

SIDELINES

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Middle Tennessee State University

Volume 65, Number 60

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Weather

Today's High: 86°
Partly sunny today with a 20% chance of rain. Continued chance of afternoon showers through weekend. Highs in 90s, lows in upper 60s.

Campus lighting assessed

Administrators tour campus to find dark areas

ERIKA MATTHEWS
News Editor

MTSU administrators took a first hand look at lighting on campus Monday night in hopes of determining which areas need better lighting.

According to President James Walker, improving lighting on campus is being considered in response to complaints about dark areas on campus.

Currently, high traffic areas are being assessed, said Bill Smotherman, director of the physical plant who took the tour of campus with president Walker and other vice presidents.

"We haven't had time to figure out the cost of improving the lighting. There is no set timetable and we will give priority to

See **LIGHTING**, page 2



Shelley Mays/Photographer

TAKING A WALK: President Walker and his Vice-presidents walk around campus to determine which areas are in need of more lighting. Seen from left to right are Bill Smotherman, director of the physical plant, Angela Burden, ASB public relations director, Public Safety and Security Chief Jack Drugmand, Jerry Tunstill, vice president of finance and administration, Dr. James Walker, Dr. Jim Hindman, vice president of academic affairs, Erika Matthews, Sidelines news editor, and Dr. Bob LaLance Jr, vice president of student affairs.

LIGHTING UP YOUR LIFE



Shelley Mays/Photographer

LIGHTS IN ACTION: Construction workers install new lights on Monday at the Murphy Center tennis courts. The track at Murphy Center is next in line for new lighting.

Orientation draws a crowd

ERIKA MATTHEWS
News Editor

Incoming freshmen and their parents will be given an earlier and more informed orientation this year during the two-day sessions and campus tours.

"This is the first year orientation has been done in the summer. Usually it occurs during the first week of school", said Jason Harper, a student orientation ambassador.

New students will have an opportunity to pre-register for fall

classes and meet with their academic advisors.

Freshmen orientation is divided into four sessions beginning June 25- July 19. Students will be on campus for two days with the option to stay overnight in dorms to give them the experience of dorm life.

Students will receive information about financial aid, on campus living, and personal and campus safety.

Each sessions is expecting at least 225 incoming freshmen to participate in orientation.

Emergency fund benefits Rutherford County students

A university and community group which hosted a reception to welcome MTSU President James E. Walker and his family has given the remainder of funds contributed for the event to establish an emergency loan fund for Rutherford County students at MTSU.

The Rev. John Ratliff, who chaired the committee, said he sees the monies which will

establish the account through the MTSU Foundation as "planting a seed."

Walker, recalling how much he and his family enjoyed the reception, said, "These funds were given by Rutherford County, so we will give it back. And I think it's a splendid idea to seek other donations to build the fund to help more students."

See **FUND**, page 2

First student tried in UVa drug raid gets stiff sentence

In the first trial of the spring's highly publicized crackdown on collegians' drug use, a federal judge reluctantly has sentenced a 19-year-old-University of Virginia student to prison for 13 months.

"It tears up the court's conscience in a case like this," said Judge James Harry Michael, Jr., in sentencing student Ernest Pryor, Jr., to prison without parole for selling three-quarters of an ounce of marijuana and a bag full of hallucinogenic mushrooms near a school.

"But if I am to be true to my oath, I have no choice but to follow federal (sentencing) directives," he added.

Student Pryor was one of 13 current and former UVa students arrested in a dramatic March 22 drug raid on three campus fraternity houses.

Four and a half weeks after the UVa raids, eight Radford University students and 19 others were caught in mass drug trafficking arrests.

The raids, Gov. L. Douglas Wilder exulted, showed that "in Virginia, there are no safe havens for substance abuse. What is illegal in the street is illegal in the

dorm rooms.'

Wilder went on to suggest state campuses should start making students take tests to prove they are not using illicit drugs.

