

Parents seek police enforcement of traffic laws

By ERIC STEINBERG
Sidelines Staff Writer

An increase in traffic violations at the corner of Womack Avenue and First Street has prompted the parents residing in Family Student Housing to seek police

protection for their children boarding school buses.

Dean of Students Paul Cantrell said he has received complaints from family housing resident Susan Woodfin and Campus Police Officer Eulea Snelling, claiming that

motorists pose a hazard to Hobgood Elementary School children by ignoring the stop signs at the corner and not stopping for school buses loading and unloading.

"We are going to do something about this problem

immediately," Cantrell said Wednesday. "I have called Sgt. [Jim] Burkhalter and asked him to begin writing tickets first thing in the morning [Thursday] to anyone who does not stop for the stop signs.

"I have even asked him to adjust the schedule, if need be, to give that corner maximum coverage when the children are present," Cantrell added.

According to Burkhalter, Tennessee law clearly states that every vehicle approaching a stop sign must stop in front of the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection or a fine will be issued.

"The fine for running a stop sign on the MTSU campus is \$10, if the car is registered on campus," Burkhalter said. "If

the car is not registered to a student or campus employee, a city citation will be issued."

The Murfreesboro Police Department fine for running a stop sign is \$20.

Woodfin suggested that the city police utilize crossing guards or policemen at the corner of Womack Avenue and First Street to encourage motorists to obey the stop signs.

According to Lt. Hiram Lester of the Murfreesboro Police Department, the city police have final jurisdiction over campus traffic.

"We usually let the campus police handle these situations," Lester said, "but, if they don't have the time, then I will take care of the problem.

"I went out there this morning

and parked my car out of the view of motorists and waited on the bus," Lester continued. "I noticed cars not obeying the stop sign, but I wanted to wait until the bus arrived to see if motorists were passing the stopped school bus."

According to Tennessee law, any driver meeting a school or church bus (from either direction) stopped for the purpose of receiving or discharging children must stop. The driver may not proceed until the bus resumes motion.

Any driver failing to obey this law is guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a \$67 fine.

Lester said he intends to write citations at the corner until it becomes safe or until a crossing guard is hired to direct traffic.



photo by Stuart Marshall

Sidelines

Volume 54, Number 21

Middle Tennessee State University

Halloween, October 31, 1980

Musicians headline subscription series

By JULIE GEE
Sidelines Staff Writer

Internationally known musicians Steven DeGroote, Gilda Cruz-Romo, Manuel Barrueco and Eugene Fodor, will headline the premier concert season of the Neil and Margaret Wright Music Building.

The Student Programming Office has 200 free student tickets for each concert to be distributed with the presentation of validated MTSU I.D.s. The general admission tickets may be picked up (one per I.D.) at the Student Programming Office two weeks prior to each concert.

Regular tickets are \$8 per concert, or the entire series of four may be purchased for \$22.

DeGroote, pianist and grand-prize winner of the fifth Van Cliburn Competition, will perform Nov. 30. on the school's new Boesendorfer Imperial Grand piano. The piano, with its added bass octave, was the instrument DeGroote chose to

play at his March 1979 Washington concert in Kennedy Center.

Washington Star critic Theodore W. Libbey Jr. wrote of his Washington performance, "it was Steven DeGroote who stood out as the evening's one clear triumph... DeGroote, making the Boesendorfer speak with eloquence, strove from the outset for music rather than effect, yet could not help giving a remarkable display of tonepainting in the process."

Soprano Gilda Cruz-Romo will be featured Jan. 13. As Desdemona, she opened the Metropolitan Opera's 1979-80 season in the nationally televised "Otello."

On March 10, classical guitarist Manuel Barrueco, winner of the Concert Artists Guild award, will appear.

The final concert of the series is violinist Eugene Fodor on April 3. He was the first violinist from the west to win first place in the illustrious Russian Tchaikovsky Competition.



This Eikon Hosoe photograph was removed from exhibition at the MTSU gallery because it offended some viewers.

Nude photograph stirs controversy

By DENNIS MYERS
Sidelines Staff Writer

Japanese culturalist Eikon Hosoe's photography exhibit at the MTSU Photographic Gallery ended yesterday amid controversy over a picture displaying the bare breasts of an Oriental woman.

Before the exhibit ended, the picture—depicting a woman sitting cross-legged in front of a Japanese man—was taken off the wall of the gallery after criticism was voiced by offended viewers.

"There were some people who felt that this type of picture is wrong in a public place," Harold Baldwin, photography instructor and director of the MTSU gallery, said yesterday.

"A FEW individuals wrote all over the guest book saying it [the photograph] was nasty," Baldwin continued, "but now those pages have been ripped out by someone."

What did remain in the guest book, however, were the laments of many visitors to the

exhibit who were unhappy with the censorship of the picture.

"Intriguing insights into another culture, tarnished only by the mindless morality of censorship," wrote one upset viewer.

"Excellent! However, I prefer the uncut, uncensored version," another penned.

"Good [exhibit]—what is bad about the display is the fact it was censored due to a minority group of people. What about the majority's feelings?" wrote still another angry viewer.

BALDWIN ASSESSED the situation from the standpoint of one who has long been accustomed to criticism of nude photography.

"Sometimes you fight to keep them [the photographs] up, sometimes you don't. There is no way to win. No matter what you do, someone will find something wrong with it.

"This one was up for a while and doesn't need censoring—but I took it down. It just wasn't worth fighting over," Baldwin concluded.

Murfreesboro psychic tells all

By ELLEN TUCKER
Sidelines Staff Writer

Have you ever wondered about psychic phenomena?

My editor has, so when she asked me to write a story, I tracked down local psychic Jean Moore.

Her office, located right in her home at 1111 Northfield Blvd., proved no different from any other Murfreesboro dwelling. The den was small and modest, and I felt very comfortable there.

Mrs. Moore is not the stereotypical psychic.

"Many different kinds of people come to me in order to find a solution to their problems," Mrs. Moore said, "not just to see what their future has in store for them.

"OBJECTIVE INSIGHT," she continued, is the first step to solving most problems. "One must identify a problem in order to correct it."

Mrs. Moore charges \$15 and sees customers by appointment only. Each visit consists of card reading, palm reading, and individual insight.

"Almost anything can be changed about your future once you become aware of it," Mrs. Moore said. Some deaths, however, cannot be avoided.

When a death or serious illness is predicted, Mrs. Moore said she thinks that the person has a right to know about it, so

that he or she can try to change it.

Mrs. Moore's grandmother and mother were "strong" psychics as well. She said she realized her own extrasensory abilities at an early age but, like most psychics, not to their full extent until she reached adulthood.

AS A PSYCHIC, Mrs. Moore

said, it's hard to see the difference between yourself and others, so as a child you naturally assume that other people are feeling the same things that you are.

"Every person is born psychic," Mrs. Moore explained. "It's just that some are more psychic than others."

It's sort of like singing, Mrs.

Moore pointed out. Everyone can sing, but some people are better than others. Even though you may sound terrible, the ability to sing is still there.

According to Mrs. Moore, there are many different kinds of powers a psychic can have. For example, some psychics are clairvoyant—they see mental pictures of incidents that will happen in the future or that have already happened.

Mrs. Moore is clairvoyant. A psychic can be clairvoyant and also be able to hear messages or voices, which is called "clairaudience."

ANOTHER TYPE of power, clairsentience, is the ability to sense things that no one else around can pick up. Mrs. Moore is also a clairsentient.

Some not-so-common types of psychic phenomena which Mrs. Moore performs are psychometry (the ability to feel vibrations through certain objects) and telekinesis (the ability to move objects through concentration).

"Telekinesis requires a lot of energy," Mrs. Moore explained, "and most psychics that do this end up dying at an earlier age than they would have had they not done telekinesis."

Mrs. Moore believes that all animals are psychic, as are humans.

"Animals can recognize a (continued on page 2)



Mayor Westbrook suspends water conservation ordinances

By LIZ THOMPSON
Sidelines Copy Editor

Murfreesboro's emergency water conservation measures were suspended Wednesday afternoon by Mayor W.H. Westbrook after rainfall and consumer cutbacks increased the water level at Walter Hill Dam to an acceptable level.

According to Pam Taylor, secretary to city Water and Sewer Director Jim Clark, the present water level is now 24 inches below the crest of the dam.

"However, we are not out of the woods yet," Taylor said.

"All you have to do is drive up to the reservoir," Taylor continued, "and see that we still have a problem."

DURING THE CRISIS, Taylor said, the city was able to find new water sources in an old abandoned well next to the water treatment plant on Broad Street. The city is presently attempting to open another well on Bell Street. Both are expected to pump a total of 1 million gallons per day into the city to aid in increasing the city's water supply.

However, the Water and Sewer Department is still asking the cooperation of its customers in helping to avoid future emergencies of this nature.

"Although water cutback

procedures are no longer mandatory, we are still asking for voluntary cutbacks to help us in the next couple of weeks," Taylor said.

When the water emergency ordinance was issued, the campus housing office complied by sending memos to dorm directors requesting them to instruct their residents to cut back on their water consumption.

THESE MEMOS, however, which were hung on bathroom walls, were ignored by most residents.

In an effort to reach the residents more directly, housing sent memos to each student Wednesday—the day the water emergency status was lifted—to inform them of water conservation measures.

INSIDE

- "Halloween" on film: an absurd shocker. P. 2
- The latest word in ghostly fashions. P. 3
- Uninvited guests crowd Smith Hall residents. P. 6
- New medical procedure aids injured athletes. P. 7
- NFL close up. P. 8



The tradition of Halloween always includes the carving of eerie jack-o'-lanterns.

photo by Gene Braham

'Halloween' saved by director's waggish wit

By TONY SIMONES

Sidelines Staff Writer

A young boy on Halloween night watches his sister go upstairs with a young man, enters the kitchen, grabs a knife, goes upstairs, dons a mask and hacks her to death. After spending some 15 years in an institution for the insanely homicidal, he escapes and heads back to the hometown for yet another Halloween-night massacre.

At home the killer encounters a crew of promiscuous pre-teens whose deviant activities obviously blast the bull's-eye of his prurient interest. The rest of the film deals with the kiddies' attempt to elude the mysterious killer.

By now, most everyone is aware of the rather basic plot of "Halloween." However, it is director John Carpenter's cinematic wit that not only saves this movie but also makes it one of the funnest shockers of the Seventies.

FROM THE beginning, Carpenter teases us with hints of films to come. Two of the girls (Jamie Lee Curtis, P.J. Soles) cruise around the neighborhood as Blue Oyster Cult's prophetic "Don't Fear the Reaper" blasts through the speakers. A third (Nancy Loomis), destined also to encounter the madman, complains of everything she has to do and predicts she will be "wiped out" before tomorrow.

