

# Referendum triggers new conflict

by Larry Harrington

Confrontation between the executive and legislative branches of the ASB flared again Tuesday night when the Supreme Court issued an injunction against holding a referendum on abolition of student government.

"I have my instruction to hold the election," acting Election Commissioner Bill Smith told the court.

"Then you will be in contempt," replied Chief Justice Mason Bonner.

Wednesday morning found the polls closed.

Members of the executive branch have, on the whole, supported the referendum; legislative leaders opposed the action and sought the court injunction.

"I didn't want to be held in contempt of court. They might put me on academic probation or kick me out of school."

--Election Commissioner Bill Smith

"I didn't want to be held in contempt of court," Smith said. "They might put me on academic probation or kick me out of school."

Attorney Gen. Gary Sadler, who earlier said the referendum would be held regardless of Supreme Court action, said he too did not want to be held in contempt.

The court issued the injunction against the election after the House of Representatives asked the court to rule on the legality of the referendum.

The House contended that the present ASB constitution "does not provide for the presentation of referenda such as the proposed abolishment of the ASB."

The Supreme Court ruled that the referendum constituted an attempt to amend the ASB constitution because it had been initiated and publicized in the manner required in the amendment procedure.

Because the proposal was not approved by the House and Senate, which is required of any

amendment, the court issued the injunction against the referendum.

Legality of the court's action will be looked into by an ad hoc committee of students, faculty members and administrators.

Harry Wagner, vice president of student affairs, said the four or five-member committee would look into several areas of constitutional conflict.

"This committee will not look toward forming a new system but will look at the present conflicts," Wagner said.

Wagner said he could not rule out the possibility of a totally new student government system but said it was not the duty of this committee to propose such a change.

## Sidelines

Middle Tennessee

State University

Vol. 47 No. 21

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Friday, October 26, 1973

## 'I saw a pulsating light in the sky . . .'



Photo by Fred Carr

A nocturnal visit to Cumming's Hall from Mars? Not really, just an enterprising photographer and his special effects.

by Mike Mannon

Eric Von Daniken's advance publicity crew has been busy in the skies for the last few weeks.

The Murfreesboro area has apparently been under attack by UFOs since last Thursday night. This reporter was one of the first hundred or so people to be aware of the impending invasion. After 12 years of faithful waiting, I managed to see a big, blue, pulsating light in the sky and almost fell off the roof I happened to be on at the time.

In case you are ever lucky enough to see one of these great Squad Cars in the Sky, here's what an experienced expert saucer-watcher did:

First, you fall down. Then you run down the stairs (if you happen to be on a roof at the time) and fall down again. Then, grab a responsible, sober adult; at the time of the sighting, the only witnesses were these three hippies on the roof, and we didn't want any rude mention of mass hallucinations, etc. Fall down again, and then call the police.

I was the eighth person to call our illustrious county police in eight minutes, and was immensely relieved to find that a number of others had seen it too.

This was the climax of a series of the strangest, most numerous and best verified UFO sightings in recent history.

The Pascagoula sighting, where two shipyard workers claim to have been picked up and examined, was confirmed after four hours of hypnotic interrogation by Allen Hynek, chairman of the astronomy department of Northwestern University, and one of the most respected astronomers in America. He is also co-author of the text MTSU uses in its astronomy course.

The Smyrna sightings, including the big blue light I saw, a fast-moving white light that might have been a meteor if it had gone in a straight line, and a "metallic shape, either a disc or cigar, with flashing green and red lights under it" were tracked for up to an hour and a half by a man in Smyrna with a telescope.

The Air Force, as usual, was in the forefront with the observation the blue one was a helicopter...a helicopter seen simultaneously from Smyrna, Murfreesboro, Manchester and Tullahoma.

Estill Springs had its own sighting when a UFO chased

Cont. to page two

# Bomb scare upsets Von Daniken speech

An overflow audience of over 2,000 people was shifted from the Dramatic Arts Auditorium to the Murphy Center in the middle of Erich Von Daniken's speech after

two bomb threats were received.

"The threats were phoned into the switchboard, and the operator called me at home," President M. G. Scarlett said.

"They said the 'magic hour' was 9 o'clock," Scarlett said.

Von Daniken's road manager Linda J. Ragland of Bantam Publishing House said he had not received any threats previously.

