

Sidelines

Middle Tennessee
State University

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Union slaps university over 'scab' supply

by Larry Harrington
and Gina Jeter

Officials of the United Steelworkers of America complained yesterday that MTSU is using state facilities and taxpayers' money to solicit strikebreakers through its placement office for Aladdin Industries, Inc.

"We don't feel it's right that the university is helping hire strikebreakers at taxpayers' cost," said Don Bogan, international representative of the United Steelworkers in Nashville.

Union officials also complained that about half of the 40 strikebreakers from MTSU are foreign students.

"The workers have real bad reaction to it," said George Wright, president of Steelworkers Local 4802 at Aladdin.

Vice-President of Student Affairs Harry Wagner said yesterday that the university is not re-

sponsible for students being on the job.

"Our placement office acts simply as a bulletinboard between the employer who wants to hire

Wagner: simply a bulletin board

and the employee who wants to work," Wagner said.

"We advised students there was a strike in progress, but terms and arrangements are strictly between employer and employee," he said.

Although it is against the policy of the Tennessee Employment Security Department to place employees with a company experiencing a labor dispute, the university may not be violating state or federal law in doing so,

according to a staff attorney for that department.

Asst. Atty. Gen. Milton Rice said yesterday in Nashville there is no state law prohibiting the placement of strikebreakers.

Percy Green of the U.S. Department of Labor in Nashville said that MTSU probably would not be subjected to the federal regulations forbidding any local State Employment Security Office from making such referrals.

The State Board of Regents has no policy regarding the placement of strikebreakers by a university, according to Lynn Hastings, attorney for the Regents.

The Steelworkers Union has questioned the legality of foreign students attending MTSU being employed during the strike.

Wagner said it was his understanding that the placement office had checked out laws regarding the employment status of foreign

students with Joseph Sakas, international student advisor.

Sakas said he did not know that foreign students were employed at Aladdin until Friday (one week after the placement office made initial contact with students concerning jobs at Aladdin).

"I contacted Martha Turner in the placement office and told her I wanted a list of the students to check and see if they could work," he said.

"I've not had time to check it out further," Sakas said.

Many foreign students that have

See editorial page six

been in the country for over a year are granted permission to work at off-campus jobs for 20 hours a week, Sakas said.

At Aladdin walkout

Three issues spur strike

by Larry Harrington

Wages, mandatory overtime and the rehiring of two fired workers are the main issues behind a strike that began Feb. 4 by 900 production workers at Aladdin Industries, Inc., in Nashville.

Union wage demands center around a cost of living clause tied to the consumer price index.

"A wage increase is not enough this day in time without a cost of living clause," said George Wright, president of the United Steelworkers of America Local 4802 striking at Aladdin.

"We have refused to offer a cost of living increase because we cannot guarantee the national economy," Aladdin attorney Allaire Karzon said.

She said the company proposed a fair wage increase of 7 percent for each of the next three years. This figure includes fringe benefits.

Aladdin and the Steelworkers have failed to agree on a solution to mandatory overtime.

"People have been working seven days a week, some for as many as four months at a time without a day off," Wright said.

He said the workers were bargaining for a settlement in which they would receive double time for Sunday and could have Sunday off if they chose.

Workers received time and a half under the old agreement and were threatened with disciplinary action if they refused to work the seven-day week, Wright said.

"Aladdin has to determine production itself in order to meet customers' demands," Karzon said.

She said the company could make no concession on overtime because of demand from customers, "some of whom are hospitals."

Negotiators have failed to agree on the conditions of re-employment of two workers fired after a wildcat strike in March of last year.

"An arbitration board decision was that the workers should be rehired, but Aladdin has taken the decision to court," the Steelworkers international representative in Nashville, Don Bogan, said.

Karzon said the company had offered to rehire the two workers without probation but would not grant back pay and seniority.

She said the company had made a fair offer containing increases in fringe benefits but that the union had rejected it.

"We are now hiring on a permanent basis and have notified striking workers that they will be replaced if they do not return to work," she said.

"The members of the union voted in a secret ballot 507 to 123 against the company's offer," Wright said.

He said he did not think the company could find enough skilled workers to break the strike.

Other than a wildcat strike last year, this is the first strike since the union came to Aladdin in 1952, Wright and Karzon said.



Sharon Ward, left and Lynne Smith, both Chattanooga freshmen, brave the chilly weather to utilize a mailbox, perhaps for the purpose of confirming holiday accommodations in warm, sunny Florida during the spring break.

File 13

Refunds of the \$5 fees paid this semester by Physical Science 101 and 102 students were mailed out Friday. Any student who did not receive his refund should contact the business office.

