

Middle Tennessee State University
January 14, 1977 Vol. 50 No. 39

M'boro merchants divided over check-cashing policy

by Merry Lynn Starling

The arrest of a Nashville student here in an alleged attempt to pass a \$150,000 bad check while claiming to be an MTSU student prompts a few questions:

—Do merchants frequently take losses on student checks?

—What is the atmosphere surrounding student check-cashing in the community?

—Are students having a hard time cashing checks?

In any college community, check-cashing is as frequent as class-going. Students seldom carry large amounts of cash and need checks to pay bills, buy groceries, eat out, etc. Often students retain their checking accounts in their hometowns, but more frequently, students establish accounts at local banks.

For most students, check-cashing is relatively simple. For out-of-town students, the process involves a few more hassles. But for foreign students, the whole process is one headache. And after such incidents as the one involving the Nashville student and the \$150,000 check, foreign students especially get a "bad name."

But is this "bad name" justified?

Several merchants (who wish to remain anonymous) stated that they hesitate to cash checks for foreign students simply because they have taken many losses in the past.

Stated one merchant: "Several times foreign students have cashed checks here and when the checks came back, I couldn't locate the

student. When this happens, I'm taking a loss."

As a result of this, a few merchants are contemplating blanket refusal of foreign student checks, regardless of the location of the student account.

Elizabeth Perez-Reilly, adviser to foreign students, explained that while this action may seem somewhat harsh, she understands the troubles merchants have had with foreign students.

Several years ago many of the students did not understand American banking procedures and did not establish accounts and credit with local banks.

Now, however, the foreign student office strongly advises students to set up a local account immediately. Then merchants should have no trouble cashing checks.

"It should be fairly simple to check the account of a student attempting to cash a check," Perez-Reilly said.

Explaining that she presently holds orientation sessions for foreign students with bank officials to explain banking procedures, she added, "I don't know any foreign students now who do not have accounts with local banks."

Perez-Reilly went on to say, however, that she did not think it was unreasonable for merchants to refuse to take checks on foreign banks.

"Out-of-state students set up local accounts so they don't have to present checks drawn on unfamiliar banks," she said. "Merchants

[continued on page two]

Death penalty proposed as 90th assembly convenes

by Robin Dial
 TCPA Legislative Correspondent

NASHVILLE—Emerging with new officers and committees, a host of pre-filed bills, and a proposed \$2.7 billion state budget, the 132 newly installed legislators of the 90th General Assembly say they are ready for business.

Actual legislation, however, will not take place until Feb. 22 when the lawmakers return to the capital city to assume full-time duties.

The organizational session, possibly the last if it is eliminated by the Constitutional Convention in August, was a week of routine formality.

Speakers in both houses, Lt. Gov. John Wilder, D-Somerville, and House Speaker Ned Ray McWherter, D-Dresden, were quickly elected without opposition, as were constitutional officers Gentry Crowell of Lebanon, Secretary of State, replacing the retiring Joe C. Carr; William R. Snodgrass of Sparta, state compt-

roller; and Harlan Matthews of Franklin, state treasurer, all Democrats.

Bills filed during the three-day session included a death penalty measure fashioned after capital punishment laws in Georgia, Florida, and Texas all declared constitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court.

The bill, introduced by Sen. Carl Koella, R-Rockford, and Rep. Frank Lashlee, D-Camden, was drafted by the state attorney general's office and lists 11 specific crimes to which the death penalty is applicable. The measure also requires that the penalty of death or life imprisonment be decided in a separate hearing after the trial.

Tennessee's present capital punishment law, mandatory death penalty for murder, is expected to be struck down by the State Supreme Court.

Other legislation introduced during the preliminary session

[continued on page three]



Staff photo by Thom Coombes

MTSU exchange student Suet-Ching Fung finds that cashing a check off-campus requires an MTSU ID, a driver's license...and a lot of patience.

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Today's Sidelines contains a special section on Intermediary, the state media conference beginning today on the MTSU campus.. pages 5-8

Rep. John Bragg discuss state Sunshine Laws...page 5

MTSU-Vandy series in jeopardy?...page 10

Merchants divided on check-cashing policy

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usually won't take out-of-state checks, so why should they be expected to take checks drawn on banks out of the country?"

Part of the problem, Perez-Reilly states, is that when merchants are faced with a situation involving a foreign student, they don't know who to call. "They should call my office, since we deal specifically

with foreign students."

But foreign students are not the only students faced with problems in cashing checks. MTSU students in general have problems just before the semester is over. Then they find merchants reluctant to cash checks at all.

Kroger manager Jack Gannon explained the reason for this reluctance: "We stop taking checks

from students for just cash just before the semester is out because so many students write bad checks and then disappear. By the time the check comes back, the student has gone home and is difficult to locate." He added, however, that most students do this unintentionally and when contacted about "bounced checks" will make full restitution.



Other grocery stores agreed with this reasoning. Jim Davis at Cooper & Martin explained that his store usually cashes checks for the amount of purchase only toward the end of the semester to hold down losses from bad checks.

Mrs. Al Hayden, manager of the Grog Shoppe, echoed the sentiments of the two grocery chains, explaining that the last two weeks of the semester are usually the worst for cashing checks. She added that the Grog Shoppe generally does not have any trouble during the rest of the semester.

East Main Market managers Dorothy and Harry Cook stated that they are generally liberal with students, since they know most of the students anyway and often cash checks even with no purchase. "Eventually it pays off," stated Mrs. Cook, citing additional

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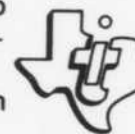
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student trade as a favorable result. Mrs. Cook added that they have many foreign student customers and have never been hurt by bad checks.

