

SIDE LINES

Middle Tennessee State University

Wednesday, June 29,



Border
Kawos!

This ain't Ken Fes!

In Sidelines

Floatin' down the Ocoee

Whitewater rafting with Campus Rec

INSIDELINES

SIDE LINES

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Tuition is going up ... again. College women are binge drinking. Warren Wakeland lays it all out for you with charts and graphs.

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We decided to skip Renaissance Festival this summer and travel north to Bowling Green for Border Raids. Mike Reed and Carl E. Lambert set up housekeeping with a bunch of swell barbarians.

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On the Cover

Hack and slash is the order of the day for this pair fighting in the champion's tourney at Border Raids. Carl E. Lambert shot this act of chivalry.

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Carl E. Lambert / Staff

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Sidelines is published every Wednesday during the summer by students of Middle Tennessee State University. The opinions expressed herein are those of the author and not necessarily those of Sidelines. We welcome letters to the editor, but all letters must be accompanied by the author's name, address, and phone number (for verification purposes). Letters may be mailed to Sidelines, MTSU P.O. Box 42, Murfreesboro, TN 37132. Letters to the editor will be printed as space allows, and we reserve the right to edit all letters for spelling, grammar, and clarity.

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Though the weather

Though the weather outside is frightful, summer school is still delightful. Well maybe delightful is a little strong. Tolerable would be a better adjective. The rain has left us flooded once again, but thanks to the trenches gutting our campus, the water now has a place to go.

We need to apologize to Eddy Dyer. It seems when we mentioned our threatening letter from Satan that Eddy thought we were talking about him (he had also written a letter last week that didn't get printed). What we meant by "a threatening letter from Satan" was a letter signed by "Satan," not Eddy Dyer. I hope that clears things up, and to show there's no hard feelings we're running Eddy's original letter this issue.

Speaking of this issue, we must say we've been busy. We've followed MTSU students to the ends of time to bring you a taste of what everyone else is doing while you're in class.

It isn't pretty.

Sad news on the community front: East Main Market, home of many imported beers and lagers, has closed, and Club Rhythms has gone the way of Spanky's, Faces, The Outback and The Boro, too. It just seems like East Main Street can't support two bars, and whoever owns that building beside Gentleman Jim's (formerly E.J.'s) has no problem finding suckers to try and make it work.

The feedback we're getting around the office concerning the new look is still positive, though a few students have suggested we take on more controversial issues.

You have to understand that, as a weekly, *Sidelines* cannot run breaking news. During the summer, many schools don't publish at all. The purpose of changing our format to a magazine style was to give an outlet to creative writers that we don't have room to publish

The System works

By Mike Reed

in a normal issue during the fall and spring. Summer is supposed to be an easy tenure for a prospective editor, and to be perfectly honest, it is.

However, summer school is a special time in which the campus gears down and concentrates on academics and landscaping. Preparations are being made at the highest levels for fall. Summer school is basically down time. The classes are filled with seniors eager to get out and freshmen eager to get in. Sometimes you just have to take some time off.

Of course, you can't because every day of classes you miss during summer school is equal to a week of regular semester classes. So if time off isn't an option, what can the haggard summer school student do to relieve the tension?

According to a press kit sent to us from a band called Truffle, you should spend the day at Wal-Mart. The press kit also contained a scrap of paisley fabric and an incense stick.

There is good news on the financial aid front. Those second disbursement checks should be arriving any day now and that means the students of MTSU will be flush once more. God bless America.

The summer equinox has arrived again and we're none the worse for wear. We're hoping we'll be able to say the same in a few short weeks.



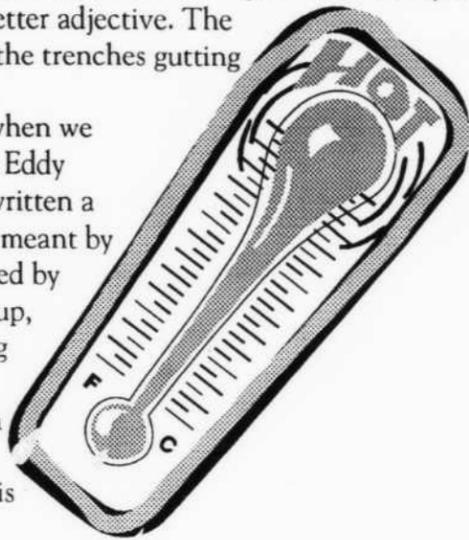
To the editor,

In the June 15, 1994 *Sidelines* story "Pikes Piqued," I can see where Robert Prestininzi may have a case. However, based upon what I read and if it's true, he may not. If Kane told the police one thing and the IFC another, wouldn't that be grounds for perjury (if his statement was actually recorded)? Missing a deadline might be grounds, yet the fact Prestininzi claims that the Pikes were singled out isn't. I agree that may not be fair; still, consider IFC's position. Perhaps they were tired of the negative image the Greek system on this campus has received in the past and are using the Pikes as an example. An example that says, "We're not going to put up with hazing and any other harmful behavior."

So what if the National Headquarters didn't find you guilty? Maybe they don't have much to lose. The Greek system has a bad reputation, as being a bunch of drunks who do stupid pranks; this is the image many students have of Greek social clubs. And this image has alienated many students from pledging a fraternity or sorority—added to the fact there are fees to pay and parties [at] which attendance is mandatory, many have adopted the "I don't have to buy my friends" stance. Personally, I don't approve of drinking and premarital sex on moral grounds. But if Greeks want to do it that's their prerogative. Pranks and jokes may be fun, though some are very immature; when they injure and cause humiliation they went too far.

You may say that I'm being a right-wing conservative moralist and am overreacting—I'm just saying GROW UP and accept this punishment. It doesn't matter if your liberal or conservative immaturity knows no bounds. Regardless of the truth of these charges against Greeks who haze, this needs to stop; this is dangerous behavior. This behavior portrays a negative image and as I and some others in one of my classes ranging in age from 25 to 32 have said, this image portrays Greek social clubs as "a legitimate excuse for acting immature." I realize not all Greeks are like this, but there are some who are. Perhaps IFC is in the process of searching for other frats and sororities who haze and investigate them, maybe campus security will catch them. Meanwhile, Pi Kappa Alpha, let this be a lesson to you. "If you do the crime you gotta pay the time." Quit complaining—be responsible.