University officials speculated that the threat came from individuals angry at having been turned away from the crowded auditorium. An estimated 300 persons were turned away while others crowded around the exits and in the lobby.

Von Daniken's theme, when things were settled enough to listen, was that there is a great likelihood that the "gods" of our

ancestors were in fact cosmonauts.

The audience paid rapt attention to the slide-and-commentary talk. Familiar from the author's books were the huge stone blocks and architectural feats from South America, "landforms" having no geological explanation which do resemble modern airports and the lead-acid storage battery known to be more than 2,000 years old—but still producing 1.5 volts.

The entire lecture was a refreshing change from the books in tone. The attitude of "I'm a poor, beleaguered prophet hounded by the priests" which so often obscures the amazing facts the books are intended to present was conspicuously absent. The slides were simply presented with a line of reasoning on how they related to the cosmonaut theory, and the

audience was left to its own conclusion.

The high point of the evening came when this question was read: "I understand that a prototype of the spaceship which Ezekial described has been built—how is this possible?" In answer, Von Daniken called Joseph F. Blumerich to the lectern.

Blumerich, chief of the systems layout plant in Huntsville, Ala., and the man that rumor concerned, reported that while he had not built a prototype, he had subjected Ezekial's descriptions to a thorough mathematical and engineering scrutiny, and had concluded that the result was indeed a logically functional space vehicle, which we could build as soon as our power plants become slightly more refined.

Did you ever hear of Occam's razor?

take off in the DA building; I sincerely hope he explains these phenomena a little better than the Air Force has.

To date, the best comment I've heard from an AF man was from a colonel who ran the official AF flying saucer project for six months; "Flying saucers are real," he muttered into his bottle. "The Air Force is a mass hallucination."

## Pulsating light

Cont. from page one

Police Chief Parks, an old friend of many in the area from his state trooper days and an eminently trusted man, five miles down the highway at 11 p.m.

I'm writing this a few hours before Von Daniken is supposed to

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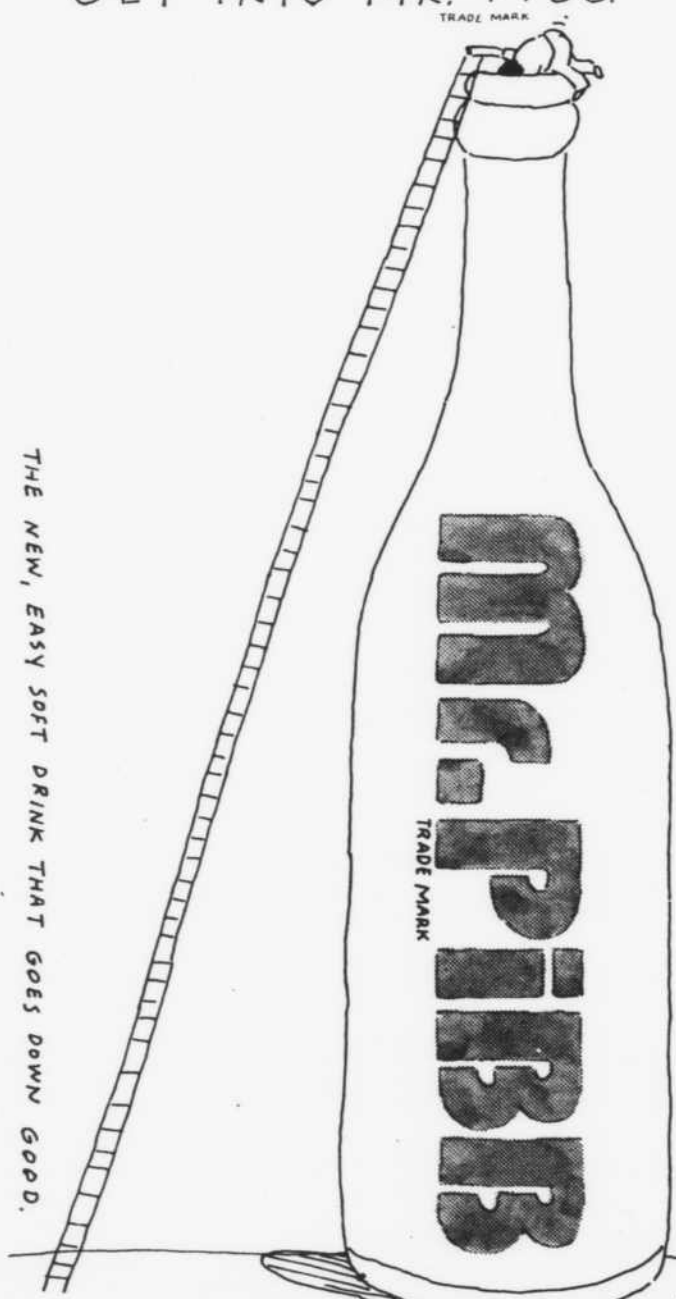
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# MTSU forum indicates student support for ASB