While banks require more identification to cash checks, they give students every consideration for "reasonable checks," said Don Moser, President of Citizens Central Bank. Moser added that the best way students can ease the trauma of check-cashing is to establish credit and an account with local banks, thereby making it easier for merchants to check accounts.

Most merchants agree that student check-writers are fairly considerate, since students are more "understandable about showing ID's," but occasionally they do have trouble. Students can help merchants and help themselves by carrying updated identification at all times, including a Tennessee driver's license with a current address. With student cooperation incidents like the recent one can be minimized.

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TEXAS INSTRUMENTS
INCORPORATED

New death penalty proposed

[continued from page one]

include: divorce on the grounds of irreconcilable differences; run-off elections when no candidate receives a majority; creation of a special committee to investigate state surplus property disposal; and a provision for limitations on increases in the state budget.

The overwhelming Democratic majority in both houses, a 2-to-1 ratio, was a sore spot during the week as legislators clamored for top committee assignments. Both houses created an additional committee, opening more committee chairmanships to Democrats jockeying among themselves for the few lead positions.

House Speaker McWherter announced a new committee on Administration (Sunshine and Sunset committee), to be chaired by Rep. Bob Davis, D-Chattanooga. The new committee will be charged with examining and justifying the existence of state agencies.

Mexico trip set for spring break

Foreign language and geography and earth science students wishing to travel to Mexico during spring break should meet Monday at 2:30 p.m. in OM 300, according to foreign language instructor Dale Shumway.

Participants will spend eight nights and nine days, March 17-25, for a base fee of \$330. The price includes round-trip airfare, excursions to such sites as the shrines at Guadalupe and other costs, Shumway said.

Persons desiring further information should contact either Shumway or Ralph Fullerton in the geography department.

The trip is sponsored jointly by the foreign language and geography departments.

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The Senate created the Energy and Environment Committee, splitting it from the overloaded General Welfare Committee. Sen. Ray Albright, R-Chattanooga, was named chairman.

House committee chairmanships were all granted to Democrats, while Lt. Gov. Wilder granted committee helms to Sen. Marshall Nave, R-Elizabethton, and Sen. Ray Albright, R-Chattanooga. House Minority Leader Tom Jensen, R-Knoxville, voiced his party's discontent with the committee assignments, and is expected to lodge a formal, and most likely, futile challenge when the legislators reconvene in February.

Campus Calendar

Today

State Media Conference, Intermediary: Tennessee Room, Dining Room A,B,C, SUB, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Blue Raider Classic Debate for High School Students: UC 2 p.m.-10 p.m.

McDonald's Art Show: Sponsored by the Murfreesboro Art League. Concert: "The Encounters," 7 p.m., Church of the Nazarene, 1618 Hamilton Dr., free.

Tomorrow

State Media Conference, Intermediary: Tennessee Room, Dining Room A, B, C, SUB, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Kappa Alpha Psi Dance: Tennessee Room, SUB, following the MTSU/EKU Game

Blue Raider Classic Debate for High School Students: UC, 7:45 a.m.-4 p.m.

Tennessee Elks Association: "Hoop Shoot" Contest, Murphy Center, 12 noon-4 p.m., Swimming Pool, 2-5 p.m.

Wrestling: MTSU/Notre Dame, Alabama/Va. Tech, 1 p.m.

Women's Basketball: MTSU/Union, Murphy Center, 5:15 p.m.

Basketball: MTSU/Eastern, Murphy Center, 7:30 p.m.

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High-level discussions should improve media

Today and tomorrow state and national journalists will come to MTSU to review media practices in Tennessee.

What remains to be seen is whether this conference will be more productive than those of the past. The big question is not what will happen today and tomorrow, but what effects this conference will have on the future.

Media conferences are good ideas—they bring together journalists to discuss topics relevant to the profession and to society—ethics, politics, discrimination, etc.

However, journalists are like everyone else when they get together. They talk of high ideals and redeeming social values; they discuss weeding out corruption and solving social ills; they expand on the importance of a press with ethics—and it's all mixed with a great deal of drink and smoke.

Rhetoric prevails as big ideas are tossed around—but when the party is over, does anyone really give a damn?

We can only hope that the media representatives coming to this conference will take more than just memories home with them—but that the memories of the wide-ranging panels will spur them to improvements in their work.

Will this conference be worthwhile? Will it be more than hang-overs and big ideas? We hope so, but we'll only know after it's been over for a long time.

I'LL TELL YOU WHAT'S WRONG
WITH AMERICA... WE HAVE TOO MANY
DRUNKS, JOURNALISTS AND POLITICIANS



Blanton asks record budget

by Robin Dial

TCPA Legislative Correspondent

NASHVILLE—Promising no new programs or taxes, Gov. Ray Blanton last week proposed a record \$2.7 billion budget to members of the joint assembly of legislators, an increase of \$297 million over the past year's budget.

Contained in that proposal are provisions for \$2.9 million for the Center for Health Services at Memphis, \$890,000 to assist the East Tennessee State University Medical School in receiving accreditation, and \$788,000 to the University of Tennessee's new College of Veterinary Medicine.

The Tennessee Student Assistance Corp. is to receive \$298,000 to match available federal funding for tuition grants. The Tennessee tuition grant program was not part of the budget.

In his budget message, Blanton asked the lawmakers to increase the state driver's license fee from \$4 to \$6 to fund the interstate emergency road service, cut in 1975 due to lack of funds. The \$2 increase would finance the hiring of 56 additional state highway troopers and the purchase of 266 specially-equipped vehicles. Civilians were used previously.

Other requests made by the Governor were a 7 per cent pay increase for teachers and state employees, and a state income tax.

Blanton is again making his appeal to the legislative bodies for an income tax, submitting essentially the same proposal that was defeated last year, but this time adding a 10 per cent kickback to local governments to make the proposal more palatable to the General Assembly.

