

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

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Banquet honors service of SGA members

By Heather Hybarger / staff

The Student Government Association (SGA) banquet was held Thursday night, allowing students and faculty to be recognized, new executive officers to be inaugurated and this year's executive officers to say their farewells.

Over 150 students and faculty members were in attendance, including 10 former presidents of the SGA and Associated Student Body (ASB), as it was previously known. Mayor Joe B. Jackson, ASB president in 1948-49, and Col. William Blake Carlton, Jr., ASB president in 1934-35, attended the banquet.

Ginger Sullivan commented on the new Electoral Act in her farewell remarks from her position as election

commissioner.

"It was a big job," Sullivan said. "We had to change just about every rule that we had."

"There's been all this talk about fighting the administration, but [the administrators] have pretty much an open-door policy," Sullivan added. "They don't know you've got a problem until you go to them with that problem."

Jaime Groce commented on this year's elections in his farewell as speaker of the house.

"We all were qualified, Chad [White], Christin [Baker], myself and even Dave [Weber]," Groce said. "We were all three buddies, we started out together, we went through the Senate together, and we all had the same goal. I'm glad Christin got to do that,

and I'm sure Chad and I will support her in her presidency."

Baker couldn't be present at the SGA Banquet because she was watching her sister perform at Carnegie Hall in New York. She left a letter which was read by SGA President Shane McFarland.

"The new representation of the Senate and the growth of the university and athletic program, all of these things are exciting and are going to finally give MTSU the recognition it has long deserved," Baker wrote.

Brent Downs, chief justice of the Supreme Court, announced his resignation due to the illness of his brother. One of the things he has learned at MTSU is the importance of family, he said.

"When everyone's gone home,

when everyone's graduated and gone on their way, who's going to be left?" Downs said. "Who are you going to turn to? Of course, your family."

After presenting Sullivan, Downs and Groce with gifts of appreciation, McFarland gave his farewell remarks as president of SGA.

"Out of all the universities I've been to, you can have the nicest buildings and equipment, but that doesn't matter," McFarland said. "It's the people who fill those buildings and use that equipment, and that's what this university has."

McFarland and Downs led the inaugurations for 1996-97, inducting: Susan Guin, speaker of the house; Ryan Durham, speaker of the senate;

Please see SGA on page 2

Doll exhibit highlights Japanese craft

By Martha Stroud / staff

The Japan Center of Tennessee in cooperation with the Rose Center & Council for the Arts will be sponsoring the Japanese Doll Exhibit during the month of May.

The exhibit will be in the Jean Keener Community Room at the Rose Center, 442 West Second North, Morristown, TN. The exhibit may be viewed from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

"This doll exhibit creates an awareness of a Japanese craft that is very important to the Japanese people," said Esther Seeman, director of The Japan Center of Tennessee.

Japanese dolls are not regarded as simple toys, Seeman said. The lineage of Japanese decorative and folk art dolls (ningyo or hitogata) can be traced back to prehistoric examples of miniaturized human-like shapes which are thought to have had religious or magical significance.

The Japan Center of Tennessee represents a state-wide effort to strengthen the relationship between Tennessee and Japan.

"The center's primary goal is to enhance Tennessee citizens' knowledge of the culture and society of contemporary Japan and to create an awareness of American and Southern culture among Japanese people," according to the center's pamphlet.

Funding for the center comes from several sources in Tennessee and Japan, including Tennessee's Department of Economic and Community Development, Tennessee's Higher Education Division, Japanese and American companies, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Japan, and MTSU.

The center is currently sponsoring an exhibit of Japanese children's drawings at the Randalls Teacher Center in Nashville.

Upcoming Japan Center activities include: a booth for the Street Fair run by Middle Tennessee's Japanese Society of Japanese Women on May 11; the performance of a Japanese dance group at MTSU's Art Center on May 12 from 7 to 8:30 p.m.; and an exhibit of Ikebana photos for the Sweet Water Festival on May 17.

"These events are meant to create an understanding of the Japanese culture," Seeman said. "We also have programs and publications for the Japanese students to create an understanding of the American culture."

For more information contact the Japan Center of Tennessee at 898-2229 or the Rose Center & Council for the Arts at (423) 581-4330. ●

Mock disaster provides emergency training

By Mark T. Gibson / staff

In an effort to help local rescue workers maintain their proficiency, four MTSU students were "killed" and many more "wounded" during a mock emergency in Murphy Center Friday afternoon.

Jeff Frey, a registered nurse, led the efforts in the mock disaster, while Renee Dugger, RN, coordinated the overall drill.

"The purpose of the exercise is to see how quickly rescue workers can respond to an emergency at MTSU," Frey said. "Secondly, we want to measure how fast we get the wounded people triaged and moved to the hospital."

Triage is the area on the scene where seriously wounded people are separated from minor injuries and fatalities. Priorities for transport are established by the person in charge at the scene.

Renee Dugger, who supervised the drill, was at the emergency room at Middle Tennessee Medical Center to observe the emergency room workers' response.

"We worked this time with multiple agencies, including MTSU, the MTSU Police Department, Emergency Management Agency, the Red Cross, and the Murfreesboro Police Department on this drill," Dugger said. "Those are the agencies that would be responsible for responding to an actual emergency."

"We want to see that the plan we have on paper works and find out if there are any changes that need to be made," Dugger said. "If something actually occurs, our plan won't be something that someone has stuck in a notebook somewhere."

The hospital is required to hold an "external" drill at least once a year in order to maintain its certification, but there is usually a second one to make sure that the plans stay



Mark T. Gibson/staff

Paramedic Wendy Hackett calls in to the hospital as a "wounded" student pretends to be in shock.

current in everyone's mind, Dugger said.

"In terms of the two critical areas we want to go well, triage . . . and critical casualties which are immediately treated in the emergency department, we did very well."

"Where we want to work a little further is in our ambulatory casualties, or 'walking wounded,' and

the transport of those patients," Dugger said.

"If you have to have an area that needs work, that's the best one."

Russ Galloway, a physician at the emergency room, said he was pleased with the drill overall, and while it was of minimal importance for medical purposes, the drill provided excellent opportunities to practice prioritizing and transporting

patients.

Paramedic Wendy Hackett said the drills are invaluable.

"All EMS personnel, ER personnel and police should all be aware that something like this, with mass casualties, could happen," Hackett said.

Wounded students were played by members of the Phi Sigma Pi National Honor Fraternity. ●

Psychology students receive awards in research competition

By Mark T. Gibson / staff

Psychology Club Psi Chi conducted its annual poster contest for undergraduates Thursday afternoon, handing out a total of \$300 to the winners.

The poster session presented the results of research done by undergraduate psychology students and is an important preview of professional psychology conferences, said John Pleas, professor of Psychology and undergraduate coordinator.

"In professional conventions many times you can present [research] in this fashion. . . in professional poster

sessions," Pleas said. "Usually you will set a poster up for three to four hours, and you'll be there for two hours."

"Your colleagues will come in and be able to read your results and ask you questions about your poster. So we've done the same thing. Our program lists the abstracts, and the ones that you're interested in you can go by, read it and question the researcher."

For psychology students who want to attend graduate school,

"In professional conventions many times you can present [research] in this fashion. . . in professional poster sessions."

John Pleas
Professor of Psychology

participation in a poster session can help make the difference in getting admitted, Pleas said.

"There are a lot of students applying for a very small number of openings, so you have to have something to make you stand out. A 3.5 G.P.A. and good GRE scores aren't necessarily enough."

The winners each received \$75 dollars. All prize money was donated by psychology faculty.

Damon Weller won the general category with his "Lost Letter" research. In an update of a project done in the 60s, Weller addressed 24 stamped envelopes to fictitious organizations and dropped them around campus. His goal was to see how many people would pick up the "lost" letters and mail them.

The fictitious groups included "Friends of the Republican Party," "Heterosexual Crusaders Against the Homosexual Movement at MTSU," and "Friends of the Gay and Lesbian Movement at MTSU."

Weller reported that 100 percent of the letters to "Heterosexual..." had been opened before being returned.

Keith Mayo won for his study on "The Effects of Self-Monitoring on Prosocial Behavior," and Laura Boner won for "Differences in Dream Content Following an Auditory Stimulus in the Stage of Presleep." A team headed by Denise Hughes won for "The Effects of Personality on Job Satisfaction." ●

FEATURES

Elvis visits MTSU's famed trailer park

Page 6

WEATHER

MON
scattered
t-storms
High: 77
Low: 56



TUE
scattered
showers
High: 61
Low: 46



WED
partly
cloudy
High: 63
Low: 47



SPORTS

Baseball team tied for OVC lead

Page 7



First place

Theresa Peacock competes in the National Women's History Month 5K run held on Saturday. Peacock won the women's division of the race and finished third overall.

Brian G. Miller / staff

SGA: annual awards presented to students

continued from page 1

Scott Davis, election commissioner; and Alekis Lichtenberg, chief justice of the Supreme Court.

Since Baker was not present, she could not be inaugurated as SGA president.

Davis was also presented the Outstanding Senate Legislator Award.

"This is one student in the Senate who distinguishes themselves from their peers and fights for student rights," McFarland said.

Michael Grantham was presented the Outstanding House Legislator Award.

"He's a hard worker, looks out for the students and is generally concerned for the students," Groce said.

Mike Gann was presented with the Outstanding Student Leader Award.

"He always has a positive word to say and has helped us out as long as he's been here," McFarland said.

The SGA Cabinet members, Election Commission, Supreme Court and Traffic Court were recognized. The 14 House members and one senator that

represent MTSU at Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature (TISL) were recognized as well.

Mary Ann Huneycutt received an award for Outstanding Student Ambassador.

Amy Fletcher was awarded the Most Improved GPA of the female cheerleading squad, and Darius Lindsey received Most Improved GPA of the male squad. Jennifer Watkins was presented with the award for Most Improved GPA overall and the Highest GPA award, with a cumulative GPA of 3.769.

Brian Moseley, captain of the varsity cheerleading squad, was presented a Most Valuable Cheerleader Award.

Among the most recognized at the banquet was Patsy Reed, SGA office secretary.

"I couldn't have done my job, and I don't think anyone here could have done their jobs without [Patsy Reed and Betty Smithson, secretary of the Dean of Student Life]," Sullivan said.

"When a student is in trouble, Patsy is there to help them," McFarland said. "Patsy is like our mom." ●

Toshiba Philharmonic Orchestra to perform for bicentennial celebration

By Martha Stroud / staff

Toshiba American Consumer Products is sponsoring a concert by the Toshiba Philharmonic Orchestra from Tokyo, Japan.

"The concert is another example of the good corporate activities of the Toshiba America Consumer Products," said Esther Seeman, director of the Japan Center of Tennessee.

