle anything. Anything. After all, she's sported blackened teeth. She's been rolled in the mud. "I've been everything-ed," she says. "Doing the show has freed me up to the point where I'm not afraid to try anything. There's no fear left in me. The vanity is gone." But the dreamer in her is far from gone.

Sullivan harbors a most grand illusion as to what "Mad TV" might do for her career. "I want Steven Spielberg to call me up and say, 'Nicole... No, I just would like to take the basic route into film,'" she says. "I'd like to do a comedy film, because that's what people know me for now. Then I'd love to try a drama, too, because that's my background."

While fame may one day become a nuisance, Sullivan reports that she's at that stage where she gets the biggest kick out of being recognized on the street, even if people sometimes know her face and not her name.

"The idea of someone wanting my autograph is great. I'm like, 'Sure!' People want to walk AWAY from me because I get them talking for five minutes," Sullivan says, laughing one last time before the conversation ends. "It's very flattering to be recognized. If people weren't watching the show, I wouldn't have a job. So, I'm beholden to the show's fans and very, very appreciative."

Ween the Mollusk, a CD Review

by Chad Gillis
features editor

Ween the Mollusk has been released and is currently scorching ears across America.

That lovable duo of Gene and Dean Ween are back with a traditional approach CD that is far removed from last year's album of country classics.

The disk begins with a song stolen outright from the 1953 production of *Are My Ears On Straight* entitled *I'm Dancing in the Show Tonight*.

The CD is a slightly image of full lengths like *God, Ween, Satan* and *Pure Guava* with melodic tunes swaying with phasers, flangers, and a decent amount of distortion.

The exploding energy that is the band Ween is accessible on a small scale. It is as if the band recorded

tracks that were too weak to put on *Chocolate and Cheese*.

Hot off of last year's country tour, it would seem that Ween would have plenty of momentum to carry the CD.

Highlights include *I'll be your Johnny on the Spot* and *The Blarney Stone*. Both tracks could easily fit into the traditional Ween sound, but the rest should not have made B cuts on a non-released CD.

The album would suffice for first release from a middle of the road band, but with the integrity and spunk that Ween has supplied in the past this album is the worst release to date from the sultan kings of Scotchguard.

If they come to town go and see the show, but you might want to save that retail CD ticket price for any of the previous Ween releases.

WHAT GOES ON

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| TONIGHT | SON VOLT IS AT 328 PERFORMANCE HALL THE STATION INN PRESENTS THE BAD LIVERS |
| THURSDAY JULY 10 | KIM'S FABLE OPENS FOR AKA RUDIE AT 12TH&PORTER SPRINGWATER HOSTS CURIOSITY SHOP AT 9PM |
| FRIDAY JULY 11 | THE 'BORO PRESENTS A NIGHT WITH 10¢ WHISKEY ELECTRIC PICKLE PLAYERS WILL BE AT GUIDO'S PIZZERIA |
| SATURDAY JULY 12 | THE DRUGS WILL BE AT SPRINGWATER--MIDNIGHT JOSH GRAVES AND KENNY BAKER WILL BE AT THE STATION INN |
| SUNDAY JULY 13 | ROLAND GRESHAM WILL BE AT THE 'BORO SPRINGWATER PRESENTS TONUP BRITISH MOTORCYCLE CLUB |
| MONDAY JULY 14 | ANDY TUBMAN AND THE VIEW MASTERS WILL BE AT 12TH&PORTER ALONG WITH JEFF BEASELY |
| TUESDAY JULY 15 | THE BONGO AFTER HOURS THEATRE PRESENTS SINKING CREEK VIDEO NIGHT 8PM \$5 |
| WEDNESDAY JULY 16 | THE NATIONALS MAKE A RETURN VISIT TO THE 'BORO ED DYE AND THE SINCERE RAMBLERS--STATION INN |

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BONGO AFTER HOURS THEATRE--2007 BELMONT BLVD. IN NASHVILLE--385-0575

SPORTS & RECREATION

Wednesday, July 9, 1997

Sidelines

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Fowler to serve on national basketball committee

by Doug Malan
sports writer

Athletic Director Lee Fowler continues to thrust Middle Tennessee into the national sports spotlight.