Even so, the proposed tax measure will probably receive a lukewarm reception, at best.

The income tax, as proposed, would lower the current 4 1/2 per

cent sales tax to 3 per cent, and citizens would pay 1 to 3 per cent of their income, proportionally. The result would be that persons with incomes of less than \$10,000, that is, the majority of persons in the state, would pay less. The income tax would most drastically affect those persons making over \$50,000 per year.

The tax measure also provides for the repeal of the Hall income tax on stock dividends.

In a budget briefing for the press, Finance and Administration Commissioner Bill Jones indicated that the income tax and reduced sales tax would produce the same amount of revenue as the current method during the first year.

Jones predicted, however, that the income tax would be more flexible. He pointed out that it would grow with inflation and increase revenue for the state on an equitable basis without changing the rate. Without the income tax, Jones said it would be necessary to raise the sales tax periodically.

Forty-two states now have an income tax in some form.

Other large budget expenditures included \$670 million for human services programs under the Departments of Human Services, Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Public Health; \$96 million to improve existing programs, \$70 million to replace major bridges in the state; and \$68 million for corrections, labeled by Blanton as, "one of our most important and challenging problems."

Expenditures in the proposed \$52 million capital outlay budget included \$19.1 million for higher education facilities, \$6 million for additional maintenance at state park and recreational facilities, and an additional \$3 million for corrections.

'Closet writer' commended

To the editor:

In the recently released Tennessee Principle Quarterly a most timely and well executed editorial on homosexuality was published. My co-student and friend who wrote the editorial is to be commended. However, it is unfortunate that S. Amber felt obligated to remain behind the anonymity of a pen name rather than take credit for a work of controversial content. S. Amber foresaw a likely threat to her own reputed sexual identity that could have resulted from divulging her true name.

Carol Christof
Box 5518

Creativity stifled by Lack of nude models

To the editor:

One of the most difficult but important facets of a well-rounded art education is figure drawing. Once one's eye is trained to correctly transfer body proportions onto paper, he immediately becomes a more versatile craftsman. This is because figures have always been about the most widely used motif.

The MTSU art department is well-known for its fine programs, but it fails in this crucial area. There is no provision for students to study the human body. We don't want in-class orgies—we just want nude models.

S. Wood
MTSU Box 7370

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Review offers new attitude in media analysis

by John Pitts

Long after Intermediary, the event, is forgotten, the Tennessee journalism review of the same name will stand as a reminder of a new attitude in the critical analysis of the state's media.

The 35-page publication, to be released publically during the sessions here and in Nashville this weekend, deals with a variety of topics, notably press coverage of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), political reporting in the recent elections and apparent "boosterism" in coverage of sports across the state.

In "TVA and the Press," attorney Neil McBride examines the recent swing towards investigative reporting by state newspapers dealing with the TVA. "A press corps has grown up which does more than passively edit the agency's press releases," McBride observes.

Despite that "...most of the region's editors and publishers... have yet to demonstrate a full understanding of their responsibility" to report on the TVA and its affairs, McBride contends.

"Boosters and Their Trade in the Coverage of Sports," written by veteran sports observer Roy M. Neel, notes that "the pervasive style (of sportswriting) is boosterism, rooted in the premise that the home team is to be supported



Staff photo by Thom Coombes

and even protected against "destructive" forces.

According to Neel, these forces could range from unrest among members of the community to rival team's sportswriters.

"The stories most feared by these sports-boosters are examina-

tions by college authorities into the possibility of de-emphasizing or even abandoning the very activity which constitutes the writer's beat," Neel states.

Neel cites evidence that many Southeastern Conference schools informally "control" the news-

paper writers who cover their events. "A new objectivity is needed. The influence of sports in our lives is sure to increase and the somewhat unpleasant role of watchdog must fall to the sportswriter," Neel concludes.

Other features in the new publication include an interview with Benjamin Hooks, the first black member of the Federal Communications Commission, who will soon leave that post to become executive director of the NAACP; examination of the current condition of the First Amendment, authorized by Vanderbilt law instructor James Blumstein and a look back at the 1976 revelation that some Tennessee weekly newspapers charged political candidates to print news stories about their campaigns.

A humorous addition to the publication is "Journalism in Tennessee" by the master of dry wit, Mark Twain. Twain's memoirs of working for "The Morning Glory" and Johnson County War-Whoop" include being shot at through an open window, and by both the editor of the newspaper and a Confederate Colonel, among others and being cow-hided, scalped and assaulted in all other manners while the "chief" was out of the office.

The initial publication, well-illustrated, should become an immediate collector's item, as only 1000 copies were printed.

Sunshine Law 'a beginning'-Bragg

by Frank White

The Tennessee Open Meeting Law is not perfect, but it is a place to start, Tennessee Rep. John Bragg, D-Murfreesboro, indicated in an interview this week.

The open meeting law, known as the Sunshine Law, was passed by the Tennessee General Assembly in the 1974 legislative session. A similar bill had been unable to gain approval in either the house or senate in the 1973 legislative session of the Tennessee General Assembly.

Bragg introduced the bill that eventually became the Tennessee Sunshine Law.

The bill was introduced early in the session while another bill on the same subject was being deliberated in house and senate subcommittees. The subcommittee bills received strong opposition from the Tennessee Press Assoc. (TPA). They were "watered-down with many loopholes permitting secret sessions," according to The

Tennessean, Jan. 16, 1974.

The bill presented to the house by Bragg was drafted and proposed by TPA. With minor amendments, the TPA proposal became the Tennessee Sunshine Law.

"People from TPA came to me with the bill because they knew that I had been involved in this type issue before," Bragg said. Bragg had previously been active in the passage of a shield law of limited protection for reporters in Tennessee.