In the aftermath, the federal drug agents who conducted the UVa raid also took the unprecedented step of seizing the three frat houses, worth an estimated \$1 million, at which the students were arrested.

It's possible, says Steinbach, that federal authorities may seize a dormitory on some campus in the same manner they seized the three UVa fraternity houses.

While there are plenty of regulations requiring officials to keep their campuses drug free, there are no statistics detailing how widespread the "crackdown" is or how many students actually are disciplined for selling or using illegal drugs.

Under the terms of the 1989 Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act, all schools that receive federal funds must enforce anti-drug policies.

Since 1988, students who get federal Pell grants also have had to certify they don't use or sell illicit drugs.

Stopping illicit drug use by students, however, doesn't seem to be a top priority for many campus officials, who say alcohol abuse is a much more serious problem.

"The bigger problem is alcohol, let's face it," added Dean of Students Robert Dubick of the University of Akron, where in mid-April police nevertheless charged two students with selling cocaine from their dorm room.

A 1990 nationwide study of high school seniors and college students by the University of Michigan found that fewer of them used illicit drugs than did in 1989.

The study found that fewer students than in past years were using cocaine, crack, stimulants, sedatives, and even marijuana.

Federal laws, however, generally treat all kinds of drugs as equally damaging and dangerous, leaving Judge Michael on June 4 with few sentencing choices in the first UVa case to come to trial.

Federal law, he said, dictates minimum sentences and allows no parole in cases where drug sales occur within 1,000 feet of a school.

FUND

continued from page 1

Ratcliff challenged other community groups to add to the newly established emergency loan fund to provide short term help — not more than 90 days — to students whose funding, for whatever reason, is late.

Campus Capsule

Campus Capsule is a service provided by *Sidelines* for non-profit campus groups. If you have a notice that you would like to run in Campus Capsule, please submit typewritten or printed information to our office in the James Union Building, Room 310. Items must be received by Tuesday at noon for Wednesday's publication. Inclusion is not guaranteed and is based on available space.

The Governor's School of the Arts will be sponsoring cultural events here on campus from June 16- July 13. Scheduled during Governor's School for the Arts are performances by the Nashville Symphony Orchestra, the Memphis Concert Ballet, storytellers Ronlin Foreman and Estelle Condra, the Nashville Opera, and mime Gus Gillette. Performances will begin at 7:30 p.m. in Tucker Theatre, except for the Nashville Opera and Estelle Condra, which will be held in Music Hall in Wright Music Building. Admission to performances is \$3 for adults and \$2 for children under 12. For more information on performances, call the Governor's School office at 899-

2223.
Dates of performances
June 18: Nashville Symphony Orchestra
June 21: Memphis Concert Ballet
June 23: Foreman
June 28: Nashville Opera
July 1: Condra
July 3: Gillette

Child and adult care food program public release for nonpricing programs. MTSU Day Care Lab announces the sponsorship Tennessee Department of Human Services Child and Adult Care Food Program. Meals will be available at no separate charge to enrolled children at the centers who are eligible.

Reginal Simmental Classic slated for Tennessee Livestock Center. Approximately 60 head of cattle from nine states will participate in the South Eastern Regional Simmental Classic at the Tennessee Livestock Center at Middle Tennessee State University, June 23-26. The highlight of the workshop is a Heifer Show slated for June 26, from 9 a.m. until noon.

LIGHTING

continued from page 1

highly traveled areas first," said Smotherman.

There will also be twelve emergency call boxes installed throughout campus by the fall which will help improve the safety conditions on campus.

Lighting improvements are being proposed in several areas. The area between the Library and Peck Hall, the Stark Agriculture building and the Art barn are high on the list of priorities for lighting

improvements.

The responsibility for lighting on campus is provided by Murfreesboro Electric and the University. Murfreesboro Electric owns 430 of the lights on campus with an investment of \$67,000 and the University owns 191 lights with an investment of \$62,000.