Eddy D. Dyer
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Letters to Sidelines

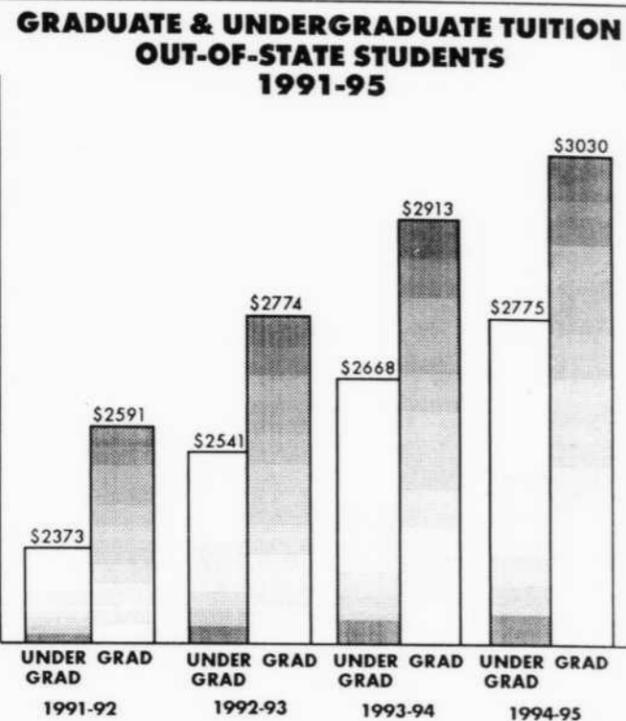
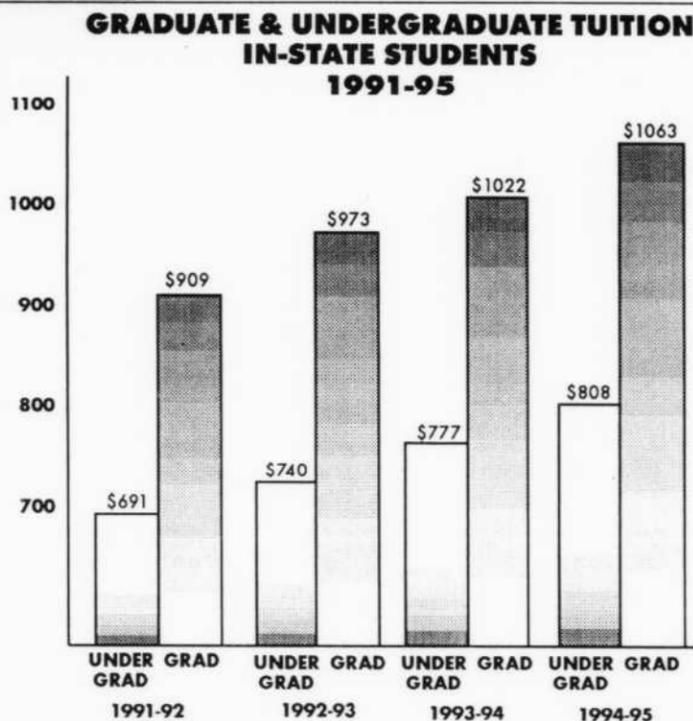
FOR THE COSTS - THEY ARE A CHANGIN' TUITION GOING UP AGAIN

The Tennessee Board of Regents officially approved a 4 percent increase in tuition for all two-year and four-year institutions governed by their organization, including MTSU, at their quarterly meeting held last Friday at Motlow State Community College in Tullahoma.

The board approved the recommendations made by the Committee on Finance and Business Operations during the committee meeting Thursday afternoon. The new rates go into effect immediately.

"If you look at the rate of inflation, our 4 percent increase is pretty well in line with that," Regents Chancellor Charles Smith told the *Memphis Commercial Appeal*.

Under the increase, tuition at MTSU will increase \$31 per semester for in-state full-time undergraduate students, from \$777 during the 1993-94 academic year to \$808, and \$93 per semester for out-of-state full-time undergraduates, from \$2,668 to \$2,775. Including extra fees which all full-time students must pay, the 1994-95 totals for tuition and fees will be \$1,792 for in-state and \$5,726 for out-of-state full-time undergraduate students.



Graphs by Brian Mayzure/Art Director

The tuition figures represent an approximate 17 percent increase in undergraduate rates since the 1991-92 academic year. Including fees, the increase is greater than 20 percent.

Graduate student tuition rates increase to \$1,063 per semester for full-time in-state students, up \$41 from last year, and to \$3,030 per semester for full-time out-of-state students, up \$117 from last year.

Tuition for part-time students will also increase, from \$69 to \$72 per semester hour. Graduate tuition will increase from \$103 to \$107 per semester hour.

Compared to the University of Memphis (formerly Memphis State University), a member of the Board of Regents system as is

MTSU, in-state undergraduate students at MTSU will pay \$69 per semester less in tuition than their Memphis counterparts, while out-of-state undergraduates will pay \$808 more in tuition.

"I'm only guessing, but [the discrepancy] may be because Memphis is right on the state borders of Mississippi and Arkansas," said Dr. Duane Stucky, vice president for finance and administration. "For them, someone living in another state only lives a few miles away. It enables them to draw more out-of-state students."

Stucky said he did not know how the discrepancy in fees between universities began, but that all schools in the Board of Regents system implement the same tuition

increase. According to the Tennessee Higher Education Commission [THEC], university students pay approximately 40 percent of the cost of their education.

The board also approved increases in fees at all member institutions. At MTSU there will be implementation of a \$15 Student Activity Fee to help pay for the Campus Recreation Center, and a \$15 Technology Fee to help pay for the technological advances being undertaken around campus. Some other fees affected include dormitory rates, increasing \$45 per semester for double occupancy and \$68 per semester for single occupancy for the coming school year, and a \$1 increase in the Post Office Box fee, from \$4 to \$5.

BINGE DRINKING ON U.S. CAMPUSES BIG WITH WOMEN

MICHELLE H. VON EUW - THE GW HATCHET

More college women than ever drink to get drunk, according to a comprehensive report released by Columbia University researchers.

The Commission on Substance Abuse at Colleges and Universities at Columbia's Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse announced this month that the percentage of women drinking to be drunk has skyrocketed from 10 percent to 35 percent over the past 15 years.

The commission based its results on a U.S. Department of Education survey of 58,000 students at 78 colleges and universities, as well as interviews with deans of colleges nationwide.

Alcohol consumption has become "a woman's rite of passage at tremendous risk to the lives of our best and brightest," said Pamela Ann Rymer, a U.S.

Circuit Judge and commission member.

Women who abuse alcohol are often more susceptible to violence and sexually transmitted diseases, the commission concluded. Ninety percent of all rapes on college campuses occur while either the victim or the assailant had been drinking. In addition, 60 percent of women who have contracted sexually transmitted diseases, including AIDS, were under the influence of alcohol when infected.