The Sunshine Law was signed by then-governor Winfield Dunn on Feb. 21, 1973. Tennessee became the 46th state to enact a Sunshine Law.

Over 30 states either passed or strengthened their sunshine laws between 1970 and 1975.

Even though Tennessee was late in passing the law, it has been acclaimed as one of the best sunshine laws in existence by the Freedom of Information Center at the University of Missouri-

Columbia.

"We are very proud that our law gained this distinction," Bragg said. "I don't know too much about those people (the Freedom of Information Center), but John Seigenthaler from The Tennessean thinks highly of what they say."

Tennessee journalists acclaim the law as an invaluable tool in gaining access to meetings at both the state and local level. The law also requires that minutes be kept on all meetings and that these minutes be open to the public.

"The beauty of the Tennessee law is that it is short," Bragg pointed out. Tennessee's law is one of the shortest in existence.

"This has caused some problems," he admitted, "but it allows the courts to interpret the law according to the situation."

There have been several chancery court cases involving the law and "the courts have taken a very strict interpretation of the law," Bragg said.



Rep. John Bragg

Suit was brought against the bill immediately after its passage in an attempt to declare the bill unconstitutionally vague. The case involving Memphis Publishing Co. and the city of Memphis reached the Supreme Court of Tennessee in July, 1974.

The State Supreme Court ruled that the section of the law in question was not unconstitutionally vague.

"It isn't perfect. There are some

[continued on page eight]



Tom Wicker

Tom Wicker, associate editor of The New York Times will keynote the conference at a dinner tonight at Metro Center in Nashville.

Wicker joined the Times in 1960 after working for the Tennessean and several North Carolina newspapers.

He covered the White House, the Capitol and national politics for The Times before being appointed chief of the newspaper's Washington bureau in 1964.

Two years later, Wicker began writing his respected column "In the Nation." He also has authored eight novels and three non-fiction works.

His most recent book was "A Time to Die," which recounted his experiences as a mediator in the Attica, N.Y., prison riot in September, 1971. Since that time, he has written extensively on prison conditions throughout the nation and has argued against the re-institution of capital punishment.

Friday's Workshop Panelists

Freedom of the Press; Freedom for Whom?

Prof. James F. Blumstein, moderator, Vanderbilt School of Law, Nashville; D'Army Bailey, Attorney at-Law, Memphis; Chris Clark, News Director, WWTVE-TV, Nashville; Sam Kennedy, Publisher, The Daily Herald, Columbia; John Seigenthaler, Publisher, The Tennessean, Nashville.

The Reporting of Politics/The Politics of Reporting

Ms. Joanne Bennett, moderator, Nashville; A.B. Albritton, Staff Reporter, The Commercial Appeal, Memphis; Tom Griscom, Staff Reporter, Chattanooga News-Free Press, Chattanooga; M. Lee Smith, Editor, The Tennessee Journal, Nashville.



David Halberstam

Pulitzer prize winner David Halberstam will kick off the Intermediary conference at a luncheon today at MTSU.

His Pulitzer prize came in 1964 for his reporting of the Vietnam War as a correspondent for The New York Times.

Before joining the Times in 1960, Halberstam worked on newspapers in Mississippi and Tennessee, including The Tennessean.

A prolific free-lance writer, Halberstam has focused increasingly on the sources of political power and the people who exercise it. His recent book, "The Best and the Brightest," studied the men in the Kennedy and Johnson administrations and how they exercised power.

Halberstam is a familiar face at MTSU, having participated in the Ideas and Issues program last fall.

At present, he is working on a book about the CBS network and the influence of the media on politics.

'Women's News: Keeping Up with the Times'

Ms. Mary Schaffner, moderator, Nashville; Eugene Wyatt, Associate Editor, The Tennessean, Nashville; Ms. Paula Casey, People Editor, Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, Clarksville.

Cable Television: Access for the Future

Dan Prince, moderator, Media Consultant, Nashville; Dennis Batson, General Manager, WEZL-radio, Memphis; Lynn Bennett, Producer, Broadside Video, Johnson City; William Richards, United Methodist Communications, Nashville, and member of Citizens Advisory Group, Cable TV.

intern

A Tennessee

AC

Friday

(at Middle Ten

10 A.M.: REGISTRATION.....

12 noon: LUNCHEON ADDRESS⁺ by David Halberstam
reporter and au

2 to 3:45 P.M.: OPENING PANEL SESSION

4 to 5:30 P.M.: OPTIONAL WORKSHOP SE

1. "Women's News: Keeping Up With the
2. Cable Television: Access for the Future
3. The Reporting of Politics: The Politics

7 P.M.: RECEPTION cash bar.....

8 P.M.: BANQUET AND KEYNOTE ADDRESS
by Tom Wicker

Saturday

(at Middle Ten

9:30 to 10:30 A.M.: ADDRESS⁺
by Fred Graham, Emmy Award-winning L

10:45 A.M. to 12:15 P.M.: OPTIONAL WO
1. The Coverage of Minorities: Benign Neg
2. Television News: How Good an Eyewitne
3. Small Town Journalism: News at the Gr

12:30 P.M.: LUNCHEON ADDRESS⁺ by William

2:15 to 4 P.M.: SECOND PANEL SESSION⁺

4:15 to 4:45 P.M.: CLOSING COMMENT

⁺ All addresses will be follow

eddiary

Journalism Review

DA

January 14

(State University)

Student Union Building Lobby

Pulitzer Prize-winning

The Best and The Brightest.....Tenn. Room

Freedom of the Press: Freedom for Whom?.....Tenn. Room

NS

Alumni Lounge

Dining Room A

orting.....Dining Room B

(Metro Center, Nashville)

iate Editor, the New York Times.....Metro Center

January 15

(State University)

respondent, CBS News.....Tenn. Room

OP SESSIONS

Alumni Lounge

Dining Room A

ts.....Dining Room B

ublisher, The National Review.....Tenn. Room

in Journalism: A New Morality?.....Tenn. Room

d Halberstam.....Tenn. Room

A question-answer session.