Opryland, USA, will be giving interviews 9a.m.-4:30 p.m. today in the U.C. for persons interested in summer jobs as hosts, hostesses, shopkeepers, ticket takers, food servers and maintenance personnel. Appointments are not necessary.

Part-time students may pick up the student handbook, The Rescue, in the Dean of Students office, room 114 of the administration building.

The monthly meeting of the Gamma Beta Phi society will be at 6:30 tonight in room 100, new science building. Guest speakers will be a panel of school administrators who will answer any questions concerning university policies.

The pre-law society will meet at 11 a.m. Thursday in Old Main 324. Persons interested in becoming members are invited to attend.

"The Occult" a film narrated by Hal Lindsey will be shown at 7 tonight room 310 of the U.C.

Volunteer shortage limits crisis aid

by Joe Collier

Crisis Call can not expand its services to seven days a week due to the lack of volunteers, according to Keith Carlson, director of the program.

"We have 30 to 40 volunteers working with the program, but there is a need for 80 or more persons," Carlson said.

"The Crisis Call program was designed with the idea of helping people in need," he said. "The program serves as a psychological band-aid for persons that call to discuss their problems and persons who just want to talk with someone."

The program is set-up so that a person who needs help calls 893-1234, and the crisis call operator connects him with the volunteer on duty, Carlson said.

Each volunteer serves a four-hour shift.

"There is no direct relationship

between the Crisis Call program and the psychology department, except that some of the psychology instructors volunteer their time working with the program," Carlson said.

Funds for the operation of Crisis Call come from private donations and appropriations from the State Department of Mental Health.

"The types of calls that are received at the center run the total scale, with the majority of them coming from suicidal persons," Carlson said.

Crisis calls are accepted on weekends from 6 p.m. Friday until 6 a.m. Sunday," he said.

Those interested in volunteering their time must fill out a general questionnaire which asks for information concerning their mental make-up, social status, criminal violations and reasons for volunteering to work with the Crisis Call program.

A personality test, a character exam and questioning by a review board is required," he said.

The procedure for learning the correct way to answer a crisis call takes 20 hours, Carlson said.

About two to four per cent of the people that volunteer their services are not accepted.

Presidents plan luncheon forum

A "presidents' luncheon forum" has been scheduled for noon tomorrow in the University Center grill, according to Robert LaLance, dean of students.

Members of the administration and student government officers will be on hand to discuss topics of interest to students and to answer any questions they might have, LaLance said.

Proposed change in grading scale would utilize 'plus, minus' system

A proposed grading scale which incorporates the "plus and minus" system will be forwarded by the ASB to the Faculty Senate, according to Emily Mann, secretary of academic affairs.

The proposal scale is as follows:

| | |
|---------|-----|
| A plus | 4.3 |
| A | 4.0 |
| A minus | 3.7 |
| B plus | 3.3 |
| B | 3.0 |
| B minus | 2.7 |
| C plus | 2.3 |
| C | 2.0 |
| C minus | 1.7 |
| D plus | 1.3 |
| D | 1.0 |
| D minus | 0.7 |
| F | 0.0 |

"The present system has many shortcomings," Mann said. "If a student does 3.9 work under the present system, he automatically gets a 3.0."

Under the new system, a student would make the grade that he earns, she said.

"In addition, the proposed scale shows the class record more accurately," Mann said.

"The problem is that professors can not decide on a specific numerical scale," Mann said. Therefore, each professor will grade by his own scale.

ASB Senate and House of Representatives passed the proposal last week.

The proposal was tabled by the Faculty Senate last year because of lack of student interest, Mann said.

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'Bartender' wins Mr.MTSU contest



Danny Webb

When the fifth annual Mr. MTSU contest was over Thursday night, Danny Webb, a senior from Newport, Tenn., had won the title. Webb was sponsored by Kappa Alpha fraternity.

Chi Omega sorority coordinated the contest and donated all proceeds to the Holland Scholarship Fund.

Each contestant entered was sponsored by a fraternity, sorority or other campus organization.

Contestants were judged on poise, the way they look in casual and dress clothes and their ability to think on their feet and answer a question about campus problems.

Webb, a 25-year-old psychology major, transferred to MTSU from

East Tennessee State University when he was a sophomore. On the weekends Webb works as a bartender at the Moose Lodge. In his spare time he participates in sports such as water and snow skiing, handball and tennis.

"I was glad to see someone win who wasn't well known on campus and hadn't won everything else. It just proves anyone can win, and it does not necessarily have to always be Joe College," Webb said.

Webb received a pair of binoculars and a trophy, and the sponsoring organization was given a trophy to display in their house.

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THIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM HAS BEEN REVIEWED BY THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

Kissinger declines seminar invitation

Secretary of State Henry Kissinger will not appear at MTSU for the National Security Seminar May 6, according to Ralph Fullerton, geography and earth science department chairman.