Movie review

With this film, Carpenter seems to be saying there is a little mischievous madness in all of us. Obviously, it is in the monster.

The little boy, Tommy, even though spooked out of his wits, takes the opportunity to try to scare a little girl sitting on the couch watching a horror movie. One of the girls makes a prank obscene phone call to an already-paranoid Jamie Lee Curtis.

EVEN THE good doctor (Donald Pleasence) who has come to the small town to track down the killer gets into the act. While lurking in the bushes waiting for the killer to return to

the battered, supposedly "haunted" house, the doctor delights in scaring the pants off a group of small boys. Before the satisfied grin can leave his face, however, the doctor himself is horrified by the huge hand of the local cop being placed unexpectedly on his shoulder. Obviously, the monster is not the only one inspired to devilry on this Halloween night.

At one point the doctor refers to the monster's "inhuman patience." Carpenter himself exhibits this teasing patience in many scenes, the result being highly intensified suspense. The director often reveals the peril of a situation to the audience before he shows the danger to his characters. This occurs in the first scene, one long continuous point-of-view shot from the killer's perspective as he enters the house, mounts the stairs, places a mask over his face, and stabs his sister.

ONE OF THE film's most engrossing scenes involves a girl (Loomis) lying in bed, waiting for her lover to return from his trip downstairs for a beer. Unknown to her, lover-boy has been lanced to the kitchen wall by the killer. The killer then appears in the doorway wearing a sheet with the boyfriend's glasses on. Once again, Carpenter makes the audience squirm with anticipation.

INVARIABLY, IT seems that movies involving horror or suspense can be classified in one of two categories. Some, like William Friedkin's "The Exorcist" and such recent Carpenter clones as "Friday the Thirteenth" and "Terror Train," wallow around, and eventually drown, in their own pretentiousness. Others, such as Hitchcock's classic "Psycho" and, more recently, Steven Spielberg's "Jaws" and Brian DePalma's "Dressed to Kill," examine their macabre subjects with a morbid sense of humor that entertains, rather than devastates, the audience.

John Carpenter's "Halloween" falls into the latter category. While this film will definitely have audiences screaming, if you listen closely, you can almost hear the snickers of Carpenter coming from behind the camera.

Campus Exchange

SERVICES

The Typewriter Shop 890-3414, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., typewriter rentals, sales and repairs.

THE TYPING SERVICE... Professional preparation of manuscripts, correspondence, resumes, reports, term papers and theses. Hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mon.-Fri. Call Marilyn Worsham, 459-5717.

WANTED

Need a female roommate to share house in Smyrna - Murfreesboro area. Call Lea Ann at 790-2906 anytime.

Psychic

(continued from page 1)

person that has strong psychic abilities, and they will be very friendly towards that person."

Mrs. Moore also has the ability to communicate with the dead. She has been in several seances.

"There are not any trance mediums in my group," Mrs. Moore said, referring to a group of her psychic friends who get together occasionally to practice their "art." Trance mediums, she explained, have the dead speak through them.

MRS. MOORE ADVISED children not to play around with seances because they can be very dangerous.

"When you call upon the spirits, you invite any and all spirits to come, and some spirits can be very dangerous."

"I don't agree with witchcraft," she added, "whether it is black or white."

SOME PEOPLE who have come to Mrs. Moore were afraid of being psychic, she said. They were frightened of their abilities.

"Being psychic doesn't mean

that you have to do something about it," she stated. "If you were given the gift, there is nothing you can do about it but be calm and relaxed and don't worry."

During my interview with Mrs. Moore, she pointed her finger at another MTSU student I had brought along and said, "I can tell that you are psychic."

"Don't deny your feelings. Just watch what you do with them," Mrs. Moore suggested. She said she believes it is important for everyone to pay attention to their "emotions."

She closed the interview by reading the palms of her two visitors.

She told me I would have a long life, get married three times and come into a "spectacular amount of money" in the future. My life will be interrupted, Mrs. Moore said, by an illness in my later years which I will be able to correct.

Mrs. Moore told the second MTSU student that she would be married twice, see much hardship and undergo a future illness that would not be correctable. But, in spite of all of this, Mrs. Moore assured the student that she will be very happy and have a steady career.

"The hard times that people have are really gifts of learning," she concluded.

Free Halloween Costume Party

Friday, Oct. 31

Door Prizes

Prizes for best costume
Live music by "No Excuse"

with special guest

Vassar Clements

Beginning Nov. 1 cover \$3,
with MTSU ID only \$2

Thursday, Friday, & Saturday 8 p.m. until?
Special guest artists appearing weekly

OX BOW RESTAURANT & LOUNGE

Sam Davis Road & Jefferson Pike (Smyrna)
459-4495

MAINSTREET MUSIC EMPORIUM

presents

A Halloween Masquerade Ball

\$3 with costume \$3.50 without costume

\$25 to the most revealing costume

\$25 to the best overall costume

Starting with A BUSCH PUSH
from 5-8 p.m. - Pitchers \$1.75

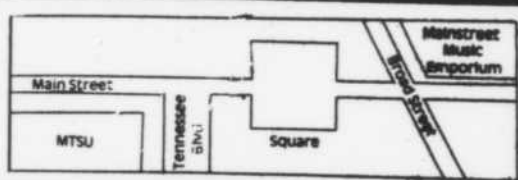
PRIZES & CONTEST

Band starts at 9 p.m.

Coming Events

November 4 - Rapture
November 5 - Fast Jack & The White Boys
November 7 & 8 - The Actuals
November 11 - Bandera
November 13 - The Piggy's
November 14 - Dave Perkins with The Piggy's
November 15 - Anderson Chance Band

527 W. Main St.
Murfreesboro, Tn. 37132
Phone: 890-7820
Happy Hour 4-7 Pitcher \$2.25



WANTED:

PEOPLE

CRAZY

FOR

MONEY



Contact

Sidelines Advertising Department
Student Union Building - Office 310
Monday Thru Friday 1p.m. - 5p.m.

Earl's Fruit Stand sells the big 'uns

By BILL WARD
Sidelines Staff Writer

Linus would have had a field day at Earl's Fruit Stand this month.

After all, where else could he stand among a few thousand pumpkins of all shapes and sizes and perhaps find success in his lonesome, long-running search for that infamous Halloween deity, the Great Pumpkin?

Indeed, if the Great Pumpkin were to make Middle Tennessee his (her?) home, it would likely be at Earl's, a Franklin landmark where more than 10,000 prospective jack-o'-lanterns are sold every year.

Farmers from Indiana and Kentucky, as well as Williamson County, begin to bring in the gourdlike fruits "around the first of October, and we buy 'em up until about a week before Halloween," according to proprietor Earl Tywater.

"WE SOLD more pumpkins this year than ever before. Even the big 'uns sold well," he chuckles, pointing at a half dozen oversized pumpkins, some of them a full five feet in girth.

It's the gigantic ones, such as a couple of 356-pounders this year, that draw a lot of folks into the Franklin Road store. Although Earl won't reveal where they are grown ("up the river" is all he'll allow), he's definitely happy with the way they sell.

"People come from Louisville, Atlanta, Memphis, all over to buy those big fellas," the gregarious, fortyish storekeeper says. "The meat is just as tender and sometimes even more than in the smaller ones.

"And you wouldn't believe what some people do with them," he continues. "They make punchbowls, put 'witches

brew' in 'em. One woman even served chili out of one."

IN ADDITION, the overgrown pumpkins have gotten Earl's picture on the Associated Press wire a couple of times in recent years, and they draw customers and curiosity-seekers.

"An awful lot of folks stop to ask about them and end up buying some of the other stuff," Earl says, pointing at the bushelbaskets of peanuts, peas, sweet potatoes, corn and sundry other farm-grown vegetables.

Although October, which is harvest season as well as Halloween time, is Earl's busiest month, he says he does a fairly brisk business year-round.

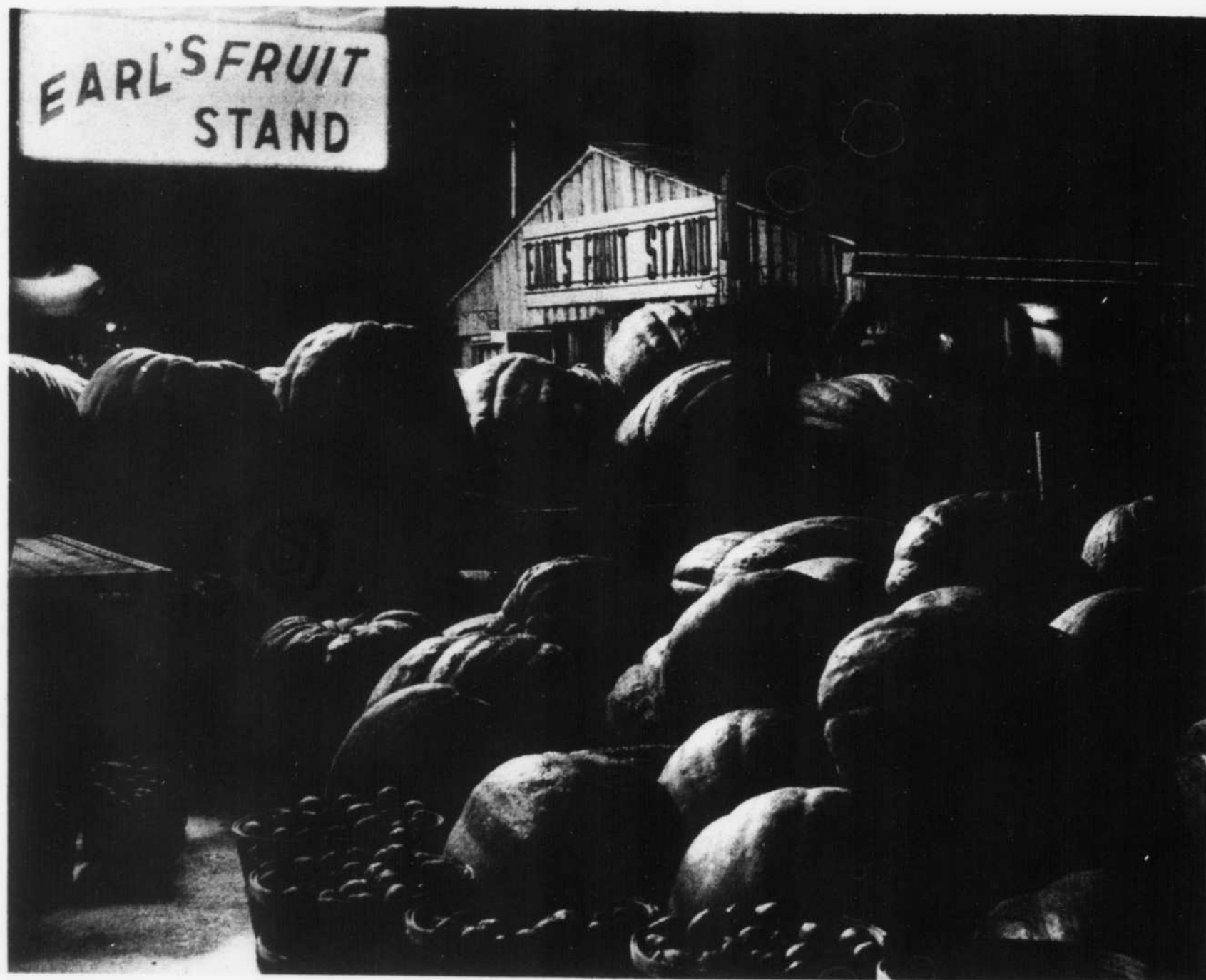
"We specialize in produce and plants, but we serve as more or less a general store in the winter," Earl notes, "and of course, the honey and molasses always move well."