William Rusher

National Review Publisher William Rusher will speak at tomorrow's luncheon at MTSU and is a member of the National News Council. In addition, he writes a thrice-weekly column titled "The Conservative Advocate" which is published in *The Nashville Banner*.

Rusher, who will speak at the Saturday luncheon Jan. 15, is a member of the National News Council and writes a thrice-weekly column titled "The Conservative Advocate" which is published in *The Nashville Banner*.

Rusher, who became publisher of the "National Review" in 1957, was previously associate counsel to the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee which investigated charges of domestic Communism.

In his latest book, "The Making of the New Majority Party," Rusher argues that the Republican Party should be replaced by another party based on a coalition of economic and social conservatives.



Fred Graham

Fred Graham, prize-winning legal correspondent for CBS news in Washington, will open tomorrow's session of the conference and has covered the U.S. Supreme Court, the Justice Dept., the FBI and the legal profession since joining CBS news in 1972.

Graham began his career in journalism in Nashville. He was a reporter for *The Tennessean* and attended Vanderbilt Law School where he received his LL.B degree in 1959. After attending Oxford University as a Fulbright Scholar, he practiced law in Nashville from 1960 to 1963.

He became the Supreme Court correspondent for *The New York Times* in 1965 and joined CBS seven years later.

Graham has authored two books: "The Self-Inflicted Wound," a study of the criminal law decisions of the Warren Court, and "Press Freedom Under Pressure," a study of various conflicts between the government and the press.

Saturday's Workshop Panelists

Small Town Journalism: News at the Grass Roots

Prof. Jack Higgs, moderator, Johnson City; Harry L. Hix, Jr., Editor, Daily News Journal, Murfreesboro; Bill Ormes, WAGG Radio, Franklin; Horace V. Wells, Clinton Courier News, Clinton.

Ethics in Journalism: A New Morality?

Pro. John Lachs, moderator, Dept. of Philosophy, Vanderbilt, Nashville; Reid Ashe, Executive Editor, The Jackson Sun, Jackson; Bracey Campbell, Managing Editor, Nashville Banner, Nashville; Dr. Edward M. Kimbrell, Chairman, Dept. of Mass Communications, MTSU; Mike Loftin, Associate Editor, The Chattanooga Times, Chattanooga.

Television News: How Good an Eyewitness

Prof. Gerald Flannery, moderator, Dept. of Mass Communications, MTSU; Mike Kettenring, News Director, WSM-TV News, Nashville; Mike Kroger, WDCN-TV, Nashville; Ms. Jackie Schulten, Reporter, WRCB-TV, Chattanooga.

The Coverage of Minorities: Benign Neglect?

John Egerton, moderator, Nashville; Ms. Sharon Bramlett, Staff Reporter, Commercial Appeal, Memphis; John Popham, Managing Editor, The Chattanooga Times, Chattanooga; Ms. Kitty Smith, Office of the Mayor, Nashville.

Role of student journalists outlined

by Jenny Tenpenny

"Student journalists have the responsibility of covering the panorama of campus life and keeping the welfare of their community in mind when reporting," stated Dr. M.G. Scarlett in a recent interview.

Scarlett, a former journalist and journalism teacher at Kent State University, said the role of student media should be the same as the role of any media—"to inform, to

entertain at times and to advocate."

"I don't think a continuous adversary relationship is necessary, or healthy, whether you're a student journalist, or whether you're covering city hall," Scarlett continued.

Scarlett added that even though journalists function as "watch-dogs" "journalism cannot right all the ills of the world but can inform their audience of everything that is going on."

Reporters should not be intimidated by anyone—not even a university president—Scarlett ad-

'Get it right,

get it all,

get it fair.'



Dr. M. G. Scarlett

vised. But he added that the other extreme, a "buddy-buddy" relationship with any official or person of authority might inhibit objectivity.

Commenting on Tennessee's Sunshine Law, Scarlett said that the passage of these laws did a lot of good. "In many cases the level of discussion improves with the presence of reporters; in other cases it tends to have an inhibiting effect," Scarlett said. "Especially when personnel matters are discussed that might be injurious to someone."

Though the Constitution gave the press the freedom to serve society, that freedom came with obligations attached, Scarlett said.

"Get it right, get it all, get it fair," Scarlett advised, saying that sloppy reporting in the media has bothered him in the last few years. "I remember when editors would really jump on a reporter for a

misplaced comma as well as for inaccurate material."

"There is no replacement for accuracy," Scarlett said, explaining that reporters should explore every source of information as fully as possible.

But news sources tend to "dry up" if they are misused or if a confidence is disclosed. Reporters should be fair to their sources of information as well as to the public, Scarlett added.

"I see nothing wrong with involving your heart sometimes. I can think of nothing that people like to read more than a good heart-warming story."

Scarlett added that the media should reflect all aspects of society, not just the violence, saying "Society needs its spirits boosted sometimes instead of seeing only crime and violence."

.....Bragg

[continued from page five]

areas of the bill that need some work," Bragg admitted. "But we can't or shouldn't amend it until we get some court decisions to clarify the problem areas.

"I would be opposed to any amendments to the Sunshine Law right now. When you open a law up to amendments, it is like termites getting loose. The law gets weaker and weaker with each new amendment," Bragg said.

While other state sunshine laws enumerate exceptions to the Open Meeting Law, the Tennessee law has limited exceptions. The law states, "All meetings of any

governing body are declared to be public meetings open to the public at all times."

The law defines governing body and meetings and requires that notice of public meetings must be given. A stipulation of the law indicates that any action taken in a meeting violating the sunshine law shall be nullified.