"Dr. Kissinger must decline your thoughtful invitation because of his heavy commitments," a letter from William D. Toomey, director of the office of public services, said.

No one has been selected to replace Kissinger, Fullerton said.

Foreign policy, foreign aid, and the defense budget will be discussed at the seminar, he said.

STUDY IN GUADALAJARA, MEXICO

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Study sets building priorities

by Jim Trammel

Fifteen priorities of future construction on the MTSU campus are listed by the Physical Plant division of the university self-study committee, according to their published report.

The proposed Music annex to the fine arts building leads the list of construction priorities followed by renovation of industrial arts complex, remodeling of the fine arts building, improvements on the campus school, and renovation of the aerospace building.

Development of parking facilities, utilities and land acquisition place are also listed. Remodeling of existing classrooms and offices and remodeling of President M.G. Scarlett's home are relatively low priorities.

"The physical plant and grounds of MTSU are in good condition," the report states. "Plant development and renovation are proceeding in a satisfactory manner."

MTSU spends a smaller percentage on its budget on campus maintenance than five nearby regional universities, but the maintenance department's staffing and performance are well carried out, the subcommittee noted.

The campus school is "outdated for current teaching methods and programs," the committee reported. Specifically, the building does not meet state and local wiring and plumbing standards.

Other building improvements the subcommittee suggested are "major renovations" on Rutledge Hall dormitory, a "high priority renovation" for the Fine Arts building, updating of the safety and health conditions of the swimming pool and a set of improvements on most dormitories.

The recommended dormitory improvements include installation of carpeting, study lamps and sinks in each room, replacement of faulty incinerators and screening of windows of every room.

Jesse Smith was chairman of the Physical Plant subcommittee and campus planner Charles Pigg was a consultant.

Editor's note: This article is the first part in a series which will appear in the Sidelines over the next few issues. They are designed to clarify changes and recommendations made in the university self-study report.

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State suffers from child abuse problem

by Bill Mason

Child abuse is a large problem in Tennessee, and adults found guilty of mistreating minors may go to prison, according to Roy Campbelle, assistant professor of criminal justice administration.

Campbelle, who served two years as juvenile court defender in Nashville before coming to MTSU, spoke Friday to a group of sociology students preparing to make observatory visits to juvenile court and the Tennessee Preparatory School in Nashville.

"Any citizen may report suspicions of child abuse to a police department, juvenile court or welfare office," Campbelle said. "The identity of the informant will be kept secret."

There is often difficulty in differentiating between the abuse

and neglect of a child, said Campbelle, who cited an example of a mother who left her child locked in a hot car while she went swimming. The child nearly suffocated before being discovered, and is still hospitalized with permanent brain damage and blindness.

"That mother wants her child back, but there is no way she will get him," Campbelle said. "She will probably go to prison."

Campbelle outlined the procedure followed when a minor is picked up by police for a violation of the law or at the request of his parents.

A juvenile, a person under the age of 18, may face only two charges: unruly conduct or delinquent conduct, Campbelle said.

Unruly conduct is applied in the case of a minor who has "done

what a child will do" such as disobeying parents, running away from home or disturbing the peace.

Delinquent conduct is charged when the child commits a misdemeanor or felony.

A child who appears in court may be dealt with in several different ways, Campbelle said. He may be released to the custody of his parents, put on probation or be required to submit to psychiatric evaluation.

Only when no other course of action is available will a minor be committed to training school, Campbelle said.

In a few cases, a minor between the ages of 15 and 18 may be tried as an adult if his crime is particularly severe, he said.

Adults may also appear before a juvenile court judge for such violations as exposing a child to inclement weather, sending a minor to buy cigarettes or liquor, allowing a juvenile to play pinball machines or billiards, showing a child pornography or neglecting and abusing a minor.

Parents in serious violation of laws concerning children may have them taken away, Campbelle said.

Many parents who are called before the court make the statement, "Who is to say how I am to raise my child?" Campbelle said.

"The court is not an ogre," he said. "It does all it can to keep the parent and child together, but some parents don't need children."

Formal set for Friday night

by Randy Carter

The Mid-Winter Formal will be held Friday night from 8-12 in the Alumni Memorial Gym.

The event is sponsored by the Inter Hall Presidents Association, and carries a theme of "Days of Wine and Roses" in accordance with Valentine's Day.

No invitations are needed and admission is free.

Formal attire isn't required, but semi-formal clothes are recommended.

Anyone wishing to help decorate for the dance should contact Charles Lea, chairman of the Residence Hall Programming Committee. The decorating committee will be making preparations through Thursday.