HE MUST BE moving a lot of items, for he recently moved from a ramshackle old shanty into a newer, but still homey, building a few feet away. The old baskets and wooden shelves, not to mention Earl's down-home, laid-back nature, enhance the country-store atmosphere.

"Yep, we get all kinds of folks from all over the place comin' in," Earl notes. "If there's a bigger pumpkin dealer in middle Tennessee, I don't know about him."

Then the stocky, overall-clad gent stands and points to the gigantic gourds in front of the store.

"Ya know, we try to keep those big 'uns out there into the winter," the midstate's premier pumpkin pusher pauses and pontificates. "I kinda like to think the Great Pumpkin may just visit from time to time."



Horrendous history of Halloween

By GILES WALLABY

Special to Sidelines

Ah—Halloween.

Call it what you will: Hallowe'en, Hallowed Evening or All Hallow's Eve. By any other name it would surely sound (and smell) as sweet.

On Halloween—the 31st day of October—a lonely Linus awaits the ascent of the Great Pumpkin; Ichabod Crane flees the fabled headless horseman; and the ghoulish horror film by John Carpenter is resurrected on cinema screens across the land.

YES, IT IS also true that five-and-dimes and costume supply houses make a bundle, Hallmark Cards hits pay dirt, and distributors of American International Pictures horror flicks make a killing (pardon the pun).

And they owe it all to the Druids.

The Druids—that motley order of Celtic priests and sorcerers who studied the stars and venerated nature—used to hold a great autumn festival at midnight on All Hallow's Eve, believing that on this night Saman, the great Lord of Death, summoned all the wicked souls that had been condemned over the past year to inhabit the bodies of animals. These beastlike spirits were free to prowl the countryside for 48 hours from All Hallow's Eve through All Saints' Day (Nov. 1)—and the disconsolate Druids,

for this reason, lit huge bonfires and kept a sharp lookout.

ALTHOUGH THE Druids were later outlawed during the centuries of Roman rule in Great Britain, a number of their rites survived even to the present time. In Ireland, for example, it was believed that evil spirits emerged from the Cave of Cruachan in Connaught (the gate of hell) on the eve of Samhain (Nov. 1), or summer's end. Faeries, too, were thought to be more powerful during this Vigil of Samhain (or Saman) than at any other time.

Ireland was also responsible for the genesis of Jack-o'-lanterns, which derive from a folktale about a stingy Irishman named Jack. Jack was barred from heaven, it seems, because of his penuriousness, but also forbidden to enter hell because of a host of practical jokes he played on the devil. Consequently, he was condemned to walk the earth carrying only his lantern until the Day of Judgment.

SCOTTISH CLANS observed, to some degree, a number of these old Irish customs, and in the 18th century Highland families carried lighted torches into the fields on Oct. 31 and marched about from left to right in the belief that good crops would be ensured for the year to come. At dusk, they took all their torches



home and heaped them together for a huge bonfire.

Scottish children, following their Irish peers, made Jack-o'-lanterns as well, carving large turnips and propping candles inside.

But who originated the custom of "trick or treating" and dressing in weird masks and costumes on Halloween?

THEORIES ABOUND. Some scholars maintain that masquerading on Oct. 31 is derived from the medieval practice of celebrating All Hallow's Day with a procession around the church—for which the local populace often dressed as angels, patron saints and even devils.

Others claim that the contemporary custom of trick or treating stems from an ancient Irish practice whereby groups of peasants went from house to house on Halloween asking for money with which to purchase luxuries for a feast. (Prosperity was assured to those who gave liberally, and threats were voiced against the stingy).

Then, too, the custom of masquerading may have derived from the "penny for the Guy" practice in England on Guy Fawkes Day (Nov. 5)—commemorating the foiling of the 1605 Gunpowder Plot to blow up Parliament and King James I—which included

begging and dressing up in costumes.

OR, EVEN MORE likely, trick or treating may have sprung from the English custom of "souling" or "soul-caking," when Englishmen went around on All Saints' Day (Nov. 1) to beg for soul cakes—square buns with currants—in remembrance of the dead.

Well, whatever.

When families from the Old World began to sail the Atlantic to America, they didn't hesitate to bring their Halloween customs right along with them—which, having survived in a multitude of variations, culminated in the national obsession with games, divinations, parties, pumpkin carving, candy begging, cider swigging, window soaping, werewolf watching, Mussorgsky melodizing and Great Pumpkin conjuring.

Halloween, then—that night of demons and devils, goblins and ghouls, pixies and poltergeists, beelzebubs and boogeymen—whatever its otherworldly origins, doth inflame the imagination like no other holiday.

As Prince Hamlet would have it:

*'Tis now the very witching time of night
When churchyards yawn and hell itself breathes out
Contagion to this world.*

Ghosts, goblins sport chic freak fashions

By MONICA KIMBALL
Sidelines Fashion Editor

On Oct. 31 of every year, sightings of ghosts, goblins and witches are inevitable all over the world in celebration of All Hallow's Eve. This year the Halloween fashions worn by these creatures of the night are more chic than ever before.

More black is being worn by witches, and pointed-toe shoes are especially important for evenings.

The president has called for smaller, more fuel efficient brooms, which can look very sporty with a racing stripe down the handle. Pointed hats will make any night on the town a special occasion.

Werewolves are choosing more inexpensive styles of clothing with a greater

longevity, and hair is being worn shorter. Wolfmen and women should remember that long hair on the hands was in style in the late 60s and early 70s, but with the onset of the 80s, has gone out.

The classic tuxedo, always in style for vampires, is making it's annual appearance around campus this Halloween. Although black and other dark colors have always been preferred by blood-drinking fiends, soft, natural shades are a refreshing change in social circles. Red, always a favorite, is especially popular.

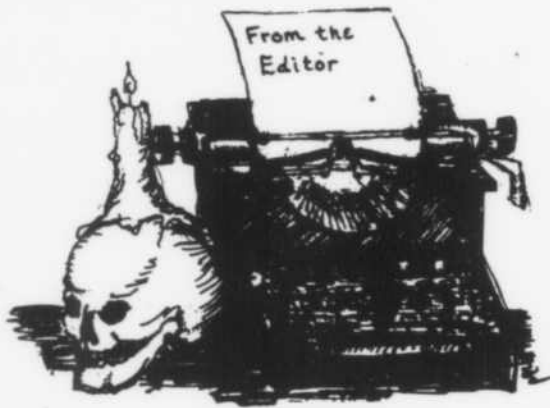
The right accessories can make ghosts' sheets anything but dull, dressing it up or down, depending on the particular spectres mood. Although plain white for nighttime has always been considered proper, more stripes and floral designs are being worn by more daring spirits.

Sheets are shorter, and some predict the "mini" will come back by next year; however, for the full-figured ghost pleated sheets are more fashionable than those cut to fit closer to the "body."

This Halloween more members of the ghoulish persuasion are becoming fashion-minded and are really caring about the impression they leave, or, maybe, don't leave.

Photos By
Craig Smith
Mark Holland
&
Stuart Marshall





Campaign: Coverage by news media lacking

Now is the time for all good citizens to make the decision. In less than a week, voters will go to the polls to determine which candidate will seize the final fruit and occupy the White House for the next four years.

The question we should be concerned about in these last few days is: do we really know what we are bargaining for in this election year?

I fear that many of us do not. An estimated 75 million Americans of voting age will not bother to go to the polls on Nov. 4.

My initial instincts tell me to denounce those that will stay-at-home for their apparent indifference. However, maybe something can be gained if we examine why these potential voters will not make an effort at participating in the selection of a president.

These people will not vote for a variety of reasons, but there are some general principles that apply to them all.

They will not vote because they don't care, because they don't trust the system, because they are out of the system—or perhaps because they don't understand just what is at stake.

The issues that are of importance to most of these 75 million non-voters are the issues that have not received necessary emphasis by newspapers, magazines and television.

Rather, the mass media insists on concentrating on the novel, the spectacular—that which makes headlines in the paper or gets two minutes air time on the nightly news.

The news media is not entirely to blame for the failure to concentrate on the substantive though, as the candidates and their image makers are also responsible.

The combination of a press eager for flashy news features and candidates concerned about only image has resulted in a campaign full of evasive rhetoric and cajolery.

How are we to make decisions as to who should serve in public office when the issues are so muddled?

What is required of the conscientious voter/citizen is a determination to cut through the haze of confusion and somehow gain a true understanding of the differences in the candidates. This is unfortunate, because our system should operate in such a way that the media presents voters with relevant and substantial information about the candidates.

What ultimately occurs is this: the political campaigns are aimed at specific special interests, instead of toward the masses.

Perhaps the most dangerous possibility is that the press and the rest of the mass media in this country will become one of those "special interests"—instead of being a spokesman for the people.