After spearheading the Blue Raiders' move toward Division I-A football in 1999, Fowler was recently appointed to the Men's Division I Basketball Committee for a four-year term.

The Columbia, Tenn., native becomes part of the nine-member group responsible for filling out the 64 teams in the NCAA Basketball Tournament and maintaining the business aspect of the sport.

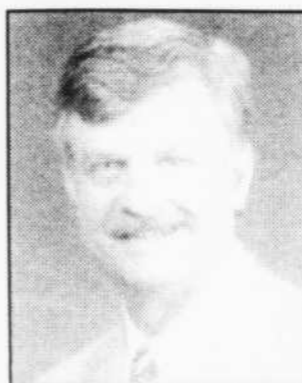
"I think it's a really big honor for the conference to have someone

representing it on the basketball committee," Fowler said. "I was nominated out of ten OVC candidates and then I had to be approved by a majority of the 34-member championship committee."

His four-year term begins almost immediately.

"We have a meeting in August to talk about how to make sure basketball keeps improving and how to promote the game correctly," said Fowler, who has held his position at Middle since 1994. "The tournament brings in 88-percent of the NCAA's total revenue and it needs to be taken care of and promoted."

Many college basketball fans ignore the committee until their school is snubbed during the tournament selection in March. But



choose the NCAA Tournament teams, watching as much basketball as possible is helpful in grading teams on a personal level.

That doesn't seem to be a problem for Fowler.

"I watch basketball a lot anyway and my background is basketball,"

said the former Vanderbilt starter from 1971-74. "(In the selection process), it always comes down to four or five teams that it helps if people have seen them and the teams they've played."

But the job specifications are far from sitting in front of a television or rowdy student body surveying teams from across the country.

Next month, Fowler will go through a training session in which members are shown the procedure for hosting the separate regionals that feed into the Final Four championships.

"I will be one of the hosts in the first and second rounds and then the members combine to host the regional tournament and Final Four," he said. "It'll be an involved process when it

gets to March, but for now it's basically just a two-day training session."

Apart from critiquing the hard-court performances of hundreds of universities, Fowler's newest position allows him to enhance Middle Tennessee's image.

"I think it helps Middle Tennessee State for the contacts I'll make to schedule football games and basketball games," he said. "It puts you in a position to know a lot more people which of course, the more people you know at other universities, the better opportunity you have to do the things you need to do to move your program forward."

"I'm really looking forward to it. I think it will be a fun four years."

Tyson faces possible indefinite ban from boxing

by Tim Dahlberg
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Mike Tyson's boxing license could be revoked, "never to return," at a penalty hearing Wednesday that could keep him out of the sport indefinitely for biting Evander Holyfield's ears.

Tyson might walk away from the hearing with no boxing license and no idea when he will be allowed to fight again if Nevada boxing officials follow a recommendation from prosecutors.

A quirk in Nevada law and the desire by boxing regulators to fine Tyson the maximum allowed means his license could be revoked for good instead of simply being suspended by the Nevada State Athletic Commission.

Tyson would be able to reapply after a year, and once a year after that, but there is no guarantee he would ever get the license back.

"The license will be gone forever, never to return," said Joe Rolston, the deputy attorney general prosecuting Tyson. "The only way Mr. Tyson can get it back is to reapply every year and the commission will have to decide at that point."

Other states would be required by a new federal law to honor Nevada's revocation, meaning the profession that has made Tyson \$140 million during the last two years could be in jeopardy.

"It's a very important decision and one each commissioner has to look to themselves to make," commission member Dr. James Nave said. "Suspension is suspension. Revocation is permanent."

Tyson is expected to personally plead for his boxing career when the commission meets in a packed City Hall council chambers.

"I only ask that this not be a lifetime ban," he said last week.

The proceeding could take less time than the fight itself, which lasted three rounds, or could drag on

for a few hours, depending on how Tyson's attorneys handle his defense. Commission members limited television coverage to a single pool feed and issued media credentials in an effort to control the meeting.

"I guarantee you it will not be a circus," commission chairman Dr. Elias Ghanem said. "I will not allow it."

Holyfield, now touring South Africa, said earlier that a year's ban from boxing wouldn't be enough for the bites Tyson inflicted on him in the richest fight in history.