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Editorials

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 men are striking for better conditions.
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 S is for SCABS.



State must remain neutral in labor-management disputes

For nine days about 40 MTSU students have boarded a bus on this campus and been transported to work at strike-bound Aladdin Industries in Nashville. The initial contact with the students for Aladdin came through the university placement office which through yesterday continued to provide students with word from the company as to whether any more strikebreakers were being hired.

University officials' claim that they are providing a "bulletin board" service to Aladdin just as MTSU would to any employer skirts the issue.

Aladdin is not just any other employer. It is a company that is involved in a labor dispute with a legally recognized union representing 900 production workers whose jobs will be affected by the outcome of the strike.

By failure to give thoughtful consideration to the consequences of serving as a go-between to students for a strike-bound company, university officials have:

HELPED place students in a situation where violence may be directed against them by overzealous strikers whose jobs are at stake.

SET a precedent whereby other strike-bound companies may turn

to universities as convenient pools of strikebreakers, thus creating a gap between working people and students.

ENDANGERED the status of international students whose presence can contribute much to the learning experience of a university.

THREATENED the traditional neutrality of the state in labor-management disputes.

Plagued with an economy in which the only certainty is that tomorrow's supper will cost more than yesterday's, labor disputes are bound to multiply. In such disputes it is essential that the state maintain a position of neutrality, a position which cannot be claimed while offices of a state university serve as "bulletin boards" for the recruitment of strikebreakers.

We call on the State Board of Regents and the University of Tennessee Trustees as well as the individual universities to establish a policy of giving no aid whatsoever to companies seeking to recruit strikebreakers.

Then it is up to the student to consider carefully the moral ramifications of actions that threaten another's job.

Readers' views

First of a series?

To the editor:

This letter will have to be the first part of a continuing story because of your 300 word limitation.

There is a man on this campus who has a job guarding a seven-story female cake in the evenings. His name is Luther. He wears a plastic badge on his uniform with that word printed on it anyway. I'm sure that he likes his work. He has friends there. Sometimes he sends out for pizza. I have a great deal of respect for that man.

This letter is about the time when Luther took a week-end off. I think that I should be the one to tell this story.

One week-end, not so long ago, a man whose identity I have not been able to establish took over Luther's place. My involvement with this substitute began very early on a Saturday morning of that week-end. I had been out with a girl who lives inside the cake. Most people call the cake Cummings Hall. So do I, as a matter of fact.

When I took the girl back to the building it was about 3:30 a.m. (I'm sorry, MOM.) AS WE

approached the door, we noticed the new guard sleeping in a chair. We could see him clearly through the door and he certainly appeared to be sleeping.

With one of the most natural of human habits, I pulled on the door to open it even though I knew it would be locked because the dorm closes at 2:00 a.m. Usually, if a girl who has been out late returns after that time the guard must suffer the interruption of a dream or a sentence or a thought because he has to get up and unlock the door to let the girl in.

The door wasn't locked that Saturday night. I was surprised. The girl I was with was also surprised. I think I need to end this letter now because of the rule.

Bill Fisher
 Box 2834

Dogs assault campus biker

To the editor:

Last week while riding my motorcycle to class, I came up the circle and stopped to let the students cross between the library and the NCB.

While waiting for the students to cross, three dogs came after me. I kicked at two of them and they backed off and just barked. The third one grabbed my leg and I shook him off. He then came back and grabbed my leg again. Had I not had my boots on, he would have bitten my leg. After shaking him off the second time I took off, and he followed me all the way to the far end of the Old Main lot.

I reported this to the Security Department and was told that they realized the problem but could get no funds from the school to get the equipment to catch these dogs.

They also told me that the Humane Society would not come to the school and get the dogs unless the Security Department had them penned up.

I was also told by the Security Department that the dogs have chased several girls leaving the dorms.

Now, I am not against students having dogs on campus at all. I only believe that they should be kept on a leash, or if allowed to run free, the owner should be close by.

Butch Morris
 Box 1541

Shutterbugs answer critic

To the editor:

Jerry Crites, who complained in Tuesday's Sidelines of disrespectful actions by MTSU photographers during sports events, has a faulty notion of what "proper conduct" means.

There certainly is a special "code" of conduct for photographers or journalists of any sort. That "code" means that a photographer must immortalize on film anything worthy of the effort, no matter when it happens. The limitations of this "code" are left to the photographer's personal judgment.

Does Mr. Crites suggest that photographers stand stiffly at attention during the national anthem with their cameras over their hearts? If so, then how would the world have known of the disrespectful behavior of the Olympic athletes in 1968?