The Toshiba Corporation is

sponsoring the concert as part of Tennessee's bicentennial celebration. The 110-person amateur orchestra's aim is to contribute to the further development of U.S.-Japan cultural exchange through music, Seeman said.

"I think it is a very good example of bicultural activity on the part of Toshiba," Seeman said.

The orchestra will be performing selections from

Mozart, Dvorak and Tchaikovsky. The conductor of the orchestra is Yoshinori Kawachi, and the featured soloist for the evening will be cellist Ko Iwasaki.

The concert will be held at the War Memorial Auditorium in Nashville on May 3 at 8 p.m. For tickets to the concert, call The Japan Center of Tennessee at 898-2229 or Toshiba America at (615) 444-8501 (ext. 0). ●

Housing revising staff responsibilities

By Kris Wetzel / staff

Housing is evaluating the current duties of housing employees in order to ensure maximum efficiency, according to Deb Sells, director of Housing.

"What we are looking to do is improve communication between the housing employees and the residents," Sells said.

Effective next fall, housing will be divided into six areas, with an assistant area coordinator responsible for supervising the resident

assistants and maintaining student contact. Housing currently divides the residence halls into four areas.

Sells said the position of assistant area coordinator went under evaluation because their positions did not allow them to use their expertise. The positions have been largely administrative, which prohibited frequent contact with the students, Sells added.

Hall directors will be responsible for the activities of the hall they supervise and will have knowledge of activities in

other halls.

"What happens in one hall affects what happens in other halls," Sells said. "They are not isolated from each other."

The resident directors will be responsible for organizing the hall council, resolving roommate conflicts and staffing the hall desk. Resident assistants will supervise individual floors in the hall.

Sells said the present housing staff was encouraged to apply for the new positions. Applications are currently under evaluation. ●

Student Appreciation Days

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CAMPUS CAPSULE

MONDAY, APRIL 29

MTSU Right to Life will be sponsoring a presentation by "Today's Choices" at 7 p.m. in KUC 322. The program will include a video and sharing of personal experiences by three women who have had crisis pregnancies. For more information call 848-0448.

ENT! will air an encore broadcast of the spring season finale Monday and Wednesday at 8:30 p.m. ENT! will return at the end of May with all new episodes for the summer.

THURSDAY, MAY 2

The Native American Heritage Society will hold a general meeting from 5-6:30 p.m. in KUC Room 322.

FRIDAY, MAY 3

The Toshiba Philharmonic Orchestra from Tokyo, Japan will be performing at the War Memorial Auditorium in Nashville at 8 p.m. If interested in tickets, please call The Japan Center of Tennessee at 898-2229 or Toshiba America at 615-444-8501 extension 0.

The final date to pay outstanding debts to the university to hear your grades via tram and/or receive a printed grade report upon request is May 10.

The MTSU Women's Chorale is recruiting new members. All MTSU Women who enjoy singing are encouraged to join. Members are not required to be music majors, in fact, women from all majors are welcome. No formal audition is required. WC meets on T/R from 1:40-2:55 in SFA 117 for 1 hour credit. To register sing-up for Chorus 0370-01, call number 03122. For more information call 2487.

ONGOING EVENTS

If you are interested in

international relations and current affairs, and want to develop leadership, negotiation and debate skills, get involved in **MTSU's Model United Nations!** For more information, contact Tony Mathews at 223-8884 or Dr. Anne Sloan in the Political Science Department.

Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) meets every Wednesday at 8:30 p.m. in Dance Studio B. Everyone (athletes and non-athletes) welcome. Come for fun, fellowship, and Bible Study.

Women's Clinic in the Academic Nursing Center offers the following gender specific assessments for \$15 initial and \$10 follow-up: breast exam, pap smear stool for occult blood, urine check, pregnancy test, blood chemistry profile, tests for infections if indicated and follow-up reporting and counseling. Blood Chemistry Profiles available the first Wednesday of every month from 8-10 a.m. at \$10 for the 18 component blood chemistry profile and \$10 for PSA (prostate cancer test). The clinic also offers free blood pressure screenings every Wednesday from 1-4 p.m. For an appointment call 898-5950.

Raiders for Christ will hold a devotional on Mondays at 7 p.m. in the Middle Tennessee Christian Student Center.

The MTSU Christian Faculty and Staff Fellowship will meet every 2nd and 4th Wednesday in KUC Room 312. Interested Faculty and Staff are invited to attend any of these meetings. For further information contact Kim Sokoya at 898-2352 or ksokoya@frank.mtsu.edu.

The MTSU College Democrats will hold weekly meetings in room 313 of the KUC at 5:00 p.m. Come and find out what we are all about.

Codependents Anonymous

(Coda) will meet Thursday's from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at St. Marks United Methodist Church, Room 109 under the red handrail. Coda is a fellowship of men and women whose common problem is an inability to maintain functional relationships. The only requirement for membership is a desire for healthy and fulfilling relationships with others and ourselves.

Adult Children of Alcoholics (ACOA) will meet Tuesday from 6 to 7 p.m. at St. Marks Methodist Church, 1403 E. Main St., Room 109. ACOA is a 12-step support group for people raised in an alcoholic or other dysfunctional family.

Lambda, an organization for gay, lesbian and bisexual students, faculty, non-students, and their supporters, will meet every Tuesday in the Mass Comm building, room 103, at 6:30 p.m. For further information write to MTSU Box 624 or call 780-2293.

Lambda will be hosting a "Movie Night" every Thursday at 7 p.m. in Mass Comm Room 103. For more information call the Lambda Hotline at 780-2293.

Intervarsity Christian Fellowship will hold its weekly meetings on Tuesday at 8 p.m. and Campus Prayer meetings on Wednesday at 9 p.m., in KUC room 312. All campus ministries and all individuals are invited to attend.

Seniors and Graduate Students: create your resume with Resume Expert Plus Software and register with the Placement Center in one easy step! Contact Placement and Student Employment Center KUC 328, 898-2500.

Wesley Foundation will be hosting an hour-long ongoing study group on Human Sexuality in the Christian Faith, Mondays at

5:30 p.m. at the Wesley Foundation.

Wesley Singers rehearsals will be held Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. at the Wesley Foundation. Anyone who loves to sing is welcome.

MTSU students who need speech testing or speech therapy services should call the **MTSU Speech Clinic**, 898-2661, for an appointment.

Anyone interested in being a tutor or getting tutored, please contact Tanisha Harris of the **NAACP (Educational Committee)** at 898-4056.

MTSU Equestrian Team will hold regular meetings every Monday night at 7:00 p.m. in the TLC Sales Arena. Everyone is welcome!

Inroads Nashville, Inc.

plans to recruit Sophomore and Junior Minority Students in marketing, computer information systems and business administration. With a GPA of 2.9 or better, successful recruits will have the opportunity to do internships with such firms as IBM, Price-Waterhouse and Northern Telecom. Those interested should immediately call Prof. B. Fayissa at 898-2385 or see him in KOM 322G.

Canterbury Episcopal Campus Ministry meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m. for dinner and fellowship at St. Paul's Church, 315 E. Main St. and Thursdays for lunch in the KUC Grill. All are welcome. Contact Andrew Wright at 893-3780 for more information.

MTSU Raidersharks- Scuba Club will hold meetings on

the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month at 8 p.m. in the MTSU Pool. It is open to anyone interested in scuba diving or associated activities. All students are welcome. For more information call Tim or Jude at 895-6249.

Phi Sigma Pi will hold their weekly meetings on Mondays at 7 p.m. in the Stark Ag Building Room 125. Contact an officer if you can not attend.

Sidelines

will return on June 5

Please send summer Campus Capsule submissions to JUB room 310.

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OPENING SAT. starting MAR. 9th 8:00 AM - 12 PM

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Mon - Sat
10 - 6

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TUESDAY

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WEDNESDAY

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3 p.m. - Close

BUFFALO WINGS 21°

THURSDAY

11 a.m. - 3 p.m.: Lunch Special

CATFISH BASKET \$3.99

BABY BACK RIB PLATTER

\$7.95

ALL DAY LONG

FRIDAY

SHRIMP BASKET SPECIAL

11 a.m. - 3 p.m. \$3.99 | 3 p.m. - Close \$4.99

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RIBS & CHICKEN WING PLATTER

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ALL WEEKEND!

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Although we know you will miss us greatly, Sidelines will be vacationing in Morocco during May. We are very excited about the trip.

We will return in time for the June 5 edition, this time under new leadership. See you in June.

Sidelines advertising:
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OPINIONS

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SIDELINES

Monday, April 29, 1996

Editor bids farewell



Mark Blevins

Somebody pull me a tall, cool one. My tenure at *Sidelines* is complete, and boy howdy am I ready to shake off these chains of responsibility and accountability to return to my life as a quiet beer farmer out towards Woodbury.

But before I step down as editor and have no control over what goes in the paper, I want to tell you about some *Sidelines*-related items.

Traditionally, an out-going editor writes a last column which involves a lot of kissy-poo type discourse concerning people most of the reading audience don't know. I'll do my part for tradition and then trade valentines with my staff personally.

Never in my life have I had the opportunity to work with such an outstanding, professional and downright cool group of people as I have this semester. They have worked long, hard hours to produce this publication. While the passive reader may not notice a qualitative improvement in *Sidelines*, I believe we have pulled it off. It is so because of the dedication of this staff. And while our time in the office is over, I am thankful to report that I have decided to gut Student Publications of its equipment and move us all to Morocco.

[Our success] is so because of the dedication of this staff. And while our time in the office is over, I am thankful to report that I have decided to gut Student Publications of its equipment and move us all to Morocco.

Seriously though, I love my staff. So, sweet tradition, there's your kissy-poo.

I wish the incoming summer and fall editors the best of luck. I encourage anyone interested in publications to join the *Sidelines* staff. There's a great deal of opportunity for aspiring journalists up here. And to top it all off, it's really cool when you're given a top notch computer system and enough money to publish a newspaper 27 times a semester. For that, I thank the university.

Lastly, I want to address the general reading audience concerning the paper.

There is great power in this campus newspaper. It can relate a great deal about this small community. You folks should demand the best out of this newspaper and criticize when you're unsatisfied. Now that I'm out of the hot seat, I recommend you call the editors whenever something gets in your craw. I have fielded many calls of criticism. They provide an opportunity for us to better realize and correct our

shortcomings or to explain why something was done a particular way. As this university grows, and *Sidelines* gets close to the time when it's a daily, this publication is going to have to grow tremendously. Your criticism can aid the growth process.

That's it for me.

If you see me around town in the next few weeks and you're looking to buy somebody a cool refreshment, I'm your man.

