

Middle Tennessee State University SIDELINES

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Volume 73, Number 9

Thursday, September 25, 1997

TBR to form committee to study MTSU's name

□ Susan McMahan/staff

MTSU's proposed name change to the University of Middle Tennessee will be studied by a new Tennessee Board of Regents ad hoc committee, a group expected to be formed today.

President James Walker formally submitted the proposed change to TBR in an Aug. 5 letter to Chancellor Charles E. Smith, who promised that the matter would be given serious consideration. The result was the special purpose committee formed today at TBR's September Board meeting.

"I think that the Tennessee Board of Regents will approve the name change," said Walker, adding that he doesn't think the committee will make decisions about the change today.

Instead, he expects the results to be announced at the following Board meeting, to be held in December.

If the committee doesn't make any changes at the December meeting, they will be made at the March Board meeting, according to Julie Goodyear, director of communications at TBR.

If the committee decides to approve the name change, it will be sent to the Tennessee Higher Education Commission for approval. The name change requires legislative action to be official.

Walker said that the name change

could be in effect by July 1 of next year.

MTSU, with a final enrollment of 18,366, is the second largest university in the TBR system. The first is the University of Memphis, which in recent years changed its name from Memphis State, with an enrollment of 19,851.

"[The University of Middle Tennessee] is a more usual form of a name for an institution of this size," said Barbara Haskew, provost and vice president of academic affairs.

"Certainly, I think the University of Middle Tennessee would be an excellent name," Haskew said.

MTSU's Logo and Mascot committee has been officially discussing the name change for two years. The idea of changing the university's name to UMT has discussed many years before the committee was formed.

In fact, Walker said he received a copy of an article in "Sidelines" from 1963 or 1964 that mentioned changing the name to the University of Middle Tennessee.

"I think the time is right to do it," Walker said.

Deborah Gentry, a member of the Logo and Mascot committee, said the committee's recommendations were submitted to Walker after their last

meeting in June.

"[Changing the name] is a long process," said Gentry. "It's not going to be implemented overnight."

The committee, headed by Linda Hare, the vice president of development and university relations, was established to evaluate the university's logo and mascot. The name of the university was the only proposed change that requires approval from outside of the university.

Walker said the "broad-based" committee included faculty, administration and students of MTSU and members of the community.

Gentry said that the committee's membership tended to "fluctuate" because some members, including Student Government Association presidents, were on the committee when they were in office.

The editor of "Sidelines" when the committee was established, Mark Blevins, also was asked to be on the committee, but Walker said he declined because it would be a "conflict of interest."

Gentry, assistant vice president of development and university relations, said that a majority of people asked about the proposed changes were supportive.

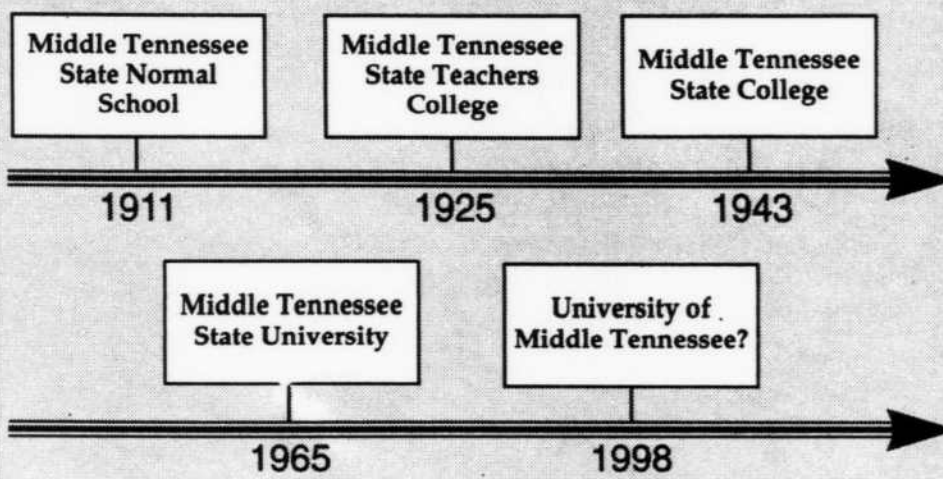
Two of the biggest complaints the committee heard were that people had close ties to the current name and concerns about the cost involved with changing the name.

In his letter to Smith, Walker said the cost involved would be covered by existing university resources.

John Bragg, current president of

Name Change Time Line

The campaign to change MTSU's name to the University of Middle Tennessee has met with both praise and controversy. But it's not the first time the name has been changed.



Source: John Bragg, MTSU Foundation president

Adam Smith/staff

the MTSU Foundation, who wrote a letter to Walker in support of the change, said that the alumni who contribute to the university seem to be supportive of the name change. He said that currently about 11 percent of alumni give to the university.

"The name has tried to keep up with what's happened at the university," Bragg said.

In his letter, Bragg mentioned that MTSU was named Middle Tennessee State Normal School when it opened in 1911. When the school advanced to a four-year college in 1925, the name changed to Middle Tennessee State Teachers College and later to Middle

Tennessee State College in 1943.

The school was given the current name of MTSU in 1965.

"It's not the same institution it was 20 years ago," said Steve Shockley, executive director of the MTSU Foundation.

When the last change was made, Bragg was a member of the General Assembly and sponsored legislation in the House that changed the university's name to MTSU.

"If we're only doing what we did in 1911, we should still be Middle Tennessee State Normal School," Bragg said.

Registering donors



Celeste Castillo/staff

Kesha Anderson, a senior psychology major, left, and Christina Malone, a junior business education major, work the information table at an American Red Cross blood drive Sept. 9. The blood drive was sponsored by Delta Sigma Theta.

Annual Family Day brings families to campus Saturday

□ Shawn Whitsell/staff

One weekend of the year MTSU expects more family members to visit students on campus than students visiting home. On Saturday, Sept. 27, the university will celebrate its annual Family Day.

Family Day is a day for families to come and visit the students. Some parents haven't visited the campus in a while and others haven't visited at all. Family Day provides a chance for families to learn more about MTSU and have fun with the students.

"Family Day is a way for the university to invite parents to revisit the campus," said Gina Poff, Family Day coordinator.

According to Poff, MTSU celebrated Family Day annually for years in the past but somehow it managed to die down and it was not celebrated for about six or seven years.

Three years ago, Poff felt that Family Day was needed so she decided to bring it back and she has been doing it successfully since then.

Last year, between 800 to 1,000 students and parents participated in this event.

The activities this year are much

the same as they have been in the past. There will be open houses at Lyon, Smith, Wood/Felder, Corlew, Cummings and Deere Halls. The Recreation Center, OWLS (Older, Wiser Learners), and the Murphy Center will hold open houses as well.

The Strolling Dixieland Band will perform at a cookout near Murphy Center that afternoon. There will also be a pep rally before the football game against the Murray State Racers.

Although there are many activities for Family Day, these activities won't start until the afternoon.

"We really want to give the families time to spend with the students," said Poff.

The deadline for registration is Monday, Sept. 22. There is a possible chance that call-ins can be taken. There will be a \$10 charge for each adult and a \$5 charge for each child. There is no charge for MTSU students.

Please mail registration forms and checks made payable to: MTSU Family Day, P.O. Box 61, Murfreesboro, TN 37132. If you have any questions or have not received a registration form call (615) 898-5533.

Seven students run unopposed for senate seats

□ Susan McMahan/staff

Seven freshmen are running unopposed to fill seven vacant senate seats in this week's Student Government Association elections.