"Most boxers only fight one time a year," Holyfield said. "He (Tyson) probably needs a year off to get himself better anyway. He probably needs the rest. The penalty is probably going to have to be a little more extensive than that."

Tyson is not legally required to appear, but Rolston said he expected Tyson would show up to try to convince commissioners not to revoke his license.

"I have every reason to believe he probably will be attending," Rolston said. "Even if he pleads guilty we'll still have a few questions to ask him. And if he decides to defend himself on the charges, we'll put him on the stand and he will be subjected to numerous questions."

Tyson has already admitted biting Holyfield's ears before being disqualified June 28 during their WBA heavyweight title fight.

The commission basically has two options: Suspend Tyson for up to five years and fine him a legal maximum of \$250,000, or revoke his boxing license — a move that allows a maximum fine of \$3 million.

"I don't think a suspension is a viable option because of the difference in the amount of money the commission can fine Mr. Tyson," said Donald Haight, the commission's legal adviser. "I think most commissioners feel a \$250,000 fine is really a mere pittance when you're

looking at a \$30 million purse."

The five commissioners have been tight-lipped about their intentions, saying they will wait to hear from Tyson and his attorneys before deciding what to do.

Nave, one of the most influential commissioners along with Ghanem, said there has been no pressure from Tyson's camp or promoter Don King. But the veterinarian said everyone who brings an animal into his office wants to know what he will do.

"Every client that walks in wants to talk about it," Nave said. "I tell them we've got a job ahead, and what's wrong with your dog?"

It will be the second time in five years that the 31-year-old Tyson finds his future in the hands of a group of people who will decide his fate.

Unlike February 1992, when he was convicted of raping Desiree Washington, however, Tyson will not do time this time. He served three years in an Indiana prison and is still on probation.

That prison sentence, though, seems to have affected his boxing abilities, and an indefinite license revocation could erode those skills further at an age when heavyweight boxers generally begin to decline.

"I don't think you will see the same Tyson again," veteran trainer Angelo Dundee said. "His skills will definitely erode. They already eroded during his time in prison."

It is possible Tyson could still fight overseas while trying to get his license back, but because he's on probation he may not get permission to leave the country.

Fighting overseas might also be seen by the boxing commissions as thumbing his nose at the penalty.

Public opinion, meanwhile, is still running against Tyson.

The athletic commission said that by a 3-1 margin a heavy flow of letters and faxes were calling for stiff penalties for the former champion.