And I love Newcastle Brown.

Evolutionists' 'Lucy' is a Lucifer

By Brian Mathers

Lately the subject of evolution has been highly debated. Some biology professors claim the evolution theory is a fact because of supposed transition fossil evidence.

Best transition fossil: Lucy. She was discovered by Dr. Donald Johanson and dubbed as the species *Australopithecus africanus*. Johanson claimed it was a transition species between man and apes, but he later learned about sexual dimorphism and allometry. That means Lucy had many characteristics of a male including her pelvis (too small to have babies), muscular indentations in the skull, and unique characteristics of male teeth. Lucy has since been appropriately named Lucifer (the great deceiver). If geniuses like Johanson can't even determine gender, how can they determine that it is a transitional species? Simple: they can't!

Since humans and monkeys have similar body compositions, of course their fossils look similar as well. The big distinction is intelligence. For instance, did you know gorillas have an average brain capacity of 1450 cc., while humans only have a brain capacity of about 1350 cc.; humans are clearly smarter than gorillas though. Evolutionists often use brain capacity to measure knowledge when it is really a measure of volume.

Presently, scientists can't measure the intelligence of fossils.

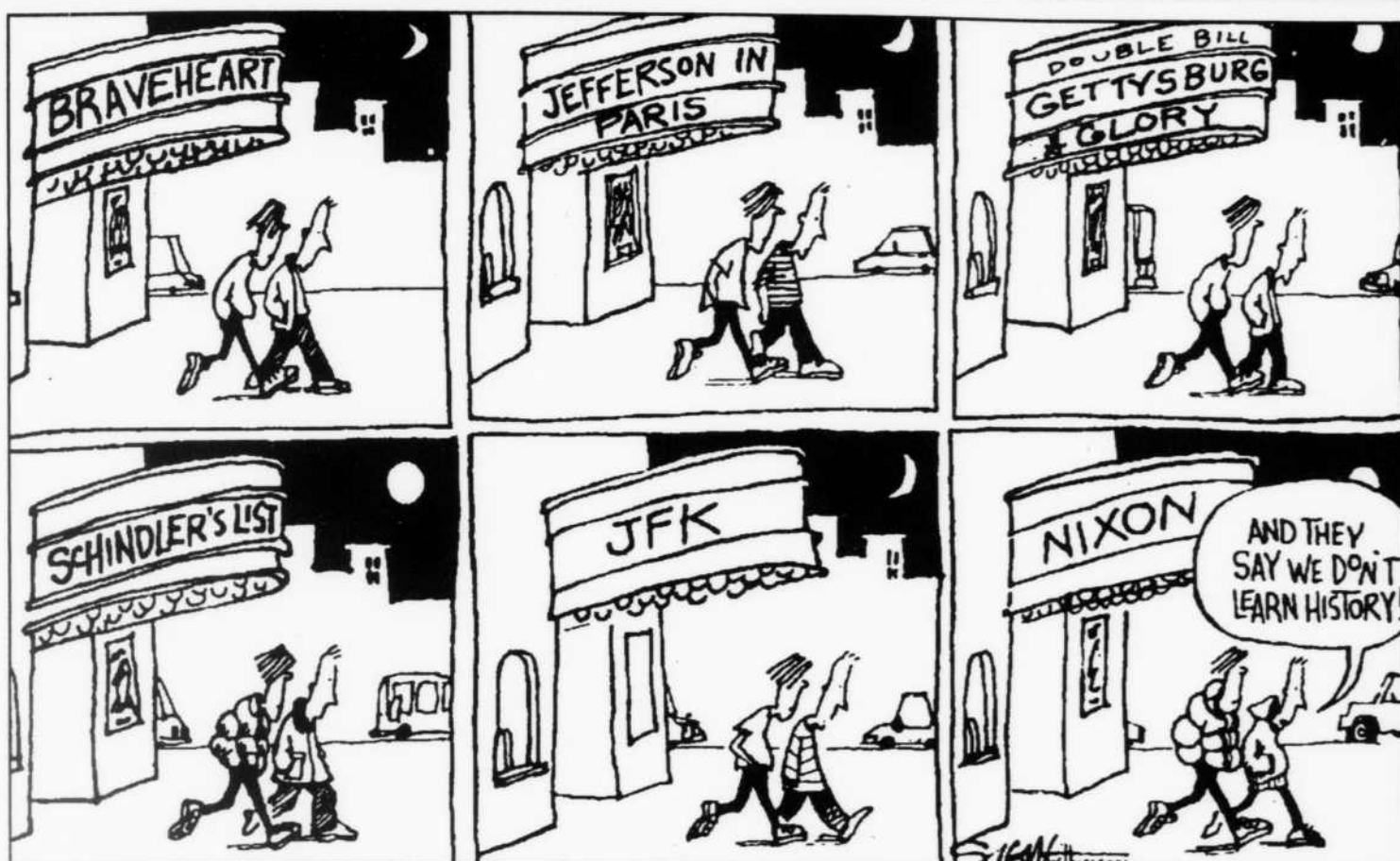
Scientists also claim the Earth is 4.3 billion years old (and this number increases often). Elemental dating techniques can't measure time; they only measure present ratios of radioactive materials. Other flaws include:

- 1.) Beginning elemental amounts are unknown
- 2.) The decay rates can't be accurately tested in a single lifetime (it would take millions of years)
- 3.) A highly volatile environment (earthquakes, volcanoes, ice ages, etc.)
- 4.) The changing composition of the Earth and its atmosphere
- 5.) The flood
- 6.) A lack of consistency in these dates

Several flaws in the decay rates have been corrected in the newest atomic accelerators. That's why the 11 earliest human fossils in North America have now been dated at about 5000 years. The Bible is right on the money "again."

If evolutionists don't even know simple things like age, gender and intelligence, why should we believe humans evolved from mud through a complicated process spanning millions of years? At best evolutionists have sketchy theories, not uncontested facts.

Mr. Mathers is a senior who studies aerospace.



Letters to the Editor

Student journalist defends his story about Ocoee

To the Editor,

I am writing in response to Ms. Hyde's comments (*Sidelines*, 4-25) regarding my article on the Ocoee River ("How I'll Spend My Summer Vacation," March 28, *Sidelines*). Ms. Hyde evidently has some strong opinions regarding the article, which she is more than entitled to. As such, her comments are welcomed and appreciated.

In answering Ms. Hyde's charges of slander and misrepresentation of facts pertaining to the history of the Ocoee River, I can only say that I wholeheartedly and unequivocally stand by my story. The facts used in the article were gathered in the most professional and ethical manner possible, and involved the checking and double-checking of information from a variety of sources, including people residing in and around the Ocoee River region. I found their views and comments to be credible, consistent and extremely reliable.

As a journalist, I am dedicated to providing the public with truthful, relevant, useful and interesting stories that are well-written and fair to all sides concerned. I believe that I have not strayed from this standard of excellence. Obviously, Ms. Hyde feels otherwise. Apparently she feels that I am not only a liar, but also some sort of vindictive participant in a plot to undermine and defame the community she calls home. To this, I can only assure all concerned that nothing could be further from the truth.

These are serious accusations you are making, Ms. Hyde, which not only attack my professional conduct, but my personal character as well. Furthermore, the reckless and frenzied manner in which your letter makes these accusations disturbs me.

Guessing as to why you would do this would be pure conjecture on my part (something which I feel you might have been better served to avoid). Instead, I can only respectfully disagree with your comments and reiterate my dedication to responsible journalism.

Once again, Ms. Hyde's opinions are welcomed and appreciated. She should be commended for taking the time and effort to express her views. Nonetheless, I feel I have acted properly and responsibly in this matter. I stand by my story.

Sincerely,

Keith Russell
Junior, Journalism

'Creationist' seeks to explain numerology for laymen

To the Editor,

I am glad that my side finally has a champion like Leon Stancliff to put McGhee and his crony evolutionists on the hot seat. The only problem I can see with Stancliff's letter is that the reasoning is so lofty that at times the logic can be totally over the heads of those who have not sharpened their minds on the kinds of things Stancliff and I have — such as numerology. So to make sure that McGhee and his coconspirators get the point, I offer this "simple English" explanation of Stancliff's major points.

First, Stancliff writes that "sarcasm and comedy is completely out of place in a matter as serious as this one" and further rebukes McGhee for his arrogant know-it-all tone. Certainly McGhee and his crowd can understand that turning the debate in the direction of humor and wit is ungentelemanly, not to mention unfair to our side. I suggest that McGhee and his cabal get instruction in the use of a reasonable, modest tone by studying the letters of creationists such as Mr. Greene. For example, when Greene says that the evolutionists better drink some banana milkshakes now since they are on their way to hell, he never insinuates that he knows how to make banana milkshakes better than anyone else. But if you evolutionists are so obtuse that you can't learn from his crystal clear example, I will spell out the game rules of the creationist/evolutionist debate for you in no uncertain terms. Rule 1: We can say that you are conniving sinners on your way to hell, but you must address us respectfully. Rule 2: We may claim expertise in an area that we have barely studied, but you must take us seriously. Rule 3: We can suggest that all modern scientists above the Mason-Dixon line have dedicated their lives to propagating a lie, but you must not laugh. The last one sums up the whole bit, I think. Above all else, we hate being laughed at, and if we ever get this country back like it was in the good old days when we could drag scientists like Galileo trembling before our tribunal, we'll see who had the last laugh then.

Second, Stancliff points out how much better he is because he lives to "serve and glorify his Maker," while the McGhee gang believes that humans exist just to make more humans, that the end of human life is

the grave, and that even the universe will one day die. Certainly, McGhee, you must be able to see how wrong your ideas are from a marketing standpoint: They're scary, they're a hard pill to swallow, and they get in the way of watching the ball game because they put too much of life's responsibilities on my own shoulders. For instance, if the best you can tell me about why we're here is "just to make more humans," then about the only thing that would matter are the things I did to help make the world a better place for the human species to succeed. Ridiculous! Everyone knows that humans don't matter except when they're in the womb. On the other hand, our creationists ideas have strong marketing advantages. Since humans aren't responsible for the way the world goes, humans don't have to try to make it better, and that gives us a lot less to worry about as well as a lot more free time.

Third, Stancliff clears up a misunderstanding in the Tennessee legislature. According to Stancliff, the "Monkey Law" should have been passed because teachers should have the freedom to discuss creationist theory in science class, but the entire Tennessee legislature was laboring under the misapprehension that the "Monkey Law" would make it illegal NOT to teach creationist theory in science class.