The governing bodies discussed by the law include any body or arm of a governing body chartered by the state. This includes city councils, school board, university board and other boards where a vote is required in reaching a decision.

TSAC funding, uniform testing in public schools asked by TISL

The Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature (TISL) has chosen its priority legislation for the upcoming session of the Tennessee General Assembly.

Full funding of the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation and the implementation of a program of uniform testing of all public school students head up the list.

Other bills include an act to establish a primary run-off for all races except local primaries and the Presidential Preference Primary, a bill providing for Living Wills, an act for a change in the graduation requirements for secondary school students in the state, and an act to institute a Hunter Safety Program.

Rounding out the list are an act establishing guidelines for performing abortions, a bill providing a sales tax exemption on foods for home consumption (effective when a State Income Tax is adopted), an act to establish and operate a state lottery, and a bill requiring

highway surface reflectors on all Tennessee highways and interstates.

The ten pieces of priority legislation were chosen by the TISL officers from among the 36 pieces of legislation passed in the TISL General Assembly, November 10-13.

TISL will attempt to see that the intent of these bills is carried out in the upcoming session of the Tennessee General Assembly by introducing the bills or supporting bills already introduced.

TISL received statewide attention in the past few years when bills it had passed were adopted by the Tennessee General Assembly. Among those bills were the right-turn-on-red bill, investigation of the coal industry, and re-institution of the Tennessee Tuition Grant (in the form of the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation).

The officers of TISL are Governor Jeff Wilson (UT, Knoxville); Lt. Governor Michael Brink (East

Campus survey indicates ASB doing a 'good job'

Sixty-nine per cent of the student body feels the ASB is doing a good job, according to a survey conducted last November by the ASB Senate.

A random poll of 150-200 students taken in the University Center revealed that figure, in addition to other estimates concerning campus organizations and facilities.

When asked if they felt *Sidelines* covered the students' interests, those surveyed responded 60 per cent yes and 40 per cent no.

When the pollers asked: "Do you feel you are getting the education you paid for?" 50 per cent of the students surveyed replied yes, five per cent no and 45 per cent

replied sometimes."

In reply to the query "How would you rate the cafeteria?" 39 per cent responded good, 49 per cent fair, four per cent bad and eight per cent very bad.

Eighty-one per cent felt that Student Programming was working in the students' best interests, with 19 per cent answering no.

Eighty per cent of those polled responded that campus elections were conducted fairly, while 20 per cent said otherwise.

When asked if they felt there were enough special-interest groups and clubs on campus, the students surveyed replied 71 per cent yes, and 29 per cent no.

Tennessee State); Doug Littlejohn (Memphis State), speaker of the house; Kathy Scoggins (East Tennessee State), secretary of state; Terry Rodgers (King College), speaker pro tem of the senate; Bert Bowes (UT, Knoxville), speaker pro tem of the house; and Brenda Sanders (UT, Knoxville),

treasurer.

Every institution of higher learning in Tennessee is eligible to join TISL. The 35-member institutions at the last general assembly have a total enrollment of 130,000, which is 90 percent of the college and university students in Tennessee.

Raiders must take them 'one at a time'

by John Pitts
Assistant Sports Editor

This will be a weekend of "ifs" for Jimmy Earle and the Blue Raiders.

It goes something like this: If the Raiders can defeat Eastern Kentucky in Murphy Center tomorrow night, and if Morehead could beat Western Kentucky in Bowling Green, then the meeting of the Raiders and the Eagles here Monday night would be a "battle of unbeaten" in the OVC.

Were the Raiders to win Saturday night, and Morehead to lose to Western, then the successful Eagles would still have a chance to stay in this early conference race. Any way you look at it, these next two games are very crucial for the "running runts" of MTSU.

"The intangible things are

keeping our team on top," Earle commented yesterday. "Desire, hustle and intensity is part of it, and they've got a lot of pride."

Earle's young team (guard Lewis Mack is the only senior) is 10-2 at this point in the season, with a perfect 2-0 conference record. East Tennessee and Tennessee Tech were the Raider's victims in a pair of away games last week.

Junior post man Bob Martin leads the team with a 17.3 points per game average, and nine rebounds per contest. Martin missed practice yesterday with a bruised heel, but is expected to be ready for tomorrow night's game.

Other starters for the games will include guard/forward Julius Brown, the team's leading scorer early in the season, who is averaging 14.0 per contest; forward Greg Joyner, with a 11.6 scoring average and guard Mack, who

quarterbacks the team and is coming out of a shooting slump with a 11.3 average.

Freshman Leroy Coleman will start Saturday night for the injured Sleepy Taylor. Coleman bolstered his average with a 16 point performance against Tennessee Tech in his second starting assignment.

Coleman, who "has ice water in his veins" according to Earle, has looked best in two tough road games, against Tech and Vanderbilt.

Taylor, who was averaging 12.9 points per game before injuring his knee in the Mercer contest several weeks ago, is still suffering from the "floating kneecap" that put his leg in a cast last week.

The cast was removed yesterday, however, and Earle said doctors might let Taylor play as soon as the Monday night Morehead clash. The

OVC Standings:

Team:	Record:
Middle Tennessee	2-0
Morehead	2-0
Murray	1-1
East Tennessee	1-1
Austin Peay	1-1
Tennessee Tech	1-1
Eastern Ky.	0-2
Western Ky.	0-2

Raider coach expressed doubt that Taylor would play in the game, partially due to the performance of Coleman.

"I hope our team isn't looking ahead to Morehead—we must impress that on our team. They've played every game one at a time up until now. We cannot overlook them," Earle said.

MTSU awaits revenge-bent foe

by John Bliven

It's tough to face the third-ranked team in America just about anytime, but it's even worse when that team is out to avenge a defeat.