The jump in the number of women who abuse alcohol is related to their struggle for equality, some commission members suggested. "Women have taken on the worst aspects of the macho world," Center Chairman Joseph A. Califano Jr. said. There is much pressure on women to measure up to men, Califano said, which often results

in greater abuse among females.

"It's scary for women and men who drink to get drunk," said George Washington University Police Director Dolores Stafford. "When you drink, you become very vulnerable to becoming a victim of crime, and many people become more prone to commit crimes."

The report found that 95 percent of violent campus crime and 28 percent of college dropouts are related to excessive alcohol consumption.

"Colleges need to nurture spiritual, social and emotional growth," said Commission Chairman Edward A. Malloy, the president of Notre Dame University. College communities must emphasize that alcohol is not a liberating stress reliever but a debilitating force, Malloy said.

CONTINUING STUDIES OFFERS MAT REVIEW COURSE

The Division of Continuing Studies is offering a review course from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, July 16, for people taking the Miller Analogies Test. The Miller Analogies Test is used for admission to graduate school programs in fields such as education, engineering, humanities, natural sciences and social sciences.

The review course will cover test-taking strategies and practice of analogies with participants. Participants will learn to rearrange MAT analogies and reason through relationships in the analogies by using "bridge sentencing." The fee for the course is \$69.

Harley Anton, MTSU assistant professor of developmental studies and experienced exam prep instructor, will teach the course.

"People fail tests because of anxiety," Anton says. "The reason for this anxiety is lack of knowledge and understanding about the test. This course will teach how the test works and will relieve their anxiety." Anton says his goal for the course is that every participant be familiar with and fully understand the MAT test.

The MAT is administered through the MTSU Counseling and Testing Center the third Thursday of each month. Call 898-2670 for more information on the test. For more information on the review course or to register, call Continuing Studies at 898-2462.

IF YOU WANT US TO GET ON OUR KNEES FOR AIR CONDITIONING, WE'LL CONSIDER IT

For the second time we are asking to have the air conditioning in the Sidelines offices repaired. We have new fans, but we are still shvitzing up here. Every other room in this building has A/C, but we don't. This is UNCOOL!!!! Please fix our A/C.

TAKING A TRIP TO TUNICA? BE PREPARED FOR BLACKJACK AND BAIL

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — Belinda Merriweather said she "lost both ways" when she gambled in Tunica, Miss., then got caught in Tennessee's biggest roadblock in 30 years.

"I'm not ever going back," the 39-year-old junior high school head cook from Memphis said as her husband was being tested for drunken driving. "It's wrong if they give you free drinks down there and then they stop you before you get home."

Tennessee and Mississippi law enforcement officers wrote 512 citations Friday night and early Saturday at a two-way roadblock on U.S. 61, the two-lane highway which runs between Memphis and Tunica's casinos. The citations included 31 for DUI and several for drug possession.

Most of the tickets were written on the Mississippi side of the state line.

-Some passengers were cited for public intoxication, including a Horn Lake, Miss., man who hummed country tunes on the radio inside the MHP's mobile command post before being led away to jail.

"We won't ever know how many lives we've saved, but there's no doubt we've saved some, getting DUIs off the road," said Lt. Col. Jimmy Stringer of the Mississippi Highway Patrol. "We ask the motorists for their support, on our side of 61, we'll keep up the enforcement effort."

"I'm all for getting drunk drivers off the road," said Memphis lawyer Lee Filderman after a normal 45-minute drive took two hours, "but I can assure you I'll never go to Tunica again on a Friday night."

At least 14 people have been killed on the stretch of road since the first of the year.

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HOW DO WE GET THIS STUFF?

PRAGUE, Czech Republic (AP) — Now, something new from the people who brought us the original Pilsner and Budweiser: powdered beer.

Hoping to saturate the Russian market, a desert for beer drinkers, a Czech brewer says he has found a better way to package his suds. The powdered beer is easier to transport, has a longer shelf-life and it's cheaper.

Jan Oliva, part-owner of the malt house in the small Moravian town of Bruntal, says it tastes good, too.

"All you need is a pot and a spoon, and you can have your own beer in about 10 days," he said by telephone Monday from Bruntal.

To brew a batch, you put the powder in water and let it mature to taste. It costs about 25 cents a

quart.

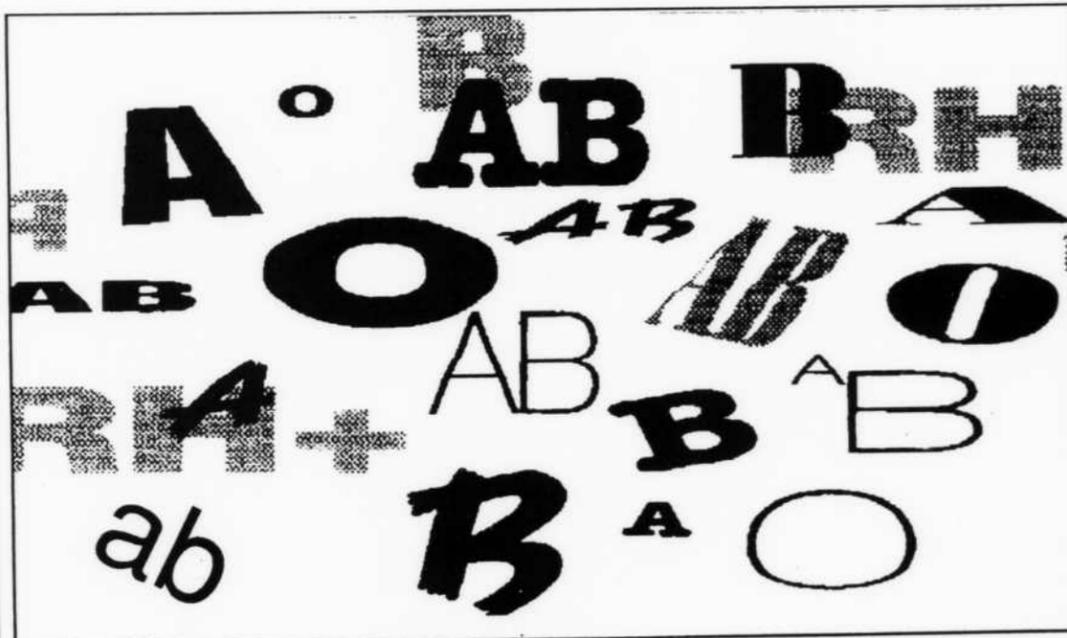
The Czechs have given the world such famous brews as Budvar, the original Budweiser, and Pilsner Urquell. Pilsner is a type of beer, a light lager, named for the Czech city where it was first made.