Polls will be open in Peck Hall today from 8 a.m. until 6:30 p.m. and in Keathley University Center from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Only freshmen may vote for the senators.

Elections for Homecoming Queen will also be taking place at the polls. The polls were also open Wednesday for both elections.

Since there are only seven candidates running for seven seats, all of them will likely start serving at the SGA's next meeting on Oct. 1, according to Brian Lewis, speaker of the senate. However, write-in candidates will be accepted on the ballot, according to Philip Crabtree, SGA election commissioner.

Lewis said that it was "disappointing" that the candidates would not have to competitively campaign for the spot, adding that when he ran three years ago for the freshmen senate there were 16 candidates for five vacant seats.

The number of seats the freshmen have in the senate is based on the size of the class.

The size of the freshmen class has increased enough since Lewis was a freshman to require two additional senators.

The seven candidates for the positions are David Lawson, Langston Glass, Tasha Bandy, Jonathan Harmon, Justin Roddick, Casey Rushing and Kevin Kern.

"I plan to give the freshmen senate full 100 percent," said Bandy. "I want the freshmen to know that I am here for them and I'm here to make a difference."

Once elected, the senators will be required to attend the meetings twice a month and spend at least one hour per week in SGA service. Lewis said freshmen senators are encouraged, but not required, to write and research legislation.

"The easiest thing to do would be to not get involved, but I'm not looking for the easy way out," Roddick said.

Lewis said the one-hour-per-week requirement was passed this month in an effort to get senators to spend time in the office outside of meetings. If the senator misses an office hour, it is considered the same thing as missing a meeting.

Ads and art subject of the next Honors Lecture

□ Lesli Bales/staff

When many people speak of art, they limit their conversations to what's on a canvas or that which is found in a museum.

They may not realize or appreciate the art that they are being exposed to every single day by advertisers and the mass media.

What is art? What is truth? What is beauty? And does it matter? Don McComb will attempt to answer these questions in his honor lecture, "Art and Conflict in the Consumer Culture," Monday at 3:30 p.m. in Peck Hall 109.

According to McComb, the mass media plays a large part in introducing society to art and visual expression. In doing this, media also reinforces what art is worthy of appreciation and which is not.

"Consumers rely on media to make sense of the world," McComb said.

While the media analyzes and criticizes a very small portion of art by publishing reviews and expert opinions, the scope of art is much

broader.

"The media indirectly affects consumers by publishing and broadcasting millions of images — in the form of advertising — without offering the public any critical context. And we just accept it without questioning what it's all about."

The reasons behind art in today's society are a big part of the conflict McComb will discuss.

Whereas art used to be about expression, a majority of art in the late twentieth century is done solely for commercial use. According to McComb, the value of an image is often being based on its ability to be transformed into merchandise. If this is true, do the traditional definitions of art still make sense or are they obsolete?

In his honor lecture, McComb will

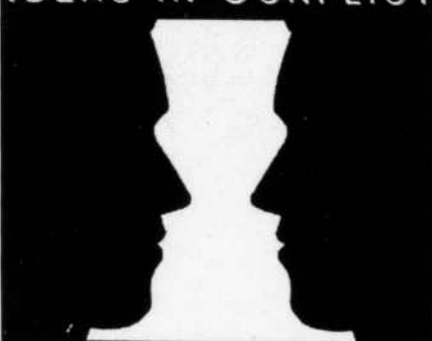
compare contemporary examples of post-modern graphic design (such as Speak magazine) with the avant garde experiments that came out of Europe in the 1920's (such as the Dada movement, Italian futurism and French surrealism).

"Both of these represent radical departures from traditional design practices," McComb said. "But for me, the work from the 1920's has a political immediacy that is somehow missing in the work of the 1990's."

Although McComb admits that some contemporary publications such as Ray Gun magazine have "attitude," he argues that they are still commercially viable.

Advertisers like publications such as Ray Gun and Speak because they will sell, not because of what they have to say.

IDEAS IN CONFLICT



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SGA allows write-ins at Homecoming election

□ Staff reports

Since Monday, when "Sidelines" announced the Homecoming Queen competition would not allow the election of write-in candidates, Philip Crabtree, Student Government Association election commissioner, has reversed his decision.

Crabtree announced Tuesday that write-ins would be allowed this year.

"We looked at the constitution further and the electoral act is not clear," he said. "We felt it would be more constitutional to allow write-in candidates."

The 12 students on the ballot for Homecoming Queen had to fill out several forms, including a candidacy form, a basic information form and either a sponsor form or a list of 25 student signatures.

Write-in candidates would not have to complete any of this before the election, held both Wednesday and today until 6:30 p.m.

"No write-in would be crowned until we were sure the qualifications were verified," said Crabtree.

He also said he had heard that up to seven women were trying to be write-in and there are rumors around campus of groups planning to block vote against candidates on the ballot.

The queen's court is always announced at the Thursday night bonfire, but Crabtree said he was unsure when they would announce the queen this year.

"Last year the court came on the field at the homecoming game and the queen was announced," he said.

This year it has not been decided if she will be announced Thursday night with her court at the bonfire or Saturday at the game.

"We want to encourage people to come to the bonfire," Crabtree said, "so we may announce it then."

On Campus

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

Sept. 25

Students interested in education programs in allied health, dentistry, medicine and pharmacy are invited to speak with Nelson Strother and other representatives from UT-Memphis' Health Science Center on the third floor of the KUC from 9 a.m. until noon.

Sigma Tau Delta will offer a writer's workshop at 3 p.m. in Peck Hall Room 108. Students seeking a major or minor in English are welcome. For more information contact Sarah K. Lisle at 898-4985.

Sept. 26

AFAW is offering a tenure and promotion workshop including panel discussions and light refreshments 3-4:30 p.m. in JUB Hazelwood. For more information, contact Cheryl Lewis at 898-2654.

Voices of the South, a performance focusing on teaching southern literature, culture and diversity from a feminine point-of-view, is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. at the Arts Center of Cannon County in Woodbury. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$5 for students or groups of 10 or more. For information or registration call (615) 563-2787.

Sept. 27-28

Anyone considering graduate studies and worried about taking the admissions exam is invited to the Graduate Management Admission Test review course Saturday 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. and Sunday 12:30-5:30 p.m. For more information or to register, call the Division of Continuing Studies at 898-2462.

Sept. 28

Campus Recreation will kick

off homecoming week with the Homecoming 5K Run at 1 p.m. and Fitness Walk at 1:15 p.m. For more information please call 898-2104.

Sept. 30 and Oct. 1

A new chapter of Students in Free Enterprise is being organized. SIFE develops leadership and presentation skills through various activities. Sponsored by the College of Business and open to all undergraduates with an interest in free enterprise, an information and organizational meeting will be held from 4-5 p.m. Sept. 30 and 4:30-5:30 p.m. on Oct. 1 in BAS S326A. For more information contact Stephen Lewis at 2035.

Oct. 9

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

Continuing Activities

The Japan Center of Tennessee will sponsor an Origami Exhibit in the lobby of the Argie Cooper Library, 100 S. Main St., Shelbyville, Tenn., through October 17. For information call The Japan Center of Tennessee at (615) 898-2229 or the library at (615) 684-7323. A Japanese Doll Exhibit also continues at the Tullahoma Fine Arts Center through the rest of the month. For more information please call The Japan Center of Tennessee at (615) 898-2229 or Tullahoma Fine Arts Center at (615) 455-1234.