Fourth and last, Stancliff probably left a few evolutionists in the dust with his scientific application of numerology to Genesis 1:1. It is hard to understand the significance of things like the seven words, seven letters etc., in Genesis 1:1, if you haven't sharpened yourself on numerological studies such as that Lincoln (seven letters), who was elected in 1860, was shot by John Wilkes Booth (15 letters) so that Andrew (six letters) Johnson (seven letters) became president, and later Kennedy (seven letters) became president. This cannot be coincidence; therefore, God exists. Numerology can give you truths like this about anything you want. For example, Middle Tennessee State University has only one "A" in it, therefore God obviously wants us to go I-A in football. If you were as smart as Stancliff and I, McGhee, you could do numerology like this too and stop wasting your time with all those tiring experiments. A good place for you to start making up for this shameful lack in your scientific training is on the Web at "http://www.chris.com/%7Ecostrain". The name of the page is "Cosmic Rainbow — Astrology, Horoscopes, Numerology and Palm Reading."

Tim Wolf
Professor of English

SIDELINES

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This is the last issue of *Sidelines* for the spring semester. *Sidelines* will begin summer publication on June 5.

Student implores people to be conscious of over-population

By Jeff Vaughn

In this era of ever increasing mass communication and media coverage, we are presented with many subjects as deserving our attention. Some of these are well worth our time. Some, such as the O.J. trial, are given far more coverage than they are worth. Still other topics do not get treated with near the regard they deserve. For one thing, there are a lot of people in the world. This is one subject which is rarely approached, not to mention with the proper perspective, by the media. Nonetheless, it is of the first importance to the quality of our lives. Even with the advent of spreading mass disease and the capability for mass destruction, the population is increasing. All the evidence we have indicates it will continue to do so for the foreseeable future.

This article is not about pro-choice, illegal immigration, moral consciousness, or any other such subjects, though they are related.

This is about population. Don't worry, I am not going to go into any extensive expansion upon statistical data. There is no need for detailed analysis about how this relates to the known facts involving the capacity of the planet. The media may not pay much

attention to the subject, but all the facts and opinions are well documented in various books and what few articles have been written on the topic. Let me give you an example, instead of the naked numbers.

Here in the Middle Tennessee area, agriculture is not an unknown enterprise. In other parts of the country (including where I was raised), it is even more important in the lives of the people and the economy. Obviously, any experienced farmer knows that a particular tract of land of a particular quality can grow an estimable quantity of a certain kind of crop. With proper irrigation, soil preservation and fertilization, the yield can be increased — and perhaps maintained for a number of years. An upper limit exists, however, on how much can be produced from a limited quantity of land. Large farm animals, such as cows or sheep, require even more land. Grazing land, like crop land, must be taken from the natural environment. Fertile plains are the best for this purpose, but only so much exists. A good farmer knows how much his land can be expected to produce.

But not even a good farmer, with all the advances of science and technology at his, or her, disposal, can completely avoid

the disparities of nature. Obviously, no means exist to control a hailstorm, a tornado or an earthquake. Floods and drought can be only partially controlled by people. In fact, some attempts at control have only served to decrease the potential output of the land, not to mention its actual viability.

On this planet — the only one we have — we have been better at "farming" one thing better than anything else: people. And do we ever have a lot of them. And are they ever increasing. In my lifetime the population of the United States has increased by more than 25 percent. The same is true for the world as a whole. For every four people on Earth when I was born, we now have more than five. If we look at recent history, we can see the very rate of population increase itself has been increasing. From 1800 to 1900, the world population increased 100 percent. The increase from 1900 to on the verge of 2000 has been over 250 percent.

"Well," you might say, "So what? A hundred years is a long time."

Not really. Although it may be rare for someone to live a hundred years, it is not unheard of. George Burns is a recent case in point. Particularly in the more "advanced" countries with

modern medical technologies people are living much longer — on the average — than people did not too long ago. History tells us that people have been living in cities and utilizing agriculture for thousands of years. It is only recently, relatively speaking, that we spread over the planet in rapidly expanding numbers with ever increasing technology.

What we have here is not just a double whammy, with life expectancy increasing as the world wide birth rate climbs. The quantity of infants who survive to adulthood is also rising. That is a triple whammy.

I think we might have a growing problem on our hands with no clear solution in sight. Like a farm, the Earth is a limited environment. A vast one to be sure, but limited nonetheless. It is not my purpose here to get involved in the so-called "environmental" aspects of the question. They do exist, but my concern here is with people.

Why should I be concerned? Why should I care? I'll probably be dead and gone by the time it gets really bad, right? I care because my parents cared. And their parents cared. They may not have seen the issue in exactly this way, but they cared for me.

If they had not, I would not be here to say this, or do any of the things I enjoy doing, see any of the things to be seen, experience life. They gave me this gift. They gave me life. Although having children may not be what everybody needs or wants, particularly in these times, I would like to give that gift — as it was given to me. I would like to pass on that torch, so to speak, to another generation so they can carry it further and do more with it. However, I will have only two children, at most. That will be plenty enough, considering everybody they will have to share the world with.

I wish to implore you, if you have any concern about anyone or anything besides yourself (and I feel assured those who do not would have quit reading this article long ago), to think carefully about how many people are going to have to share this world with in the near future. If you have the desire to have children, carefully consider how many. If you do not feel the need to have children, then, by all means, please don't. This is particularly important to all you other guys out there. After all, you may think that you are not the one who is going to be pregnant. You are not the one who is going to go through labor. You may think, if the

relationship is not going to be long term, that you are not even going to have to raise the child. Please, do not be so selfish. Do not be so stupid. As vast as this planet is, it is limited in size and resources. No matter what anyone may tell you, the Earth can only support so many people, like a pasture can support only so many sheep. The more people there are — the fewer the resources available to each one of us.

Another thing to consider is the idea that when someone sees others have more than he does, for no apparent reason he can see, feelings of unfairness and animosity can arise. There are those who believe that this is a major cause of conflict between people throughout the world.

We are all involved in this, whether we want to be or not. We have the future of the world in our hands. We are the future. We can make it hell on Earth us if we wish, or if we just don't care. No one man or woman can do anything about it alone.

One thing is certain: we can do nothing about it if we do not try.

Mr. Vaughn is a senior who studies sociology.

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The Internet by Joe Legge

Cleaning out the closet

For the past year, I have tried to help Internet users better understand the uses and abuses, pros and cons, and value of this brave new technology. Like the certainty that an Eskimo chills, the final link is here. But before I wrap this up, I'd like to offer a column on a more personal level.

Recently, I was elected Senator of Mass Communication in SGA. Shortly after, I was asked by SGA what e-mail address I wanted listed for constituents to contact me. The funny thing about this was I, being a student at MTSU, had no knowledge SGA knew what Internet was, let alone their website (<http://www.mtsu.edu/~stgov>). The reason I am telling this is due to the highly known fact that students don't really ponder SGA. Well, maybe the Internet will change this. By simply connecting to the SGA website or e-mailing stgov@frank.mtsu.edu, all students can be heard. I'd like to challenge each and every student with Internet access to reach their representatives via Internet before the end of 1996.

Over the course of the column, I've had numerous requests for information about IRC, Internet Relay Chat. This is the place where a lot of students hang and "chat" with people across the globe. When I first found this a few years back, I was on it all the time. It was remarkable to be able to go into a topical room of my choice and "chat" with others with the same interest. Ideally, you should be able to type "irc" at the frank prompt to find a gateway there, but it is not that simple. The irc software was never installed on the frank system, so each individual wanting to use it would have to download and setup the program on their personal account. I've done this before and it's not much fun.

Instead of using the software, I'd like to suggest a few other options. First, try using telnet. Simply telnet to telnet.wire.net or telnet2.eu.undernet.org:6677. If you are prompted for a login or password, enter "guest." The other option is using the World Wide Web. The URL is <http://www.nova.edu/Inter-Links/irc/connect.html>. Any of these selections will do the trick.

I know many people use Yahoo and Webcrawler to search for sites on the web they might be interested in. However, if you're looking for a specific file, an ftp site is a better choice. FTPSearch (<http://129.241.190.13/ftpsearch>) Snoopie (<http://www.snoopie.com>) and Shareware Com (<http://www.shareware.com>) are all valuable for this function.

On a totally different note, I've been pretty ill with those new movie lines Carmike has. What's with changing the number of the theater three times in the last few months? Finally, there is a website that solves this problem. Movies in Nashville (<http://webware-inc.com/movies/movie.cgi?action=14&location=00420019>) has a listing of all theaters in Middle Tennessee, show times, ratings critiques and various other things. This again leads me to believe as the Internet becomes more commonplace, all forms of media will have to adapt to a new standard.

My journey through the caverns of the Internet has finally come to an end. But before I finish my final column, I'd like to again reiterate the troubles with the Telecommunications Act of 1996. This new law strips away your constitutional rights when using the Internet. If you'd like more information about the law and ways to fight it, link to my website at <http://www.mtsu.edu/~legman>. Thanks to all who've read. ●

Just a hunka hunka burnin' looove

Elvis is alive and well and living in the MTSU 'trailer park'

By Joey Butler / staff

For a dead person, Elvis Presley sure gets around. Since his untimely demise in 1977, the King has been spotted in truck stops in Idaho, Wal-Marts in Mississippi and eating at various barbecue joints nationwide.

Now, Elvis has taken up residence - at least in spirit - in the modular trailers on the MTSU campus.

Modular trailer E was first visited by the King two years ago and he has been an undeniable presence ever since.

Assistant professor of psychology Cathy Crooks was the first to notice Elvis lurking in the trailer. Actually, one of her students brought him there.

"We affectionately dubbed the modulars 'the trailer park,'" Crooks says. "I had an undergraduate student that went to Graceland and brought me back a velvet painting of Elvis. He said that it was only fitting, since we lived in a trailer."

Other people began contributing to the wall. One professor brought a photograph of his hound dog (three guesses what the dog's name is). Another brought a genuine Elvis clock, complete with gyrating hips.

Then the really strange things started happening. Elvis memorabilia began appearing out of nowhere. These phantom contributions were, of course, attributed to a certain boy from Tupelo, Miss.

"If anything unusual happens around here, we blame it on Elvis," says assistant professor of psychology Dana Fuller.

And there are quite a few unusual occurrences in modular E. Open doors, strange noises and a curious smell have become part of daily life in the spiritual home of the King.