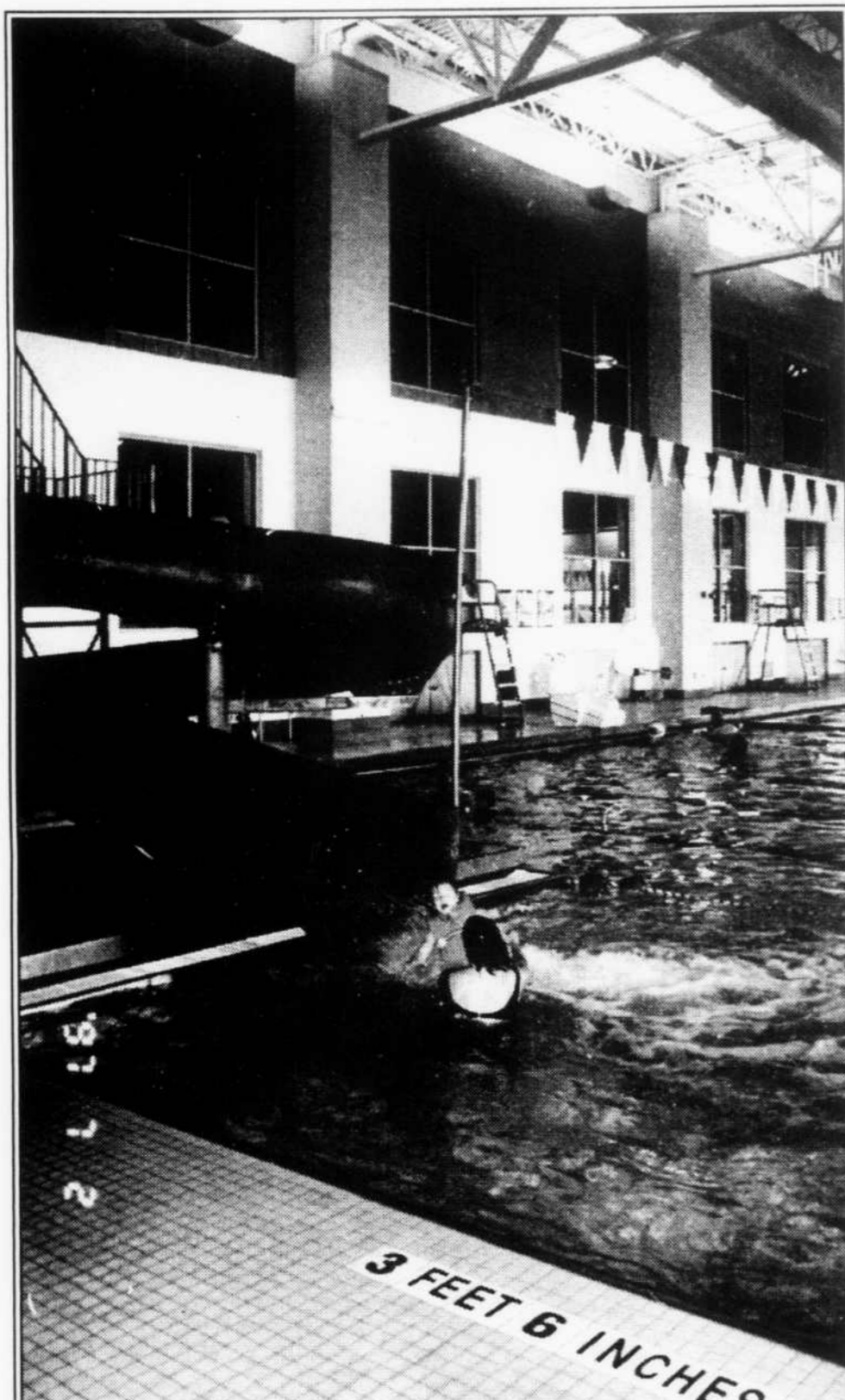


photo by Susan McMahan

Swimmers beat the summer heat in the Olympic-size Rec Center pool.

Mid-summer dream: Former Blue Raiders continue baseball journey

by Doug Malan
sports writer

The game of baseball has a unique magnetic attraction to those who wrap themselves in its nuances and lore.

Once a summer is spent breaking in a new glove, feeling the arm-length tingle of bat meeting ball and dreaming of reaching playing fields beyond, the magic takes hold and bonds player and sport forever.

For three former Blue Raider players experiencing that bond, desire and opportunity have met in the Heartland League, a three-year old professional league of independent teams.

It is here that Andrew Thompson, Jordan Beddies and Lee Marbet play alongside former major leaguers such as John Dopson (Boston Red Sox) and Jeff McKnight (New York Mets), waiting for the chance to climb the professional ranks.

The trio plays for the Columbia (Tenn.) Mules in the eight-team wooden bat league that extends into Illinois, Indiana and Pennsylvania and includes three teams from Tennessee.

And despite the players' yearning to advance, the league retains a relaxed atmosphere for those who yield to their love of baseball.

"I just didn't want to stop playing," said Marbet, who went 2-4 with two RBI in a victory over the Tennessee

Tomahawks on July 1. "This league is more laid-back than college, but it has to be. You have to pace yourself and keep an even temperament."

The season stretches 72 games beginning in late May and Marbet said Columbia plays basically every day except Monday.

Less than two months removed from his college career, the Mules' third baseman has already noticed a distinct change in the game apart from a longer season. "Using a wooden bat is a completely different story," said the Columbia native, batting .208 with eight RBI in 25 games. "You have to know how to hit because there are no cheap hits, plus the pitchers have better location."

Beddies, like Thompson and Marbet, was picked up by Columbia after an invitation to try out. So far, the right fielder has battled a torn muscle in his lower back, which resigned him to the 15-day disabled list, and a sore heel.

Against Tennessee, Beddies showed his familiar power stroke when he blasted a home run to center field and finished with three hits, raising his average to .289 after 13 games. He also has two homers, six RBI and five steals.

"This is a chance for me to do better and hopefully get to the next level," he said. "Last year, three guys were picked up from Columbia."