Crites seems to believe that the attention of everyone—players, spectators, coaches, managers, referees, concession-stand workers, door guards and Lord Byron—should be riveted unwaveringly on the flag. Under these circumstances
 (Cont. on page seven)

Reader's views

(Cont. from page six)

stances, Mr. Crites would see no photographers, and his problem will be solved.

Fred Carr
Chief Photographer--Midlander

Stephen Crass
Photographer--Midlander, Side-
lines, Collage

Jim Fort
Photographer--Midlander

Tim Hamilton
Photographer--Midlander, Side-
lines, Collage

Alan Loveless
Photography Editor--Sidelines

Steve Reynolds
Photographer--Midlander

Linda Sissom
Photography Editor--Collage

Sidelines

Wayne Hudgens--Editor
Gina Jeter--Managing Editor
Ron Vannatta--Ad Director
Freda Blackwell--Bus. Mgr.

Sidelines is published every Tuesday and Friday during the fall and spring semesters by the students of Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

Photos, sounds, moods

The gull's story flies, then falls

by Kevin Duke

I went to see the movie "Jonathan Livingston Seagull" with some apprehension. I liked the book. I did not love the book, nor did I consider it the best book of our time. I didn't even think it was Richard Bach's best book. Since many had told me it was more than a book, I feared the producers would try to make it more than a movie; I half-expected something that would try to deify a seagull.

The opening credit from the "Jonathan Livingston Society" seemed to justify my fears. Then came the opening shot, with the book's dedication superimposed-- "To the Jonathan Livingston Seagull in us all". . . well, I could take that.

In short, the movie "Jonathan Livingston Seagull" is about 90 per cent great.

The film opens with scenes that are either intended to be "beautiful nature" or "cruelly realistic nature." Pan shots of the seacoast and waves, a lone fishing trawler on a rolling sea in a red sunset and swarms of seagulls pecking each other over hacked-up fish parts are loosely spliced together devoid of any sensible connection or transition. I sank lower into my seat.

Then the Jonathan character appears, and his presence seems to give the film a purpose. A series of glorified flying sequences becomes a thing of beauty.

If you like Neil Diamond, as I do, the effect is that much better. His sound works very well with the action. It soars and you soar. You feel chills, not from air sickness but in awe with involvement; you become one with the bird. You enjoy it so much that you ignore the rough spots Hollywood thought it had to add.

If you read the book, you will recall that Jonathan goes back to his former flock to teach other gulls the beauty of flying as an art. Fletcher, one of his more zealous students, plans a demonstration for the entire flock. He will make a very high dive at a very high speed, and contrary to popular opinion, survive. He dives. A young gull strays in front of him (in Hollywood's best melodramatic style), and Fletcher swerves to miss him and hits a mountain. Splat.

But he does not really die. His body dies, but he rises above that limitation, the theme of all this, and continues to exist. Earlier Jonathan's spirit rose above the limitations of physical existence, and Fletcher's continued survival

is no surprise. O.K., all this happens in the movie.

But then the blow comes. Jonathan tells Fletcher that his death set a bad example, and they have to go back and patch things up. . . literally. The scene shifts back to the beach and Fletcher's broken body. Jonathan walks up to the body, touches it with one feather and brings Fletcher back to life.

Then with further tramping on the book's most delicate inference with the grace of a collapsing building, the crowd screams "Jonathan is the son of the Great Gull!!" And as the evil leaders tell the crowd that Jonathan is really the devil and must be destroyed, the film falls apart completely.

You feel cheated. Your mood is shattered. And Jonathan's reply, apparently thrown in by the producers out of conscience, "No, I'm not the son of the Great Gull, I just like to fly," fails to bring the movie out of its dive. Splat.

So if you can stand really getting involved with a movie for over an hour just to lose it all in about two minutes, see "Jonathan Livingston Seagull." Enjoy the photography. Enjoy the soundtrack. Enjoy the good moods. Then, write Hal Bartlet a nasty letter.