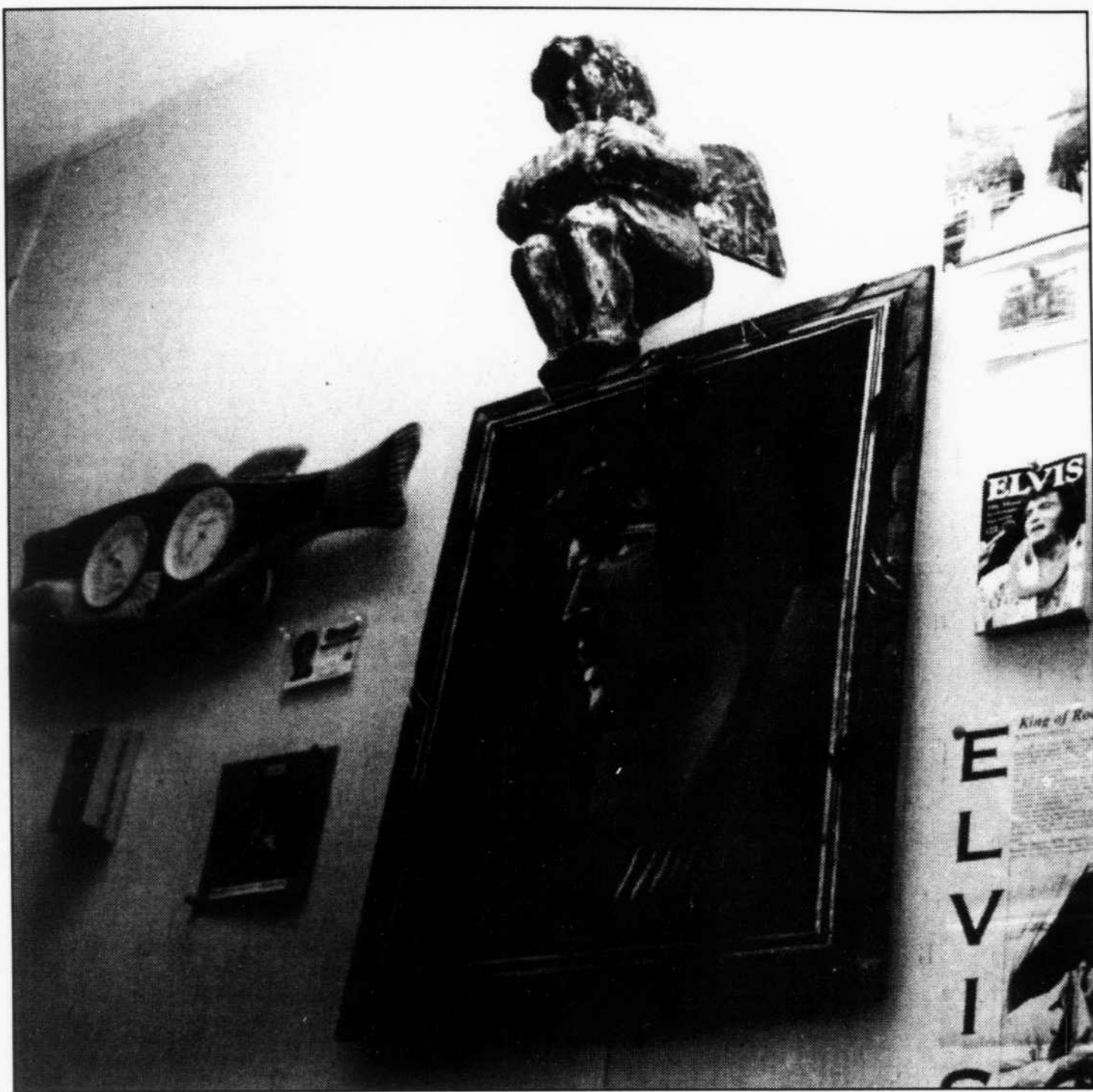
The smell, in particular, was a bizarre experience.

"For the longest time, there was this awful smell and no one could figure out where it was coming from," Crooks says. "Someone left a note on my door that read 'Elvis really is dead - I can smell him.'"

Although maintenance workers said they traced the odor to a backed up sewer, this reporter smells the pungent aroma of conspiracy.

Rather than hold any unpleasant odors against Elvis, the trailer parkers embraced him. They plopped a tie-dyed beanbag chair in front of the wall so admirers could cop a squat and spend some quality time with the King.

"It began as self-entertainment,"



Mark T. Gibson / staff

The Elvis Wall, in all its glory.

"If anything unusual happens around here, we blame it on Elvis."

Dana Fuller
Assistant Psychology Professor

says assistant professor of psychology Carol Lewis. "It's easy to feel isolated out here in the modulars."

Unfortunately, some people couldn't live without the Elvis memorabilia. Occasionally, items

mysteriously disappear. One of them was the ill-fated beanbag, as well as some yard spinners that decorated the outside steps.

"Sometimes we go too far and people abscond things," Lewis says.

Luckily, there always seem to be new items to replace the lost ones. A prized possession is a set of recently acquired pink flamingo statues for the "front lawn."

"It's funny, because I would never consider myself an Elvis fan, but I've actually begun collecting memorabilia on my own now," Crooks says.

The Elvis Wall has become a campuswide attraction. Crooks says people stop in all the time just to look at it. The Velvet Elvis has even been on tour, sort of.

"A friend borrowed it for a going away party for someone who was moving to Memphis," Crooks says. "We put a sign on the wall that read,

'Elvis is currently on tour. Be back soon.'"

Although they claim not to hold any events in observance of Elvis' birth or so-called death, the professors do plan to hold a spring fling with an Elvis motif.

"We're going to serve moon pies and RC Cola," Crooks says (what - no peanut butter and banana sandwiches??).

They even have a possible pilgrimage to Graceland in the works.

"This has been a wonderful way of bringing us all together," Lewis says.

So take the tabloid reports with a grain of salt. Sure, the King may have been spotted at a little league baseball game in Muleshoe, Texas, or pumping gas in Madison, Wisc., but remember: the MTSU trailer park is the only place in the world where Elvis *hasn't* left the building. ●

Local printing press keeps old traditions alive

By Dustin Schrimpscher / staff

The dream of art professor Janet Higgins reached fruition Friday as the inauguration ceremony of the Tulip Poplar Press unveiled its first limited production publication, titled "Home Land."

"Home Land" is a compilation of seven works by writers of the Middle Tennessee area between 1800 and 1995. It is printed on handmade papers created especially for the limited production of the portfolio. "Home Land" showcases a traditional Cherokee creation story as well as writings from Mary N. Murfree, Andrew Lytle, Poet Laureate Maggi Vaughn, Nikki Giovanni, Robert Herring and Debbie Rose. Also included is a compilation of reflective essays written by students working on the project. Production costs for "Home Land" were partially underwritten by the Rutherford County Arts and Humanities Council.

The Tulip Poplar Press, which derives its name from our state tree, utilizes traditional printing technology. The two presses used in the program are similar in design to the printing press designed by Gutenberg.

One might ask why a hand-type-set press program is important. The answer is more therapy for the human soul than pragmatic necessity.

"The older technology of the press . . . brings us back to a kind of balance."

Charles Jansen
Publicist

During the inauguration ceremony Charles Jansen, art professor and publicist for the Tulip Poplar Press, explained its importance.

"To quote Eric Braum, 'The danger of the past was that people became slaves. The danger of the future is that people become robots,'" Jansen said.

"In the case of the Tulip Poplar Press, the take-over by computers of printing with desktop publishing meant that the older technology of letter presses that produced the printing in this portfolio was fairly easy to acquire and fairly cheap," Jansen continued.

"Computers also created the need for the Tulip Poplar Press. As they deluge us with more information than we can possibly handle, there is a kind of stress that comes with that. It seems to me that the hand labor of this slower process offers, like whittling or cross-stitching, the lining up of little bits of type to make these beautiful broadsides is a kind of de-stresser, even a kind of meditation; a time when people can think about information rather than just receiving it or gathering it. The older technology of the press is also a kind of recycling and like all other kinds of recycling it brings us back to a kind of balance," he said.

Janet Higgins, art professor, artistic director and 'mother' to the program, wanted to create an ongoing enterprise within the art department. In the future, students in several departments will have a chance to collaborate, sharing their talents and learning to work together in the press program. For the first project, students in Higgins' book arts class collaborated with student illustrators to hand set the metal type and cut illustrations from blocks of linoleum.

Higgins said that her dream could have never been realized without the support of an entire community. Faculty, staff, students, and people of Murfreesboro collaborated to make the

Tulip Poplar Press a reality.

"It was just wonderful to be a part of that kind of community where we all worked together and we all encouraged each other," Higgins said.

The images created by the relief printing are somewhat more vague than we are used to seeing on an a day to day basis. The flecks of color in the handmade paper along with the flowing organic images in both text and illustration allow the imagination of the viewer to manipulate the images into scenes of personal importance. Clouds may seem to move; battle scenes may reveal frightening images of obscene violence one instant and a peaceful picture of an open field the next. If the creation of these images is, in fact, therapeutic in a world of computer-stress, then viewing the completed works is at least as soothing in a time when TV screens rob so many of us the of the opportunity to enjoy what our minds can actually conjure up.

Next year the Tulip Poplar Press will produce a portfolio titled "East by Southeast," which will be comprised of writings by Asians who have lived in Tennessee.

Higgins is very thankful to the university and all other contributors who allowed her the time and resources to finally realize her dream. ●

Baseball team tied for conference lead

APSU loss Sunday; Raider rain-out puts Middle in tie for OVC first place

By Sean P. O'Toole / staff

Mother Nature helped put the Blue Raider baseball team in a tie for the Ohio Valley Conference lead this Sunday, if only temporarily.

The Raiders' scheduled game with the Southeast Missouri Indians was cancelled due to rain. Middle split a doubleheader with SEMO Saturday, while the Austin Peay Governors split a twin bill of their own with Eastern Kentucky.

Austin Peay went into the weekend with a 12-5 OVC record, one half game ahead of the Raiders. Middle entered the series with SEMO with a record of 12-6. On Sunday after APSU fell to the Eastern Kentucky Colonels, 3-1, both the Gobs and Raiders sat atop the OVC standings with records of 13-7.

Middle started the season wrap-up in impressive fashion, with a 10-5 win over visitor Western Kentucky Thursday night at Reese Smith Field.

The Raiders carried a 5-3 lead into the bottom of the sixth, then tacked on five more runs in that same inning to pace the win.

Chad Kirby picked up the win to improve his record to 4-4 on the year, and Andrew Thompson hit a homerun to fuel the Raider win, giving them the momentum going into this weekend's showdown with SE Missouri.

In Saturday's doubleheader, the Raiders blew a lead in the late innings to drop the first half of the twinbill, 6-3.

The Raiders got on the board first in the top of the second, when Jamie Hill's sac fly allowed Doug Barner to score, giving the Raiders a 1-1 lead, but SEMO left fielder Lance Craft led the SEMO attack in the bottom of that inning, hitting his first homerun of the season, to give SEMO the 2-1 lead.

