

# Sidelines

Student Publication of Middle Tennessee State University

## No wire reports

### *Scarlett issue hits WMOT*

WMOT-FM, MTSU's campus radio station, has become involved in the controversy between President M.G. Scarlett and the State Board of Regents, who are rumored to be considering his dismissal.

The station has reportedly placed a ban on the use of wire service news reports concerning Scarlett's rumored release while allowing the broadcast of an interview with him which closely resembles a "prepared" interview disseminated by the university public relations office.

Harold Baker, director of MTSU's radio and television department and WMOT station manager, would not comment on who ordered the memorandum banning wire stories.

"I feel that wire reports from the United Press International were not of that much interest to the community concerning

**By Wayne Hudgens**

Dr. Scarlett because the other area media have covered the situation extensively," he said.

Pat Jones, station program director, also refused to comment on who ordered the memorandum but said he did know it had been "posted."

Baker, who also conducted the interview with Scarlett which was aired live Tuesday at 10:40 a.m., said his interview "was not" prepared before he met Scarlett.

"There was some talk of using a script," he said, "but we didn't use one." "I don't want to do anything I can't do intelligently, and I won't use a script," he said.

Scarlett also said last night that no script was used in the radio interview although he "assumed" that Baker was a-

(Cont. to page 2)



### *ASB viewpoint*

Tim Watson, ASB president, addresses a press conference he called Monday morning to discuss the controversy surrounding MTSU President M.G. Scarlett and the State Board of Regents. (Photo by Peter Meadows)

## Index:

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The university radio station has become involved with the Scarlett controversy after reports indicate that wire service news on the dismissal attempts have been banned from the air by station officials.

### **P.1**

Conflicting reports still persist concerning efforts by some members by the State Board of Regents to dismiss M.G. Scarlett from his post as president of MTSU.

### **P.2**

Student questions and error corrections from the summer's first edition of SIDELINES find a forum in the Ombudsman column.

## **Banner: Charges impend**

**By Mike West**

No formal charges have been levied against President M. G. Scarlett by any member of the Board of Regents, but the possibility for such action still exists, the Nashville Banner reported yesterday.

The Banner story contains an interview with Dr. Kenneth Ezell, Board of Regents member. Ezell is reportedly behind the attempt to oust Scarlett.

"It had been reported that attempts to oust Scarlett--which Ezell is reportedly behind--had died. However, Ezell indicated that this was not the case," said the page one story.

Earlier yesterday, The Tennessean ran a page one story which said sources "close to the regents" had revealed that "it is doubtful that any move will be

made at Friday's meeting" of the board.

When questioned Monday night about the possibility of pressing formal charges against Scarlett, Ezell said, "I think things will be in the open Friday."

Ezell said he would not comment on any charges or rumors because "I am a private citizen except when the board is in session."

Information regarding the board between meetings should be made by C.C. Humphreys, chancellor of the board, he said.

Last night when asked about the Banner story, Ezell said, "Somebody surprised me--from now on, all I'm going to say is no comment."

## Ombudsman

In the June 14 issue of **SIDELINES** on page 11, there was a mistake in the transposition of names and photographs of those qualified for the post of County Quarterly Court district representative. Our apologies to Marvin Callahan and Clifford Arnold for this error.

Also **SIDELINES** wishes to apologize to all advertisers for the one day delay in publication due to mechanical difficulties.

## Scarlett

(Cont. from page 1)

ware of a "tentative line of questioning" which he had prepared.

Dr. Baker was hesitant to use a prepared script," Scarlett said. "But the interview gave us a forum to present my views on some of the charges lodged against me."

"It was unfortunate that the script was distributed," Scarlett said.

Gene Sloan, public relations director for the university, said Baker submitted questions to Scarlett's office prior to the interview and met with the president at 7:30 a.m. on the day of the interview.

"I asked for a copy of the questions prepared by Baker and received them after the Tuesday morning conference he had with Dr. Scarlett," Sloan said.