LDSSA is holding Institute Classes every Wednesday and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Checking the mail



Steve Purinton/staff
Justin Watkins, a freshman aerospace major, checks his mail for the first time in the first floor of the Keathley University Center.

Crime Stoppers offers students rewards for crime information

□ Patti Fosbinder/staff

MTSU students can "take a bite out of crime" on campus, and earn a financial reward for their services.

The campus "Crime Stoppers" is much like the national program, but with an added benefit.

"We pay for information leading to arrests for misdemeanor crimes as well as felonies," said Rick Roberts, an officer with Public Safety. "Other Crime Stoppers just pay for felonies."

Felonies are crimes which are punishable by imprisonment for 1 year or more. They include crimes which might occur on campus such as car theft or dealing in drugs or stolen property.

Misdemeanors are smaller crimes such as theft of book bags or using illegal drugs.

Another misdemeanor Public Safety is inviting students to report is students pulling fire alarms.

"The other night the fire department responded to four calls," Roberts said. "And the university has to pay [the county] every time they respond to a false alarm."

Roberts said people who call Crime Stoppers at 893-STOP will remain completely anonymous. If the information they give leads to an arrest, they will receive a reward for their help.

"The maximum reward for a misdemeanor crime is \$300," Roberts said, "and \$1,000 for a felony."

Public Safety only accredited college police agency in state

□ Patti Fosbinder/staff

Despite the departure of several safety officers and staff members this summer, MTSU Public Safety is continuing their reputation of accreditation with the help of a federal grant.

Police and safety departments across the country have received such grants, promoted by President Clinton to "get officers on the street."

According to Chief Jack Drugmand, the grant will help pay the salaries of officers. The full-time staff currently includes 25 certified officers, a non-commissioned officer, three communications specialists, a computer specialist, five management officials, a unit secretary and a part-time payroll/budget staff person. Drugmand is also advertising an open position for an officer with POST accreditation, which means he or she has passed police officer training.

"Many police departments are looking for officers," he said, "and that competition creates turnovers. Generally this doesn't happen, but now federal money is available."

MTSU, however, has an advantage by being the only Tennessee university that has a nationally accredited law-enforcement agency.

"Accreditation is important to us," he said. "Metro Nashville, the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation and Brentwood [Police] are the only other accredited agencies in this area."

Accreditation also ensures that Public Safety works hard to keep up with national and international standards, he said. It also sets goals and standards for their performance.

"It's easy for us to say we're the best campus security in the state," Drugmand said. "But how do you evaluate [other campus safety departments]?"

He added that other safety departments do the same job, but they might do things differently, so it is impossible to say who is the best.

"Accreditation doesn't say we're better than you are," he said. "It just gives us a set of standards to evaluate our services."

The overall mission of Public Safety is to provide a safe and secure environment conducive to education, Drugmand said. That means its officers strive to be "an ounce of prevention."

"And we spend a lot of ounces on prevention," he said. "That's what we do."

Among Public Safety's preventative measures are officers in automobiles, on foot and even on bicycles. Drugmand would like students to realize that the officers are on campus specifically to provide services for students.

One service Public Safety provides is holding special safety programs on campus. One of these programs is training rape aggression defense, or RAD.

"Women are invited to attend this class to train to aggressively defend themselves," Drugmand said.

Students in the program are taught to be more aware of their surroundings, to try and avoid suspicious people and, if someone gets a little too close, where to kick.

"We always have an instructor, usually male, who wears well-padded protection," Drugmand said.

Students are encouraged to attend such classes because rape can cause more mental and physical abuse than other crimes, such as theft.

"We recognize that acquaintance rape is a national concern," Drugmand added. "But crimes against persons are low at MTSU."

According to the records published in the Public Safety calendar, only one MTSU student reported rape last year.

"And one is more than we want," Drugmand said.

Public Safety offers other instructions to students, such as a recent visit to Cummings Hall where money and jewelry had disappeared from unlocked rooms.


"We want to make it less attractive for those who want to commit a crime on campus," Drugmand said. "Our single most area of concern is theft — crimes of opportunity."

These thefts usually occur when students leave book bags unattended or dorm rooms unlocked. Students should know officers are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Any 911 calls from a campus phone will be directed to Public Safety also.

"We'll be the first to respond," Drugmand said, adding that Public Safety will then call for ambulance or fire service if it is needed.

Mainly, the officers of Public Safety want to encourage safety in the minds of the students, Drugmand said.

"We want to get kids out of here and into the world where they can make it a safer place," he said.



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Viewpoint

Student body apathetic

Is it that we don't know? Or is it that we don't care? It seems that every year the student body becomes more apathetic. We are currently in the middle of SGA freshmen senate and homecoming queen elections, and it seems that the student body could care less.

Seven SGA positions are waiting to be filled by freshmen willing to take part in the election process, yet only seven freshmen are running for the vacant seats. Without competition these seven students will fill these positions unless they are defeated by write-in votes. Why are there at least 12 homecoming candidates vying for queen but only seven candidates competing for the seven vacant seats in the SGA senate? While the homecoming queen is an important symbol of college life, those elected as freshmen senators will be involved in making major decisions for campus this year. Doesn't that responsibility to MTSU warrant more response by both candidates and voters?

This campus needs student involvement if it is going to progress to a higher status. This past spring SGA placed a referendum on the ballot to see if students supported the name change idea. Because of low voter turnout, the consensus was to change the name. While many feel the name change is unnecessary, they obviously did not vote. With such a small percentage of the student body participating in elections, it is impossible to know if the name change was favored by a majority of MTSU students.

Apathy affects more than just elections. The SGA held a Parking Town Hall meeting this week in order to try and alleviate some of the ever-present parking problems. Although over 18,000 students attend this university, only a few hundred attended the meeting. Parking problems will continue to exist if more people do not get involved and voice their opinions in a meaningful, productive way.

Our freshmen class will become the junior and senior classes in just a couple of years. If they continue the apathetic trend set by today's upperclassmen, the fate of this campus will continue to lie in the hands of the administration. If this is the case, more than just our school name and mascot could be at stake.

Decisions that will affect an entire student body should not remain in the hands of a minority. This campus is growing and important decisions are being made, but if low voter turnout and lack of participants continues to be the norm, many students will be left in the wake of these decisions wondering why they were made.

Show the administration, student body and entire community that you care: take part in all decisions concerning the campus. You can make a difference, but only if you get involved. If you remain apathetic, what right do you have to later voice your opinion? It obviously did not matter enough to you to vote.

E-mail Sidelines at:
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Sidelines

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Letters Policy

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

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

MTSU not in need of more parking spaces

Glenn Hanley
Director of
Campus Recreation



MTSU doesn't need any more parking lots. This may be an unpopular position to take, but I do it for several reasons.

First, in comparison to other schools I have been associated with, MTSU is blessed with parking spaces. I realize that many of you do not think this is true, but a quick comparison of figures illustrates this point. My undergraduate school did not allow freshmen to have vehicles. Florida State University, where I earned my masters, had so few parking spots that it was quicker for me to ride my bicycle five miles than it was to drive and then hunt for a parking spot. The University of Oregon, where I received my doctorate, had a shuttle system that traveled around to off-campus housing because of the lack of parking on campus.