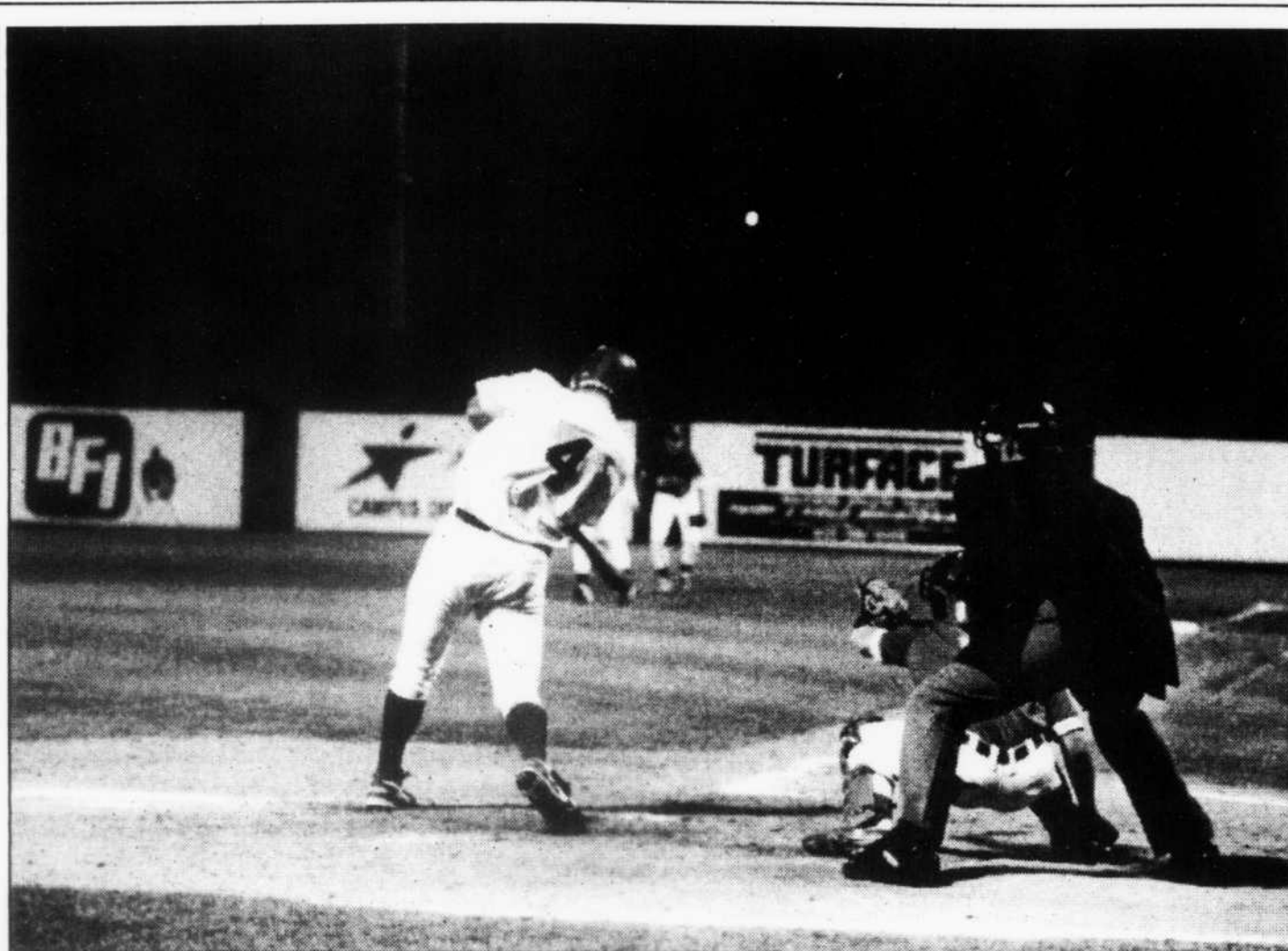
The Raiders added a run in the top of the fourth to tie the score at two, and Barner gave the Raiders a 3-2 lead in the top of the sixth with a sac fly to plate Jeremy Owens.

But that lead would be short-lived. Shawn Clark hit a solo homer off Chad Kirby to tie the game at 3-3 in the bottom of that inning. Head Coach Steve Peterson then called on reliever George Oleksik.

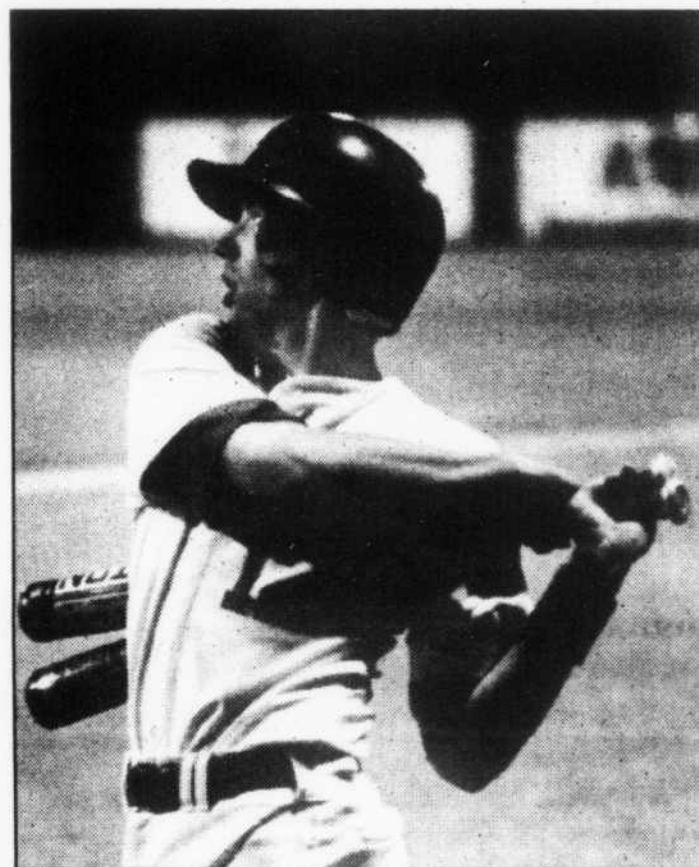
Oleksik was greeted rudely, however, as Jim Gerwitz and Lance Craft each hit singles to put runners on for SEMO. Matt Miller then hit a double to give SEMO the 4-3 edge, and late Raider errors allowed two more runs to score, giving them the 6-3 win.

Troy Pehle pitched a near-perfect ninth to pick up his third save of the season for SEMO, and Oleksik picked up the defeat (2-3).

But in the second half of the double, the Raiders beat the Indians the way they have beat so many other



photos by Brian G. Miller/staff



OVC race coming down to the wire

Austin Peay's 3-1 loss to Eastern Kentucky Sunday placed the Blue Raider baseball team in a tie for first place in the Ohio Valley Conference. Above: outfielder Jordan Beedies connects with a pitch. Left: second baseman Shane Shoemaker loosens up before going to the plate in a recent game.

Tuesday night the Raiders will travel to Nashville to face the Vanderbilt Commodores. Vandy handed the Raiders a 5-2 defeat in their first meeting this season April 9 at Smith Field. Tuesday's game is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m.

The Ohio Valley Conference tournament will take place May 4-5 at the home field of the regular season champion.

teams this season....with offense.

Andrew Thompson's double in the first inning with the bases loaded gave the Raiders an early 3-0 lead.

Will Fraley hit a double in the second also, sending Ty Curley and Chris Snyder plateward, to give the Raiders an early 5-0 advantage.

The Raiders cruised from there on out, scoring at least one run in every inning except the fifth, to give the Raiders the 12-2 victory.

Brian Early pitched the complete game, giving up just two runs on two hits, to up his record to 5-3 on the season.

Of the Indians' five pitchers, starter Dave Siboda (3-3) picked up

the loss, as the Raiders in all pounded out 12 runs on 14 hits.

Senior third baseman Doug Barner hit his 18th homerun of the year in the game, bringing him just one away from tying the single-season record (held by Mike Messerly, 19) and also one away from the all-time record (held by Chris Whitehead, 35).

The Saturday afternoon split, coupled with Austin Peay's split with Eastern Kentucky, left the Raiders still a half-game behind the Gobs heading into the showdown on Sunday afternoon which was eventually rained out.

Time for any scheduled make-up of Sunday's game was unknown at

press time.

Tuesday night the Raiders will travel to Nashville to face the Vanderbilt Commodores. Vandy handed the Raiders a 5-2 defeat in their first meeting this season April 9 in Murfreesboro.

Tuesday's game is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m.

The Ohio Valley Conference tournament will take place May 4-5 at the home field of the regular season champion. Following the tournament the Raiders will head to Knoxville for a game against the University of Tennessee, scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. ●

Assistant sports editor says his goodbyes as semester ends



Joel Frey
assistant sports editor

Everything was unpacked. His bed was made neatly and all the towels folded and in place. It was time for them to go. Only they didn't want to.

He stood in the parking lot and watched his teary-eyed parents head back home. Man did he want to go with them. But he stayed...

It hardly seems imaginable that it was almost four years ago in the parking lot of Nicks Hall that my folks dropped me off, headed back to Memphis and worried endlessly about me as I started my college career.

In a word, it has been a blur. And as I anticipate graduation in a couple of weeks and continue my fervent searches for meaningful employment across the country, there are several people I wish to thank before leaving MTSU.

And by the way, any of you out there who know me and think this is

just my last chance to do a little brown-nosing, let me remind you: I am graduating and leaving this institution, so now really, what would be the point? Give me a little credit.

Where to begin? In my four years at Middle, rarely, have I run into a professor who did not maintain a high sense of professionalism in the classroom. Of course, there have been a few who stood above the rest.

In all the classes I have taken, in all departments across campus, I don't think I have learned more than I did in the history classes I had with Dr. Robert Taylor. While there were times, particularly while studying for his LONG exams, I questioned my decision to take upper-division history from him, I realize now he presented me with a challenge every time I stepped into his classroom. If you get the chance, take a class from him. I promise you it won't be easy, but you will see just how smart you are.

As a political science minor, I was also fortunate in having Dr. Mark Byrnes on three different occasions. Dr. Byrnes made it easy to come to class. I could always expect, yes, an interesting lecture as well as a few laughs. Do yourself a favor one

semester and take American Government from him. I guarantee at least one story about beer.

Finally, there are two professors in the journalism department I owe a great debt of gratitude: Dr. Glenn Himebaugh and Dr. David Badger. As an aspiring journalist four years ago, I really thought I knew what it took to be a newspaperman. Both these men, on more than one occasion, have helped me with the intricacies of writing which have, I think, made me better. Journalism students: Don't be afraid of their classes. You're really doing yourself a disservice if you purposely avoid them.