Sloan said he then called Weldon Grimsley, state editor for the Nashville Banner, and gave him the prepared interview.

Grimsley said yesterday he received Sloan's call at about 9 a.m. and from that report wrote a story which appeared in the Tuesday edition.

Questions and answers given by Scarlett concerning charges of "permissiveness" bear a close

resemblance to those questions and answers provided for today's issue of **SIDELINES** by Scarlett's office.

The **SIDELINES** refused to publish the interview because of its "prepared" nature.

"The information in my story was correct as far as the information made available to me was correct," Grimsley said yesterday.

A review of the program tape of

*See page 3 for*

*added coverage*

"Open Mike--MTSU" the program on which Scarlett was heard, also follows the same line of query and response as outlined in the "prepared" interviews issued to the **SIDELINES** and Banner.

Baker said he asked Scarlett the questions pertaining to his fight with the regents only to "clear the air."

Dr. Scarlett and I had earlier discussed football and a wide range of other subjects," he said. "The questions concerning the charges of permissiveness only took a few minutes of time."

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## Evans: Senate wants facts

Joe S. Evans, president of the MTSU Faculty Senate, said yesterday that the Faculty Senate Steering Committee had no scheduled meeting to consider further action on the expected attempt to oust MTSU President M.G. Scarlett.

The Faculty Senate met last Thursday and approved a measure by a vote of 26-6 that asked the State Board of Regents to "act only after full development and consideration of all of the facts related to the continued employment of Dr. Scarlett as president of Middle Tennessee State University."

The resolution said that the Faculty Senate was "vitally interested in obtaining a greater degree of stability in the office of the university president."

The Board of Regents which will meet in Nashville Friday, June 22 has the power to appoint and fire state regional university presidents, including Scarlett.

The Faculty Senate Steering Committee met again

Monday but took no further action on the measure.

The MTSU chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) has not issued any statement concerning the movement to oust Scarlett.

Norman Ferris, AAUP president, said yesterday that the chapter's executive committee met last week and decided not to take any action because they did not have any concrete information.

"The only information we have is in the form of gossip or rumor. We have no official knowledge from MTSU," Ferris said.

Ferris said that if Scarlett contacted the AAUP about a grievance he would immediately call a meeting.

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## SIDELINES rejects story script

A pre-planned interview prepared by M.G. Scarlett's office for use in this edition of **SIDELINES** has been rejected for use as a news story, Paul Fischer, editor-in-chief, said yesterday.

The printed interview, which uses both questions and answers prepared by the president's office, concerns Scarlett's position on the controversy with the State Board of Regents and rumors concerning his possible dismissal.

The interview was rejected by a unanimous vote of the three-member **SIDELINES** editorial board, Fischer said. The board is composed of Fischer,

and the two managing editors, Mike West and Wayne Hudgens.

Fischer said Scarlett approached him with the suggested interview Monday morning. Fischer had no comment on questioning concerning Scarlett's reasoning for preparing the interview.

"The questions which appear in the interview are not my own," Fischer said yesterday.

Below is a complete transcript of the prepared interview given Fischer by the university president:

(see page 5)

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# Editorials...

## *Station should air all the news*

WMOT-FM has reportedly banned on-the-air use of wire-service reports concerning the rumored dismissal attempts aimed at M.G. Scarlett. The station used this policy during the previous anti-Scarlett fiasco. However, the station has not maintained radio-silence on the issue.

Quite the contrary; an interview was broadcast yesterday morning between the university president and the station manager. The interview, according to sources in the public relations department, was scripted. Both Harold Baker, the interviewer, and Scarlett deny this statement. Scarlett says he "assumes" Baker knew of the areas in which the president wished to comment.

Although we feel there was no conspiracy on the

part of either the president's office or the station to substitute public relations releases for genuine news, we firmly believe that the effect was the same.