"We can come out here and have fun and when you do that, it's a lot

easier to play. I'm not pressing myself during every at-bat and worrying about keeping my starting spot."

A starting spot wasn't something Thompson had to worry about this spring, as the catcher led Middle Tennessee with 13 homers and a .409 average. But after being ignored in the Major League Draft, he begins his pro career on a level many liken to Rookie League baseball.

Despite the slight, Thompson is playing on a level similar to those who were chosen late in the draft. And his defensive prowess and left-handed stick may open some eyes along the way.

"I try to approach these games like any others," he said. "I play my hardest and just see where it takes me."

At a position where he must familiarize himself with his own pitching staff while battling the opponents' hurlers, Thompson says the adjustments have been relatively easy.

"I'm fortunate that I can handle pitchers and we have some good ones," he said. "But you've got to be good to be here and that makes it easier for me."

Thompson was batting .272 with three RBI in 14 games as the full-time catcher. He finished the Tennessee game with two singles.

As of July 1, none of the three had been chosen to participate in the

league's All-Star game scheduled for July 9 in Lafayette, Ind.

But to them it didn't seem to matter.

And with a team salary cap of \$45,000, the money did not draw them to the ballparks, either.

They were back on the field for the sole purpose of chasing boyhood dreams.

Joined by fans who savor the purity of this league where guys like Marbet work during the day and play games at night. Where the cracking of wood on leather resonates off the huge trees that surround the park and farmhouses dot the rolling hills beyond the walls.

Some of the fans even volunteer as host families for the players who come from places like Long Branch, NJ, and San Gabriel, Calif.

Yes, it is a field of dreams in a certain sense, but not entirely. Labeling it so, would veil the real-world essence of the league. Take for instance the Tennessee Tomahawks, who hosted Columbia on July 1.

Tucked away 17 miles from the interstate in Winchester, Tenn., the Tomahawks prosper in this small town with the help of the residents.

Tennessee leads the Heartland in attendance, averaging 1,175 fans per game at their immaculate field in the city park. It is the perfect blend of major league comfort and down-home charm filled with intriguing people.

Dopson, a former teammate of

Roger Clemens in Boston, doubles as a starting pitcher and pitching coach.

Tommy Tomahawk is the goofy mascot that constantly signs autographs for the kids and undoubtedly will coax laughter from all fans.

And then there's John Hensley, a portrait of versatility. Introduced as the Tomahawks' media relations director, he is also the public address announcer and provides sound effects and music between innings.

Upon entering the press box—no media credentials needed here, thanks, your word will do just fine—he also shares that he is the team chaplain and the Rev. John Hensley of Winchester's First Baptist Church.

Without a doubt, a man who knows baseball and happens to be one hip padre based on his selections of music between innings.

And everything here is offered with a can't-wait-to-see-you-again attitude that makes a fan wish this was a regular stop on the Major League Baseball tour.

The lazy evenings spent at the park seem to bring together a collection of players and fans who share idealistic views.

No one knows what will become of the players that grace the fields of the Heartland League. Only that their presence is important to those who will always cherish the purity of the game.

It's summertime and making a living is easy for some students

by Aldolfo Mendez & Colleen De Baise
College Press Service

Not every college student can land a job as a lifeguard, so what are the alternatives to spending the summer on the beach and getting paid for it?

Plenty. Just find a job that's a breeze.

It's the cool summer breeze that helps to make Michael Walsh's job so enjoyable. A deck hand on a Chicago tour boat company, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign freshman says when he's not serving drinks for boat riders on the Chicago River, Walsh gives a narration of the city's history and landmarks via his microphone.

"There's an outline, but I try to spice it up a bit," he says, referring to his narration. "I might tell them about the time a man tried to climb the Sear's Tower," he says, adding that the media dubbed the climber "Spider Dan."

When nature's uncooperative, however, Walsh will see "people tossing around the boat" because of the bad weather. And he did say once he saw "a guy slip and fall into the water" from the river's shore. (The man was rescued.) But most of the time, he says, it's smooth sailing.

"Most kids my age work at a corner drug store," says the 18-year-old Walsh. "This is definitely more interesting than sitting behind the counter."

Many students have purposely chosen to spend the summer in jobs that are not directly related to their majors. Walsh, for example, intends to major in urban planning.