While on the subject of journalism, I need to pass along my regards to the folks here at *Sidelines*. It has been a pleasure working with you all. Special thanks to sports editor Rob Nunley for usually letting me get my way as to where my stories were placed. Good luck, buddy.

I have also had the distinct pleasure of covering the MTSU tennis teams for the last three semesters. Thanks to coaches Dale Short and David Thornton for their unending willingness in giving me the scoop about the men's and women's teams. If

I ever become wealthy guys, you'll have an indoor center.

College really is about friends. And my best friends here at MTSU have been made through my job in University Housing. As an RA and Hall Director over the last three years, I have met so many different people I probably would not have otherwise. I will miss you all.

Special thanks to my boss, Area I coordinator, Tracey Holt. Tracey is a truly unique individual and someone I work with and not for.

I could not have had a better golfing buddy than Chuck Groves. Thanks for all the laughs and Saturday morning sessions at Cracker Barrel over a cup of Joe and the "Country Boy Breakfast."

Finally, there are three "brus" out there who I can not thank enough. I need not mention their names. They know who they are. And they probably would be embarrassed if I did. So I won't. Just remember fellas, Reynolds Hall will never be the same and if I have ever wind up in AA, I have you three to blame for it. UHHHHH!!!!

That's all for me folks. May the force be with you. ●



Rob Nunley
Sports editor

Sports editor gives credit where it's due

Well, folks, it's been almost a year and a half since yours truly began filling up space in your MTSU community newspaper with rants, jokes and other little bits of fluff I like to call "Robobservations." So, as this is the last issue of *Sidelines* during my tenure as sports editor, I thought I'd take this space to give some recognition to the people that helped - both professionally and personally - to allow me to have this much fun.

Last week, I filled out a staff survey which contained the question: "What made you decide to work for student publications?" The multiple-choice answer that I circled was "A friend twisted my arm."

Bryan, you are the one that literally made me come after a sportswriting job here. You talked me up to the sports editor and stayed on my back over the whole Christmas break until I applied for a job. Then once I became editor, you used your connections to give me the scoop on more than one occasion. And now you're a big-time TV man, and I'm about to leave here with my degree and a whole lot more experience than I would have had if you hadn't been so insistent that I take the job.

No amount of lunches or green fees can repay you for that.

Of course, all his persistence would've gone for naught if Janet hadn't hired me sight-unseen. All I did was say I wouldn't mind doing a few stories, to which she replied, "O.K., can you give me 600 words on tonight's basketball game, and have it written by 10:30?" It was the fastest job interview in the history of the world.

Then when she left as editor, I took her job. I felt really bad about that for a while, but she never seemed bitter toward me, and still helped me out from the SID office with whatever I needed. Another ex-boss in the same situation might have left me hung out to dry, but as a friend she wouldn't do that.

I've also got to give a loud shout out to Jim Horten at Sports Information. I remember calling him almost every day when I was writing weekly stories for my News Writing class, and he even helped me back then. After I got this job and didn't know anything, Jim still gave me all the information I asked for, even though I wasn't the "real" media, without becoming annoyed. Now that I've had this job for a while I still don't know a great deal, but a lot of what I do know came from him.

And if just doing his job and providing me with all the schedules, media guides and press releases I needed wasn't enough, Horten even hooked me up with an internship for after graduation. That takes media relations to a whole different level. You're underrated, Horten. One of these days, when you own Murphy Center and they rename the football stadium after you, people will realize how much you did for this school.

Of course you'll be making big money on the PGA tour by then, so you probably won't care.

I have to give special thanks to two people who have taught me the most important lessons I have had in becoming at least something resembling a writer. The first is Dr. Glenn Himebaugh, who taught me how to write - period. He wasn't the only professor I had over my college career, but I dare say he was one of the few teachers.

Secondly, I have to credit Tony Stinnett of the *Daily News Journal* for not only giving me countless pointers on the specifics of sportswriting, but more importantly for showing me that it is O.K. to be a reporter and still be a fan. If I have one piece of advice for future sports writers (other than to learn to take your own photos), that would be it.

Over the last year I've had an immeasurable number of "staff writers," but a few have stuck around and really made a big difference. One of those is Joel Frey. Like me, Joel will be leaving here in a couple of weeks, and he will definitely be missed.

Not only did Joel help with layout, planning and editing, he worked his beat harder than any other writer on

ROB:

Continued from page 7

staff. I've never met another beat writer that was more in love with the team he covered, and I hope the tennis team realizes what they're going to be losing.

• I used to worry sometimes about whether or not I would be as well respected, for lack of a better word, than the rest of the reporters covering all of our games. I mean, after all, I'm just the "school paper."

But fortunately I was working within a group of sportswriters that seemed to view me as just another one of them, and not as a student. Monte Hale, Lance Mc Kerley and Tony Coleman covered most of the basketball games that I covered this year, and to them I was just Rob, not "Rob from the MTSU paper." That really helped me feel like a reporter, and not someone learning or pretending to be a reporter.

• I want to thank MTSU's coaches and athletes for also helping me feel like a professional, and for allowing me to stumble along in attempts to cover their sports. In particular I want to thank coaches Farrar, Bivens, Peterson, Hayes, Kisse and Moore, as they are the people I dealt with the most. (In fact I probably covered coach Kisse and Coach Moore's teams more than any other papers.)

Anyway, thank all of you for your patience with me. One of the things I tell all of my writers is it's a lot easier to cover sports when the team you cover wins. Because of you, we get to write about victories more often than not.

• While working here, I was fortunate to be a part of a great staff of editors and writers. Mark, Kris, Carl, Brian, Joey and Jason were probably some of the most professional people I will ever be involved with, and while sometimes the paper didn't exactly look like it, they all worked incredibly long hours for incredibly bad pay to make *Sidelines* look and read the best it has in years (and I ought to know, I've been here for years.)

They were great co-workers, but they are better friends, and I wouldn't want to

have done this without them. On top of that, Mark and Kris had the brilliant forethought to hire the greatest, smartest and most talented Assistant News Editor the world has ever known (everyone else can ignore that last part - I just have to keep my fences mended. You guys know how it is.)

• There's one final person I have to talk about. Every production night for the past year, the phone would ring at my desk at about 11:00. It was always my roommate, Kevin, asking when I would be done.

Not that he particularly missed me or wanted me to come home, but I think it was more that he wanted to call to get the early scoop over the people who would read the paper the next day.

You see, Kevin went to just about every game that I covered (and a lot more than our photographers), so it was almost like he was an unpaid member of the staff. In fact, he knows more about the women's basketball team than Sean or I do, and we covered the games. If I'd thought of it, I'd have gotten him a camera for all those away games we went to. He usually got in on a media pass, anyway.

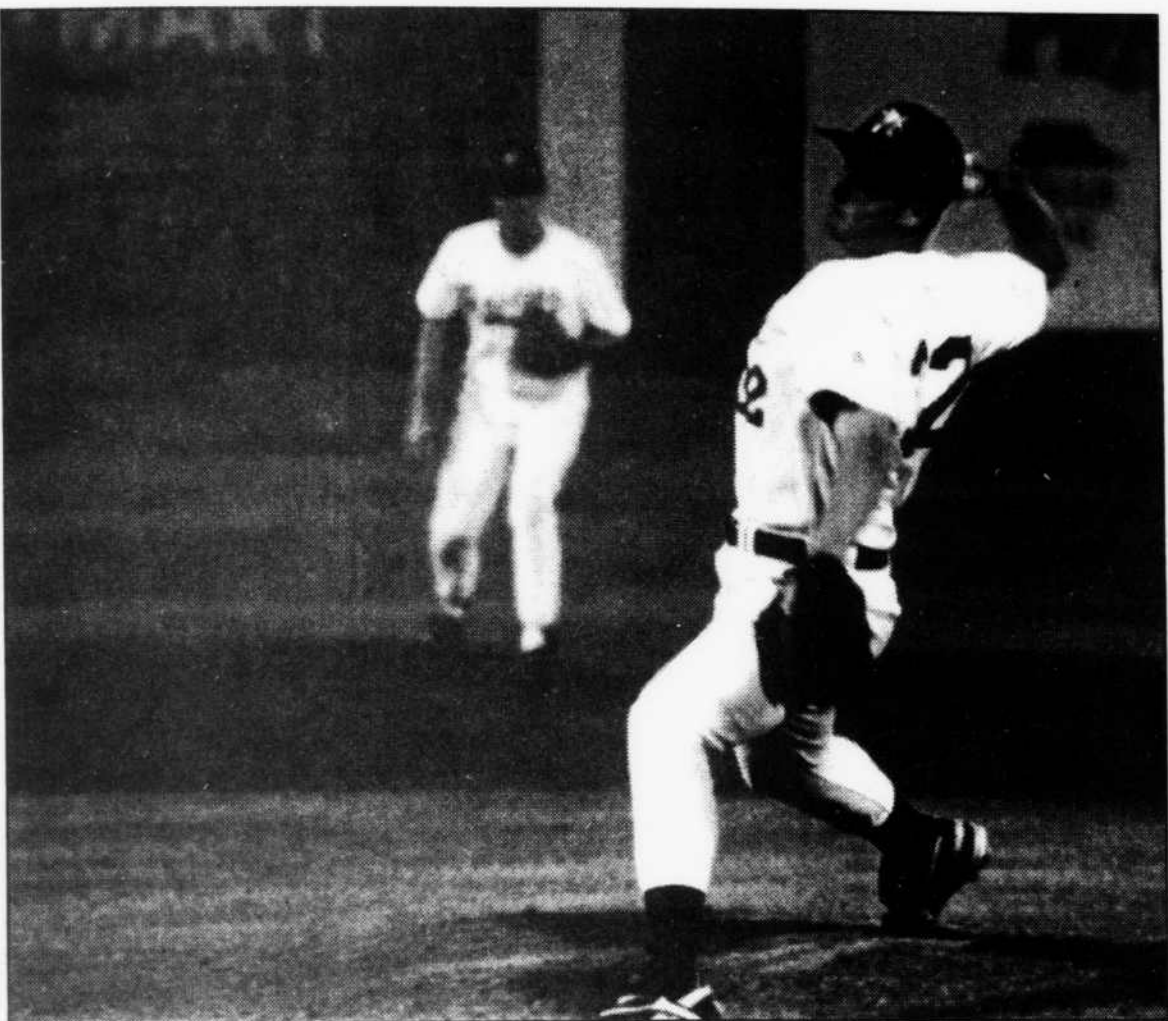
But I think he called the desk because he felt so close to the *Sidelines* sports page, he just wanted to check on the progress of the section.