"We hope to make the campus safer for students," said Walker. He added that providing adequate lighting has been complicated by the large number of trees on campus.

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Opinions

Consensus

An Editorial from the Class of 2008

"I is a colledge senyur from the grate state of Tennessee and my futchur is so brite that I gots to ware shades.

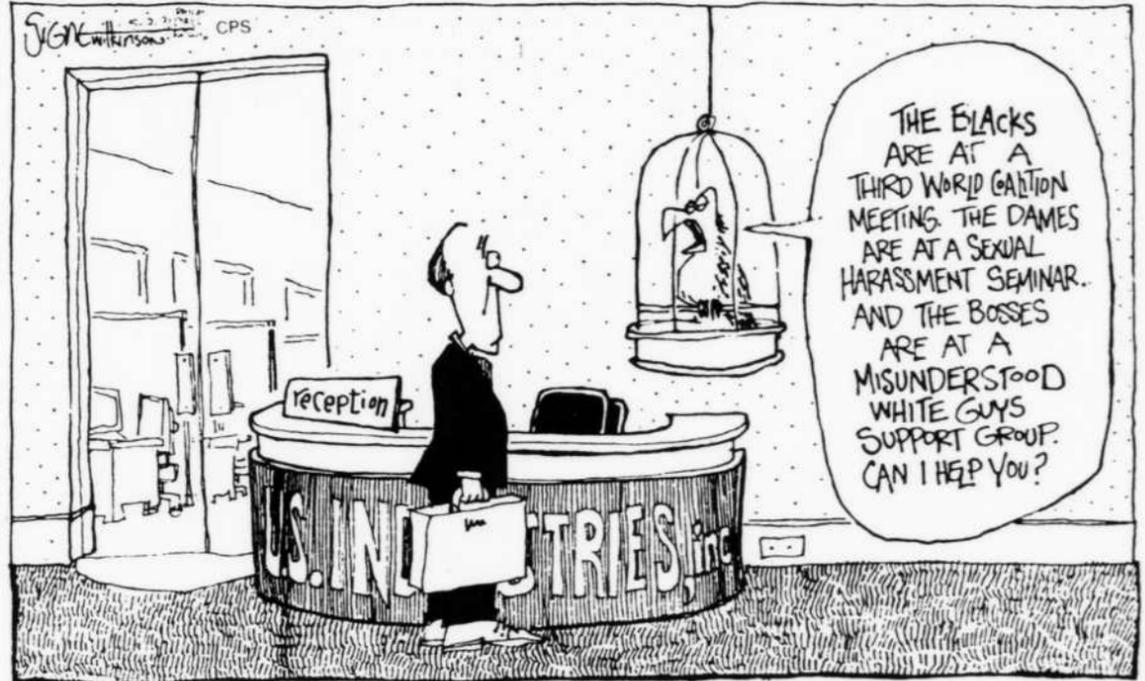
How did I git ware I is today? I owes much of my suxsess to the 97th Genral Assembly. It wuz them that decided to cut \$178 million from the edjukashun budgit rather than give in to rekwests for tacks reform. That wuz back wen I wuz jest in kinnergarten.

Becuz them fellers wuz more intrested in helpin the comman man by keepin his tackses lc, my folks wuz abel to save enuff money to drive me to skool at the kloset kounty that had a skool.

It wuz a good skool too. The teachers wuz reel smart, both of them. They learned us in English, math and expeshly good in histry since the books we had wuz made so long ago.

Becuz of ther decisizion, my folks wuz abel to save enuff frum ther paycheks to send me thru colledge and I am now graduating. It shuld pay off too cuz I will hopefully get a good job at one of the many faktrees that has moved in to the state to kapitalize on the lo tackses and cheep labor forse.

Sum people say that them fellars did the wrong thang wen it choosed to cut edjukashun rather than raize tackses, but I disagree. I think it wuz a reel viktree for the people. I am what I is today becuz of the 97th Genral Assembly.