Steve Spann

Sidelines

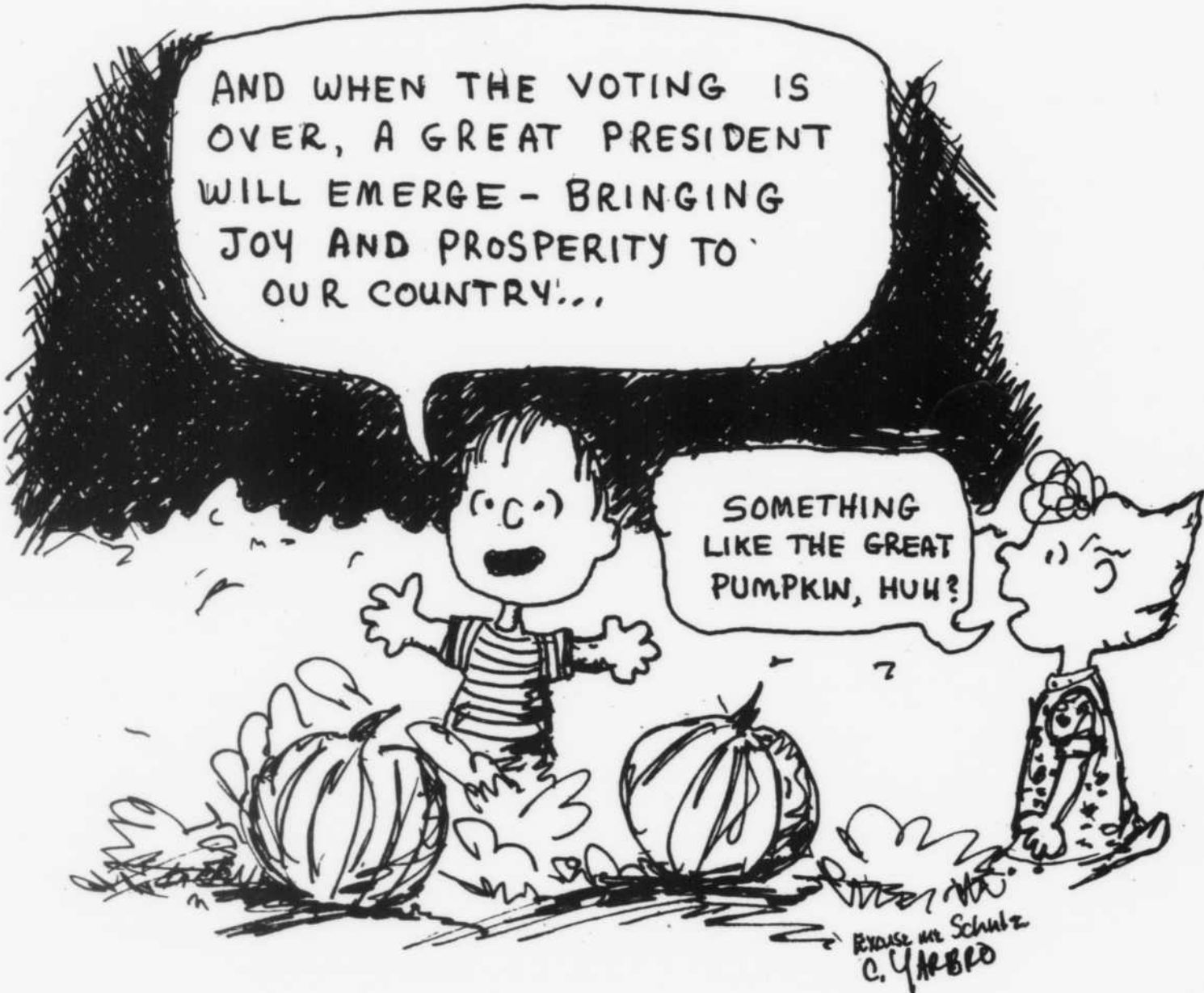
| | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Angie Galloway Vacationing Editor | Carol A. Stuart Sports Editor |
| Renee Vaughn Editor in Charge | Don Harris Photography Editor |
| Steve Spann Editorial Editor | Liz Thompson Copy Editor |
| Mark Bradley Advertising Manager | David Badger Adviser |
| | Kevin Lowder Production Manager |

Sidelines is published every Tuesday and Friday by the students of Middle Tennessee State University. Editorials and columns reflect the opinions of their authors and not those of the MTSU administration, faculty or staff.

Letters Policy

Sidelines welcomes all letters to the editor. Letters must include the author's name, MTSU box number and telephone number. The telephone number will be used for verification purposes only and will not be printed with the letter. Names will be withheld upon request. We reserve the right to edit all copy for space, grammar and libelous content. Sidelines will give priority to those letters which are in disagreement with our stated opinions. Please address all letters and other inquiries to: Sidelines, MTSU Box 42, or come by our newsroom on the third floor of the James Union Building.

Viewpoints



and so it goes
New presidential word games
by Jeff Bauer

... LOOKING BACK on the Reagan/Carter debate and wondering if it was really worth watching. The debate lasted an hour and a half with each candidate regurgitating essentially what he has been saying for the past nine months. The Witch Doctor still hoping that Ronald McDonald Reagan would make faux pas number 312. This time in front of fifty million viewers.

Meanwhile back at the ranch Ronnie makes it perfectly clear that he has no idea what President Carter's foreign policy is. Nor does the rest of the world, for that matter.

The verbal gangrene continued to get passed back and forth between these ostensibly grown men. Most of us consider writing nasty letters to the networks with one question in mind: Why did this debate preempt America Goes Bananas?

WHY INDEED. Many of us never noticed the schedule change. Some of us never will.

Instead, I wrote a very nice letter to the American League of Women Voters. What follows:

Dear Women of American League Voters,

In the interest of saving time and trouble I would like, to request that in the future certain

guidelines be enforced for presidential debates. First, I think that asking the candidates essay-type questions during a debate is not fair or even reasonable. I mean, like you could ask the guy about inflation, unemployment, foreign policy, or anything. And there he is, the poor man standing in front of sixty billion viewers—don't think the Chinese aren't watching this (what else have they got to do?) and he has to rack his brain for an answer right then and there. Without an Almanac or anything.

Secondly, I propose that you replace the difficult essay-type questions with either True/False or Multiple Choice questions. This would make it much easier for a candidate to express his or her views. I have even submitted for your approval a list of sample questions that you might ask a presidential candidate.

MULTIPLE CHOICE:

1. Do you favor unemployment?
a. Yes.
b. No.
c. Only where it will do the most good.

2. How would you decrease inflation?
a. Increase taxes.
b. Decrease taxes.

3. How would you decrease taxes?
a. Increase inflation.
b. Decrease inflation.

4. If some little doodle-squat country from the Persian Gulf were to storm the U.S. embassy and kidnap over fifty American hostages, what would you do?
a. Cut off diplomatic ties, write uncomplimentary letters, pray, and make useless appeals to the World Court.
b. Send an abortive rescue mission.
c. Nuke them until they glow.

5. If the price of gasoline was outrageously high, what would you do?
a. Raise the price of gas by ten cents per gallon.
b. Deregulate the oil companies and let them charge whatever they feel like making the consumer pay.

6. Do you approve of our involvement in Vietnam which resulted in the wholesale slaughter of hundreds of civilians?
a. Yes.
b. No.
c. Only where it did the most good.

7. Do you promise, if elected,

to keep all of your campaign promises?
a. Yes. Of course. Seriously?
b. Only if I really meant it when I actually said them.
c. No comment.

8. Can you honestly look back on your past record and consider yourself a serious presidential candidate?
a. No.
b. No.

TRUE OR FALSE:

1. Unemployment happens when people can't find jobs.
2. The Shah of Iran was loved by his people.
3. Russia has its own army and navy.
4. American morality should be defined and enforced by the government.
5. A Misery Index of twenty isn't as bad as it sounds.

I would like to see these type of questions implemented in the next presidential debate, or at least by the year 1996. Thank you.

Yours truly,
Jeff Bauer
Presidential candidate-to-be, 1996.

Historical perspective on Halloween offers birth, politics and death

Since working at Sidelines, I have been granted total access to the entire world of almanacs and other resource books. My fascination with such books reached a peak recently when I discovered that on my birthday in 4004 B.C., the earth was created (according to James Ussher, 17th Century Irish churchman).

So I thought it would be worthwhile to examine just what has happened on Halloween

over the last few centuries or so.
1512: Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel ceiling unveiled
1517: Luther nailed his 95 Theses on the Church door
1776: British fell back from the Battle of White Plains (New York) because of a storm
1791: National Gazette newspaper founded
1861: Missouri seceded from the Union
1864: Nevada became a state
1887: Generalissimo Chiang

Kai-Shek, Chinese statesman, born
1928: Graf Zeppelin arrived in Friedrichshafen, Germany, from U.S.
1941: U.S. destroyer Reuben James torpedoed in the North Atlantic
1949: Phillipine Islands hit by a typhoon
1960: Crown Prince Reza Pahlavi of Iran born
1968: Ramon Novarro, silent screen star, murdered

Perspective

retrospect

Fiendish Dick Nixon still haunts

by Dennis Myers

REMEMBER THE days of Watergate, the Pentagon Papers and illegal FBI break-ins? Well those days are being relived in the current trial of W. Mark Felt and Edward S. Miller, formerly second and third in command of the FBI during the reign of Richard Nixon.

The ex-president is testifying at their trial and is exemplifying the calloused disregard for personal liberty he displayed during his presidency.

Using such catch-all phrases like "things were quite different then," and "We were at war" to justify the "black-bag" break-ins conducted by Felt and Miller, Nixon justifies the illegal FBI actions as necessary.

CLEARLY NIXON'S reproachful conduct toward the law, among other factors, led to new Justice Department guidelines requiring that the Attorney General approve

clandestine operations case by case.

Some of Nixon's points concerning war, and the conduct of covert surveillance deserve merit—some do not.

The history of Watergate and the legacy of former president Nixon must cause one to question his ability to assess a situation honestly.

This is the major concern when giving the president the power of ordering, or condoning, such actions—when is he acting honestly to benefit of the country, and when is he acting out of selfish interests?

The dangers inherent in vesting such power to the president is clearly illustrated in Nixon's past. There is a fine line between necessary restraints on a free society and a fascist state.

BUT IN THE case of Felt and Miller, the president was unaware of their actions—even

then-FBI Director L. Patrick Gray was unaware of their actions.

However, in a story appearing in Thursday's *Tennessean*, Nixon backs the "black-bag" break-ins conducted by Felt and Miller during the 1970s. Condoning such action is tantamount to condoning a police state.

No FBI, or other government agent should be allowed to conduct arbitrary break-ins whenever they feel the urge. For a president of the United States to condone such action is absurd.

PERHAPS MR. NIXON forgot he was sworn in to uphold the Constitution—not to rewrite it. The fact that Mr. Nixon's approval of such action may prejudice the jury in this case is terrifying.

It appears, at least to Nixon and a few of his cronies at the

FBI, that constitutional guarantees are secondary to police concerns. By definition the Constitution is the supreme law of the land. The audacity of a public servant to circumvent this law at will is unequalled.

We cannot allow those who are sworn to uphold the laws of this land to conduct illegal break-ins, wiretaps, or any covert search and seizure without the proper warrant.

The argument circumventing constitutional guides in this area is expedience.

WE CANNOT return to the days of Cicero when justice was the whim of the ruler, or the commonality of the times. Political development has come too far in the last 700 years to return to medieval methodology.