Second, I believe in the philosophy that "if you build it they will come." The more parking spaces that are available and easily accessible, the more people will drive. I know of students who drive from their residence hall to Murphy Center or another building on campus. Some will drive from their apartments which are less than a mile away even though it is a relatively easy 15-20 minute walk. The vast majority of students, faculty and staff will not car pool, use public transportation, ride a bike or walk. Part of the reason is that at MTSU we have more than enough parking spaces. A quick survey of campus shows that even during the first of the school year there are still a number of parking spots available in the outlying lots.

Third, the university seems to be caught between the philosophy of promoting a healthy lifestyle and the provision of parking lots. When I came in 1980, the school had a much smaller enrollment of 8,000 students and a variety of open areas and recreation fields for students to use on a regular basis. The university had one of the best soccer fields in Tennessee, a rugby field, 10 multi-purpose fields, a community garden and green areas around many of the buildings. Since then, parking lots or other projects have been built on

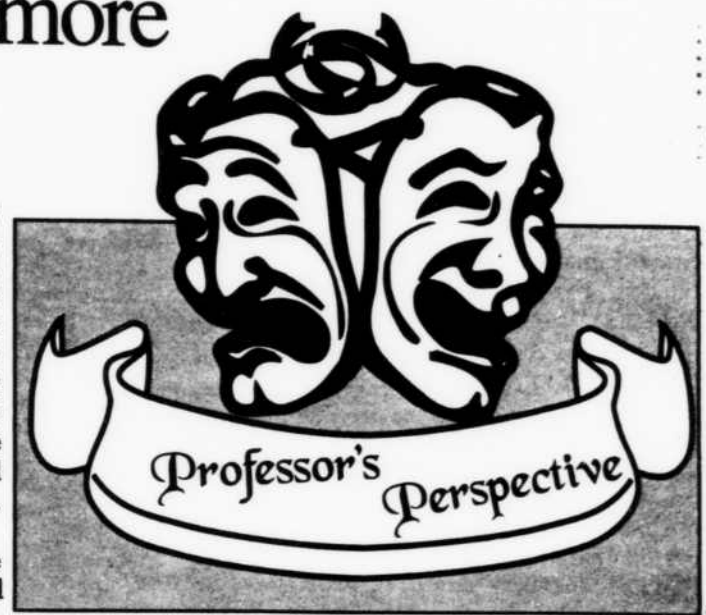
many of these open areas. Just two and a half of the original five fields are left behind Cummings dorm.

The Greenland parking lot has expanded to include almost the entire area around Murphy Center. This expansion eliminated the soccer, rugby and four other fields, turning them into acres of asphalt. A parking lot now occupies the nice little play field near the S curve on the way to the nursing building. No longer do we have the soccer field, and the university is having to spend a large sum of money to tear up a parking lot to build another field. The basketball courts are under a gravel parking lot near the new library. The community garden has become a parking lot serving the mass communication building. Now with over 18,000 students, we have six and one half fields left. This strikes me as the wrong approach in the rush to build on many of the open spaces of the campus. No longer are we properly balancing the need for getting students, faculty and staff on campus with their cars.

I also remember when a department on campus was involved in promoting the ride-share concept. This program is no longer operational. Is that because of a lack of need or a lack of interest by our student body?

Fourth, I believe that less parking and the accompanying traffic would relieve some of the safety problems that occur. This semester alone, there have been two accidents reported of students hit by vehicles while walking or riding bicycles. Is this a result of promoting the use of the private vehicles as opposed to alternative modes of transportation? Or, could it be that the traffic congestion around campus is too much for the current infrastructure to handle?

Last week, I did a little informal survey of cars entering campus with more than one occupant. The results were a discouraging 89 percent of the cars had only one person aboard. I am not surprised by these figures. But think how much less congestion and fewer parking lots we would need if this figure was



lowered to 50 percent.

I am sure that arrangements could be made with off-campus parking areas, such as the shopping centers, to allow students to park there and ride the shuttle buses to campus. This would lessen the traffic jams entering campus during the rush hours.

It is my hope that MTSU comes to realize that there is more to college life than providing parking places in locales close to a classroom or building. The university must also provide alternatives to the car to assist in providing for an environment that is conducive to a healthy lifestyle. This could include: developing and promoting a ride/share program; adding bike lanes and racks; providing sidewalks to campus; extending the shuttle system to the outlying resident areas or apartments; and renewing the commitment to the provision of green areas and open spaces that will not be designated for parking in the near or distant future. MTSU is a growing school and we must all make a commitment to encouraging all facets of college life. This will require a willingness to forego some of our creature comforts and conveniences to allow for natural beauty to co-exist.

Look at the benefits of less parking spaces:

- A healthier and more active university community
- The promotion of alternative transportation modes
- Safer roads and walkways
- Less pollution and noise
- Less frustration
- A prettier campus with more open spaces that are not paved

Maybe, even during these walks or rides on the shuttle, people can rediscover some of the interaction with other people that makes us a true community. College life should be more than driving to a parking lot.



Name change idea needs work

To the editor:

I can't help but respond to the column written by the editor, Trevor Tenpenny, in the Sept. 18 issue. Although some of what he says is semi-valid, other points he makes don't have much behind them.

Tenpenny attempts to negate the popular idea that Middle Tennessee State University sounds like a community college by citing the school's ballooning enrollment. His logic implies that since we are growing, we can't possibly be thought of as a half-baked community college. This suggested relationship is a bit spurious. Enrollment is booming because MTSU is inexpensive, easy to get accepted to, centrally located and known as the best party school in the state, NOT because our name implies academic excellence. You just can't get around the fact that MTSU sounds like a cut-rate community college.

Tenpenny does, however, make a good point about the proposed name. It is, in fact, NOT the "State" that makes the name sound lame. There are plenty of great schools with "State" in their titles. It IS the word "Middle" that causes the problem. "Middle" connotes mediocrity, tepidity and commonness. Changing the name to University of Middle Tennessee only helps a little. It does sound a tad bit better, but as Tenpenny says, it doesn't make a whole heap of difference. The only way to alleviate the community

college sound is to return to the drawing board. We need to come up with some name without the word "Middle."

Finally, another factor that contributes to MTSU's academically inferior feel is the way it looks. You may think that the following is petty, but I think that the school needs to update its visual appearance. You are all familiar with the outdated, eighties-looking acronym plastered over everything. It looks terrible!! We need to snap out of the eighties and get something that looks prestigious even if we're not going to try to improve our reputation.

Anthony Petrochko

Hazing, issue of great concern

To the editor:

I was very disturbed to read your article about some AKA members hazing potential members. I was even more disturbed after reading the article for the third time. I was concerned because it must be hard enough for the girls, but to have read it constantly could not have helped them move on from their mistake.

The issues discussed in the article were also of great concern to me. First, even though hazing is a very serious situation, I don't believe the administration or the article emphasized the problem as much as the article emphasized the actions and the punishment. Although the actions of the girls that were written were quite interesting, it did not help to address what the true issue was-hazing. The article did not try to address why hazing might be taking place or what can be done to find out why the girls felt the need to haze or be hazed. Crisis management should be implicated.

The article further did not clearly state that all chapter members were not a part of the hazing situation; there were a few girls that made a serious grievous error which also brings me to the nature of punishment. If the punishment was designed to deter hazing, it won't. Unfortunately, those AKA members are not the only members of an organization to participate in hazing. In this instance, they were the only ones to be caught. Subsequently, it seems to me that the punishment sent out two messages: The first message was to all Greek organizations, "Don't necessarily stop hazing, just don't get caught." The second message was sent to the girls who were innocent of hazing charges, "You were punished anyway so you should have taken part in hazing prospects."