That's not uncommon, says Steven Rothberg, president and founder of Adguide Publications, which publishes the "College Recruiter," an employment magazine available on the World Wide Web at www.adguide.com/college/.

There are many students "who when they graduate in two or three years, they're definitely going to be white collar, and yet they seem to go for what we call industrial jobs—UPS, post office, road way package systems—for summer employment," says Rothberg.

"They want to turn off their brain in the summer. They're not so much concerned with building experience in their field, but with having fun in their job. There's so many of those [fun] jobs available."

How true. Just ask Stephanie Freling, a 20-year-old Loyola University senior,

what she's doing for summer employment, and she says: "I play with toys."

A sales associate at FAO Schwarz in Chicago, Freling rings up sales and helps customers at the downtown toy store. "But most of the day, I play," she says.

"I go up to the kids and have them hug stuff animals. I use puppets to scare them," Freling says. "Everybody likes to hug Bernie the St. Bernard."

So what's a psychology major doing at a toy store? "It's in no way related to psychology," she says. "It's pretty competitive to get an internship in psychology when you're an undergraduate. I just wanted something fun, not like the marketing job I had last year."

Becky Israel, a 21-year-old recent graduate of Columbia College in Chicago, was spotted having fun on Michigan Avenue. Israel studied acting and plans to move to Los Angeles for her big break. But for now, her "acting" job is to be enthusiastic about passing out candies during an eight-week promotional job for a company that manufactures "Smints."

Israel, a perky blonde whose hair is tied back in a ponytail, hands out mints to tourists and business people as she stands outside Chicago's Wrigley Building. Most of the time she calls out "Try a Smint" although she's been instructed during her brief job training to use sexier taglines, such as "No Smint, No Kiss" and "Practice Safe Breath."

It may not win her any Academy Awards, but Israel got the job through a talent agency and even had to audition. "It's considered part of modeling/acting though it's not as prestigious," she says.

She'd really like to be working in theater or film, but her options in Chicago are limited. So for a short while, and for the experience of working a crowd, the job's not bad, she says.

"It's fun. You get to be outside and talk to people," Israel says. "The only bad thing is when people treat you like you're not human."

Humans and nonhumans are part of the attractions at the Star Trek area of the Viacom Entertainment Store, where you'll find Hillary Colby, a senior at the University of Illinois at Chicago. "I was lucky to land this job," says the 22-year-old social work major. The job interview tested her knowledge of Star Trek trivia, and she got the job because she knew more about the science-fiction show than her boss.

"One of the things about working here is you can't be wrong on your Star Dates," Colby says. "Star Trek fans will pound on you if you are. If you're not current on your episodes, you'll hear it."

For Colby, there are other benefits to her summer job. "There's a 20 percent employee discount, and you get to meet Star Trek celebrities," she says.

Such jobs are "never a wasted summer," says Shena Morgan, spokesperson for Milwaukee-based ManPower Inc., a temporary employment firm.

"It's ideal if you want to be an accountant to get a job at a bank or if you want to work as a lawyer to get a job at a law firm," adds Morgan. "Ideally, getting a job in your field is highly recommended, but a job that will give them the opportunities to meet new people is a stepping stone."

Many college students "are not afraid of finding a job in their market when they graduate, so to them, this is the last time they have to do something fun," says Rothberg.

Fun is less important than making money for Tony Chiarelli, a junior business major at the College of DuPage. He swigs water from an enormous red thermos as he takes a break from the construction site of a new Banana Republic in Chicago.

Chiarelli is spending his summer working as a laborer for Mertes Contracting Corporation, a general contractor. He wears a red bandanna around his head, a blue T-shirt with the sleeves torn-off, and jeans and workboots that are covered with a fine gray dust.

"The day goes by fast, but it's hard work," he says. "I like physical work."

During his eight-hour shift, five days a week, Chiarelli digs holes, pushes wheelbarrows filled with cement and generally cleans up around the site. It's not a glamorous job, but at \$22 an hour, he's not complaining.

"The best thing is the money," he says. "The worst thing is digging holes manually. The other day we had to dig 5-foot-holes with a shovel and a pick."