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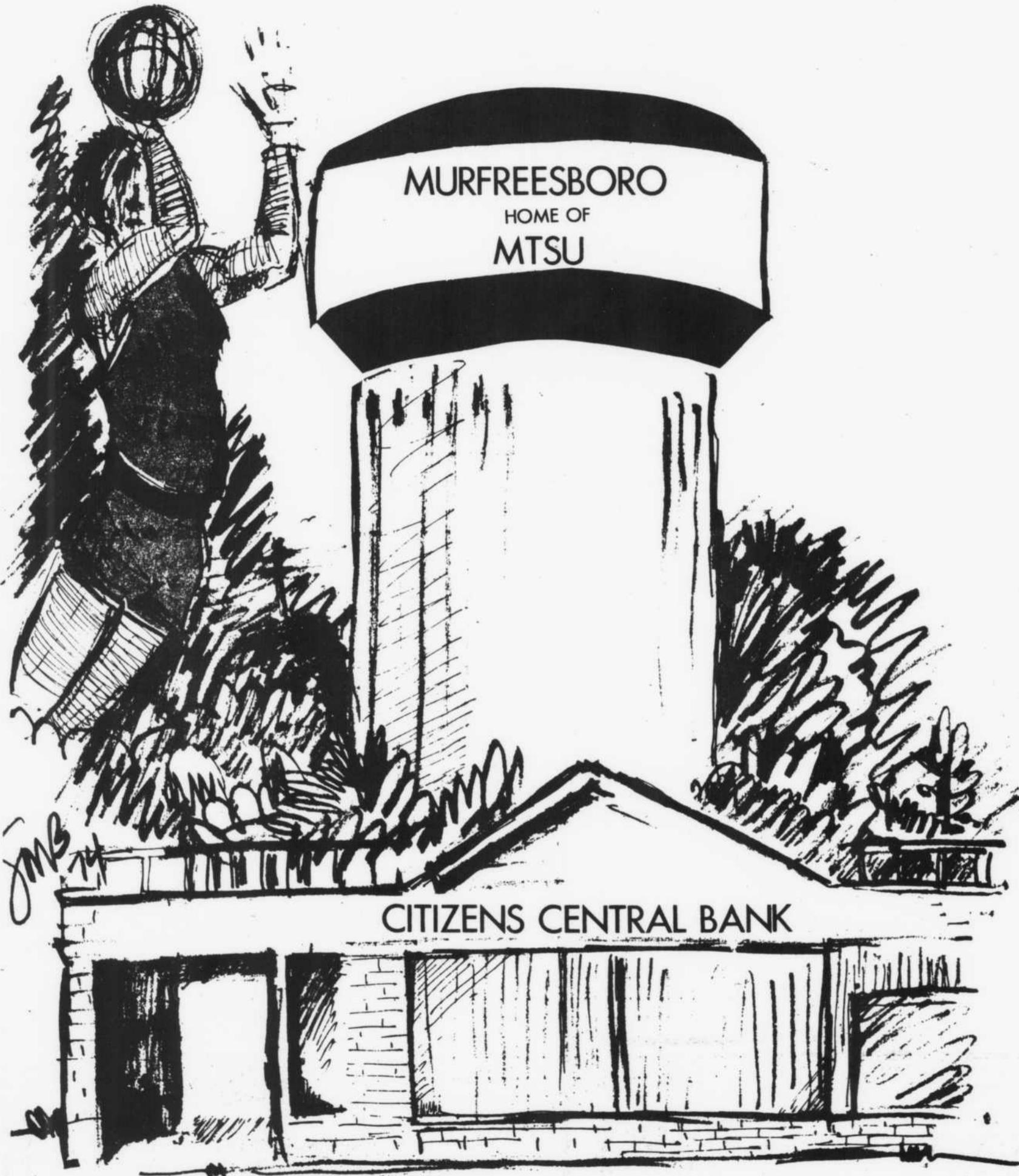
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Raiders clip Eagles 69-67 to hold second spot in OVC

by Scott Elliott
Sports Editor

Fred Allen made only one free throw in five attempts last night, but that one enabled the Raiders to hand Tennessee Tech a 69-67 defeat at Cookeville.

Both teams traded buckets during the early minutes of the game until the Raiders jumped to a 24-16 lead with eight minutes remaining in the half.

The Raiders upped the margin to 45-36 on a jumper by Forrest Toms, but Tech scored four points with eight seconds remaining to close the intermission gap 47-40.

MTSU came out in the second half and pulled away to a 55-44 lead.

However, the Golden Eagles popped the nets for nine points and held the Raiders scoreless to close the gap to 55-53.

With 7:37 left, the Eagles' Frank Jones hit a jumper to tie the score at 59 all, the first tie in the game since early in the contest at 6-6.

A George Sorrell foul shot put the Big Blue in front 62-61, but Tech's Howard Miller hit a shot at 4:30 to give the Eagles their first lead 63-62.

Miller hit another shot to tie the game at 66-66 with 1:30 left, the last Eagle field goal.

Previous to Miller's bucket, Allen had missed three consecutive one and one foul shots; still, the Raider guard came through with a 15 footer to give the Big Blue all the points they needed.

Raider coach Jimmy Earle said his team did not play well, but added, "It's nice to play bad and still win."

"Anytime you win in Cookeville, it's something big," he added. "Our defense played well, but our offensive effort was lacking." Earle praised his sophomore center Tim Sisneros highly saying he "played super and was in a great deal of pain."