I am also more than a little concerned at the remark made by Vic Felts. I am confused in understanding how he can say that the possibility for AKA getting off early is near impossible even though the SAE fraternity was able to accomplish early parole. I am very disappointed at Vic Felts for writing off a sorority that has done some very positive work and was recently punished for their offense. Since Vic Felts is director of Greek Life, he should be able to say what a positive influence AKA, as well as other Greek organizations, has been on the campus and in the community. I am not saying the guilty members should not be punished for hazing. I am saying that Mr. Felts' view on the non-existence of AKA for a year is somewhat a limited view. Focusing on the problem not the people should be his greatest concern, because if that is not done it is likely that the readers might read of another Greek organization in the "Sidelines."

A concerned member of the community,

T. M. Wilson

PHILADELPHIA DAILY NEWS
Philadelphia
USA



PLANET SUN

□ Tara Larimer/staff

Murfreesboro's newest college-aged club will be expanding its entertainment offerings when Slump, VG and Fisgig take the stage at Planet Sun tonight.

The show marks the beginning of a long list of local and national acts owners Kevin Lowry and Brandon Lollar will be bringing in over the months to come. Boasting 28,000 square feet, Planet Sun will be a welcome addition to Murfreesboro's current live music clubs.

Canvas is featured as the club's second live show Saturday evening.

Planet Sun's unique set-up helps the club cater to a variety of musical and clubgoing tastes.

DJ's play hip hop and techno tunes on one side, and '70s and '80s music on the other. Four lanes of cyberbowling will be opening up within the next two weeks on the '70s and '80s side for those wanting to try something different, and the club has pool tables, video games, a state-of-the-art light and sound system and drink specials to fit college students' limited budgets.

"We are here for MTSU students. Brandon and I researched the area and saw Murfreesboro was growing and definitely in need of something new," Lowry said.

Open Wednesday through Saturday from 8 p.m. to 3 a.m., Planet Sun has a bring-your-own-

beer and liquor policy and \$1 longnecks are sold on the premises every night. Wednesday and Thursday nights are drink or drown, during which patrons receive free draft beer. Women pay half-price admission on Wednesdays.

Planet Sun marks the second club venture Lowry and Lollar have embarked on together. Lollar owns a sports bar in Greenville called "Houston Valley Club" which Lowry used to help him run. The two were college roommates at Eastern Tennessee State University and graduated with marketing degrees.

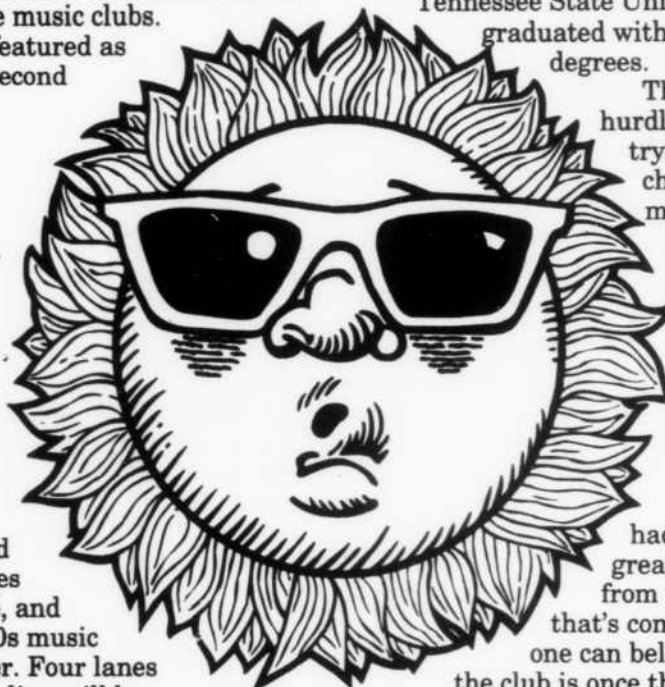
Their biggest hurdle has been trying to change the misconception that Planet Sun caters to a "bad crowd" or has security problems, according to Lowry.

"We've had a really great response from everybody that's come in. No one can believe how big the club is once they get inside. Our security staff is ample- we even have off-duty police officers coming in to drink on occasion. So no, we haven't had any problems," Lowry said.

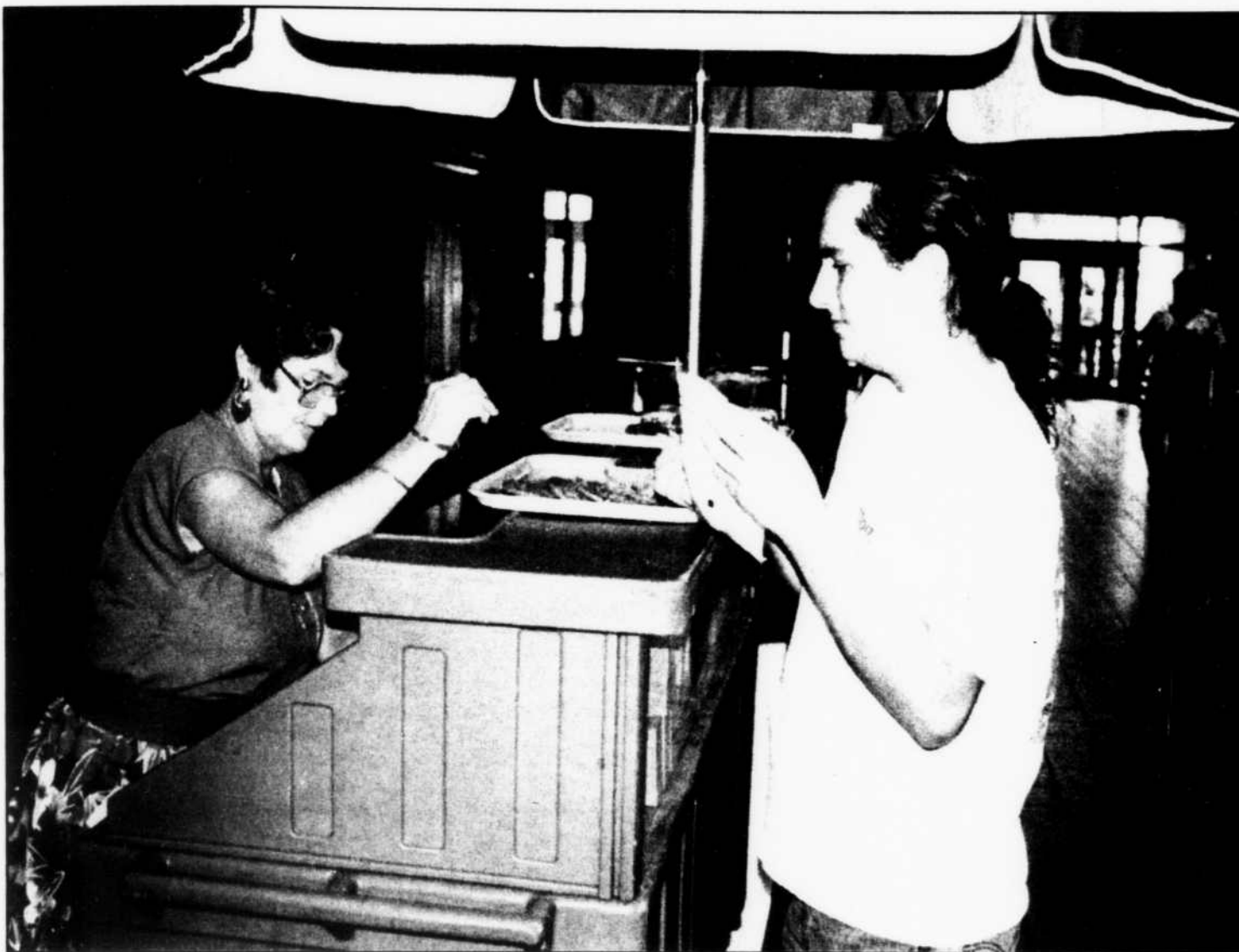
Planet Sun is open to patrons 18 and up, and will be adding a teen night to their schedule once the cyberbowl area opens. Located at 715 South Tennessee Blvd. across from the \$1.50 movie theater, clubgoers can catch Slump, VG and Fisgig at 8 p.m. Thursday and Canvas at 10 p.m. Saturday.