With the end of Communist rule nearly five years ago, world markets reopened to Czech brewers. But the cost of transport is high, and they also have refused to compromise on quality to solve problems like a relatively short shelf-life.

But Oliva, who took part ownership of the malting house when it was privatized in 1992, defended his powdered brew.

"It looks like beer, it tastes like beer and it has a head, too," he said. "It is beer, and a good one at that."

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Lager & Blood

In an age of cable television and cellular phones, this is one clan that eats what it kills.

by Mike Reed

Photos by Carl Lambert

Throughout the course of time, history has been written and rewritten on the battlefield. Even in our more modern, peaceful era, some long for the feel of a sword in their hand and sight of the heads of their enemies rolling in the fields like melons.

In the community of MTSU and Murfreesboro, there exists a group of men who do more than wax nostalgic for the "good ol' days" of the fifth and sixth centuries. They belong to the Society for Creative Anachronism—a group of people who attempt to recreate the past by dressing, living and occasionally fighting like people did years ago.

Our would-be heros took a page from German history and formed the Clan Basternae, a group of mercenaries that fights

kingdoms of Meridies and Midrealm.

In reality, Border Raids is a big camping trip where the campers are all dressed in garb made to look like clothing from the medieval period. There are groups of people from all over the country who get into the atmosphere in various degrees of participation.

You might see the door of an RV open and a Scottish Laird step out in full battle regalia with a claymore strapped to his side. You also see people whose camp is so "period" that the only mundane article you'll find is a fire extinguisher.

It's Friday night and all are unloading their gear, pitching their tents, getting into garb and making ready to make merry—for tomorrow is the big battle and at stake are bragging rights for the next year.

The Basternae camp is impressive. The tents are period and the beer coolers are either hidden or covered in fur. A severed head hangs from the top of one of the tents. Battle heralds are placed throughout the camp. War drums are beating in the distance, and stock-car racing at the speedway next door is drowning out most of the conversation and dispelling much of the illusion.

"They're dragons," says Atawulf, the newest member of the clan and an MTSU graduate student. "We have to call them something, so they're dragons."

Dragolen, an MTSU student, and Rurik, an elementary school teacher, make up the brewers' guild of the Basternae. Border Raids offers a brewing and vinting contest, but the clan is here to fight, drink and wench, not to fiddle around with the arts and sciences competitions.

Stilecho, an MTSU student, along with his very pregnant wife, set up a merchant's tent to sell blades he forged himself.

The big shot in the clan is Alanon, a Murfreesboro musician whose chivalry has won him favor with the queen. Quite impressive for a goth.

As night falls the revelry begins. Fires are lit all over the grounds. Lords and ladies drink, drum and dance. The Basternae camp is full of talk about the upcoming battle. The clan is visited by many other clans and families. Old friends get reacquainted and more drinking is done. Meanwhile, the dragons are speeding their way around the track not 100 yards away.

In other camps the action is much the same. Belly dancing around the fire while trying not to spill your beer is the major event of the evening.

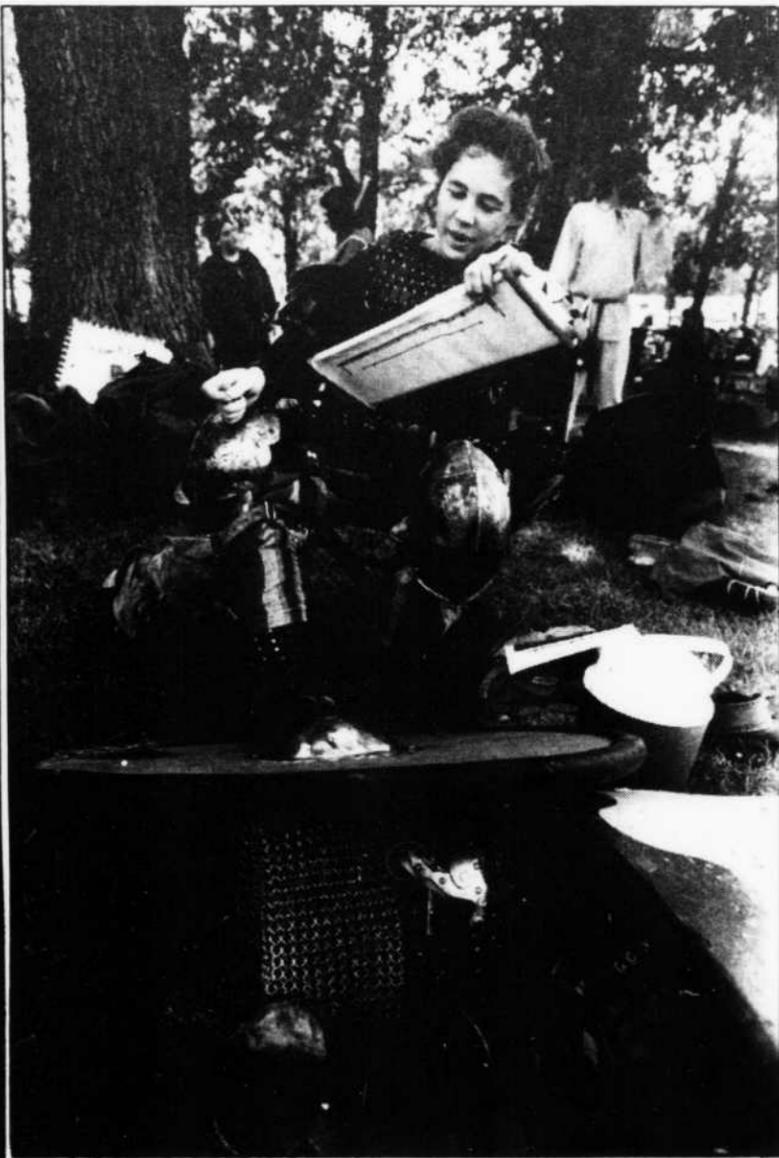


Saturday morning and the Basternae are dead to the world. The camp herald announces the start of the day's activities.

"Attention m'lords and m'ladies," she bellows. "It is 8 a.m. Armor inspection begins in less than one hour."

This does not shake the Basternae.

Donald, a fighter and bard that travels with the Basternae (but doesn't camp with them due to his nylon tent) explains why this is so.