Truth is the key to Political Correctness

Yet another battle in the war between First Amendment rights and the need for "politically correct" campuses will take place this week as the Tennessee Board of Regents meet to decide the fate of its newly-adopted speech code.

The regulation, which is to go into effect this fall, forbids the use of "fighting words" aimed at racial, ethnic and national groups

STAFF COLUMN TERRY MASSEY

but questions about the rule's constitutionality has forced the board to reconsider their position.

The issue presents a real dilemma for educational institutions. Yes, we want our universities to be fair, multi-cultural centers for learning in which no student encounters discrimination of any kind in their pursuit of academic achievement. However, if colleges are to be true institutions of knowledge, they must also be open to all views, regardless of the sensitive nature of that view. It is this issue that confronts colleges across the country and will be decided at MTSU this week.

From a philosophical approach, the debate could go on forever. Does a person's right to free speech and expression supersede another's right to a discrimination free environment or vice versa? The answer depends on individual perception and could probably be argued to comparable lengths of the classical "which came first, the chicken or the egg?" squabble.

From a legal standpoint, a similarly long-winded debate might occur. The First Amendment states uncatagorically that the government can make no law limiting the freedom of speech or

expression, yet just last week the Supreme Court ruled that if pasties and a G-string are removed, so to is that right.

As for a moral approach, I wouldn't touch it with a ten-pound Bible.

Therefore, in order to evaluate the issue and get any solid answers, we must use a measure with some certainty and concreteness — one of logic and an understanding of history.

Throughout our country's past, attempts at censorship have been complete failures. Whenever a message is deemed to be harmful and steps are taken to suppress it, an unusual phenomenon occurs. The measures are not only non-productive, but often also counter-productive. Radical reactionism springs up. People respond to the government's infringement on their natural right to express themselves freely and rebelliously (i.e. women's suffrage, the civil rights movement, McCarthyism, etc.).

Often, the cause is a just one. In these cases, people see the injustice and hear the cries for action. Eventually, though change may be slow, change will occur and wrongs are made right.

At other times, the cause is not just. When they are censored, credence is given to their cause, their faults are sheltered from public view and they develop sinister methods to deliver their message.

There is a lesson to be learned from our democratic social history. Our nation was based on the principle that people are not stupid. We have the capacity to distinguish right from wrong through rationalization without a government making those judgements for us. Yes, mistakes are made, but most are caused by false or inadequate

information rather than too much.

Thomas Jefferson said "Let error be free where truth is there to combat it." His words have proven insightful and useful in the current debate over political correctness. Rather than attempting to stifle the words of the racist, sexist and homophobic where they can flourish in the dark, let us force them out into the light where they can be scrutinized by the human mind. I have no doubt that those views will be weighed and judged to be false.

Indeed, this approach appears to be a tougher route than the quick-fix solution of censorship, but true learning never comes easy. I have never been called a nigger or a wet back or a dumb bitch. I have never had a cross burned on my lawn or been sexually harassed. Nor have I been the target of racial or sexual discrimination, at least not to my knowledge. I can only gather from the heart-felt stories of friends that it is a painful and demeaning experience and a strong case can be made for silencing and punishing the perpetrators of such acts. However, that approach is even more harmful in the long run than the alternative not only to the victims, but also to the ideal of truth.

If the Tennessee Board of Regents will take these time-proven truths into consideration, they will see that repealing the speech code will not only produce positive results, but that it is also in line with the ideals of higher education. A university is supposed to be a place of free inquiry and learning, where theory is tested and (dis)proved and the end product, if we are using our minds, is truth. Trust us to use our minds.

SIDELINES

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Features

Baseball cards could mean big bucks

MTSU Lady Raider basketball coach, Lewis Bivers laid in his bed at the hospital talking to his brother Jerry and myself.

"Tony here collects baseball cards," Lewis said to Jerry.

TONY J ARNOLD MTSU EXPERT

"Really? Gosh, do you remember all those cards we had as kids," Jerry reminisced.