That's the plight facing MTSU women's basketball coach Pat Jones and company when they square off with the Lady Bulldogs of Union University at Murphy Center tomorrow night. Game time is 5:15.

MTSU dealt Union a 95-94 loss last year.

MTSU will take the court on the heels of a loss, 97-67, to Tennessee Tech Monday night. MTSU co-captain Bonnie Angus is still on crutches with an ankle injury, but the MTSU offense is averaging over 80 points a game.

"They'll (Union) come in here ready to play some tough basketball like they've done before, but we'll be ready for them," warned Jones yesterday.

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Vandy-MTSU matchup doomed for scrap pile?

by Chuck Cavalaris
Sports Editor

First-year Vanderbilt basketball coach Wayne Dobbs is about to drop a bomb shell on the Blue Raider basketball program...or so it seems.

For reasons yet to be discussed,

Chuckwagon

Dobbs first hinted the series was in danger after his Commodores posted a 62-59 win over MTSU Dec. 29, but he refused to discuss his decision, if any, or why it was being made when contacted earlier this week.

In a brief, if not bitter interview, Dobbs said he could answer all questions in "one all-encompassing statement."

"We do not do our scheduling in the papers—either campus or daily. Yes, that's right, I have nothing else to say. That pretty well covers it as far as I can determine."

Dobbs reportedly will announce at the end of the 1977 season that the annual Vandy-MTSU basketball clash has been terminated.

Dobbs further refused to discuss the matter privately, saying "this is a matter for Vanderbilt University alone to resolve and it does not require your help."

MTSU coach Jimmy Earle, well aware of the widely circulated reports of Dobbs' intention, said he was unsure why anyone would want to end what could be a "tremendous rivalry."

"We are only 32 miles down the road and have lots of graduates in Nashville," said Earle, who shrugs off the fact that Dobbs refused to shake his hand after Vandy's win in December.

It was the close friendship of Earle and former Vandy coach Roy Skinner that resulted in the series (four games have been played) and indeed, it was Vandy who played MTSU four years ago in the dedication of Murphy Center.

"The series involves two good

schools and it has to be revenue for them," Earle continued. "Memorial Gymnasium was packed when we played them on their floor. But how many people saw Tennessee Tech play Vandy?"

A mere 5,000 fans watched Vandy destroy Tech, 106-73.

In a move to save the series, Earle offered to play five straight games at Vandy over the next five years, but Dobbs apparently will not accept the offer.

"I still haven't heard anything concrete about the future of the series," Earle said.

"Why stop a good series? There is no reason for dropping our yearly game with Vanderbilt. Wayne Dobbs and I have been friends for years...at least I thought we were friends. I just can't see why he would do this," Earle said.

One source, close to the Vandy athletic department, revealed that Dobbs "told me he was dropping the series because he felt Vanderbilt had everything to loose and nothing to gain by playing MTSU."

Whatever the reasons, we can



Jimmy Earle

"Why stop a good series?"

only assume that the series is finished because an excellent basketball coach cannot control his childish fear of losing to a team he sees no reason for playing.

That's sad...both for Wayne Dobbs and Vanderbilt.

Hoop Shoot set at Murphy Center

The top foul shooters from grades 1-12 across the Middle Tennessee area will gather at Murphy Center at noon tomorrow in the fifth annual Tennessee Elks Association "Hoop Shoot."

The contest will be staged prior to the MTSU-Eastern Kentucky basketball game. All contestants have been victorious in their local, high school and Elks Lodge district contests.

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Tough call lurks in mind of OVC official

by John Pitts
Assistant Sports Editor

After 16 years of officiating in the OVC, Russ Waddell admits that his toughest call was Monday night.

Waddell, a graduate of MTSU many years ago, was one of two referees on the court for the Eastern Kentucky-Murray basketball contest in Richmond, and it was his last-second call which, either directly or indirectly, led to Eastern's second conference loss.

Eastern took the ball inbounds, trailing 71-70 with only seconds left, and a player drove to the basket to score at the buzzer. "I couldn't watch the clock during the play," Waddell recalls, "because there could have been a foul during the layup."

The fate of the game was in the hands of the timekeeper, a Richmond native. "I walked over and asked him 'Was the ball in his hands or in the air at the buzzer?'" He replied that it was in the player's hands, and I signalled no basket," Waddell said.

"The Eastern coach came to me after the game and said 'Who made that call, you or the timekeeper?'" I told him I did," Waddell added.

Waddell, in Murfreesboro for yesterday's weekly Faculty-Press luncheon, can never referee a NCAA game that features the Raiders, since he is a graduate of this school.

"It's a good thing he can't, or I'd have eight technicals by now," cracked Raider coach Jimmy Earle, who finally got his first technical call of the season against Culver-Stockton a week ago.

Waddell has been a referee in

assorted kinds of basketball leagues for 27 years, and in the OVC since 1961. He took a course in sports officiating in college, and the next thing he knew, he was officiating a girl's game—without knowing the girl's rules.

"We got real smart, and asked one of the coaches how we were to

inbound the ball at the start of the game. He knew he was in trouble then," Waddell said.

"You can't believe the bigness of the conference now, how its grown in the past few years," Waddell said. "The kids are so much bigger, and the offenses have changed so drastically. Guards used to stand

outside and pat the ball, and now they zip it inside very quickly," he explained.

"I've never worked a perfect game," Waddell said, his thoughts drifting back past the EKU-Murray battle to the more than 2500 games he has officiated in his career. "If I did, I guess I'd have to quit."