Students voted 55 to 24 against abolishment of the ASB at the Campus Forum Monday night.

The official resolution for the debate was "Resolved, that the ASB should be permanently disbanded."

ASB cabinet member Terry Thomas represented the affirmative view. As justification for complete abolishment of the ASB, Thomas cited inefficiency, lack of interest by members of the ASB, lack of representation of the majority of students who belong to no club or Greek organization in the House of Representatives and administration control over what the ASB decides.

Speaker of the Senate Brazo Barry used present services and

accomplishments in his presentation of the negative argument. Barry listed homecoming the student directory, the new juke box in the grill, traffic court, superlative selection and Who's Who selection for the defense of the ASB.

Thomas and Barry in the course of the debate leaned more toward change of the ASB than abolishing or accepting it in its present form.

Students on the affirmative side liked the idea of disbanding the ASB and seeing what, if anything, replaces it.

Those in support of the ASB were strong in their praise of the body.

They held opinion that change was conceivable but abolishment was out of the question

## American folklore convention scheduled for Nashville next month

by Jim Richardson

American folklore buffs and scholars will converge on Nashville, Nov. 1-4, for the annual national convention of the American Folklore Society.

"This is the first year that Nashville has hosted the convention," Ralph Hyde, professor of English, said Friday. "The convention is expected to draw society members from Newfoundland, Canada, Mexico, and the leading universities from across the country."

"The leading scholars in the field of folklore will be in attendance and will offer a wise

variety of subjects for discussion," he said.

Subjects for discussion on the agenda include folklore and communications, African folklore, barroom jokes, religious folk art, is there a folk in the factory? Otomi sexual humor and American Indian folklore.

"The purpose of the American Folklore Society" Hyde said "is to help preserve traditional learnings and skills both verbal and non-verbal and to study them with the view of comprehending the culture that created them."

"It is hoped that this will ultimately aid us in understanding ourselves now he added.

## Cyclists needed for heart fund race

Cyclists are needed to participate in the "Ride for Your Heart" Bicycle Marathon from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday at Centennial Park in Nashville.

Races will start at 1 with trophies being awarded to the first three places. Age categories for the races are boys and girls-11 thru 14 years of age, boys-15 thru 17, girls-15 and up and men-18 and up. No entree fee is required, but

each rider must be sponsored by a person or company making a donation to the Middle Tennessee Heart Association.

The third annual marathon is being sponsored by the Valley Junior Civitans.

More information is available by contacting Judy Meyer, Box MTSU 5808, or by calling 898-3163, anytime after 7 p.m.

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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.

## Readers' views

### To the Editor:

I am aware that there is such a thing as a liberal view, but I consider that perhaps the editorial in Tuesday's **Sidelines** "Officials should review suspension as penalty," carried liberality a bit too far! As far as these players are concerned, I feel that they have received a rather light penalty.

According to Tennessee law, marijuana is illegal. There is no qualification on the amount of the drug possessed, any is illegal. There are no extenuating circumstances. Suspension for a year is a light penalty when the participants could just have easily been dragged into court.

As to Crouse Powell's article on the Elton John concert, in my opinion, his view of the campus police force was totally uncalled for. In many cases, I must admit, the security force at MTSU does make "a mountain out of a mole-hill," but I do feel that their surveillance of the crowd was justified. Many people wish to have nothing to do with marijuana or cigarettes, and since people are very seldom kind enough to ask you if you mind if they smoke in your vicinity, one very seldom has the chance to complain. Many people are extremely irritated by cigarette or any other kind of smoke. If Mr. Powell didn't feel that he could do without his cigarettes and/or marijuana for the duration of the Elton John concert, he should have stayed at home!