"I know you had a lot of Mickey Mantles."

"No telling how much they are worth now and we threw them all away."

He's right.

Back then, little pieces of thin cardboard with a baseball player were virtually worthless.

In fact, more often than not, kids brought baseball cards to get the stick of bubble gum they came with.

By the late 70s baseball cards started becoming a more popular collectors item. But still, they were of little to no value.

However, over the next decade, things would drastically change.

When the late 80s rolled around the hobby could no longer be considered a hobby. It was a business.

As is the case today, the baseball card business is booming and everyone wants a piece of the action.

For years Topps was the



Amy Adkins/Photographer

TONY'S BASEBALL TREASURES: His collection includes a 1969 Reggie Jackson Topps Super valued around \$1,000. Another Jackson is pictured beside it valued at \$700. Other memorabilia includes an authentic Barry Larkin jersey, a Hank Aaron autographed baseball, a Ken Griffy Jr. signed photo, numerous baseball cards and an early 1900 glove.

major producer of cards with their premiere set being issued in 1952.

When the business started to heat up, so did the manufacturers.

Fleer, who tested the market in 1963, issued a set in 1981 and has been going strong ever since.

Also in 1981, Donruss fired up the presses and has shown no signs of slowing down.

Currently sets like Upper Deck and Score have tossed their hats into the ring along with numerous independent makers hoping to strike it rich.

Luckily I started my collection in the late 70s and over the years I've built one of the premier sets around.

Unluckily, it's tougher to start collecting now because of outrageous prices and there are so many different sets and cards it is harder to build a solid foundation.

For example, in 1984, a 1968 rookie Nolan Ryan card could be bought for \$24. Today, it is valued around \$1,200.

Also in 84, an Update Set Kirby Puckett could be found for

a few mere pennies. Currently, it's going price is \$180.

The older the card, the more valuable it is. But there are also several other determining factors.

First, the popularity of the player certainly helps. Although some players produce sparkling numbers, their cards aren't always valuable.

Often, they get overshadowed by players like Darryl Strawberry, who is a solid player but has yet to have an MVP season.

Second, the number of cards produced certainly helps its value. The more the merrier isn't always true. In the baseball card world, the fewer the number of cards which have a particular player, the more valuable it is.

Third, the condition of the card. If the corners are rounded or if the card is bent and wrinkled, it drastically reduces its value.

Here are some tips for starting a collection or enhancing yours.

1) Take a few dollars and buy numerous 10, 25, and/or 50 cent cards.

This is how I got several of my valuable cards. Over the years, most of them will increase in value plus it gives you a variety of different cards to build a collection around.

2) Invest in rookie cards every year.

If a player hits it big, his rookie card is going to be the most valuable and it can make drastic leaps in the dollars column.

3) Sets are a sure thing.

There will always be a particular card in a set that will increase in value which in turn makes the set more valuable as well as popular.

If possible, buy factory sets. These are often wrapped in plastic and are worth more because they haven't been opened. When you get these—don't open them because then they are considered

See **BASEBALL**, page 5

YOUNG MOZARTS



SMOKING THE STRINGS: Lisel Schoeniekger (left), a 7-year-old violinist from Cape Girardio, MO, practices her technique. Allison Hill and Tracy Bogard from Brentwood wait their turn to play. Many young musicians gathered for Suzuki Workshop which was held at the Wright Music Building.

ShelleyMays/Photographer



BASEBALL

continued from page 4
a regular set.

4) If you are just starting, try to buy more cards from the 80s now and concentrate of the 90s later.

In three or four more years, the affordable cards of the 80s will no longer be affordable. A \$1 card today could easily be \$5 tomorrow.

5) Don't throw away those copies of Sports Illustrated or the Sporty News.

Any magazines or papers which feature athletes on the cover could become a valuable item down the road.

6) Buy unusual items and memorabilia.