"Fair and accurate commentary" are the tenets of any news organization --- be it printed, wire-service or broadcast. Free flow of information parallels those tenets. Although we reiterate our support of this university's president in this time of campus-wide crisis, we feel that the actions on the part of both the campus's 50,000-wat radio station and the president's office are not in the interest of either "fair and accurate commentary" or free flow of information. Both go hand-in hand with academic freedom.

## Attacks on Scarlett harm academic freedom

Reprinted with permission from the June 18 edition of The Tennessean.

Once again academic freedom is under attack in Tennessee as an old vendetta threatens to bring about the firing of Dr. M. G. Scarlett as president of Middle Tennessee State University.

Dr. Scarlett came to Murfreesboro as president of the school five years ago and has administered the school's affairs during a period of dynamic growth and development. He took the job at a time when change was apparent on the nation's campuses. Any man who serves as a college president these days needs courage, judgment, and self-discipline --- and Dr. Scarlett has demonstrated he has what it takes.

However, shortly after he came to the university, Dr. Scarlett found himself at odds with one of the school's local supporters, Dr. K.P. Ezell, a Murfreesboro dentist. The point at issue, it seems, had to do with the athletic program and Dr. Scarlett apparently ignored some advice from Dr. Ezell.

Under ordinary circumstances that would pose no threat to a university president. But as it turned out, the circumstances were anything but ordinary. Dr. Ezell very shortly afterward found a fellow-dentist, Dr. Winfield Dunn, sitting in the governor's chair. Dr. Dunn, as Governor, named Dr. Ezell to the state board governing regional universities. There Dr. Ezell suddenly had the power to make President Scarlett rue the day he ignored his advice about the athletic program.

Dr. Scarlett found his job in jeopardy. Fellow-members of the board listened to Dr. Ezell's complaints about Dr. Scarlett -- but finally rejected an attempt to oust him as president. Academic freedom, it turned out was more important to the board than an old grudge of one of its members.

Time passed. Now the state board of regents,

which oversees regional universities, is about to meet again, June 22. There are reports from some board members that Dr. Ezell is after his fellow-members once again to get rid of President Scarlett.

Dr. Ezell has been quoted as saying he isn't campaigning against Dr. Scarlett. At any rate, it has become common knowledge that somebody is going to make an effort to unseat the MTSU president if the present plan is pursued.

Under an obscure section of the by-laws of the board of regents this can be done to Dr. Scarlett-- or any other state college president --without a hearing if the board should decide there is "cause" for the dismissal. Then, under the by-law section, the fired president can ask a hearing to give his side and beg the board to change its mind. That procedure violates the basic concept of due process. It is like having a jury vote to hang a man without hearing his defense until he is on the way to the gallows. Then he is allowed to plead for his life to jurors who have already decided he ought to be hanged.

This part of the by-laws represents a basic threat to academic freedom and endangers every president in the state university system. It ought to be eliminated from the governing board's procedures.

Beyond that, the most recent threat to Dr. Scarlett should be rejected. The most wholesome thing would be for somebody to suggest that to raise it in the first place will only embarrass Dr. Ezell and the rest of the board. Should Dr. Scarlett be removed, under the circumstances Tennessee would be a laughing stock and the state would become known as a place where higher education is ruled by politics and personal pique, rather than by merit, experience and good judgement.

Remember this... Again?

**BACK MTSU**  
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## Sidelines

The SIDELINES is published every Tuesday and Friday during the fall and spring semesters and once a week during the summer by the students of Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

# SIDELINES rejects

**Mr. Fischer:**  
President Scarlett, there have been published accounts of criticism of student conduct at MTSU. I understand you have received no official complaints along this line. Is that true?

**President Scarlett:**  
Yes, it is.

**Mr. Fischer:**  
But there have been rumors. Would you comment on the rumors, or would you answer some questions about student conduct at MTSU?

**President Scarlett:**  
I'd rather not comment on rumors, but I will be glad to answer your questions about student conduct here.