**Mark Crocker**  
**Box 2359**

### To the Editor:

Due to increased pressures from the intellectual community and the Middle East, it is now quite fashionable to be very pro-Israel and anti-Arab and Soviet Union.

This is a very dangerous course. Arabs are not little people who wander about the sand in multi-colored bedsheets with a contemptible camel and an ancient musket left to the desert by past European armies. These are civilized and modern people.

Although it is not acceptable to the American public, American interests would best be served by aiding the Arab states and the Soviets for a final defeat of Israel in the interests of a continued peace (for there will be no peace until one or the other is defeated), in the interests of trade and industry (how much do you now pay for gasoline?), and in the interests of policy toward "the most favored nation" (Soviet Union).

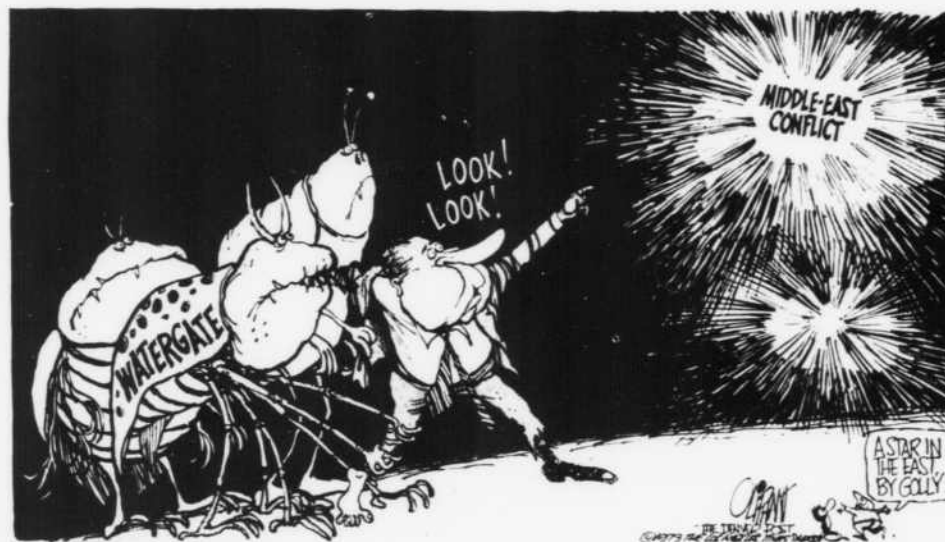
I am neither a Zionist nor anti-Semitic, however, I did volunteer for the Israeli Air Force after finishing my USAF training in 1970.

**Don Reynolds, Jr.**  
**Box 6006**

### To the Editor:

This week when room check was held in Cummings Hall, my head resident left me a note saying I would have to move the bicycle that I was keeping in the room, outside, or else she would have Security remove it.

After spending \$100 on a new 10-speed bicycle, I feel I should not have to keep it outside and let it rust. When I called the campus Safety Officer, he told me that there was no written rule prohibiting bicycles in the dorms rooms. Last year we were allowed to keep bicycles in the dorm rooms, and this year, after Dean Sam McLean's memo went out on this, a friend of mine who works closely with ASB asked him about this. McLean told him the memo did



not pertain to rooms even though it was on there.

I called Mr. McLean yesterday, when I was told to remove my bicycle, and asked him why I couldn't keep it inside. If someone could show me, in black and white, a rule stating that "bicycles are not to be kept in dorm rooms" I would be satisfied. McLean laughed and said the memo we got a month ago was in black and white and that was sufficient. So our university is based on memos?

I explained to McLean that my bicycle was not in our way--it was standing parallel, next to the air conditioner under the window. I still had three feet of walking space--about as much as you'll get in any dorm room. He said it was still a hazard because if a fireman had to come through my window to save me, he would most likely trip over it. So, the bike has to go. Yet, when I reminded him that our clothes-dryer racks were just as big and bulky, all he could do was laugh.

The last straw, however, was a friend of mine at the other end of the floor forgot to hide her double-burner hot plate and her broiler-oven, and she was not asked to remove them! (Her hotplate stays and my bike goes.) There is a written rule prohibiting these appliances that could cause the fire that would cause the unlucky fireman to trip over my bicycle, or ironing board, or clothes rack, not to mention rocking chairs and all the other junk we girls have sitting on top of the air conditioners and next to them.