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Men's

Wasps 41, Prouncers 36; Gas-house Gang 65, Above Average Whites (#1), 40; Desperado's winner by forfeit; Mean Machine 63, Muff's Moonshiners 42; Blue Bruins 53, Swag & Duggle 37;

MTCC (#1) 53, Happy Herbie & His Traveling All-Stars 51; Kool Club 63, Over-The-Hill Gang 51; Woodbury 67, Nads 54; Kickers 45, White Knights 37; Original Nads 58, Wreck 26; Above Average Whites (#2) 38, Meadow Lark and His Globetrotters 35.

Women's

Cold Turkey 15, McHenry 13; Pi Kappa Alpha Little Sisters 23, Pi Kappa Phi Little Sisters 16; AGR 50, Delta Ti Delta 0; Haints 47, Monahan 10; Wesley Foundation 29, ATO Little Sisters 12; Felder Hall 34, Wood Hall 6.

MTSU grapplers come close but Mocs prevail

by Tom Wood

"So close and yet so far," is how Frankie Valli sings the song, and if Frankie were to look around today, he just might find MTSU wrestling coach Gordon Connell at his side, singing at the top of his lungs.

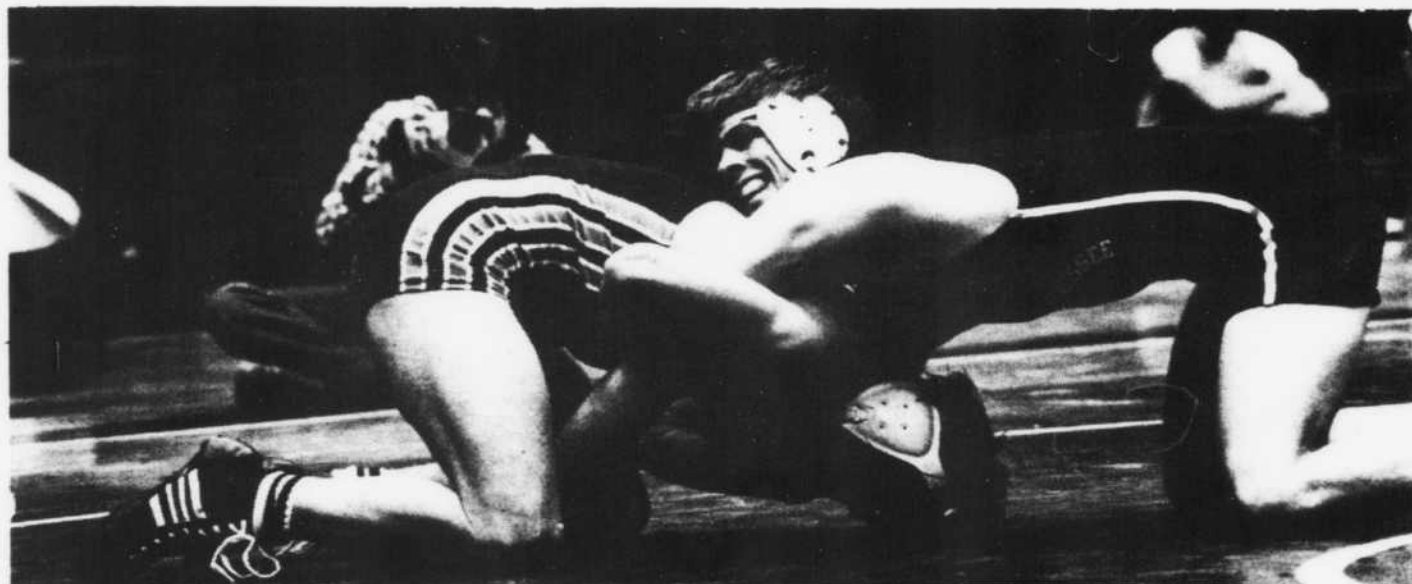
"You just can't win without the pins," Connell said Wednesday night after his wrestlers dropped a 24-14 decision to UT Chattanooga.

It was a pair of pins which cost MTSU what could have been their first win ever against the Moccasins.

Going into the final three matches, MTSU held a 14-9 lead only to see it quickly vanish. After 7:08 of action, UTC's 177-pounder, Tom Flanagan pinned freshman wrestler Butch Burnett to give UT-C a 15-14 edge.

The death-blow came at the 3:11 mark of the 190-pound match between UTC's Division II national champion David Weeks and MTSU's Jeff Woodburn. Weeks proved to be more than Woodburn could hope to handle and the resulting pin gave UTC an insurmountable 21-14 lead.

Had MTSU's heavyweight, Clif-



Raider grappler David Scott applies the pressure to UT-Chattanooga's Larry Bone in action at Murphy Center Wednesday night. Scott posted a 14-8 decision, but it wasn't enough as the Mocs won the match, 24-14.

ford Abernathy, pinned his opponent, which he didn't, MTSU still would have lost the match 21-20. UTC's Ralph Zigner decisioned Abernathy 8-1.

Although the Raiders lost the match, against an opponent MTSU has never beaten, Connell pointed out afterwards that this was the closest MTSU has been to beating the Mocs, 1976 runnerup in the NCAA Division II wrestling finals.

The loss left MTSU with a 3-7 worksheet going into tomorrow's quadrangular meet against Notre Dame, Alabama and Virginia Tech. The matches will be held at Nashville's Hillwood High School and gets underway at 2 p.m.

MTSU lost to all three opponents last year.

Mike Osborne, MTSU's 118-pound man, may have to miss this weekend's action due to an injury

suffered against UTC. Pulled cartilages in his chest may sideline him, depending on the outcome of hospital tests.

Osborne was one of four Raiders who came out on a winning note, the most ever posted by MTSU against the Mocs. David Scott, David Buck and Jeff Adcock decisioned their opponents while MTSU's Tommy Smith and Rick Waller of UTC wrestled to a draw.

Freshman. It's still not too late to take Army ROTC at MTSU.

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