Sisneros led the Raiders' with 18 points--14 in the first half. He was followed by Sorrell with 16 markers, while Allen finished with nine.

All-OVC forward Jimmy Powell and Toms added eight each.

Tech was paced by guard Frank Jones with 22 points and Stan Cox with 17.

The win brought the Raiders' record to 15-6 and 6-3 in the OVC, good for second place.

'Boogle' nets 18

Vol State takes Raiderettes 75-54

An excess of fouls and turnovers by the Raiderette basketball team resulted in a 75-54 victory for Volunteer State last night at Gallatin, Tenn.

MTSU committed 27 fouls and gave the ball away on turnovers 17 times against Vol State, and Raiderette coach Karen Ledford attributed her team's loss to those figures.

Debby "Boogle" Boykin paced MTSU with 18 points and rebounds.

Teammates Beanie Secrest and Lynn Burklow added 10 and 8 markers, respectively.

MTSU played without the services of center Jackie Carter, one of the leading scorers and rebounders on the team.

"The loss of Jackie hurt us," Ledford said. "She was out with the flu, and that forced us into playing a girl who was unfamiliar with that position."

Merb accepts football coaching job

Roger Merb, former Defiance College football coach, has been hired as offensive backfield coach at MTSU.

Merb, who will replace the resigned Teddy Morris, resigned a head coaching job at Portsmouth High School in Ohio to take the MTSU position.

"I'm looking forward to serving under Bill Peck," Merb said. "Middle Tennessee has some of the finest facilities in the South, and I'm happy to be here."

Merb, 32, has previously coached at Lawrence College and the University of Toledo.

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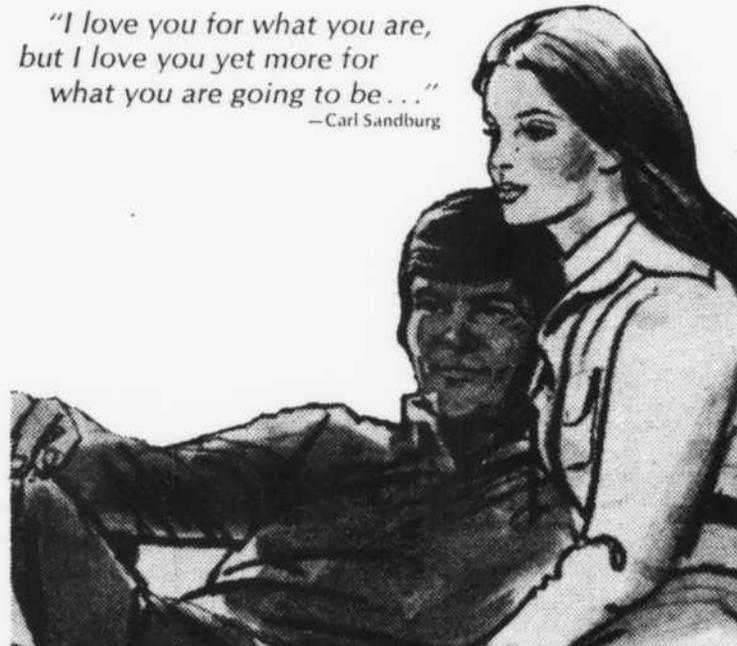
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Intramural officials: are they responsible?

by Scott Elliott
Sports Editor

Three weeks have gone by on the intramural basketball schedule, and surprisingly, all the officials are still alive.

Yes, the life of an intramural basketball official is not a bowl full of cherries. One must endure unending verbal abuse and the anxiety of facing a possible lynching mob following the conclusion of a game if he is to wear the black and white stripes in the IM league.

Seriously, the subject of intramural officiating has been a hot topic in IM circles since the first ball was bounced this season.

So, I sent the jury out on the officials yesterday, interviewing a random sampling of intramural participants.

Several words such as good, bad, average, and a few words I cannot mention were used to describe intramural officiating.

"Our officiating is more consistent than it has been in the past," Intramural Director Joe Ruffner said. "Overall the officials are doing a real good job. They take too much abuse from a lot of players and spectators."

Opposing Ruffner's statement concerning the official's consistency, seven out of eight participants said inconsistency was the worst aspect of intramural officiating.

"The only way the officiating is consistent," said Red Bank Junior

Tom Willett of Rudy's Roaches, "is that it's consistently lousy."

Jim Fort, a Shelbyville senior, said the officials need to be better trained and added, "most of them are knowledgeable concerning basic fouls, but they're not knowledgeable about the more technical aspects of the rules."

Another point several participants made was the lack of control over the games by the officials.

"It's terrible" said Manchester sophomore Brian Webster. "One of our players almost got his nose broken last week and there was no fouls called. I have been guilty of several blatant infractions, but the officials call the minor things."