I know there are many other students in the same situation that I'm in, and I would appreciate your support in backing me up.

**Name withheld**

### To the Editor:

In regards to Pat Hale's review of "Arms and the Man": I will not go into a lengthy discussion of what is good theatre and what is bad...that is mere opinion.

I will not dwell upon the throw-away compliment she gave to the sets and costume work, which I thought were definitely the outstanding parts of the play.

What I will speak of is the immense illogic of her review.

She begins by calling the performance "delightful", yet describes the opening scene as "disappointing" and "trite", the characterizations as "too exaggerated to seem real" and the presentations as "bad". She says the play sinks to "the depths of despair", questions a character's mannerisms and states that the leading characters were "rather disappointing."

After all this, she closes with, "In all fairness, however, I would be forced to say that each member of the cast gave a magnificent performance..."

Let me restate that I am not questioning her right, in writing a review, to express her opinion of what was good and what was bad. Rather, I question her review. How can she bring out the bad points she mentions and still "laud" all the performances as "magnificent?"

Hopefully, the members of the cast are old enough and "tuff" enough to "take the shock" if a reviewer tells them the show was not quite fantastic, and, I would think, all connected with the production would prefer constructive criticism to hollow praise.

**Kevin Duke**  
**Box 8813**



Sidelines encourages readers to express their views through letters. They should be typed, double-spaced and clearly identified with the author's name and campus address. Letters should not exceed 300 words in length, and Sidelines reserves the right to edit all submissions. Names will be withheld upon request.

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# File 13

"Faces", the 1973-74 student register published by the ASB, will be ready for campus distribution by tomorrow, Tim Watson, ASB president said. They will be available in the ASB office on the third floor of the UC.

group plans to return to MTSU by 7 p.m.

A dance sponsored by the Black Student Association will be held tonight at Holloway School from 8 until. Refreshments will be sold.

The MTSU Sociology Club will conduct a field trip to the communal farm of Stephen Gaskin, near Summertown, Sunday. Anyone interested in making the trip should meet in the mall of the NCB by 9 Sunday morning. The

Applications are now available for the intramural chess tournament to be held Nov. 5-8. Persons interested in the tournament should apply in the UC office on the second floor. Deadline for entries is Nov. 2.

## Area entertainment plans include Chicago, Minnelli

by Crouse Powell

One of the monumental problems that arise from writing a column of this nature is deciding what groups should receive attention and what concert dates should be put in the forefront. I have come to the conclusion that shows occurring in the next two weeks and those bands appearing in the distant future will be the only ones to appear in this issue.

Judging from the general response of the student body, the Chicago concert at MTSU will be well attended on the night of Nov. 3. Tickets are still available at the UC and several other locations.

Tonight at the Great Southeast Music Hall in Atlanta, Harry Chapin and friends will begin an engagement which will last through Monday. If you drop south this weekend, be sure to see him, for Chapin is one of the unheralded songwriters of the decade.

Vassar Clements headlines with Chip Taylor this weekend at the Exit/In on Elliston Place. Clements is an incredibly good fiddler and backup musician, and it will be worth while to see him.

Don't forget Liza Minnelli on Nov. 9. One of the most successful Broadway-oriented singers of the age, Liza is predicted to draw a sell-out crowd at Nashville's

Municipal Auditorium. Promotor Lon Varnell hopes she does -- it works wonders for his ulcer.

I would suggest you spend your money to buy tickets for Bette Midler Nov. 1 at the War Memorial in Nashville instead of going to see Chicago, but I won't. Period.

The comedy team Skiles and Henderson will appear with the Carpenters on Nov. 17 at Municipal Auditorium. Tickets may be purchased by writing Varnell Enterprises, 311 Church St., Suite 630, Nashville.

"Grease," the Broadway musical satire on the Fabulous Fifties, will play in the Grand Ole Opry House on Nov. 20. This is one of the funniest plays I have ever read, and I strongly suggest that you mail \$6.50 or \$5.50 for reserved seats to Sound Seventy Productions.

Long ahead and far away: Sound Seventy has announced the finalization of contracts with Emerson, Lake and Palmer on Nov. 25 and Alice Cooper on Dec. 8. The location for both concerts will be Nashville's Municipal Auditorium. . . Z.Z. Top will smash through Bowling Green's Tobacco Warehouse for a one-nighter Nov. 25. . . Soul superstar Al Green has agreed to come to Nashville on Nov. 18.