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Five dollars?



Steve Purinton/staff

Scott Gilchrist, junior graphics communication major, purchases a tasty treat between classes in the Mass Comm. Building.

Understanding high art

□ Doug Lansky/CPS

Visiting museums is a large part of traveling, but I'm no art critic. In second grade, I received a "D" for my picture entitled, "A Cat," because 1) all the crayon strokes didn't go in the same direction and 2) it was a picture of a house. I still have serious problems drawing things in three dimensions, except for cubes, which are my specialty. But, hey, I like to look at other people's art.

When my well-connected, art-appreciating friend, Anna, invited me to attend the opening night of a new exhibit at Malmö's Roseum (Contemporary Art Museum), I quickly accepted.

It was hard to refuse because, in addition to Anna's charming company, opening night meant the Roseum would have live music and heaps of free champagne and chocolate -- two of the many items I'm not wealthy enough to afford in this overpriced Nordic kingdom.

I went to the reception desk and picked up what's known in journalism as a "press kit." This is not generally used for ironing clothes, although some of them are certainly heavy enough for the task. A press kit is filled with 7,000 percent more information than you ever dreamed existed about whatever it is you came all the way to see for yourself. Sometimes the pack even includes a helpful draft of how a publicist would like you to write the article. The information I got was in Swedish, however, so I just nodded politely and schlepped it around all evening.

Upstairs, I saw what I thought was a poorly lit room with a broken chair. "Where's the exhibit?" I asked.

Anna pointed out kindly that I was standing in it. The artist, Abigail Lane, had created some white wallpaper with red splotches, and, apparently, it was supposed to look like some kind of bloody wallpaper. I gathered this because Ms. Lane had titled the work, "Bloody Wallpaper."

Personally, I thought the piece would have been better with no lighting at all. But I couldn't say this out loud, because Anna made me promise I wouldn't do anything that might potentially embarrass her.

The next piece that caught my eye was thoughtfully entitled, "Untitled." I can understand the artist's dilemma in naming it since the scattered collection of wooden objects didn't bring anything to mind other than,

perhaps, an unassembled shelving unit from Ikea. Anna translated my press kit and informed me that Nahum Tevet, the Israeli artist who made the work, remarked, "you see new things from each perspective as you walk around it." I suppose that's true, but you could have also said that about the laundry scattered on the floor of my college dorm room.

Downstairs, I nearly stepped on the work of an American artist, Polly Apfelbaum, who'd just left her art scattered around on the floor. She'd cut out several thousand little oval-shaped pieces of dyed felt and arranged them on the floor in four separate formations, each the shape of ... you got me. I had to consult the press kit. The blotches were not accurately described but they had a name: "Sense and

ant with a red crayon for four entire days. Right off hand, I can't think of a better way to spend four days, can you?

three oil paintings by Jutta Koether arranged on the wall. And off to the side there were three little corresponding information cards. The three paintings were called: "Face of My Only Love," "F***ed up Painting," and "Well, Show Me Nothing." With names like these, you'd think it would be obvious which painting was which. But as hard as I tried, I couldn't tell which card corresponded with which piece. In the end, I decided it didn't matter. I hope that was the point of the art.

Another artist, Imi Knoebel, had a series of five paintings on display, all called "Grace Kelly," which eliminated any confusion. However, none of the paintings bore any

resemblance to Grace Kelly. They simply featured five rectangles, each a different color. And they all had the same design; Knoebel had just switched the order of the colored rectangles. The "brilliance" of the work, according to the press kit, was that all the paintings could be freely interchanged without affecting the meaning of the series.

So why had the artist named the thing "Grace Kelly"? No apparent reason! Just as the paintings were in no apparent order. Get it? According to the press kit, this was a very clever artistic joke.

The major discovery I made during my visit was that art shows, no matter how little you might care for the art, are much more enjoyable with free admission, free chocolate, free champagne and good music. The museum directors know this. That's why art critics get the royal treatment and there are a disproportional number of positive reviews.

I've seen many modern art pieces and entire exhibits that I've thoroughly enjoyed, but all too often I find myself thinking the "works" wouldn't sell for \$3 at a garage sale. This, of course, revolves around the Big Question: "What Is Art?"

What I don't understand is that if a museum wants to (ital) question (end ital) art, why do they need an artist? Surely a non-artist would be just as qualified to compose questionable art. I realize I may not be talented enough to produce works like "Bloody Wallpaper" but, for a large sum, I'd certainly be willing to try, provided I didn't have to sign it.



Sensibility."

Just as I was pondering the connection between the name and the work, I found myself standing in front of Polly Apfelbaum herself.

"What do you think?" she asked me. I began plunging uncontrollably into butt-kissing mode.

"Well ... I really like it," Anna rolled her eyes.

"You do?" asked Polly, "Why?" I was cornered.

"Umm... it's a no brainer."

"What?" asked Polly, understandably confused. Anna slapped her forehead.

"Yeah," I said, grasping, "you don't have to try to make something out of it. You can just feel it ... on a visceral level."

"I like that," Polly said.

Before I could swallow the foot I'd already put in my mouth, Anna led me into the main hall where, on the floor, in an area the size of a waterbed, were a bunch of randomly drawn red lines. Or so I thought. Upon further investigation, I learned that the artist, Yukinori Yangai, of Japan, had followed the path of an

Irish jigs and Scottish step-dancing at Wright Music Hall

□ Matt dePaula/staff

The murmur of the crowd subsided and Wright Music Hall's lights began to dim. With nearly all of the hall's 500 seats filled, there seemed to be an air of anticipation pervading the room.

As the hush fell over the audience, Hugh Gray, emcee for the evening, began with the formalities and introductions. His Scottish brogue seemed to perfectly complement the plaid kilt, knee-high socks and other Scottish garb he wore.

"Ladies and gentlemen, the Lovat-Cameron Pipe Band," he declared finally, as the curtains were drawn. They stood in a semi-circle at center stage, some with bag pipes, some with drums and snares, but all were sporting their traditional Scottish kilts. At the center of the pipers was the drum major with his monstrous black bass drum attached vertically to his torso.

Pipe major Jim Drury began tapping rhythm with his right foot and soon the music began with bag pipes shrieking, snares chattering and the thunderous bass drum keeping perfect rhythm.

After five numbers were performed by the Lovat-Cameron Pipe Band, New England native Deborah Packard and Irishman Peter Cairney, both of the Nashville band Isla, took the stage. With a much less imposing presence than the pipe band, the diminutive Packard in her sleeveless, pink gown stood next to Cairney who sat quietly, cradling his guitar upon his lap.