RENAISSANCE WOMAN: Thorrain, mundanely known as Mindy Duplar, 21, from Indianapolis, Ind., crosstitching while waiting for the battles to begin.

for whoever offers the highest reward. They strapped on some animal skins, armor, leather and boots, then headed north to Bowling Green, Ky., for an annual event known as Border Raids.

This two-day event is a gathering of fighters, merchants, artisans and courtesans from two different kingdoms, the



LAY ON: The forces of M

"You see, at most of at 7 a.m. or so and you Here it doesn't start un

It's very hot today a on his armor.

The herald's second "Everything happen battle isn't until around started until 11:30."

Everything works th period, so scheduling is

However, rules are r the marshal to make sur

"You have to cover k says Dragolen as he strap

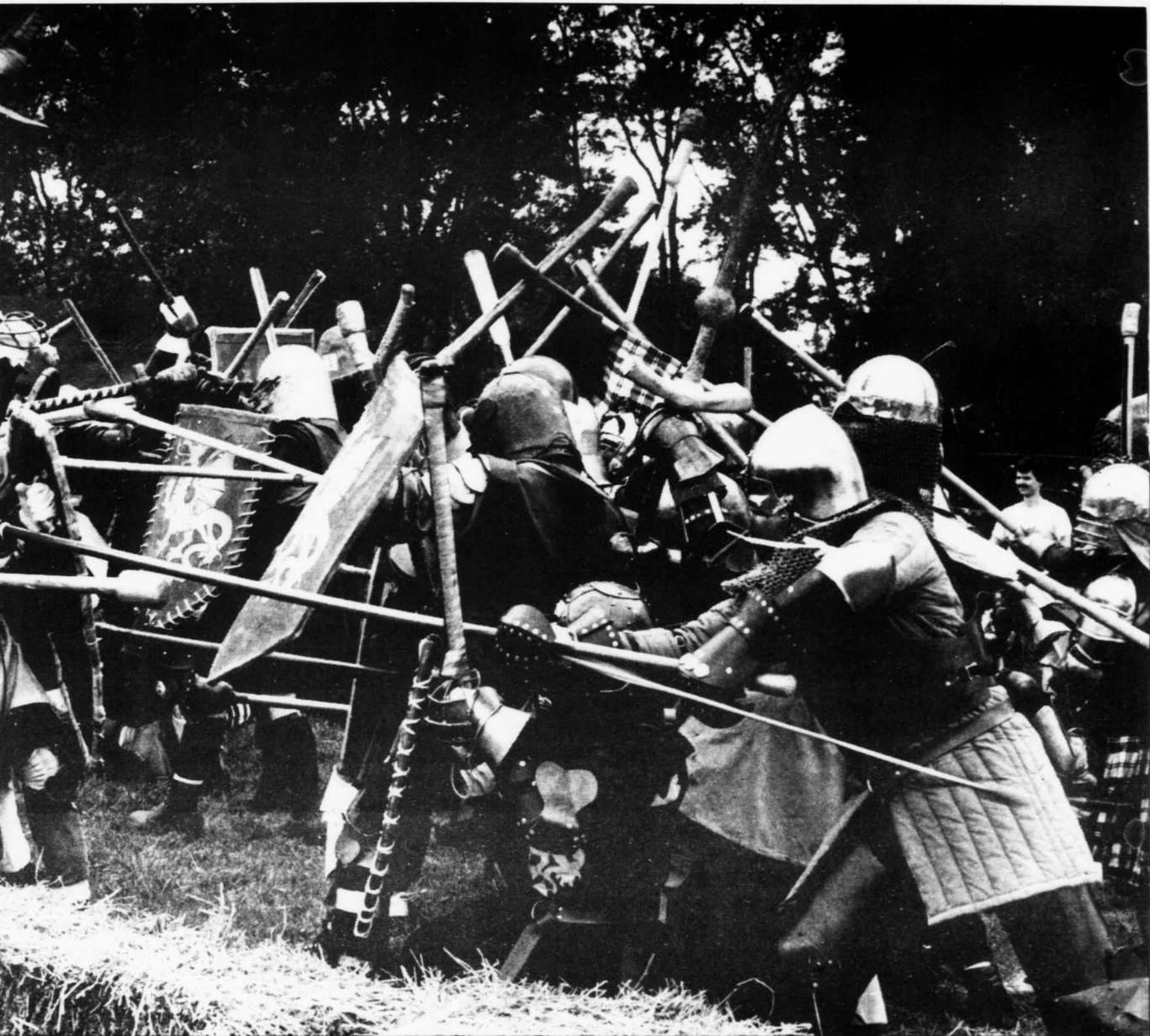
To fight, you have to the marshal that you others.

Weapons are made c They're non-lethal but p

"Shields are sheet m mine," says Donald. "Be closed."

The early Germans armor. Many of the Bast battle. That's frightening have no qualms about c pounding you with big s

The battlefield is a s well as a proving ground



of Midrealm in the bridge battle on Saturday at the annual SCA event known as Border Raids. The fighters hacked at each other for most of the day.

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Wandering around among the pavilions, you can see men and women in various types of armor making ready to hack and slash.

The common thought is that the home team, Midrealm, is hopelessly outnumbered and shouldn't be much of a challenge.

Niketa, a Basternae strongman and MTSU history student, has been traded to the other side in exchange for one of their fighters.

Back at the Basternae camp the mood is somber. The activities of the previous night have left many of the clan longing for a day of rest.

"Why do we have to fight anyway," says Atawulf from inside his tent. "I don't have any enemies out there."

By mid-morning on Saturday, the illusion is nearly complete. The racetrack is quiet and everyone is unpacked and in garb. The merchants are doing business near the battlefield. The only mundane thing in sight are all the cars parked along the roadsides.

"I wish these people would move their cars," yells Stilecho. "They're blocking my view of the fifth f*****g century."

At last the hour arrives and the fighters line up for the big battle.

As expected, the Meridians outnumber the fighters from Midrealm by around two to one. The marshal gives the order to begin.

"Lay on," he yells.

"Lager and blood," comes the battle cry of the Basternae. One of the groups from Midrealm has a secret weapon.

As the battle begins, they charge across the battlefield and hurl rabbits infected with plague at the opposing army. Sure, they're just stuffed bunnies with cute smiles and pieces of tape with the word "plague" written on them, but the effect is much the same. I'm told this is historically accurate as well. Armies, when sieging a city, would hurl dead horses into the streets with a catapult to induce disease in their enemy.

Here, however, it gets little more than a laugh, and everyone lines up again and starts over.