Unusual things are usually few and far between. If you find something and keep it, over the years it will become rarer and jump in value as well as enhance your collection.

7) Autographs are popular and nice to have but be careful.

Most players who come to shows charge money to sign your item. If it is a big star, after time it is worth it but some sub-par players try to make a killing on fans who just want to meet a major leaguer.

8) If you do get an autograph try and pick a nice item out for the signer.

Nice posters are good items. Once they are signed, frame them or store them someplace safe.

9) Once you get a collection

started, pick a focal point and grow from there.

After I had a solid collection I started concentrating on my favorite player—Reggie Jackson. I bought any item that had Reggie on it. This includes cups, cards, autographed posters and bats as well as pins, buttons, and stamps.

Over the past 13 years, I've amassed a collection of over 2,000 Reggie cards including four different typed of rookie cards and numerous memorabilia worth several thousand dollars.

10) Once you get started and rolling—take a gamble.

Pick a player you like and put a few dollars into his cards.

I saw Barry Larking play in his major league debut and said to myself. "This kid is going to be good."

I bought over 100 rookie cards for a few cents each and now some of them are worth \$7. That's a nice increase.

How about this one. I have a friend who bought 100 Jose Canseco rookies for a couple of dollars each.

Jose hit a slump, his cards weren't really hot and my friend sold everyone of them for \$5 each.

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Now they fluctuate around the \$100 mark. But, like I said, it is still a gamble.

I also bought over a hundred Terry McGriff's. He was a common card and I'd ask for McGriff and dealers would hand me dozens of some guy named Fred McGriff.

I'd say, "Not Fred, I want Terry"

Today Terry is still common, Fred is a superstar.

But, that's the way it goes. You win some and you lose some.

11) Buy in large quantities and bargain.

Often, a dealer will cut the price down as much as 50 percent when you buy large quantities of cards.

If they don't or if your just buying a single card, bargain. If he wants \$10, tell him you'll give him \$7. It works.

It takes hard work, time and a little luck. Hopefully you'll be able to experience all three to produce a prize-winning collection.


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What's Happening

The powerful Civil War musical "Shenandoah" will open Thursday at the **Cumberland County Playhouse**. Performances will be held Thursdays through Sundays through Sept. 1. Performance times are: Thursdays and Fridays, 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Sundays, 2:30 p.m. All performances are Central time. Tickets are \$14 for adults, \$12 for Senior Citizens and \$6.50 for students under 18. Group rates are available. For reservations, call the Playhouse box office at 484-5000.

Uncle Dave Macon Days, a regional music and crafts extravaganza, will be held July 12-14 at **Murfreesboro's Cannonsburgh**. The three-day event is recognized by the Southeast Tourism Society as one of the Southeastern United States' "Top 20" entertainment events.

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Sports

MTSU may walk if Southern will talk

TONY J. ARNOLD
Sports Editor

Last Thursday the word came from president James Walker that Middle Tennessee State will explore the possibility of joining the Southern Conference.

"I informed Ohio Valley Conference Commissioner Dan Beebe that I will pursue the feasibility of MTSU joining the Southern Conference," Walker said. "I plan to meet with the commissioner of the Southern Conference as well as talk to the presidents and athletic directors in the Southern Conference."

The much-awaited announcement was spurred by the recommendation by a task force appointed by Walker. They released a report after months of study suggesting that Middle look into the possibility of leaving the OVC for the Southern.

However, this still does not mean that MTSU will leave their current conference affiliation.

"This does not mean that MTSU is leaving the Ohio Valley Conference," Walker said. "It means that I will begin to explore the possibility of MTSU joining the Southern Conference."

Although Commissioner Beebe has encouraged MTSU to stay with the OVC, the task force repeatedly questioned the direction in which the OVC was headed in areas such as expansion and media coverage.

Another main concern was with budget cuts, some hardpressed OVC members might have to drop from the Division I-AA level to I-AAA.