**Mr. Fischer:**  
It seems to me that we have an excellent judicial system on the campus, and we have an impressive looking Campus Police Force. How do you evaluate the judicial system and the Security Force?

**President Scarlett:**  
I agree that we have a very effective judicial system. Our Security Force has been much too small for a university of over 9,000 students. But we

have added a number of persons to the Force in the last several years, and we have been able to considerably up-grade the training of our campus police. I think we now have a very effective Security Force.

**Mr. Fischer:**  
Were there orders given to the MTSU Security Officers and the Auxiliary police from Murfreesboro not to pay any attention to anyone who might smoke "Pot" at the recent Leon Russell concert?

**President Scarlett:**  
Absolutely not! I issued no such order, and the head of our campus security force and the head of the auxiliary police force have indicated to me

that no such order was given. I deplore the use of drugs, and we make every effort to eliminate drug use on this campus. But, as you know, drug use is not just a problem on college campuses. It's a major problem of society, and we must all redouble our efforts to cope with the problem more effectively. We cooperate fully with off-campus agencies in this regard, and we are com-

mitted to even greater effort to combat the drug problem.

**Mr. Fischer:**  
How do the regulations governing student conduct on this campus compare with the rules on other campuses in Tennessee?

**President Scarlett:**  
Our student personnel officers here tell me they have made careful comparisons of campus rules, and they conclude that MTSU's regulations are "middle-of-the-road" for Tennessee colleges and universities.

Incidentally, I have the utmost respect for our Student Personnel Staff. They are intelligent and dedicated. I think they are doing an outstanding job.

**Mr. Fischer:**  
Then, how would you rate student conduct at MTSU?

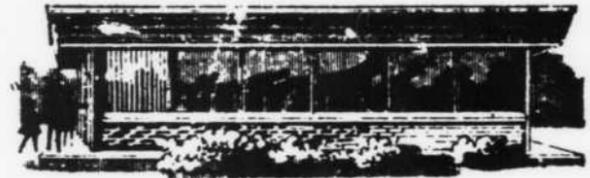
**President Scarlett:**  
I think it is generally exemplary! I am acquainted with many campuses, and I

know of none that has a student body that looks better or conducts itself better than ours.

But, it must be recognized that MTSU is a community of over 10,000 citizens, and in any commun-

ity of such size, whether collegiate or other, there will be some trouble makers--some rule breakers and even law breakers. Here at MTSU we deal firmly and fairly with such poor citizens.

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# Students register complaints about parking

Several students are expressing dissatisfaction with the current parking situation at married student housing a student resident said yesterday.

The parking area at this location is marked for blue decals only. Parents or visitors who park in this area receive parking

tickets from the MTSU Security Department if they do not have a sticker or a permit.

Many students say that it is often impossible for their guests to get a permit and feel that it is always an "imposition."

We must have some way of distinguishing cars which

are illegally parked in the married student lots," George H. Mitchell, Director of Married Students Housing, said yesterday. "Many people abuse the parking privileges at married student housing," he said.

"Often, dorm residents bring their unregistered cars to these lots," Mitchell said. "Also, one person living in married housing was recently found to be parking four cars in the lot and two other residents had three each."

There is 126 percent night parking and 123 percent day parking at the married student housing lots but this cannot accommodate even

two cars per family," said Mitchell.

Permits can be secured from the security department from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday if visitors will come

weeks and can be renewed up to five times.

The visitor must go to the security office himself. "We cannot issue a permit to a student," Smith said. "If the visitor cannot get a sticker or receives a ticket for some reason, he can mail it to our office with an explanation, and we will void the ticket. This is stated on the back of the ticket," said Smith.

"Next fall, only one decal will be issued per family living in married student housing," Smith said. "Also no junk cars, trailers or commercial vehicles will be allowed to park in these lots. This should alleviate some of the current parking space shortage."