If laws are intended to be obeyed, then they must be obeyed by all—not just those who do not have the power to scoff at them. This is a lesson Nixon has not yet learned.

twilight zone

Pollution means decadence and depravity

by Rick Simule

ALL AROUND us pollution is on the increase—in the air, the water and on the land. Pollution is described as the act or process of making our surroundings unhealthy by waste output.

An increasing concern about the pollution problem is well justified. But concern alone will not alleviate the problem. Soon, perhaps too soon, man will reach the pollution barrier—the limit beyond which there will be irreversible catastrophe.

Scientists worry that what is said to be the world's most industrialized nation is moving

towards its deadline for choosing between today's comforts and tomorrow's survival. Evidence is mounting steadily that shows unless we clean up our environment, then our health, mental well-being and life expectancy are at stake.

WHO IS TO blame for endangering an entire population?

Some have blamed specific industries, while others choose to blame our complex technology. However, I must agree with Pogo: "We have met the enemy, and he is us."

But, I feel that we have a good

chance of defeating the enemy. Unfortunately, environmental protection has not been a predominant issue in the presidential campaign. Carter stated in 1976 that he was a strong advocate of protecting our environment from harmful substances. But how does this support help us rid the environment of existing pollution?

Ronald Reagan says that the majority of pollution comes from trees.

I rest my case.

UNTIL WE GET our heads turned around and facing

forward, we cannot expect our political leaders to do much more than talk. Waste disposal and ocean dumping may not be glamorous issues, but they are essential issues and should be dealt with immediately.

Man need not sit idle and let the pollution barrier suddenly appear on the horizon. There is no reason to wait until all hope is lost and the only option is to stand up in a futile act of desperation. It may be true that we have met our enemy, but I say again that we can defeat this enemy—if we can rid ourselves of pollution.

from our readers

Elevator abuse uncalled for

To the editor:

I have recently become aware of a problem that exists concerning the use of the elevator at Peck Hall. I assist a handicapped person to class on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Many times we have been so crowded on the elevator that we were almost unable to move, and usually it was full of people who were capable of using the stairs. Other times I have seen the elevator so full of non-handicapped people that handicapped people who needed to use the elevator were left out in the hall.

Granted, when someone is injured they should use the elevator. I am not ignoring temporary injuries such as broken legs, etc. However, many people who don't have to use the elevator prevent handicapped people from using it. I feel this is very unfair to those who need the elevator.

People should be more considerate when they are thinking about using the elevator at Peck Hall.

Sharon Nunnery
Box 8824

Recent 'Collage' receives criticism on all fronts; blame mainly placed on the student body

To the editor:

The idea of an art/literary magazine is an excellent one. It provides a medium through which college students can publish their works. It also provides proof of one's skills to future employers. However, one would almost be ashamed to

appear in the "creative magazine of MTSU."

The quality of the short stories and poetry in this publication must be among the poorest ever to be printed by a student body. Is this not a university, an institution of higher learning? After reading "Collage" one

would believe more that this is an overgrown and bogus high school.

The poems are reminiscent of poetry that an adolescent boy, in the throes of young passion, would write to a pre-pubescent schoolgirl.

As for the layout and the artwork contained in this magazine, it is up to par with the literature. The graphics is spotted by several dropped columns that detract from the already poor compositions. Any attempt to pull the magazine together is a failure. The unifying line is broken up on several pages (e.g. page 15).

Perhaps the fault lies within the student body. Must the editor beg students for contributions? Are there no qualified people to work on the production staff? I cannot understand why more people do not compete and have their works appear in print. However, if the basic quality were better, then better writers and artists would be inclined to submit their work. Need I say more.

Nancy Woodson
c/o Kelly Lambert
Box 4307



only in america

by Mike Kopp

Veterans bitter

H. G. Gordon is a Vietnam veteran. A Bronze Star Medal hangs crooked on a paint-chipped wall over his bed in a two-room apartment in Washington, D.C. It serves as a reminder of an honorable discharge and recognition for service in the 586th Engineer Battalion in 1967 and 1968.

IN A MOMENT of compassion his country remembered him as he was carried off a plane, 40 percent disabled because of a Viet Cong sniper's bullet. But now he feels forgotten.

H. G. Gordon is one of a million Vietnam veterans out of work in the United States. But there's more depth to his bitterness.

"What honor is there in pardoning the draft evaders back in 1976 . . . or what about the cuts in the Veterans' Administration's budget . . . those cuts have eliminated 10,000 beds in VA hospitals," said Gordon.

H. G. Gordon's anger has burned into hatred . . . a hatred of the government bureaucracy . . . a hatred aimed at the current administration. And H. G. Gordon is not the only one who feels this hatred.

"THE WOUNDS suffered by veterans of Vietnam haven't healed, they've become gangrenous."

Stanley Sullivan served with the Fourth Marine Division in 1970. He holds the Navy Achievement Medal and is currently a reserve officer.

"We saw more pain and suffering in the fight with civilians and soldiers in Vietnam than can be recorded in the history books," remarked Sullivan.

"It was tragic," he says choking to fight back tears. "There were no bands—or parades for us when we came back . . . only demonstrations and unrest among our countrymen."

"AND NOW we Vietnam veterans are left jobless—fighting the war of pride within ourselves to become somebody and to make something out of what's left of our lives."

On October 17, a Veteran's Bill was signed under the lights of television cameras in the White House Cabinet room. The bill includes a program helping seriously handicapped veterans to become more self-sufficient, a 17 percent increase in subsistence allowance for rehabilitation training and a 10 percent increase in educational assistance allowances. All of these measures are positive steps.

"It's hypocrisy to recommend a meager 10 percent increase in the G.I. Bill during an election year. It's been the first acknowledgement of our need by the government since 1977," a veteran has remarked.

An Infantry Platoon Leader with the Second Air Cavalry in 1966 who currently serves as a reserve officer and has a Purple Heart says Vietnam veterans do not need election year promises, but instead need long-term programs.

THE CURRENT administration is responsible for the establishment of the HIRE (Helping through Industry Retraining and Employment) program as part of an economic stimulus.

"The HIRE program was aimed at placing 100,000 Vietnam veterans in jobs in the private sector," said R. Smith, a veteran who holds the Bronze Star and Army Commendation Medal for his service during 1966 and 1967.

"A great idea this HIRE program, if only the government hadn't diverted \$100 million out of its \$140 million to another government service."

"Of the \$40 million left, only a portion actually went to assist veterans, as the Department of Labor chose to loosen eligibility of the program so that non-veterans got the big share of the 843 jobs created."

"It's the damned string-pullers that sneak these moves around the veterans. We find out when we line up to try for these jobs."

THESE characters have shared the bitterness of being forgotten by a country they fought for in a war no one liked.

Their identities are fictitious, but their problems are real. Call it exploitation, call it sincere concern, but at any rate the theme of paying back the Vietnam War veterans plays its notes on this year's campaign trail. The government believes it's worked hard in their behalf, but many veterans believe they've been neglected and forgotten.

THE PAINS etched on pages of that tragic chapter in our history have since become faded, and without reopening the healed wounds, it's time to remember.

Mike Kopp is a senior broadcast journalism major from San Antonio. He is a former Mr. MTSU and is currently working on a internship in Washington, D.C.

Junior 'bugs' students

By ERIC STEINBERG
Staff Writer

Students from Smith Hall, accompanied by Junior the cockroach, visited the Office of University Housing recently in search of relief from the overcrowded conditions caused by Junior and his friends.

"I'm not going to touch him," said dorm resident Eric Manneschildt, referring to the one-and-a-half-inch cockroach. "I had one just like him chase me down the hall."

THE STUDENTS are complaining that there is not enough room in the dorms for both of them (the roaches and the students) and, if somebody doesn't come to the rescue quickly, it looks as though the students are going to have to move out.

Out of desperation, Smith Hall residents have suggested ways to involve the roaches in their extra-curricular activities.

"How about roach races or a roach rodeo?" said Ray Renner, the self-styled coordinator of roach activities at Smith Hall. "Or we could put a saddle on them and ride 'em to class—a good solution to the energy shortage."

Other sources have suggested holding a Roach of the Year contest for the best-looking roach on campus.

THE OFFICE of University Housing was not aware that Smith Hall was having a problem with their roaches.

Sources in the university housing office told *Sidelines* they would check with the dorm supervisor and, if there was a problem with Smith Hall's roaches, they would take care of it.

"If there wasn't a problem, we wouldn't have gone over there [with Junior] in the first place," Renner asserted.

Junior is currently being locked up for his own protection in a Taster's Choice coffee jar and will be on exhibit for the next week in the *Sidelines* office.

Any campus organization in need of a mascot and able to provide Junior with a good home may contact this newspaper to make arrangements. Junior is single. He cannot be used for Thanksgiving Dinner or for cock(roach) fights.

Buffett is back (or nearly so) to wonderful waffle heaven

By KAT BAILEY
Special to *Sidelines*

Once, while gazing at the ceiling in Murphy Center during a concert, singer-songwriter Jimmy Buffett delivered this famous line: "I feel like I'm in waffle heaven."

That concert was two years ago, and Jimmy's finally back. Well, in the general vicinity, anyway. (He'll be appearing at the Grand Ole Opry House Sunday at 8 p.m.) So he'll miss us by 32 miles; he's still near enough, to make you want to go sailing or get drunk (and caterwaul).

Jimmy Buffett's music has definitely had an effect on Tennessee's popular music enthusiasts. Buffett's last album, "Volcano," was something to behold. The charming tune "Chanson Pour Les Petits Enfants" and touching song "Sending the Old Man Home" make the album a treasure.

BUFFETT HAS had a lot of experience in writing catchy phrases: he used to work as a billboard writer around Nashville.

Born in Mobile, Ala., he is the

quintessential beach bum, singing songs of leisure and partying. While known primarily for his rowdy party songs, Buffett provides his finest moments in his ballads.

Like most songwriters, his laments of the lonely life on the road are the springboard for his ballads. The high point of his career is his album "Changes in Latitude, Changes in Attitude," with such standouts as the title cut, "Lovely Cruise," "Banana Republic," as well as his theme song "Margaritaville."

TO CAPTURE the true Buffett, you should pick up "You Had To Be There." This live album captures the true rowdiness and bawdy humor of his concert.

The Coral Reefer Band that usually accompanies Buffett on his tour won't be with him this trip. His Opry House performance will be an all-acoustic set.

Everyone who saw Buffett's concert here two years ago knows how entertaining he is. Those wise enough to catch him this time around will find out, too.

Carter wins campus poll

A poll of 155 students and faculty by MTSU newswriting classes after the presidential debate proved that this is still Carter country.