Meanwhile, the Southern Conference has been

progressively increasing its stock and strengthening its future by adding such schools as Georgia Southern.

"The Southern Conference's progressive attitude is one reason for my decision," Walker said. "The OVC is trying hard, but it has not been successful."

Reports in a Nashville newspaper said the decision caught Southern Conference officials off-guard.

"This is the first I've heard about this," SC Commissioner Wright Waters said. "We've had no contact at this point with MTSU. Right now we stand where we have all along, and that is to say the Southern Conference will continue to explore options that are available to us."

With the addition of Georgia Southern and most recently, Davidson, the Southern has 10 members. They have also expressed a desire to expand to 12 or 14 teams and break them into two divisions much like the revamped Southeastern Conference.

"Twelve or 14 teams is certainly one of the options we have discussed," Waters said. "The concept of getting to divisional play has some merit."

The idea of divisional play also impressed Walker.

"I think two divisions would be important to MTSU," he said. "I would like to see some type of commitment from the Southern in that area in the future."

See WALK, page 7

Is Beebe to blame?

OVC head blamed
for investigation

TONY J. ARNOLD
Sports Editor

Reports broke last week that Ohio Valley Conference Commissioner Dan Beebe is responsible for supplying the NCAA with information leading to a preliminary inquiry of the MTSU's men's basketball program.

Murfreesboro's local paper reported that two reliable sources, one of which is close to the NCAA enforcement staff, said that the OVC commissioner turned the Blue Raiders into the NCAA.

"Whether I did or didn't, I don't want to set a precedent by commenting on such a matter," Beebe said. "I may receive information from time to time, and what I do with it is determine if there are possible violations which I may turn over. I don't deal with major violations, though, only minor violations."

Although Beebe made little comment on the allegations, he did say that "my informants says any possible things they received came out of Atlanta."

Former MTSU recruit, Royce Turner who prepped at Atlanta's Southside High School, originally claimed that he had received cash while attending summer school here at MTSU.

However, Turner, who who never qualified academically, later stated that his statements were false.

Earlier this year, eight MTSU players were questioned by the enforcement committee about possible violations. These were Warren Kidd, Ray Davis, David Clark, Robert "Cat Eye" Taylor, Kelvin Hammonds, Quincy Vance, Chris Ingram and Jeff Clifton.

"I'm never going to confirm or deny what I do in those matters," Beebe said responding to the allegations. "I don't want to comment on any case involving a member institution of this conference."



Dan Beebe
OVC Commissioner

GETTING DOWN



Shelley Mays/Photographer

TO BUSINESS: Lady Raider manager, Mitzi Wilson demonstrates an activity during the Lady Raider basketball camp held this week. The camp continues in the absence of coach Lewis Bivens hospitalized at Baptist Hospital.

Beebe needs to make a stand

OVC commissioner should put an end to speculation

While OVC commissioner Dan Beebe sits in his office with sweaty palms awaiting MTSU's final word on conference affiliation, he may realize that he has no one to blame but himself.

In Beebe's two year tenure as commissioner the Ohio Valley Conference has lost popularity, money and fans.

Now they might lose MTSU and it could put a nail in the lid of the OVC's coffin.

Of course, there's always a chance of survival but when Middle goes, most feel Eastern Kentucky will pack their bags too.

Over the past decade, no two schools have made such an impact on the OVC.

Eastern and MTSU are usually at the top of every sport annually.

It's either one or the other taking the title in football and baseball while they consistently contend in other athletic programs offered by the conference.

Both schools have set a pace

for the conference and brought it national recognition.

Eastern Kentucky has done so with its 1979 and 82 Division I-AA national championships.

Middle meanwhile, won the OVC's first NCAA basketball tournament game by downing the mighty Kentucky Wildcats in

BE A MAN DAN TONY J. ARNOLD

1982. In 1987, they received the conferences first and only at-large bid to the NCAA tournament.

But those were the glory days of the OVC when a powerful commissioner named Jim Delany was at the helm.