Packard sang—with the soul and flair of a true Scott—several soft Irish ballads and Scottish courting songs while Cairney accompanied, strumming his six-string and joining in with an occasional line of harmony here and there. Like the pipe band, their musicianship was top-notch, but their quiet melodies and lilting lyrics seemed to contrast starkly with the harsh, rhythmic lines of Lovat's songs.

Next were the Glengarry



Highland Dancers, directed by Judy Hackett. The dancers performed nine highland dances with themes that ranged from the protesting of British oppression to demonstrating/mimicking the life and actions of sailors. The youngest ones—ages 5 to 7—stole the show when they came out and performed the two basic dance moves of highland dancing. Their tiny feet bouncing about and bobbling up and down elicited wide grins from the entire audience, as well as a very hearty round of applause.

Perhaps the most entertaining and intriguing dance was the "sword dance." According to Hackett this dance was performed by Scottish warriors the night before battle. Placing swords on the ground, they would dance over to them attempting not to touch them. If they completed the dance without touching the swords, this was a sig, that they would be victorious in battle the next day. But, if the swords were touched, this signified that they would experience great bloodshed and possibly defeat.

Following the 15-minute intermission, the concert continued with the musical band, Jump Gypsies. The four band members played a total of seven instruments, including the hammer dulcimer and several Scottish drums.

In addition to this, three of the four band members also performed Scottish step-dancing and Irish jigs. Their music was keeping with the evening's theme of authenticity and each song had a unique air of Scottish-Irish mystery.

A step-dancing group Celtaban followed. The three women in this band, each in traditional Scottish kilts, performed six dances, the first of which was one of the oldest in existence, dating back 200 years.

Closing out the evening, the Lovat-Cameron Pipe Band assumed center stage again and "blew" away the audience with five more numbers, the third of which was performed "In Memory of Diana, Princess of Wales," as the program read.

SPORTS & RECREATION

Page 6

Thursday, September 25, 1997

2-MIN. DRILL!



TENNIS TOURNAMENT

Several Blue Raider tennis players have fared well at the ITA National Clay Courts being held in Baltimore this week.

The doubles team of David McNamara and Julius Robberts have already advanced to the main draw play as are Anthony DeLuise and McNamara in singles.

GOLF TOURNAMENT

In their first golf tournament of the year the Blue Raiders finished 13th at the Mizuno Peach State Invitational hosted by Georgia State University at the Cherokee Run Golf Course this past weekend.

Freshman Brett Alexander was the top finisher for the Raiders. Alexander shot a 69 in the third round for 216 three-round total to tie for 7th place.

Jon Drewery's first place finish with a 212 helped to lead his Columbus State team to the top spot in the event.

TV CANCELLED

The MTSU football game Saturday against Murray State will not be televised by WNAB-TV, channel 58 in Nashville, as scheduled.

Due to a programming conflict WNAB will instead air the MTSU game Oct. 11 when the Raiders travel to UT-Martin.

BIG BLUE CARAVAN

Supporters of the Blue Raider football team may show their spirit by taking part in the Big Blue Caravan prior to the Raiders first home game Saturday, Sept. 27.

The caravan will start in the Wal-Mart parking lot on Old Fort Parkway at 10 a.m. There will also be a caravan on Oct. 25 and Nov. 8.

Anyone interested in participating may contact Diane J. Stockard at 904-8115 for more information on the route.

FAMILY DAY

Family Day will be celebrated as part of the Blue Raiders' first home football game Saturday, Sept. 27, against Murray State.

Sign-in will take place from 1-2:15 p.m. at the Recreation Center followed by a residence hall open house from 2:30-4:30 p.m. Cook-out will take place at 5 p.m. at the intramural fields near the Rec Center. There will be a pep rally at 6 p.m. prior to the start of the game at 7 p.m.

The fee is \$10 per adult and \$5 per child. Registration forms must be received by Sept. 22 and may be obtained by calling 898-5533.

VOLLEYBALL

The Lady Raider volleyball team may very well have found their offensive groove.

For the first time this season the Raiders have won two matches in a row and three of their last four. The Raiders downed both Western Illinois and Saint Louis University at the St. Louis Tournament Saturday.

The win, in five sets, prevented Saint Louis coach Marilyn Nolen from earning her 700th career win.

Tara Miller's 15 kills against Western moved her into fifth place on the Raiders all time career list with 858.

INFOBEAT

The Denver-based firm Infobeat, Inc. is offering free sports information via e-mail.

Anyone interested in receiving information such as score updates, standings, injury reports and college rankings may contact Infobeat at <http://www.infobeat.com> to request their own personalized information update.

The service is free to anyone at anytime.



Please fax any information on sports and recreational activities to Sidelines at 904-8487.

Raiders ready for home field

□ Keith Ryan Cartwright/staff

There would be no better time for the young Blue Raider defense to show what they've learned than in their first home game of the season Saturday.

After a week off and an 0-2 start the Blue Raider coaching staff is hoping the defense will indeed turn the corner on what is fastly becoming a season of growing pains.

"They were getting a feel for just what college football is all about," defensive coordinator Tom Fiveash said. "I knew that was going to happen. When you play your first game you don't really know how fast the game is."

"The thing they had to adjust to most was the speed."

Unfortunately for the Raiders, much of their defense is made up of either freshmen or offensive players who have converted to the defensive side of the ball.

Because of the lack of experience opponents have been able to rack 921 total yards in the first two weeks of play, 604 of which have come by way of the passing game.

"It's all a confidence thing. Eventually you have to grow up, you go out and make some plays and confidence goes up," Fiveash said. "They have to understand that they can beat the guy in front of them. Which is what it is all about."

For the Raiders, their biggest problem has been consistently preventing their opponents from converting big plays in the first two games which has led to more pressure on the offense to score.

What the Raiders spent their week off working on was breaking the defense back down to the basics they learned back on day one.

"I think that's what you do with an open date to make sure you don't get away from what you are trying to do."

While the defense has struggled overall, the coaching staff does feel as though they are moving in the right direction.

"One thing those kids did in the second game was they hustled the whole game. I felt like they gave everything," Fiveash said. "The tempo came up but mistakes killed us."

The Schedule

Sept. 6*	at TSU	16-25
Sept. 13	at UT-Chatt.	33-24
Sept. 27*	Murray State	7:00
Oct. 4	Jacksonville St.	2:00
Oct. 11*	at UT-Martin	1:30
Oct. 18	at Eastern Ill.	1:30
Oct. 25*	Southeast Mo.	2:00
Nov. 8*	Austin Peay	2:00
Nov. 15*	at Eastern Ky.	12:30
Nov. 22*	at Tenn. Tech	1:30
Home games in bold		
*OVC games		
All game times subject to change		

Source: 1997 Blue Raider Football Media Guide

The Opponent

Murray State University Racers

Sept. 27 at Jones Field, 7 p.m.

Coaching Staff

Head Coach: Denver Johnson

Record: (First year)

Assistants: Jody Allen (QB), Justin Crouse (WR), Linwood Ferguson (Def. Coord./OLB), Cary Fowler (DB), Larry McClain (DL), Randall McCray (ILB), Billy McDaniel (RB), Eric Wilson (OL)

Team Information

Basic Offense: I

Basic Defense: 4-3

Lettermen Returning: 37 (16 Offense, 18 Defense, 3 Specialists)

Lettermen Lost: 18 (8 Offense, 10 Defense, 0 Specialists)

Starters Returning: 15 (8 Offense, 4 Defense, 3 Specialists)

Starters Lost: 10 (3 Offense, 7 Defense, 0 Specialists)



Scorecard

The Teams:

MTSU 35, MSU 28, 3 ties
At MTSU: MT leads 20-13-2
At MSU: Series Tied 15-15-1
Last MTSU win: 23-21 in '94
Last MSU win: 34-7 in '96

The Coaches:

Donnelly vs. MSU: 14-6-0
Johnson vs. MTSU: 0-0
Donnelly vs. Johnson: 0-0

Adam Smith/staff

While no one player has advanced more than any other, it is the coaching staffs belief that when the Raiders do finally turn it up a notch it will be as a team.