The battle is simple. All the fighters from Midrealm line up on one side and Meridies takes the other. The signal is given and the groups make their way across the field and attack. When struck with a death blow, the fighter usually gives out a convincing yell and dies theatrically.

It is impressive to watch. Fighters hack away at each other with swords and spears while archers run around and attempt to pick off the enemy.

The marshal calls "hold" and the dead get up and walk away from the field. The remaining fighters continue flailing away.

"Hold" is called three times to clear the bodies before the battle is eventually won by Meridies.

The Basternae lose a few. Rurik "ate a spear" as did Stilecho who accidentally killed an ally with his spear.

"All I saw was this helmet in front me and so I lunged before I could see who it was," he says.

Niketa, who was fighting for the "bad guys," was killed by his own men.

Alanon, widely believed to be the clan's best fighter, was asked to marshal the battle, so he couldn't participate.



GETTING IN GEAR: Stilecho, mundanely known as Steve Corn, makes adjustments to his armor.

Donald killed three enemies before catching a spear in the side.

Both the dead and living members of the clan sit and eat under the merciful shade of a nearby tree before the herald calls for the novice battle.

"All those fighting for less than one year report to the battlefield," cries the herald.

Atawülf makes his way into the fray.

"All those fighters who have had less than one beer report to the battlefield," yells one knight from the sidelines. The novice battle is quite a spectacle.

The battle is for younger men and women out to prove themselves in front of their mentors and clan brothers.

The battle is fierce. Atawülf takes up his shield and guards the archer Desdichado.

The clan is appalled

"Get in there and attack somebody," yells Dragolen. "Stop guarding that damn archer and hit somebody."

The pair run all over the battlefield not catching the attention of too many fighters. The Midrealm, hopelessly outnumbered, again falls.

The fighting goes on in one form or another all afternoon.

One of the highlights is the bridge battle.

Bales of hay are lined up so as to form the boundaries of a bridge. The opposing armies start on opposite sides and try to overrun the other before the archers pick them off.

The fighting is fierce and compact. Long spears and pole arms force the shield men to open themselves up to archer and footman attacks.

"Charge," screams a dead knight from the sidelines. "They're going to pick you off if you don't charge."

Meridies wins the day again.

The rest of the afternoon is spent recalling tales of valor on the field—and giggling Atawülf for guarding an archer when he should have been in there "kicking some nubee [novice] butt". The afternoon is lazy in preparation for tonight's party.

Court is held on the battlefield that evening after feast. Everyone puts on their best garb and sits in the presence of the two

royal families while official business is conducted. Awards are given, achievements are recognized and babies are blessed. Most of the Basternae avoid court. It requires a great deal of etiquette and not much drinking.

After the business of the day is complete, the Basternae host the Known World Party. This basically entails serving free beer to all comers (of legal age) in an atmosphere of revelry and friendship.

Legends are told of past Basternae encounters.

"I remember last year during the novice battle," says Dragolen. "The line broke on both sides but three novices from the Basternae held the middle. Then today, Atawülf guards an archer."

Atawülf is firm.

"I did my job," he says. "You told me not to go in there and act like a fantasy barbarian. You said 'do your job and stay alive.' I stayed alive and we won."

He has a point. Nobody killed the archer Atawülf was guarding. In fact, Desdichado made a brief appearance at the party.

The campfires are lit and feasts are eaten. People dance around the fire, drink beer, sing songs, gamble and occasionally forget that it's 1994.



When it's all over, one wonders about the "geek factor." It isn't normal (at least for adults) to dress in medieval garb and tromp around in the wild and play pretend you're someone else.

But the Basternae are educators and recreationists who take this very seriously. The research involved is long and hard. The SCA wants everything to be as accurate as possible. The level of your involvement is up to you. No one came up to me and said my topsiders weren't period or asked me to take off my watch. Everyone is polite and inviting. New people are welcomed into camps and the hungry are fed and clothed. It is utopian in its simplicity, and the people who are hard-core SCA members spend an enormous amount of money in an effort to keep the real world at bay a weekend at a time.

But will I have to wear tights?

being a brief explanation
of the
Society for Creative Anachronism
by Tom Welchance

As a member of the Society for Creative Anachronism and a member of the mercenary fighting group, the Basternae, I have been asked to tell you what the SCA is. With membership worldwide approaching 100,000 (participating non-members counted as well), this is an increasingly complex yet relatively unknown subculture. As a graduate student here at MTSU, I am currently compiling information that will eventually be released in book form to attempt to explain this subgroup. Therefore, the answer to the question "What is the SCA?" in this format is going to have to be a bit watered down.

The Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA) is a nonprofit educational organization devoted to the study of the Middle Ages/Renaissance period lasting from the fall of Rome (fifth century to pre-17th century). The SCA was incorporated in 1968 but recognizes a tournament held in Berkeley, Calif., on May 1, 1966, as its founding date.

As for the name, an "anachronism" is something out of its proper time frame. In this Society, "creative anachronism" takes the qualities of the Middle Ages and selectively recreates them in the modern world.

Geographically, the SCA covers the entire globe, the majority of its members living in the U.S. and Canada. There are 12 kingdoms, each with its own king and queen chosen on the field of combat. The kingdoms are independent of each other, and there is a considerable amount of variation among them. Each kingdom has a body of written "law" established by the king and queen to define the specific rules it follows, and a larger body of generally accepted custom that gives each kingdom its unique personality. All of the kingdoms build their laws and customs on a framework called *The Corpora* which sets overall rules for the Society.

Kingdoms are divided into local and regional chapters called principalities, baronies, shires, marches, cantons, colleges and ridings.

Courtesy and honorable behavior is at the core of the Society. It is difficult to be too polite. Respectful terms of address and avoidance of discussing the modern world add to the medieval flavor of an event. Skill-at-arms, excellence

in the arts, and long-time service are all diminished without respectful and courteous conduct.

The Society is a re-enactment and re-creation organization intended for participants rather than spectators. Everyone who attends an event is expected to wear at least an attempt at medieval clothing (garb).

Society members create a persona, the person they would have liked to have been had they lived in the Middle Ages. Some members choose only a name. Others create fully developed personas and can talk to you in detail about their medieval "lives."

Medieval society was highly structured with a system of ranks: kings, dukes, barons and lords. The SCA has a similar hierarchy. There are additional elevated ranks in the SCA: the chivalry (knights), the laurels (masters of arts and sciences), and the pelicans (politicos and bureaucrats).

Medieval combat with its swords, shields and armor is an essential part of the SCA. Both men and women actively participate in recreating medieval foot combat. Fighters are responsible for obtaining their own armor and weapons. Some fighters make most of their own armor, using metal, leather or plastic, and some buy pieces either new or used.