Contradicting a nationwide ABC poll which gave Ronald Reagan a 67 percent victory margin, the MTSU poll gave Carter a 38.7 percent win over Reagan's 30.9 percent. A big factor seems to be that 29.4 percent of the people polled are either undecided or they considered the debate to be a draw. Many persons polled stated they felt neither candidate made any definite statements concerning the issues presented.

Deadline for submission of applications for Editor in Chief of *Sidelines* for Spring Semester is Friday, Nov. 7, 1980, at noon.

Interested candidates should contact Ann De Jarnatt, Publications Secretary Room 300B, JUB, Box 42, Phone: 898-2917



photo by Stuart Marshall

Junior the cockroach and a host of his buddies found a home in Smith Hall. The student residents have asked the housing office for relief from the resulting "overcrowded conditions."

Ghostly apparition on Chapel Hill swings amber light for MTSU students

By CATHY PURDOM
Sidelines Staff Writer

If ghostly apparitions are supposed to take on human characteristics, then the Chapel Hill ghost light has a strange one indeed—that of schizophrenia.

Stories about the light are as diverse as the people who tell them. Some stories claim that it's just a plain white light in the distance that remains stationary.

"It just looked like a train light, but it wasn't going around like train lights do," Kathy Kirby, a senior from Nashville, majoring in office management, said.

"It didn't come toward us, and we couldn't hear a train," Kirby continued. "I'm not sure it was the light, because we went looking for it, and, you know, when you look for something like that you tend to imagine seeing it."

Maybe so, but that story has been supported.

"It came toward the car from one side, then it disappeared and we saw it go down the tracks on the other side," Suzanne Bradford, a senior from Chattanooga said.

The most popular story, however, is that of the Chapel Hill ghost light casting an amber, swaying apparition.

"About 12 or 13 of us went around midnight, and we saw a small light, not like a flashlight or a car light," Valerie Rixie, a senior medical technology major from Chattanooga, said.

"It would swing from left to right in a slightly downward arch," Rixie continued. "We walked toward it for a mile or two, but couldn't get any closer to it. We saw it a good eight or ten times."

The tale behind the Chapel Hill light is an eerie one.

"This old man who worked for the railroad was walking down the tracks one night inspecting them with a lantern," Susan Taylor, a senior advertising major from Chapel Hill claimed.

"A train came, which he did not hear, and ran over him, cutting off his head. Therefore, the light that swings along the track is the lantern of the man looking for his head," Taylor continued.

'Unique' musicians perform Monday in UC Theatre

The MTSU Special Events Committee will present Alice Gerrard and Mike Seeger in a free concert at noon Monday in the U.C. Theatre.

Gerrard and Seeger perform and sing traditional American music in the Southeastern tradition. Their concerts include miners' songs, bluegrass, country ragtime, love ballads, novelties and old dance tunes.

The scope of their music includes unaccompanied singing, instrumentals and songs accompanied by guitar, banjo, autoharp, fiddle, mandolin, jews harp, pan pipes and harmonica.

The pair has a self-styled "unique approach" to repertoire and style, and they write many of their own songs.

The duo plans to present "a relaxed and entertaining program," focusing on music performed together as well as solo. Love and respect for the music they play and sing are apparent in the great variety of songs, ballads, blues, dance tunes and instrumentals scheduled for Monday's concert.

New Sicilian Topper

More Cheese.
More Crust.
More Taste.
More Pizza.

Dine In or Carry Out

\$9.99 Pizza Feast (up to \$17.00 value)
For only \$9.99 you get 2 pizzas, a giant Sicilian Topper Pizza and your choice of a medium Sicilian Topper or Original Thin Crust, plus up to 4 large soft drinks. Present this coupon with guest check.
Not valid with any other offer.
Expiration Date: Nov. 7, 1980

Pizza Inn
You get More of the Things you Love.

Riverdale H.S. Band

is now taking orders for Indian River Brand Citrus Fruit.
Delivery Date is Dec. 12-13.

| | Carton | 1/2 Carton |
|----------------|---------|------------|
| Navel Oranges | \$12 | \$6.50 |
| Red Grapefruit | \$11.50 | \$6.50 |
| Tangelos | \$11 | \$6 |
| Hamlin Oranges | \$11 | \$6 |

To place your order call Sylvia Jones, Box 13, MTSU, or 896-1669.

Deadline for submission of applications for Editor in Chief of *Sidelines* for Spring Semester is Friday, Nov. 7, 1980, at noon.

Interested candidates should contact Ann De Jarnatt, Publications Secretary Room 300B, JUB, Box 42, Phone: 898-2917

Saturday Special

11:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M.
1/4 POUND*
*Pre-Cooked Wt.

Sirloin Steak

Baked Potato or French Fries and TASTY TOAST

139

Reg. 2.49

Western Sizzlin'

Flamekist Steaks

NASHVILLE—MURFREESBORO

CAN YOU DRAW?

or write short stories, poetry, essays, paint, photograph interesting subjects, or anything creative (that can be printed)

COLLAGE

WANTS YOU

Deadline for Dec. issue is Nov. 12
send your submissions to Box 61

Volleyballers fall at home

By CAROL A. STUART
Sidelines Sports Editor

Middle Tennessee's women's volleyball team was the victim of an Austin Peay and UT-Chattanooga conspiracy here last night.

The Lady Raiders dropped two matches in Alumni Gym against the visiting Lady Governors and the Mocettes but managed to extend each match to three games.

Austin Peay came out swinging against the Lady Raiders, totally surprising them, and chalked up the first game with a 15-3 score.

Middle Tennessee finally got its offense going against the Lady Gobs in the second game, and evened the match with a 15-8 game victory. Sophomore Arlene Hale's blocks provided MTSU with a strong defense.

The third game, however,

clearly belonged to Austin Peay. The Lady Gobs pulled away from an 8-7 contest, taking advantage of bad passes by Middle Tennessee to take the game and match 15-7.

"When you are forced to play defensive ball, the other team gets to attack," MTSU coach Beth Glass said. "We should be able to attack."

Middle Tennessee started off the next match of the triangular

with UT-Chattanooga in the same manner as the match with Austin Peay.

The Lady Mocs quickly edged out to a 6-2 lead, before winning the game 15-7. Nothing went right for the Lady Raiders—the blocks weren't there, the coverage was missing, and the serves went into the net.

MTSU came back for blood in the second game against the rival Lady Mocs. With the superb spiking of Jackie McReynolds, a two-time All-Stater, the Lady Raiders drubbed UTC 15-4.

UT-Chattanooga came alive, though, in the final game to down MTSU 15-10. Kathy Zachry, a UTC transfer, rallied the Lady Raiders to an 8-7 lead at one point in the ballgame.

"We didn't play well at all

tonight [Thursday] or last night [Wednesday]," Glass said. "We had a couple of people who played well—Jill Carroll and Kathy Zachry."

"It has to be consistent, though," Glass continued, "from the time they blow the whistle until the very end."

The Lady Raiders travel to UT-Martin today for a weekend tournament that includes the University of the South and the Mississippi University for Women.

Middle Tennessee fell to Tennessee Tech Wednesday night at home while defeating Trevecca Nazarene College. Sophomore setter Asaji Komatsu from Toyko, Japan, suffered a head cut above the eye during the match with Tech.



Austin Peay defenders cover the net as Lady Raider team captain Jill Carroll spikes and teammate Kathy Zachry awaits the return during last night's match.

Western-Morehead televised on ABC

By BOB GARY
Sidelines Sports Writer

Ohio Valley Conference football will take another step forward this weekend when the Western Kentucky-Morehead State football game is televised on the ABC network.

This will make the second time in two weeks that an OVC contest has made the small screen. Last week's Western-Eastern Kentucky clash was carried on a tape-delay basis by the Entertainment and Sports Programming Network (ESPN).

This will be the fifth OVC game over the past two seasons to be televised on a regional basis on cable or network.

As for the game itself, it promises to be interesting. Western is coming off a 13-10 win over Eastern which solidified the Hilltoppers claim as the chief challengers to Murray State for OVC supremacy.

On the other hand, Morehead's last outing was an extremely disappointing 31-29 loss to Tennessee Tech in a game which saw Morehead on top at halftime by a comfortable 22-3 margin.

The Western quarterback situation could be a factor in the game; John Hall, the league's leading passer, has been replaced in the last two games by Ralph Antone, who was four out of four for 84 yards against Eastern.

Other OVC games this weekend have Murray State at Eastern Kentucky, and Austin Peay at Akron. In two non-conference games, Tennessee Tech visits Troy State, and Northern Iowa travels to Youngstown State. Middle Tennessee is idle this week.

The Murray-Eastern game matches two teams at opposite ends of the top 10 in Division 1-AA, as the Colonels are 10th and the Racers are at the top in this week's poll. While Eastern dropped a tough one to Western last week, Murray had troubles of its own against a tough Akron club. The Racers had all they could handle before coming out on top by a 13-10 score. Defense could tell the story in this one, as the Racers lead the league in running defense, while Eastern boasts the OVC's best pass defense.

Tech's contest with Troy State will count toward the Golden Eagle's league standings, as they were not able to schedule a game with Akron. This game matches two fine quarterbacks, Tech's James Aaron and Troy's Willie Tullis. Aaron, who has thrown for over 1,100 yards and seven touchdowns, will be shouldering more of the load than usual for his team, because Tech's leading rusher, Reggie Bazel, is out for this game.

Austin Peay's meeting with Akron will be the first time those schools have met on the gridiron. The Governors boast the league's total offense leader in Sonny Defilippis and top receiver in Steve Puthoff. The Zips have brought an almost dead passing game back to life with quarterback Kevin Meade.

By LISA OVERSTREET
Sidelines Sports Writer

Weeks of rehabilitation, pain and lost seasons could be a fading memory of the past for athletes that injure that delicate area of the body commonly known as the knee.

Until recently, surgery has been a standard means of healing an injured knee. This type of operation involves a two to three inch incision made in the knee, and in most cases, a three to five week recovery time is expected. Because open surgery requires a long healing period, the knee is weakened and restrengthened, thereby adding additional days or weeks to the full recovery period.

Due to a discovery 15 years ago by a Japanese doctor called Watanabi, a new instrument evolved that can "save needless surgery," according to Dr. C.A. Heffington, Jr., an orthopedic surgeon who administers to injured MTSU athletes.

The arthroscope, a fiberoptic lighting system in a small tube, enables a physician to look into the knee to examine the inside of the joint.



Dr. C. A. Heffington

"It is a simple procedure," Heffington commented. "Just insert the arthroscope in the knee, see what is wrong with it, then perform the surgery if necessary."