At 21, Chiarelli is the youngest worker on the site. He is surrounded by men whose roughened skin from hard work and harsh weather makes them look old beyond their years.

"This tells me to stay in school," he says. "There are some guys who are 40 who are laborers."

CLASSIFIEDS

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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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Ticketwriters needed starting July/Aug. from 15-37.5 hours per week. For more information, call Dennis Lovell, 898-2850.

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Feeling "left" out? Not these lefties

by Aldolfo Mendez
College Press Service

To all left-handed college students across the nation, Mike Rose has a simple message: "I feel your pain."

The 20-year-old college sophomore describes himself as a "white, middle-class male" who "doesn't have a lot of political gripes."

Nevertheless, in an imperfect world, it's easy to find something to complain about. For Rose, it was the "cruel" reality left-handed students face on a typical college campus. Desks in classrooms and lecture halls are mostly built with right-handed students in mind, he explains.

Rather than simply complain about such rampant exclusivity, Rose, who attends the University of California at Davis, set out to improve life for lefties.

"Last year we always joked about putting left-handed desks in. So this year, we decided there's no reason this shouldn't be a serious issue," he says.

The result is The Lefties' Rights Association, an official student organization at UCD formed in November 1996.

Rose, along with classmate Mark Thomas, set up a table on campus, seeking signatures for their cause from lefties and "the friends of left-handed students."

In all, the two obtained 140 signatures from students who said they would like to see the university install desks to accommodate this historically overlooked "minority" of southpaws.

Petitions in hand, Rose and Thomas approached Neal Presa, a senior political science major, who, at the time, was running for a student government senate seat. A lefty, Presa was sympathetic and signed the petition.

"We knew the election was coming up, and we told Neal this was a way he could reach the whole left-handed [student] population," Rose says, which he estimates to be about 8 percent of the school's 18,000 students.

Supporting left-handed desks on campus "helped me win the election," admits Presa. "But don't write in your article that I used it to win the election, and cast it aside. I didn't."

After the election, Presa says he made the concerns of his left-handed constituents

his top priority. "Tuition increases and the lack of computers are more popular issues, but getting left-handed desks was the easiest one [to do something about]. It was the one that got my attention right away," he says.

The left-handers narrowed their request for new seats to three halls on campus that do not have a single left-handed desk. The reason?

"There's really no established building code that says 'Thou shalt make 15 percent [of desks for the] left-handed. Left-handed people aren't exactly disabled," says UCD architect Chris Adamson, in reference to government and business compliance with the American with Disabilities Act. Accommodating lefties, he says, "is more of a social consideration."

At a cost of about \$7,000, the university will replace seats at two of the halls with 36 left-handed desks, according to Dr. Eveyln R. Babey, the university registrar. A third hall was already set to undergo renovation this summer, and construction workers will add left-handed desks there, too.

July 4th is not Independence Day, says professor

Reuters Press Service

CINCINNATI—A University of Cincinnati history professor contends the nation is wrong in celebrating Independence Day on July 4.

History professor John Alexander maintains July 2 was the day on which the Continental Congress passed a resolution declaring the colonies free and independent.