Well, Uncle Kevin, I'm finally done - for good. I told you I'd be running a little late.

• Finally, I have to give some advice for those of you who won't be leaving here May 11. If you are a journalism student, please realize that you will not get a job without clips. Also realize that there is a great newspaper right up here in the JUB that will be more than happy to allow you to accumulate those clips.

So before you take so many journalism classes that you start making fun of *Sidelines*, I challenge each of you to come up here, get a job and just see how much better you can do.

• That's it, I've said my piece. Stay Blue, and I'll see you around. And when basketball season rolls around again, seat #35 in the first row above the southeast tunnel is MINE. ●



Brian G. Miller/staff

Bringin' it

Blue Raider pitcher Jake Wolaver delivers a pitch during a recent Blue Raider game.

Bonds enters elite 300-300 club Saturday

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Barry Bonds joined his father and godfather in some elite company Saturday. Then he got thrown out of the game.

The San Francisco outfielder homered in the third inning against the Florida Marlins to become only the fourth major leaguer to hit 300 homers and steal 300 bases.

He joined Bobby Bonds, his father, Willie Mays, his godfather, and Andre Dawson as the only players to reach the 300-300 mark.

"It doesn't seem real, as fast as it's come to me," Bonds said.

Bonds hit his second homer of the game in the fifth inning, but after striking out in the seventh, he was ejected for arguing with home plate umpire Mark Hirschbeck.

In the third, Bonds hit a two-run homer off former teammate John Burkett. Bonds raised his arms over his head as he circled the bases and received a standing ovation from the crowd at 3Com Park.

When he returned to the dugout, Bonds hugged his father, the Giants' first base coach, who had 332 homers and 461 career steals.

Mays was the first player to

eclipse the 300-300 mark. He had 660 homers and 338 stolen bases.

Dawson, now with the Florida Marlins, was the last player to reach 300 homers and steals. Dawson has 436 homers and 314 stolen bases.

The Giants went on to win Saturday's game 6-3.

Bonds, who has nine home runs this season, said he doesn't consider himself a home-run hitter, despite Saturday's feat.

"I'm not like Frank Thomas or Albert Belle," he said. "I'm going to get my runs but I don't have that type of swing." ●

Matriarch of Majors family dies

Associated Press

WINCHESTER, Tenn. — Elizabeth Majors, the matriarch of Tennessee's most famous football family, died of respiratory arrest. She was 82.

The former school teacher and widow of former Sewanee football coach Shirley Majors died Friday evening at a Columbia Southern Tennessee Medical Center, where she had been since suffering a stroke earlier this month.

The family produced five football-playing sons.

Johnny Majors was a star at Tennessee, finishing second in the 1956 Heisman Trophy race. He coached at his alma mater for 16 years, and is currently the head coach at Pittsburgh.

His brother Bobby Major was an All-American defensive back at Tennessee from 1969-1971. Larry Majors played for his father at Sewanee while Joe Majors, a Nashville lobbyist, played football at Florida State University.

Bill Majors also played football at Tennessee where he later served as an assistant coach. He died in an automobile accident in the mid 1960s.

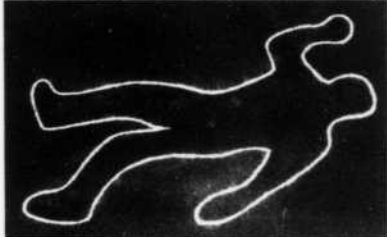
"Other than a military wife no other mother in the world heard more national anthem than my mother," Johnny Majors told The Tennessee newspaper. "Mother was always there for us ..."

The entire Majors family was inducted into the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame in 1973.

The funeral is set for 11 a.m. Tuesday at Watson-Gamble Funeral Home with interment at Lynchburg Cemetery.

Survivors in addition to her sons include a daughter, Shirley Ann Husband of New Orleans. ●

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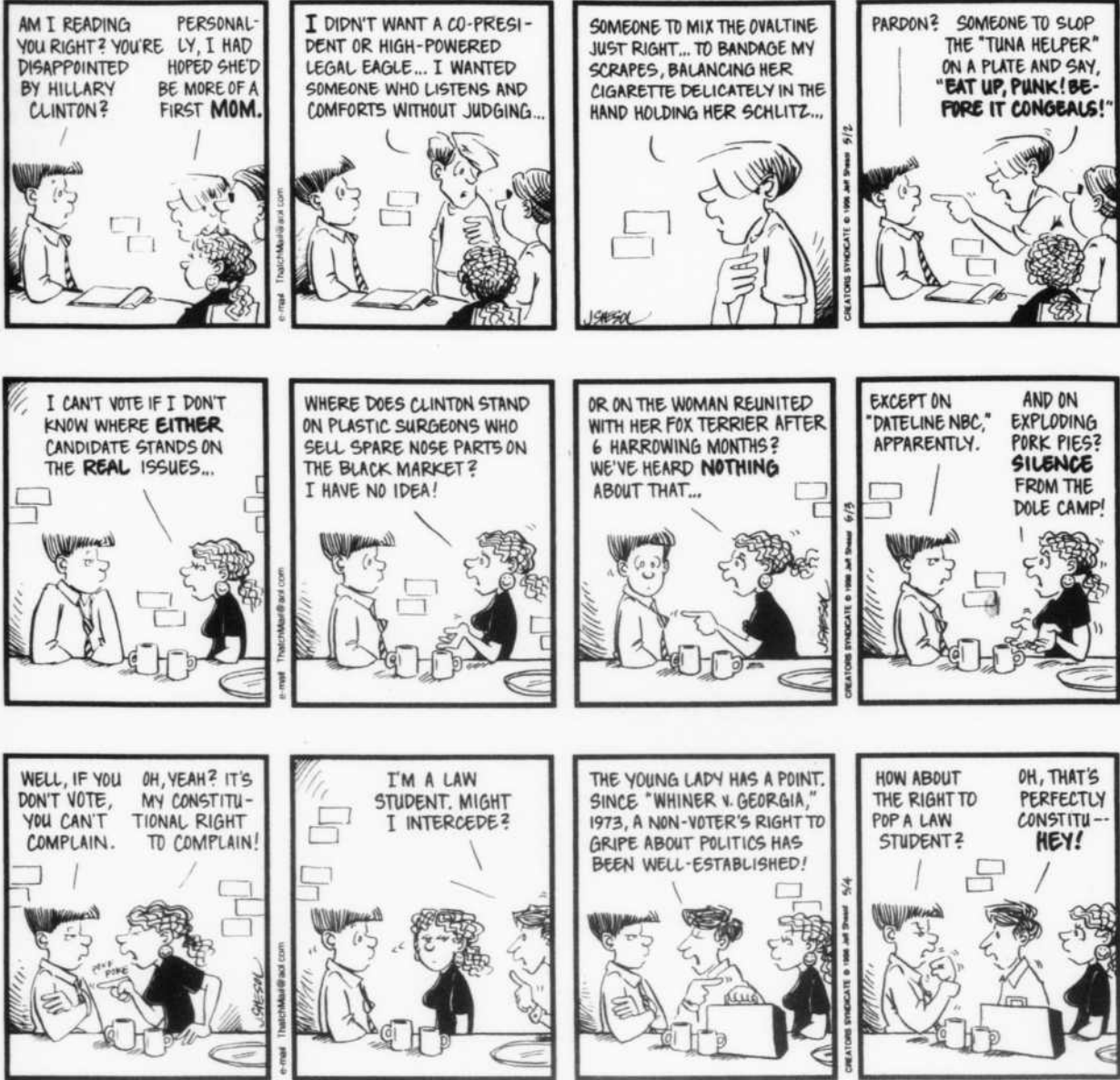
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THATCH by Jeff Shesol



THE Crossword

ACROSS

1 Han — of "Star Wars"

5 Yeared

10 Thick slice

14 Famous last word

15 New Zealand native

16 Ashen

17 Nary a one

18 — agent

19 Analogy words

20 Deteriorate

22 Editor, sort of

24 Ancient ointment

25 — up (study hard)

26 Develop

29 Creating dissension

33 Solitary

34 Gave medicine to

35 — Yutang

36 Disabled

37 Spanish mister

38 Military base

39 Summer: Fr.

40 "You used to come —"

41 Cut

42 Emancipates

43 Shoddy

44 Tresses

46 Page

47 Hairly goat

50 Tie

51 Pilsner

55 Coin toss call

57 Monster

58 Unfurnished

59 Ms. Dinsmore

60 Clark Kent's Lois

61 God of war

62 Cut, in a way

63 Baseball's Slaughter

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6 Was concerned

7 Did gardening

8 Sounds of hesitation

9 Find

10 Backbones

11 Girl

12 Palo —, CA

13 "To — not..."

21 Idem

23 Arthurian lady

25 Buffalo

26 Cotton bundles

27 Make ecstatic

28 Haley's for one

29 Recipient

30 TV's " — Lucy"

31 Clamping devices

32 Admission

34 Hold back

37 Lined, in a way

38 Certain door opening

40 Way off

41 Slough

43 Coasts

44 Stopped

46 Contradict

47 Rhyme scheme

48 At hand

49 "Pretty Woman" actor

50 Record

51 Alaska's first governor

52 River through Florence

53 Golf items

56 Actress

MacGraw

Sidelines will be going into hiding during the merry, merry month of May. However when June 5 rolls around, you'd better believe that we will be publishing another paper. Every Wednesday, all summer. Thanks for letting us be YOUR paper.

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\$1750 weekly possible mailing our circulars. For info call 301-306-1207.

COUNSELORS NEEDED

June 3-August 16. Live in Nashville or surrounding area? Then you are needed as a camp counselor. General staff plus rappelling, lifeguards, gymnastics, music, sports, crafts & more. Call or write for an application; (615) 799-9925. Whippoorwill Farm Day Camp, 7840 Whippoorwill Lane, Fairview, Tenn. 37062.

FOR SALE

Planning to build soon? Must sell 2 arch bldgs. left over from recent March farm shows. 25x28, 35x40. Perfect for shop, storage. Huge Savings. 1-800-222-6335.

Olympic tickets for sale:

Swimming, track, basketball, gymnastics, soccer and others. Please call Jonathan at 516-271-3581.

STEEL BUILDINGS. Must sell three arch buildings that were repossessed from customers. 2 new, 1 used. 25x32, 30x56. Financing available. Call 1-800-222-6335. Serious inquiries only.

Customer cancellation forces sale of 3 new arch style steel bldgs. 25x38, 30x56. Free shipping. Free storage. Financing available. Huge savings. Call immediately 1-800-222-6335.

Sidelines will be taking a mini-vacation during the mini-term. The first issue of the summer session will be June 5. We'll see you then!