A closed arthroscopic surgery takes about 45 minutes, leaves a very small scar, and, in most cases, enables the knee to be usable the same day, Heffington stated.

Injury to the cartilage or synovial lining of the knee is a typical problem for athletes. These types of injuries are difficult to diagnose. In early examinations, even the best diagnostician is only correct 60 percent of the time, according to Heffington.

A preliminary examination to determine the extent and general location of the injury is conducted. A dye can be injected into the knee in order to reveal a tear in the cartilage. If there is a tear, a break in the dye will appear in the X-ray. These processes rule out any obvious injury.

In the past, the next step would be open surgery to explore the inside of the knee. However, by using the arthroscope, open surgery is temporarily by-passed and generally found to be unnecessary.

Two weeks ago in the Murray State football game, MTSU offensive tackle Bill Spurlock injured his knee. During the early examination, Spurlock's knee was locked, according to Joe Camp, trainer for the Blue Raiders.

"Bill showed every sign of cartilage damage," Camp said.

By using the arthroscope, Dr. Heffington found the cartilage

intact and no damage to the ligament tissue. Heffington inserted the arthroscope in Spurlock's knee three times. A tear was found in the synovial lining of the joint.

"The torn tissue had lodged in the joint and swollen locked," Camp said.

Heffington was able to manipulate the torn tissue enough to put it back in place.

"It was a simple procedure on Spurlock," Heffington said. "We knew it was locked; we unlocked it."

Without the use of the arthroscope, Spurlock would have been unable to finish the rest of

the season. As it is now, he will probably see action in the game with Akron, Nov. 8, Camp said.

"Rehabilitation time is critical to an athlete," Camp affirmed. "With the arthroscopic surgery, Bill will have three tiny scars, one-fourth of an inch in diameter. By the end of the week, he should be able to practice."

The arthroscopy has been in this country for 10 years. It has gained tremendous popularity in the past two years.

"Arthroscopic surgery is not yet routine," Heffington said. "But more and more doctors are exploring its use."



MTSU offensive lineman Bill Spurlock recently underwent a new type of surgery on his knee that saves recovery time for the patients.

Wards Weekend Winners

by Bill Ward

SOUTH CAROLINA AT GEORGIA—Amazingly, freshman flash Herschel Walker of Georgia is getting more advance publicity for this game than senior Heisman Trophy candidate George Rogers of the Gamecocks. The visitors have the fourth-ranked rushing offense and the twelfth-best rushing defense in the NCAA, and they've compiled these stats against the USCs and Michigans as well as the Cincinnati. Rogers wants the Heisman, but his teammates want it for him even more, and they'll be up in the stratosphere for this one.

ABC will probably spend more time showing George's father, who got out of prison last week and has never seen his son play, than what's going on "between the hedges." Walker will likely match Rogers statistically, and his offensive teammates are super, but it's hard to go against the Gamecocks' emotions. Still, the 'Dogs really want to go undefeated, and their wide-tackle-six defense and superior passing game should spell the difference. **GEORGIA BY 3.**

MISSOURI AT NEBRASKA—This game is a mystery because of injuries to key players and Missouri's characteristic inconsistency. The Tigers have won the last two times they've played in Lincoln, and they've only lost one road game the last two years. But Nebraska hasn't lost two at home in a season (Florida State beat them here earlier) in a couple of decades.

Mizzou signal-caller Phil Bradley and power runner James Wilder seem to be healthy, and Nebraska's top two I-backs, Jarvis Redwine and Craig Johnson, were injured on consecutive plays last week. I hate to go against the nation's number-one total offense and defense, but in an Upset Special, it's **MISSOURI BY 4.**

DALLAS AT ST. LOUIS—Not many people know it, but the Cards have been playing very good ball for five weeks. They soundly whipped Philadelphia and Baltimore, slaughtered New Orleans, lost a squeaker to L.A., and fell flat against the 'Skins

two days after former teammate Steve Little was paralyzed in an accident. Jim Hart has been razor-sharp, and O.J. Anderson has been rounding into form after being accused by teammates of "pussyfooting" to the sidelines too often.

The Cowboys, meanwhile, are due for a letdown; they've played two tough games (Philly and Diego) in a row, and they have played at or near their potential for the last six weeks. Besides, the Cards always play the 'Pokes covered the spread 10 of the last 12 times they've met. I think they'll win this straight up, as Hart has a field day against a flat Flex that he's always mastered. In another Upset Special, **ST. LOUIS BY 4.**

| College | Favorite | Underdog | Points |
|------------|----------------|----------|--------|
| Vanderbilt | MEMPHIS STATE | | by 3 |
| TENNESSEE | Virginia | | by 24 |
| Alabama | MISS ST. | | by 11 |
| FLORIDA | Auburn | | by 7 |
| GEORGIA | South Carolina | | by 3 |
| TULANE | Kentucky | | by 3 |
| LSU | Ole Miss | | by 1 |
| MARYLAND | N.C. St. | | by 9 |
| Clemson | WAKE FOREST | | by 3 |
| DUKE | Georgia Tech | | by 6 |
| Michigan | INDIANA | | by 2 |
| Purdue | NORTHWESTERN | | by 11 |
| Ohio St. | Michigan St. | | by 31 |
| IOWA | Wisconsin | | by 3 |
| ILLINOIS | Minnesota | | by 4 |
| Missouri | NEBRASKA | | by 1 |
| OKLAHOMA | North Carolina | | by 3 |

| | | |
|-------------|----------------|-------|
| Kansas | KANSAS STATE | by 6 |
| AIR FORCE | Boston College | by 1 |
| Texas A&M | SMU | by 3 |
| ARKANSAS | Rice | by 17 |
| Texas | TEXAS TECH | by 17 |
| HOUSTON | TCU | by 14 |
| Notre Dame | NAVY | by 13 |
| Pitt | SYRACUSE | by 3 |
| PENN ST. | Miami | by 3 |
| STANFORD | Oregon St. | by 24 |
| UCLA | ARIZONA | by 10 |
| WASHINGTON | Arizona St. | by 13 |
| OREGON | Wash. St. | by 10 |
| USC | California | by 10 |
| Pro | | |
| TAMPA BAY | Giants | by 7 |
| PITTSBURGH | Green Bay | by 21 |
| Baltimore | KANSAS CITY | by 3 |
| NEW ENGLAND | Jets | by 17 |
| San Diego | CINCINNATI | by 13 |
| DETROIT | San Francisco | by 4 |
| BUFFALO | Atlanta | by 4 |
| ST. LOUIS | Dallas | by 4 |
| WASHINGTON | Minnesota | by 4 |
| SEATTLE | Philadelphia | by 3 |
| Houston | DENVER | by 3 |
| LOS ANGELES | New Orleans | by 10 |
| OAKLAND | Miami | by 10 |
| CLEVELAND | Chicago | by 3 |

*HOME TEAMS CAPITALIZED

Eagles, Rams best in NFC at midseason

EAST

No one's really surprised that **PHILADELPHIA** is leading this division, although the way they've done it is a little startling.

The Eagles have the most effective defense in the pros, allowing but seven offensive touchdowns and 246 yards per game, by far the NFL's lowest totals. Bill Bergey's comeback from knee surgery at 36 has inspired the Philly defenders, and a somewhat less than awesome schedule, featuring five home games and only one AFC opponent, hasn't hurt either.

The slate gets rougher, with trips to Seattle, San Diego and Dallas looming, so the high-flying, but depth-thin Eagles need RB Wilbert Montgomery and QB Ron Jaworski to shake their recent injuries. "Jaws" hasn't missed a start in four years, and the City of Brotherly Love had better hope he doesn't soon, for the Dropoff callup Joe Pisarcik is steep, even though super coach Dick Vermeil backs all the plays anyway. The Eagles can afford to suffer a bit of a lull before gearing up for the playoffs, and they probably will.

Their chief (and really only legitimate) rivals, the Cowboys, can afford to slack off for a while, too. **DALLAS** meets the 'Skins, Giants and Cardinals (twice) next, then faces a rugged season-ending four-game slate, closing with the Eagles at Texas Stadium. Thus, Danny White should be able to gain even more confidence heading into the stretch drive.

White's been OK so far, but he has yet to lead the team from behind in a big game, something he'll surely have to do soon. He's got tremendous runners and receivers at his disposal and should continue to compile impressive stats, dumping the ball to his backs a lot more than Roger Staubach did. But the most important unit here is the defensive line, which averages 6'6", by far the tallest in the country. These worthies must continue to dominate the line of scrimmage and pressure QBs to cover up for an average linebacking corps and a hard-hitting but rather pokey secondary.

The players in **WASHINGTON** have finally woken up to the fact that they're not as good as the records they've somehow (good coaching and patsy skeds, for starters) been compiling. Their defense is even more ancient than in the George Allen days: average age 31 until the recent benching of Ken Houston. Joe Theismann is the most overrated QB in the league, quite possibly the worst starter in the pros, as everyone is learning now that John Riggins has retired.

The 'Skins are running a lot out of the "I," mixing misdirection plays and short passes. Their special teams are still special, but not enough to get this outfit over the .500 mark this year, especially without a good runner.

ST. LOUIS has a real one in O.J. Anderson, and they're on the rise now that their injury-decimated offensive line is getting back together. In games that sophomore star Anderson has gone over the 100-yard mark, the Birds are 8-4; when he hasn't, they are 0-10. And the Cardinals have played well in their last five games, handily defeating the Eagles, Colts and Saints, and playing badly only in the aftermath of the Steve Little tragedy.

Still, they have unstable ownership (Bill Bidwell has fired four coaches in four years) and have suffered from terrible drafting until the last two years; key players like Jim Hart, Mel Gray, and Dan Dierdorf won't be around much longer, either. Still, the Cards could well be spoilers this year.

Not so the **NEW YORK GIANTS**, pro football's most hapless outfit. For the first time in four years, since the winless '76 Bucs, the same team has the worst yards-per-play average on both offense (3.87) and defense (5.91). Coach Ray Perkins cleaned house during the off-season, shipping off seven starters, and he's paid for it with a thin squad ravaged, as losing teams so often are, by injuries.

But the victory-starved team management has indicated it'll stick with Perkins, and he can build with super soph QB Phil Simms, a Morehaed State grad. What the Giants must do is hope that New Orleans and the Jets start winning, so that the Meadowlanders can draft George Rogers, the power runner they so desperately need.

CENTRAL

Last year, Tampa Bay rose with the motto "worst to first," and this season **DETROIT** is doing the same. The running of rookie Billy Sims and the return of standout QB Gary Danielson are considered the main factors, but the NFL's second-easiest schedule and the conditioning program of super coach Monte Clark are just as responsible.