"It's not an individual thing for us. We're all sort of in the same boat," Fiveash said. "We're having to share the same sorrows and joys together."

"There hasn't been any one player who has come to the front. And, to be honest you want everyone to make plays and come together. Having a big player doesn't necessarily mean you'll win games."

The defense has, however, missed the presence of senior outside linebacker Brian Chastain. He was the one player that the coaching staff hoped would be able to take control and lead the team on the field.

However, Chastain missed the Raiders second game against UT-Chattanooga with a shoulder injury. Chastain, who is listed week-to-week, is not expected to suit up Saturday

either, when the Raiders host Murray State.

"Chastain is an experienced player and anytime you lose an experienced player it hurts a little bit," Fiveash said. "What you have to do is go on and hope that someone picks up the slack."

Against the Racers (1-2) things don't look to get much easier for the Raiders. Despite having lost their last two games Murray State has established a solid running game.

The fact the Raiders front line is new and has yet to face a formidable running attack leaves a few more unanswered questions for the Raider defense to answer.

In week-two, the Moc's, who are not known as a running team, managed to rush the ball for 201-yards against the Raiders which helped to open up their passing attack.

If the big men up front for the Raiders can match up and stuff the Racers running game, the pressure will once again lie on Darrell Love,

Cedric Stegall and Charlie Walker back in the secondary.

"Murray can equally run and throw. It looks like they want to come into a game and run the football," Fiveash said. "If you stop the run they'll stop that in a hurry and they'll go to the pass."

"I look for them, personally, to come in here and try to run the football."

The Racers are coming off an undefeated '96 season in which they won the Ohio Valley Conference, including a 34-7 win over the Raiders at Jones Field.

"They're a good team and they have been for the last three years," Fiveash said. "It'll be interesting Saturday to see just how far we have come."

"Again it goes back to confidence; if I think I'm better then somebody else then I don't know if that guy is really better than me or not."

Students forming MTSU hockey team.

Roller hockey one of the fastest growing sports in the United States

□ Gregg Mayer/staff

Having one of his teeth knocked out when he crashed face-first into a goalie's stick and later pulling some ligaments in his left knee didn't slow down Jeff Weems a bit in his efforts to start a roller hockey club on campus.

"I've been a hockey fan for a while," Weems, 27, said, adding he started playing roller hockey three years ago when he saw some students roller blading out on the perimeter parking lots near the John Bragg Mass Communications building. "I'd never played hockey until I started playing roller hockey."

Roller hockey is one of the fastest growing sports in the United States, especially at the collegiate level. Several universities, in particular in the Midwest and along the Eastern seaboard with powerhouse colleges like Michigan State and Purdue, are applying to have the sport sanctioned by the NCAA. The sport is currently governed by the National Collegiate Inline Hockey Association (NCIHA). Until (or if) it becomes an NCAA sport, this organization will continue to sponsor tournaments—like the national tournament in Las Vegas going on this week with over 50 universities competing—and will continue to form regional leagues.

Weems, a recording industry major, is hoping MTSU will soon catch

roller-hockey fever and start competing as well. UT-Martin and UT-Chattanooga are two universities in the area that the MTSU roller hockey team will probably compete against once it gets its official organization status with the university. Weems said he also hopes to sponsor some tournaments at the university since MTSU is centrally located in the state.

The unofficial roller hockey club applied for official organization status with the student development office last week. After making some minor adjustments to the club's constitution, Weems said they expect to hear back sometime before Friday, Sept. 23. Officials at the student development office did not return several phone calls for comment.

Nineteen members are applying as part of the club. All of them go out on Tuesday and Friday nights at about 8 p.m. to the same perimeter lot on which Weems first saw some people roller blading three years ago. Most of the players started playing by just walking by one evening and seeing them out there. Weems estimated 30 percent of the newcomers have no hockey experience whatsoever.

"They teach me," said Nikki Johnson, one of only three girls who gets out and roughs it up with the guys. (Actually, roller hockey is not that rough: the rules don't allow checking and players aren't even required to wear shoulder pads.) Johnson said she was an experienced roller blader and wanted to try something new.

"I sweat a lot," she added, explaining playing roller hockey is better than working-out on her own.

Teams in the NCIHA leagues play 4-on-4, excluding the goalies. Weems said sometimes the teams here get as large as 7-on-7 and sometimes they have two games going at once. If the MTSU club becomes official and starts competing in the NCIHA, then Weems said there will probably be two or three teams, one for competition and

the others for intramural play.

"Roller hockey is more accessible to the average person," Weems said. "It's less intimidating."

While it might be less intimidating here, Matt Mayo, 22, another member of the club, said the sport is much more intense in New York where he used to play for a semi-pro league.

"I'd make about \$25 a game," Mayo said, "but I didn't have the time to put into it," explaining he was cut from the team and is now living in Murfreesboro with intentions of attending Watkins Film Institute. Mayo is not a student at MTSU, but said if the club gets an official organization status he'll take classes part-time in order to continue to be a part of it. He's currently sidelined from the hockey action due to a foot injury—not incurred from roller hockey.

No one except himself, Weems said, has been seriously injured in the three years that he has been playing, only the occasional bruise or scrape.

"Quite a few of us now wear mouth pieces," Weems said, joking about his knocked-out tooth. "And we pass along the benefits [of the mouth piece] to everyone new who comes out." Newcomers don't have to worry about bringing their own knee pads and hockey sticks to their first meeting with the roller hockey club; Weems and the current members have some extra pads to let new people wear and tryout the sport.

David Zacker, a professor in the philosophy department, is the club's advisor. He said he not only advises, but he also gets out and plays with them when he has time to do so.

During the spring, summer and

early fall months the group almost always plays outside—weather permitting. During some of the rainy summer days, officials at the university let them roller blade in one of the auxiliary gyms in Murphy Center.

However, at the beginning of this semester, Ed Barlow, the interim director at Murphy Center, decided to not let the roller hockey continue indoors.

"I've been informed by the maintenance department that roller blades cause damage to parquet floors," Barlow said. Parquet floors are a lot like tile floors, made up of 6-inch blocks pieced together. Both of the auxiliary gyms in Murphy Center have parquet floors.

"The pressure from the roller blades would cause damage to those squares," Barlow said, adding the club will not be allowed to play in the main gym either, in spite of the fact the floor is not parquet.

Eventually, Weems said, the roller hockey club will start to require dues to be paid—about \$20 a semester. That money would be used for new nets, better pads and more hockey sticks.

For more information about the roller hockey club, call Jeff Weems at 849-9324. For information about other college roller hockey teams, try the well-designed Michigan State University Roller Hockey Club Web Site at <http://pilot.msu.edu/user/jaskulkl/main.htm>.

"We don't want to exclude anybody," Weems said. "We're all pretty easy going out here and want to get all the people involved."

Roller hockey is more accessible to the average person.

Jeff Weems

In the Middle of it all

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