The SCA encompasses both serious study and frivolity. Those who join for fun, companionship, food and drink play alongside those who make a serious attempt to authentically duplicate the clothing, skills and crafts of the Middle Ages. Both aspects, the playful and the serious, are valid, but neither dominates to the exclusion of the other. People who join the SCA for fun can help make the serious work more enjoyable. Those who join for serious study can add depth to the merriment.

For further information regarding the SCA, you are encouraged to attend and observe a local fighter practice. The group reported in Mike's article (The Basternae, my group, as well as surrounding groups in the Shire of the Rising Stone) holds fighter practice at Old Fort Park in Murfreesboro at 2 p.m. on Sundays. Or you can express your desire by writing me at 1211 Greenland Drive, Murfreesboro 37130, or P.O. Box 145.

Blazing Trails on the Ocoee

MTSU student finds civilization outside Murfreesboro

Story and Photos by Charles Hogue



Assistant Campus Recreation Director Charlie Gregory steers his rafting group down the Ocoee

On the weekend of June 25-26 I had the opportunity to travel with Campus Recreation for whitewater rafting along Ocoee River. Saturday morning a group of about 15 of us gathered at the

the river.

Upon arriving, everyone began unloading their equipment and inflating the rafts we hoped would carry us safely through the rapids. For the first part of the trip, I rode

Suddenly the rains came, and of course they would come while I'm still trying to take pictures. As we neared the last length of rapids, a thundercloud closed out the sun, beginning a downpour that might cause one to consider building an ark to float back to Murfreesboro.

When we reached the pick-up point, we loaded the rafts as quickly as possible and made our way to the campsite. There we waited about an hour for the rain to stop so that we could resume our camping activities. Our leader, Assistant Campus Recreation director Charlie Gregory, said, "It can't rain all night," and sure enough, the rain stopped. We then pitched our tents and prepared for the day's end.

Sunday morning we prepared for another day on the river. This time I wasn't a photographer but a participant. As a first-time whitewater rafter, I

was a bit nervous at the thought of rafting, let alone falling out of the raft. The others in the group, however, were more experienced. They helped me out with suggestions on how to stay in the raft and assured me they would stop to pick me up if I did fall out.

After the first set of rapids, I felt more confident and actually found the experience exciting. With the waves crashing over the sides of the raft, I forgot about staying in and started to enjoy the ride. Though our progress was hindered at times by rocks, we continued flowing with the current of the river, occasionally crashing into waves. Each rapid kept us looking forward to the next set with anticipation. When we finally reached the pick-up point, I was

sorry to see the ride end. Our rafting group, completely drenched by this time, loaded the rafts and prepared for the trip back to the 'Boro.

So many times I've heard people say there's nothing to do in Murfreesboro over the weekend. I say next time you feel that way, go over and talk to the folks at Campus Rec. For the price you would spend in Nashville, Charlie Gregory can provide a full weekend of entertainment with one of the many trips Campus Rec plans every semester. I would like to thank Charlie Gregory and the others on the Ocoee trip for allowing me to come along. It was a definite change from the weekend norm. I enjoyed the group's good humor, which made the trip a smashing success.

As a first-time whitewater rafter, I was a bit nervous at the thought of rafting, let alone falling out of the raft.

Campus Security parking lot to load our equipment. Little did we know we were about to set off for a very wet but exciting weekend.

The ride there was uneventful. In fact, most people caught up on the sleep they missed by getting up so early on a Saturday morning. However, once we neared the Ocoee, people began to wake up. The sun suddenly broke from the clouds—as if to promise us a good day on

in the van as we drove the length of the river. We stopped occasionally so that I could photograph the others who braved the rapids.

Saturday turned out to be a great day both for the rafters and myself because we were all able to take advantage of the elements. The van continued to follow the river bank, and I caught photos where I could and soaked up the abundant rays of sunshine.



Rex Pringle has kayak in hand while watching other rafting.

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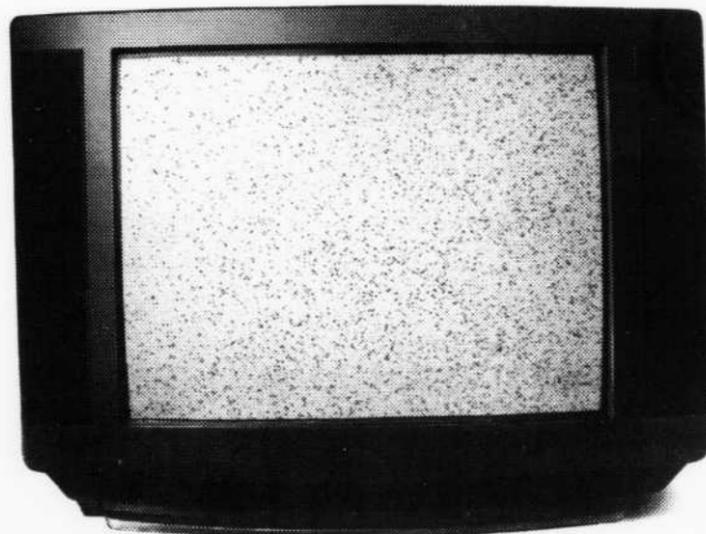
As for your windows and doors, a couple packages of \$3.00 weather stripping should do the trick.

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The Last Word About The NBA

What You Should, Shouldn't, and Don't want to know about the NBA Finals and Draft

BY JESSICA DENISE CLAYBORN / SPORTS EDITOR

"THE WORLD CHAMPIONS OF THE NBA ARE THE HOUSTON ROCKETS!!"

Bet you didn't expect to hear that sentence, did you? It's a reality, however, and although you've heard enough about the NBA, you're about to hear more.

I love Pat Riley, but I had to give up on his Knicks when they went down 3-2 to the Indiana Pacers. With the Rockets at home resting after making the Utah Jazz play "Taps," there wasn't any doubt about who would be rested. And with the Knicks using home court advantage to the fullest, it was only a matter of time before it played out—like in Games 6 and 7 of the NBA Finals.

Don't blame John Starks for everything that went wrong. Just because he missed the game-winning shot in Game 6 and went 2-for-18 (a number now etched in the minds of many) in Game 7, it doesn't mean he's a complete loser, but I doubt Spike Lee will be running around Brooklyn with Starks' jersey on anytime soon. Don't forget Patrick Ewing went 7-for-17, but I suppose 41 percent is better than 11 percent.