## Security offers special permits for motorists

by and relate their reason for parking on campus, according to Capt. Robert Smith of the MTSU security department. These permits can be for as long as two

### Motorists beware!

## Royal orders one-way traffic

"There have been some changes made in street re-routing on campus recently," said Matthew Royal, chief of security.

"The street directly be-

hind the University Center and the one between the ROTC and Dramatic Arts buildings are the ones involved," he said.

"The post office area behind the UC has been a very congested section for some time," Royal said, "so we have posted signs and directed traffic in one

direction going toward Jones Hall," he said. "The flow of traffic in this area goes from the entrance beside the Old Main down to the High Rise dorm."

"I would appreciate cooperation from all motorists who travel these areas," he said.

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## WMOT to air Elvis Presley beginning Friday night

WMOT-FM will broadcast "The Elvis Presley Story" beginning Friday night at 9, Pat Jones, WMOT program director, said Monday.

The 12 hour documentary on "the most spectacular figure in the history of rock and roll" will include in-depth interviews with Elvis and nearly 150 of Presley's songs, Jones said.

Following the Elvis story, Jones said that WMOT will broadcast a 45-hour "Music Marathon" where listeners call in and request any song recorded between 1950 and 1970. He said that from 9 p.m. Friday to 6 a.m.

Monday, the radio station will not broadcast its regular programs and, as usual, will not play any commercials, to provide 57 hours of continuous music.

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### 'Open Mike'

Shown here (l-r) are the program's host, Patrick Jones, Aerospace Educator Bealer Smotherman and Bookstore Manager Charles R. Phillips. (Photo by Nancy Nipper)

## MTSU offers non-credit courses

The first continuing education classes offered by MTSU will be held this summer, Jerry C. McGee, director of continuing education said yesterday.

These two classes, are high interest, non-academic courses designed for people who are already working, but wish to come back for more education, he said.

"Although no grades or college credits will be given for this work, the school will keep records of continuing education units (ceau's) earned and award certificates to the participants," McGee said.

The first course will begin July 6 at the Ground School at Ft. Campbell, Ky. "People who are learning to fly or need instrument ratings will be allowed to register for this course which will give three ceu's," McGee said.

The second course will begin July 12 and is designed to help nurses meet personal responsibilities for continual reinforcement of professional knowledge. The focus of the

class will be to analyze the techniques of communication as well as those which block the communicative process, he said.

Thirty-two students will be allowed to register for this class, which is sponsored by the Office of Continuing Education, MTSU Department of Nursing,

and co-sponsored by the District XV Tennessee Nurses' Association.

"Interest appears to be very high for this class,"

McGee said. "Applications were sent out Friday and already we have received seven written applications and several phone calls."