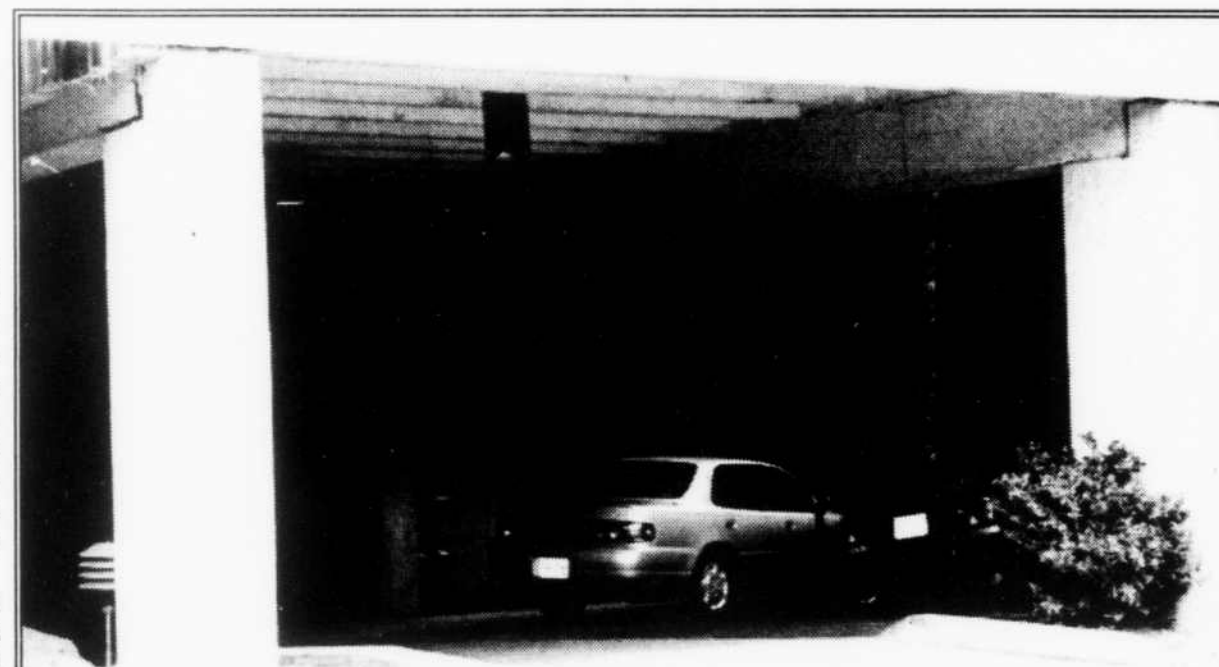
Alexander said the tradition of celebrating on July 4 is based on the date on which a formal ceremony was held.

Alexander told UPI today, "People who celebrate the birth of our nation with parades and picnics on the second are historically accurate."

A letter written by John Adams on July 3, 1776, said "The second of July will be the most memorable epocha in the history of America."

Alexander said, "The formal Declaration, the one we think of, the fancy written document, didn't exist on the 4th of July. The actual wording was voted upon on the fourth, but the fancy, parchment document had to be prepared by a specialist, so it would be a nice clean copy, and obviously that took time to do."

Alexander said the formal "extra-legal" Declaration, was not finished and signed until mid-August.



Some Murphy Center patrons (workers?) found a nice, shady place to park.

photo by Celeste Castillo

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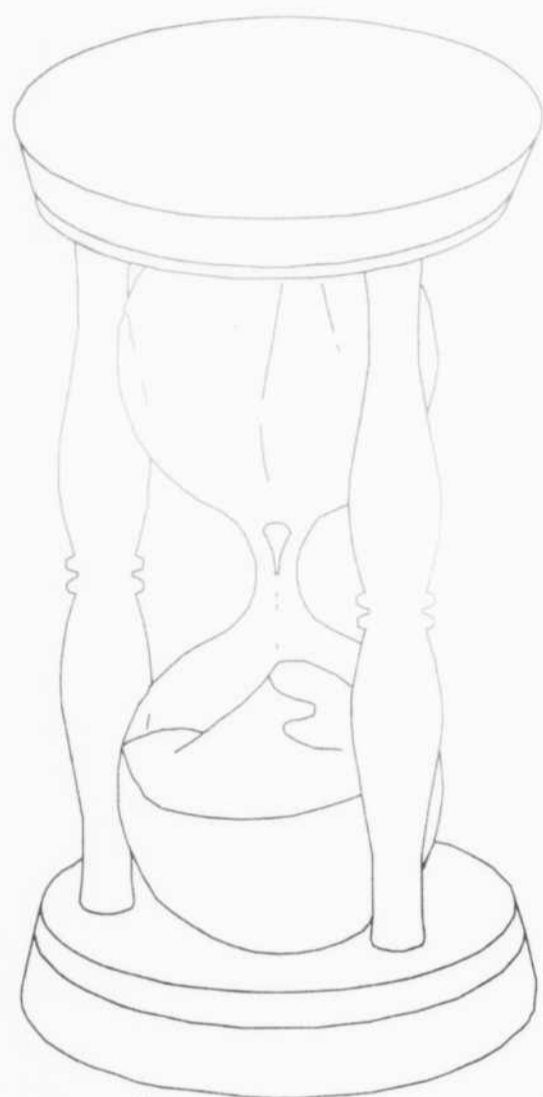
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