The ratings for the finals were pretty good, according to Nielsen, but I only watched Game 7 from beginning to end. Why? Because when the game is won in the last five minutes there's no need to watch the previous forty-three, is there?

There were also some things I couldn't understand about NBA Finals. See if you can figure these puzzles out:

—Why Kenny Smith and Vernon Maxwell were the main ones holding the championship trophy when their play in the finals was nothing short of horrendous.

—Why Pat Riley only brought one suit to Houston when he saw how his team had been playing throughout the playoffs.

—Why Greg Anthony plays point guard for the New York Knicks.

—Why Kenny Smith started as point guard for the Houston Rockets every game.

—Why Patrick Ewing didn't drive to the basket and foul everyone out of the game.

—Why the Knicks don't know the definition of the word "OFFENSE."

—Why the Houston Oilers weren't at the Summit trying to learn how to win a playoff game, let alone a championship.

—Why in Game 5 most of the press left the action on the court to watch O.J. Simpson run from police on TV.

If you have the answers to these questions, you're really on top of your game.

For all you statistics nuts, this is the first time the NBA Western Conference has won a title since the L.A. Lakers in 1988. That was also the last time a championship series went to seven games, but the seven games this season have made it the longest NBA season ever. The last center to receive the Finals MVP before Olajuwon was Kareem Abdul-Jabbar in 1985, and the last time the NBA Champion came from the Midwest Division—well, that one you'll have to ask "Sportscenter."

Speaking of "last times," when was the last time you heard of a potential number one draft pick suing the league? If Glenn Robinson isn't happy with the NBA, then the Jacksonville Hooters of the United States Basketball League will be glad to pick him up. I'm sure Charlie Ward will be just as happy.

Hey Glenn, the Milwaukee Bucks aren't that bad. I heard Todd Day is only half as cocky as rumored. And just think—you could be playing for the Dallas Mavericks or Minnesota Timberwolves. Now that's really a tragedy.

Don't get upset, Glenn. After all, it was just ten years ago when Magic Johnson was excited about signing for a million dollars a year in his second year with the Lakers.

There should be a salary cap for rookies. There's no way you can justify Glenn Robinson making ten million dollars a year for being the "best college player" when Hakeem Olajuwon can only get four million after winning the NBA title. Don't forget Olajuwon is a number one pick, too.

Have fun figuring out how the draft goes tonight. You're going to need it.

Gooden Suspended From Mets

Former Cy Young Winner Violates Drug Program

NEW YORK (AP) — Dwight Gooden, the New York Mets' last link to their 1986 World Series champions, was suspended by major league baseball for 60 days Tuesday for violating his drug aftercare program.

Gooden, 29, missed a month of the 1987 season to undergo treatment for cocaine use and agreed then to submit to random drug testing as part of the aftercare program.

The specific violation was not disclosed by Gooden, the Mets or baseball, but Gary Sheffield, Gooden's nephew who plays for the Florida Marlins, said it was not drugs, but indicated Gooden missed a test.

"It's not fazing him," Sheffield said Tuesday in Philadelphia. "He's handling things well. I'm sure he'll be all right. As long as it's not drugs, everything will be fine."

"The main thing I was concerned about was his health, and once I found out it was not drugs, it made everything OK."

A statement from Gooden was read by Joe McIlvaine, Mets vice president for baseball operations.

"I have been suspended for breaking the rules of my aftercare program. I'm truly sorry it happened," the statement said. "I want to apologize to the club, my teammates and to the people of New York. I want to thank everyone for their past support. I will be back stronger and better. I want to earn your respect back."

U.S. Advances to Second Round of World Cup

DANA POINT, Calif. (AP) — They're in.

The Americans will play at Stanford, Calif., on Monday, July 4 against either Brazil or Sweden.

The Americans moved into the second round of the World Cup for the first time in 64 years today when both games in Group E ended in ties.

That left the U.S. team with one of the four best third-place records in the tournament. The Americans finished Sunday with four points and a 1-1-1 record in Group A. Then they had to wait.

The waiting ended today when Italy tied Mexico 1-1 and Ireland and Norway tied 0-0. Because the United States scored three goals, while Ireland and Italy had only two—and all three had 0 goal differentials—the hosts moved on.

Gooden, who is making \$3.7 million this season, recently returned to the Mets from a toe injury in late April that had him on the disabled list. He is 3-4 with a 6.31 ERA in 41 1-3 innings.

"Today's news concerning Dwight Gooden comes as a shock to all of us in major league baseball, the New York Mets, his teammates, family and friends," McIlvaine said. "We are all disappointed that events have led to this action having to be taken by the commissioner's office."

Bud Selig, the chairman of baseball's executive council, made the announcement.

"This is not a happy day obviously. You do in the end what you think is right. It's a sad day. You have to deal with the problem as it exists," he said from Milwaukee.

"It's weighed very heavily on my mind for the last week or 10 days, and underline the word very. This is not something you do casually, but with thought and a great deal of concern."

McIlvaine said he talked to Gooden on Monday.

"I had an idea this was coming," he said. "Ten days ago major league baseball told us it was conducting an investigation. He didn't see it coming."

Gooden can appeal the decision and its gravity.

"Whether we grieve the fact of discipline or the amount of discipline will be decided after consultation with the player," said Gene Orza, associate general counsel of the players association.

So did Mexico, which won Group E with a plus-1 goal differential as all four teams in the "Group of Death" finished with four points. Ireland, which like Italy scored two goals and allowed two, got second place because it beat Italy. The Italians wound up third and must await other results to see if they advance. Norway was eliminated.

The United States had moved closer to advancing when Germany eliminated South Korea and Spain took out Bolivia on Monday. The Americans will play either Brazil or Sweden at Stanford on July 4.

The Germans hobbled off the field Monday, looking like losers. They spent forever in the showers, then went for massages. They didn't feel much like talking.

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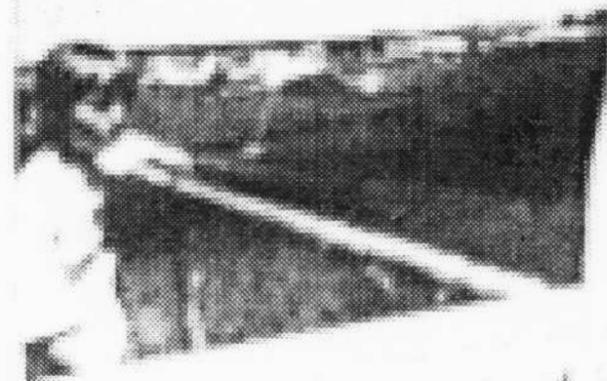
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MTSU student

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