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**Scott's spot**

# Can Raiders convince Ball State?

by Scott Elliott

Dave McClain, Ball State's head football coach is a disillusioned man.

This reporter listened to McClain's comments at the weekly Faculty-Press Luncheon, sponsored by the MTSU Sports Information Office, and was amazed at remarks made that indicated under-estimation of the Blue Raider Football Team.

"Middle Tennessee will be one of the easiest teams on our schedule. We need this game to rest some of our boys," McClain was quoted as saying on his television show.

Raider Head Coach Bill Peck said that he has mentioned McClain's statements to his squad.

To add insult to injury, McClain did not bother to scout the Raiders this season.

"We don't have the money to scout Middle Tennessee. We rely on our films," McClain said.

I don't know what McClain's rationale really is, but he may be one of the most disappointed men on earth after the Raiders and Cardinals clash in Muncie, Ind., Saturday.

Peck said that his boys have

worked hard this week in preparation for Ball State.

"They are a big, strong football team, but we've worked hard, our spirit is good and we're ready to play this football game," he said.

This game is crucial for the Raiders. If they win, the chances of a Raider upset in next week's Western Kentucky game are far better.

Peck warned that the Raiders are not "looking past Ball State to Western." "We play them one at a time," he said.

Raider Assistant Coach Chip Langley scouted the Cardinals and said that the Ball State offense has "huge linemen and very quick backs."

Raider Defensive Coach Henry Sorrell mentioned the Raiders would have to stop the Cardinal's option play in order to win the game.

This contest will be well worth watching. Both squads have 3-4 records and have a lot to lose by being defeated.

Let's face it. Ball State is not exactly next door, but a few partisan fans would greatly aid the

Raider cause.

McClain said Indiana is lovely this time of year. Who knows--- he could be right about something.

Let's help the Big Blue turn this season around. Hope to see you at the game!

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## Sidelines' player of week

Raider Middle linebacker Gary Bell is the first repeater for Sidelines' Player of the Week on the basis of a fine performance in the MTSU-Austin Peay game.

Bell also earned player of the week recognition for his effort against UT-Martin earlier this season.



GARY BELL

Bell, a junior from Kingston, led the Raider defensive charge against the Governors with ten tackles and eight tackle assists. He also was named a "Star of the Week" by the Ohio Valley Conference Sports Information Office.

Bell is leading the Raiders in both tackles and assists with 65 and 29, respectively.

Raider Head Coach Bill Peck considers Bell one of the most valuable players on his defense. "Gary is an All-American if I've ever seen one," he said.

"He does a better job at nose-guard than we've had done in the past few years," linebacker coach Henry Sorrell said, "and he is really strong at taking on blockers."

Punter Mike Shawen, quarterback Tommy Beaver, fullback Joe Pelt, place-kicker Archie Arrington and tailback Dwaine Copeland also turned in fine performances against the Governors.

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## Tennis team ends season

MTSU's Tennis squad has completed its fall schedule, and the second annual Raider Classic Tennis Tournament has been cancelled.

The Raider Classic was originally scheduled for Oct. 26-27. It was later moved up to the preceding weekend.

According to sources in the MTSU Sports Information Office,

the tournament was cancelled because several teams had dropped out.

Head Coach Larry Castle said that he has been pleased with the accomplishments of his squad this fall.

Winter practice will begin Feb. 1. The team opens its spring schedule March 1 against Chicago State, Marshall and Tennessee Tech.

## Murray State defeats Raiders to take fall baseball crown

The MTSU baseball team competed in the OVC Western Division Fall Championship game last Saturday and was defeated in a double-header with Murray by scores of 3-2 and 2-1.

In the second game, pitcher Gary Melson threw a two hitter, but the Raider batsmen failed to supply the winning runs.

Murray captured first place with MTSU taking second. Western



GARY MELSON

Kentucky and Austin Peay finished in a tie for third.

The Raiders finished their fall schedule with a season record of 19 wins and 9 losses.

### Chess tourney planned

Applications are now available for the intramural chess tournament to be held Nov. 5-8. Persons interested should apply in the UC Office on the second floor no later than Nov. 2.

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