Nearly all of the IM officials play for teams in the program, and many players have indicated this to be a negative aspect of officiating.

"If you've got an official on your team it sure helps," said Barry Stafford, an East Ridge junior. "It seems like a few of the officials go easy on a team that's got a reef playing for them."

John Griffin, Kappa Sigma's captain, said, "My main complaint about the officials is that they can be talked out of a decision. They hesitate too much, and most of them lack knowledge concerning rules."

One thing that all the interviewees agreed on was that intramural officiating is bad for both teams.



Photo by Fred Carr

An intramural official, perhaps contemplating his post-game plight, gazes wearily into the eyes of a disturbed player.

"It's pretty lousy," said Curt Falkner, a junior from Nashville, "but they make bad calls on both sides."

Ruffner said the cause of many disagreements were the rule changes for intramural games.

"A lot of players don't realize that there is no backcourt in intramural ball," he said. "Other differences occur because of the running clock and the bonus situation when shooting foul shots."

Two twenty minute halves are played in an intramural game, and the only time the clock is stopped is for a time out. This was a general complaint by the interviewees.

"They don't want you to kill time," said Ricky Patterson, a sophomore from Decherd, "but the officials kill time."

"They take too long getting the ball to the player on inbound, yet they hurry a player on free throws," he added.

I'm an intramural participant myself, and I've seen a lot of discouraging things happen due to officiating.

But I will say this on behalf of the officials---I could not and would not take what they do. That includes being cussed at, snickered at and generally disrespected.

It wouldn't be worth a buck sixty to me---no way!

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Raiders take second in TIC

Despite seven individual wins by the Blue Raider track team, Memphis State University clinched the university division title of Tennessee Intercollegiate Indoor Track Championships Friday at Murphy Center.

MSU netted a team score of 90, while the Raiders captured second place with 78 points. Tennessee Tech, Vanderbilt and Fisk followed in the team standings with scores

of 48.4 and 1:11.4, respectively.

The Raiders' Greg Lintner retained the TIC shot-put crown he won last year with a toss of 51-6 1/2 feet.

Jesse Agnew, MTSU record holder in the high jump, broke a seasonal drought by copping his specialty with a leap of 6 feet 6 inches.

The Raiders' Keith Cromartie beat his nearest challenger in the 330-yard intermediate hurdles by two seconds to win with a 40.4 clocking.

Second place finishers for the Big Blue were Ekido Macaulay in the triple jump, Nate Porter in the 60-yard high hurdles, Dwight Hall in the 50-yard dash, and James Key in the 1000-yard run.

The Raiders got third place performances from Macaulay in the high jump, Larry Cotton in the 330-yard hurdles, Alan Brown in the two-mile run and the mile relay team.

Long jumpers Jimmy Washington and Melvin Daniels scored for MTSU along with distance runner Nelson Edetan.

The Raiders are scheduled to compete in the Central Collegiate Conference meet this weekend in South Bend, Ind.



Jesse Agnew

of 62, 12 and 4, respectively.

Dwaine "Roadrunner" Copeland and John Johnson paced the Raider effort with two individual wins each.

Copeland, a tailback on MTSU's football team, broke the tape first in the 50 and 300-yard dashes with times of 5.3 and 31.0, respectively.

Johnson swept the field in the 440 and 600-yard runs with clock-

Road conditions cause cancellation for women

Hazardous driving conditions caused the cancellation of the Raiders' basketball game with Tennessee State University Friday night at Murphy Center, according to MTSU coach Karen Ledford.

A secretary in TSU's athletic office informed Ledford Friday afternoon the Tigerbelle would be unable to make the trip from Nashville to MTSU because of existing driving conditions.

"I had a feeling something like

this might happen," Ledford said, "so I called up there Thursday but no one answered."

"I called again on Friday and the secretary told me it was snowing too badly for their team to make the trip," she added. "The roads were clear in Murfreesboro at the time."

Ledford said she has received no telephone calls from the TSU coach and will make no attempt to reschedule the game.

Deaton grabs national karate title

David Deaton, the chief instructor of the MTSU Wado Karate Club, took first place at the National Open Karate Tournament in the light weight free fighting division Saturday at Birmingham, Ala.

A third degree black belt holder, Deaton defeated Atlanta's Mike Henderson to win the title.

The tournament, sponsored by the U.S. Eastern Wado Kai Federation, drew participants from the

United States and Canada.

"It was a pretty rough match," Deaton said. "The competition at the tournament was very stiff."

Deaton instructs a class of 30 students in the art of karate every Monday and Wednesday night. The Wado Club meets on the lower floor of the Alumni Memorial Gym.

Deaton is the only recognized instructor in karate at MTSU.



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