The Lions have outscored their foes in the second half by a whopping 131-43 (after an astounding 67-0 margin in the first four games), and Clark has built a fine offensive line from free agents and low draft choices, just as he did in Miami in the early '70s. The Motor City brigade is the league's only team averaging 200 yards per game, more than twice what five NFL outfits are getting.

CHICAGO could challenge the Lions if they were allowed to play all their games at Soldier Field. The Bears have averaged 20.75 points at home and a paltry 9.25 on the road. The Bears' major problem is their one-dimensional offense; besides Detroit, they're the only league team with more yards rushing than passing, and their totals are considerably below the Lions'.



They've only thrown three TD passes to their tight ends in four years, and coach Neill Armstrong's indecision over who to use at quarterback has hurt a lot. A lot of folks think that Armstrong will be replaced after this season by retiring Notre Dame mentor Dan Devine, who's dying to get another shot at the pros. The Bears' main attribute so far has been a hard-hitting (often illegally so) defense, and the fact that referees still won't call spearing on this team that has attempted to make an art form of tackling helmet-first. Until the officials start enforcing the rules, Chicago will intimidate enough teams to finish around .500.

Which will put them behind **TAMPA BAY**, provided the Bucs can get enough regulars healthy to make a stretch drive. They've been ravaged by injuries so far, but a schedule closing with six straight games against confreres in the hapless NFC Central could enable them to make the playoffs. Lee Roy Selmon is still the league's best defender, but opponents have been able to isolate on him with brother Dewey and most of the linebacking corps out. And Doug Williams has been abominable of late, able to pass for only 89 against the 49ers, who have the worst defense this side of Vanderbilt.

Coach John McKay insists that anyone who criticizes his signal-caller "doesn't know quarterbacks from bananas," but the fact remains that Williams can't read defenses and has no touch at all on his passes, traits which plagued a fellow named Terry Bradshaw during his first three or four years in the league, by the way. But unless Ricky Bell (38 yards rushing per game so far) comes around, the Bucs aren't going anywhere.

Bart Starr has been able to hang on to his tenuous job in **GREEN BAY**, and not just because he's the godfather of two children of Packer board members. The Pack has gone over the 300-yard mark offensively in each of the last four games, as WR James Lofton has rounded into form and immobile QB Lynn Dickey has been given enough time to unleash his strong right arm.

But the Packers are still yielding a lot more than they're getting,



Former Blue Raider Ray Oldham, a defensive back in the 70s, is now listed on the roster of the Detroit Lions. Oldham (42) played for Middle Tennessee as part of the "Mod Squad" secondary. The veteran professional football player was named *Sidelines* Alumni of the Year for 1979-80.

and losing DT Bruce Clark to the Canadian League (the joke is that he figured he'd have a better chance for an NFL championship in Toronto than in Green Bay) has really hurt, especially since the club made a \$1.8 million profit last year. Still, Starr's got them hustling, and a few more wins may stem the rumor that he'll move up to general manager and let Raymond Berry take over the coaching reins.

The situation is almost as sad in **MINNESOTA**, where the Vikes have scored a paltry 40 points (with but four TDs) in their last four contests. Tommy Kramer is having a disastrous year passing, with an astounding 17 interceptions, even though most of his tosses are shorties. Except for New Orleans, the Vikes have the worst running game around, and the talents of fine WRs Ahmad Rashad and Sammy White are going to waste.

Even though the defensive line has five first-round draft choices, the Vikes are virtually nil, and opponents are averaging 4.4 yards per carry. The linebacking corps sorely misses injured All-Pro Matt Blair, and the secondary is a shambles. It'll be a few years before the Vikes are contenders again, even in this division.

WEST

Probably the most talent-laden outfit in the league is in Anaheim, er, **LOS ANGELES**. The Rams are absolutely loaded at every position, especially along both lines, the key to any team's success. Vince Ferragamo has been outstanding at QB, and if coach Raymond Guiseppe Giovanni Baptiste Malavasi (that's right) has any sense, he won't let Pat Haden's return from injury cloud the picture, even if Ferragamo slumps. Even with all their talent, the Rams are never going to win a Super Bowl with Haden calling signals.

Offensive line coach Dan Radakovich has built the NFL's best blocking unit, and the wide receivers are fast and slippery. Ditto the running backs. The defense is as solid as any in the NFC, largely because a lot of youngsters got playing time while four veteran starters were holding out earlier this year. And the Rams are playing the easiest schedule in the loop, with only four games against teams that finished above .500 in '79.

Still, they'll be able to stay ahead of **ATLANTA**, a team which lacks the defensive depth to stay in a race with the Rams. The Falcons are especially thin at linebacker, where injuries to standouts Al Richardson and Fulton Kuykendall are really hurting the 'Coons, who've allowed but three TDs on the ground. The secondary hits hard, but needs help from the 'backers to cover the speedier receivers. At least coach Leeman Bennett had the good sense to scrap the disastrous "Grits Blitz."

The offense will have to make up some slack, and that means the holding penalties, which have cost Atlanta five touchdowns already, must stop. The young line has matured rapidly, but the pressure of keeping pass rushers off immobile QB Steve Bartkowski's back has been too much for Mike Kenn & Co.

For his part, Bart seems to have gained the consistency in his fifth year that most signal-callers need to show by that time, and he has two good runners and a bevy of fine receivers. Even with a defensive lapse, Atlanta should be playoff-bound.

SAN FRANCISCO spurted out to 3-0 and has dropped five in a row since. It was just a matter of a lousy, although enthusiastic, young defense beginning to show its holes. Not only is the 'D' giving up huge chunks of yardage, especially through the air, but they rarely turn the ball over to the potent offense. With but ten takeaways, the 49ers rank last in the loop in something called "turnover differential" at -14.

Steve DeBerg is emerging as a fine leader, and backup Joe Montana hasn't been too shabby, either. The loss of durable back Paul Hofer to knee surgery hurt the short-pass-oriented attack, but big, smooth rookie runner Earl Cooper looks like a Franco Harris who can catch. The offense looks settled for the future; look for the 'Niners to draft for defensive help, and for Bill Walsh to make them legitimate contenders within a couple of years.

Which is a whole lot sooner than the pitiful but not pitiable Saints will be heard from. **NEW ORLEANS** has so many problems that even deposited RB Chuck Muncie, who was traded after being seen partying on Bourbon Street on a game day, says "I would need five or six hands to count them."

Start with absolutely abominable drafting for a team that obviously needed a lot of defensive help. The last two years, they've used early first-round choices to nab kicker Russ Erxleben and OT Stan Brock, neither of whom was needed and neither of whom panned out.

The Saints are last in the entire league in rushing offense and rushing defense, and it's a sure bet that coach Dick Nolan will be gone at season's end, if not before. There's also talk that QB Archie Manning will be dealt to make room for young Guy Benjamin. That would be a kind gesture towards Manning, as this outfit will not be respectable during his NFL lifetime.

AFC standouts capture 15 of 22 All-Pro selections

Football is the only sport which does not choose an All-Star squad at mid-season. In an attempt to rectify this injustice, *Sidelines* here offers an All-Pro outfit at the season's halfway point.

WIDE RECEIVERS—John Jefferson of San Diego and Harold Carmichael of Philadelphia. Each leads his conference in yards receiving, and both excel at getting open, catching the tough ones, and running. Easily the two most valuable pass-catchers in the league. The Pats/Stanley Morgan started fast, but has tailed off.

TIGHT END—The Chargers' Kellen Winslow. Has caught 41 passes, far more than any other TE. Strong, fast runner, great hands, and superb blocker. No one else is close—Howard Cosell's love affair with Russ Francis notwithstanding.

TACKLES—Cincinnati's Munoz Munoz and Los Angeles' Doug France. Munoz stuffed Lee Roy Selmon, the league's best defender, in his first pro game and hasn't slackened since. The massive France anchors the country's best line.

GUARDS—Herbert Scott of Dallas and John

Hannah of New England. Scott's the only Cowboy lineman who blocks straight ahead as well as he traps, and his pass blocking is nonpareil; he's been called for holding once in three years. Hannah is carrying the Pats' line after finally getting over the trade of good buddy Leon Gray.

CENTER—Mike Webster of the Steelers. Only center who can handle all the nose guards one-on-one.

QUARTERBACK—Cleveland's Brian Sipe in a close race over the Eagles' Ron Jaworski. Sipe does what a QB is supposed to do: makes things happen and wins games he's not supposed to. He shook off a disastrous Monday night against Houston and has led the Browns to a 5-1 mark since and first place in football's toughest division. Jaworski has been more consistent, but, like stats leaders Danny White and Vince Ferragamo, has faced a pretty easy schedule. And "Jaws" cannot scramble and has not pulled out games in the last minutes like Sipe. Bert Jones has been the most valuable, but not the best.

RUNNING BACKS—Oiler Earl Campbell and Lion Billy Sims. Not because they have more

yards (807 and 859, respectively) than anyone else, but because these two Texas natives make their teams winners; without them, the Oilers and Lions would be well below the .500 mark. Campbell has overcome a hip injury that severely hindered his lateral movement, and he has become only the second man ever to get 200 yards two games in a row.

ENDS—Lee Roy Selmon of Tampa Bay and Art Still of Kansas City. Both are irresistible forces on passing plays and immovable objects when their foes run, combining super-quick feet, awesome upper body strength, and (surprise!) heady play. Too Tall Jones deserves mention for a great comeback from a thankfully brief fling at fisticuffs.

TACKLES—Dallas' Randy White and Philly's Charlie Johnson. Cheated a little here because Johnson's actually a middle guard who plays like a madman, but with enough control to stop tricky running plays, which allows Bill Bergey et al to roam around at will. White makes a few great plays every game and never makes a bad one.

LINEBACKERS—Steeler Jack Ham, Patriot Steve Nelson, and Oiler Robert Brazile. Absolutely nobody directs plays at Ham, and he's been better than ever covering up for an inept pass rush. Nelson is strong and mean, and Brazile covers a lot of ground and hits a ton too. Denver's Randy Gradishar, Minnesota's Matt Blair and the Giants' Henry Carson are on the same level but have missed some action due to injuries.

CORNERBACKS—Lester Hayes of Oakland and Donnie Shell of Pittsburgh. Hayes leads the loop with six interceptions and has become the best CB at one-on-one coverage, supplanting Mel Blount. Blount's teammate Shell is fast and mean, and his tenacity has kept tight ends out of other teams' offenses and the Steelers' defense semi-respectable. The Eagles' Herman Edwards is tough and smart, but not quick enough to stay with the burners.

SAFETIES—Cleveland's Thom Darden and Houston's Vernon Perry. No need to wonder why the best defensive backs are in the AFC—it's because coaches know to draft them to stay with all those speedsters in that conference.