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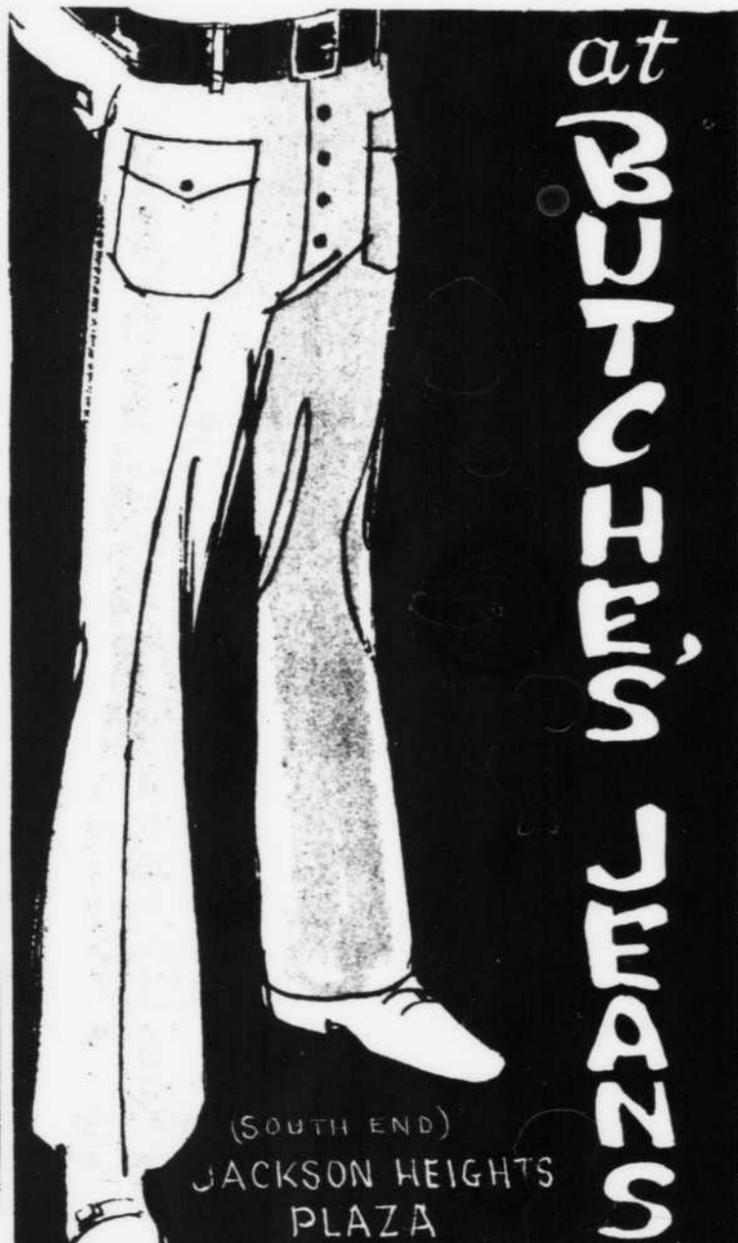
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## McClure sets 'personal' record

A measure of revenge and a personal best were attained by all-American triple jumper Barry McClure this past weekend. McClure competed in the

85th National Amateur Athletic Union Track and Field Championships held Saturday at Bakersfield, Calif.

A jump of 54-4 1/2 earned McClure a second place finish in the triple jump. It was his best leap ever.

McClure jumped five inches farther than third place finisher Milan Tiff. The previous week Tiff edged out McClure for the NCAA championship.

John Craft won the event with a distance of 55-8 3/4, a lifetime best for him also. Craft was only 3 1/4 inches short of the American record.

Both McClure and Craft qualified for the American team which will represent the United States in a series of dual track meets to be held in Europe this summer. Included in the series itinerary is a meet in the Soviet Union.

## Raider track squad gives Newlin first grant-in-aid

A high jumper from Manchester, Keith Newlin, is this year's first to sign with the Blue Raider track team.

Newlin was a three-year letterman at Manchester High School and cleared 6-6 in both his junior and senior years.

As a sophomore Newlin was clearing the bar in the six-foot range, but he made tremendous improvement in his junior year. Newlin won both the district and regional meets, and he finished third in the state championship.

In his senior year Newlin had both success and disappointment. He won the Middle Tennessee Conference meet and repeated as the district champion.

Newlin injured himself in warm-ups for this year's state meet and could only manage to clear 6-0. That

was particularly disappointing since he had jumped 6-7 in practice the week before.

He was named the Most Valuable Track Performer at Manchester his senior year. Newlin also lettered in basketball three years.

"We feel that he has the potential to clear 6-10 or even 7-0," Blue Raider track coach Dean Hayes said. "We have one high jumper now, Jesse Agnew, who has gone 6-8, and we feel that these two boys will help each other in improving their jumping."

"We are happy to get a track stand-out of Newlin's ability and potential, and we feel that he will definitely be an asset to our program," Hayes added.

Newlin, 6-3 1/2, 180 lbs., was coached this past season by Charles Floyd, a graduate of MTSU.

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