Today, there are budget cuts leaving some school's future in doubt. Post season bids to tournaments are becoming few and far between and the threat of losing automatic bids to the NCAA becomes a bigger threat every day.

Perhaps we just didn't see it

coming but then again, maybe MTSU is just getting too big for its OVC britches and Mr. Beebe certainly is doing much to get us a larger pair.

Since he has stepped into office, its obvious that MTSU hasn't been at the top of his list.

If anything, it looks like the OVC's fastest growing school is the rug he wipes his feet on before entering his home.

First came the fight that we all know about last year against Tennessee Tech.

Beebe was still wet behind the ears then and must have wanted to set an example by severely disciplining several MTSU players. His actions raised several tempers as to whether he was just to MTSU or not after Tech received surmountable less punishment.

However, since that date, there have been other altercations in other OVC games yet none have drawn a suspension. Maybe

See BEEBE, page 7

WALK
continued from page 6

"Still, this does not mean we're leaving the OVC. We may find out throughout discussions with them that this is not the right time for MTSU to join the Southern Conference."

OVC assistant commissioner Jon Verner released a statement following Walker's announcement late last week.

"Dr. Walker and the task force did not reach their conclusions lightly. We still feel that the goals of the OVC are sound and we remain committed to further enhancing our reputation as one of the top I-AA conferences in the country."

"In this regard, the OVC intends to press forward with its own expansion plans and expects prompt notification from MTSU regarding its membership status."

But to the OVC's dismay, it may be hard to press on and upward if MTSU leaves the conference. It is expected that fellow OVC member Eastern Kentucky will follow Middle's footsteps if they decide to join the Southern.

BEEBE
continued from page 6

they were deserving and maybe they weren't but after such a harsh example it would appear that more than a public reprimand was in order.

Earlier this year, MTSU's football team was dealt a blow with only a three-game home schedule.

Although no one would step forward and take credit for the

mishap, Beebe certainly didn't make an attempt to justify it. Instead MTSU is stuck hosting what will probably be the three weakest teams on their schedule - Murray State, Southeast Missouri State and UT-Martin.

At the end of the basketball season, MTSU along with Eastern Kentucky were both expecting calls from the NIT for invitations to their post season tournament.

However, the call never came and some obviously lesser teams were invited. I guess it shows what type of respect our conference and its leaders have around the nation.

Finally, most recently, the allegations that Beebe turned in MTSU's men's basketball program to the NCAA.

"Whether I did or didn't, I don't want to set a precedent by commenting on such a matter," Beebe says.

If he didn't do it then say so. If he did, then he needs to have the guts to admit it.

We don't need a gutless, two-faced jackass in charge of this conference if he's not going to make a stand for the schools he represents.

If he found something on Middle then he should come to Bruce Stewart and John Stanford and see what he could find out before going behind the university's back.

Maybe he didn't turn us in, but why won't he make a stand

and protect himself from such allegations.

Could it be that MTSU's threat to leave the OVC spurred the action of getting them in trouble.

Stop and think about it.

When MTSU learned about its poor football schedule in January, it upset supporters to the point that they began talking about leaving the OVC.

The more people talked about it, the more interesting the switch seemed.

Beebe isn't stupid, or at least that stupid. He realizes that if MTSU leaves the OVC, Eastern

will have nothing here and virtually be forced to join the Southern as well, leaving the OVC with little hope of survival.

Why not turn Middle in if he had something? He certainly hasn't had a sparkling relationship with the men's basketball program and his relationship with MTSU's fans was on thin ice.

In an appearance at an MTSU-Murray State basketball game in Murray, Beebe was welcomed by a course of boos and unkind chants as he made a halftime presentation. Of course the rucdus came from the MTSU

fans. Middle received a letter from the NCAA in March stating that questions needed to be answered.

After the OVC switch really started heating up when no post season 'basketball came, the NCAA showed up at Murphy Center.

Maybe if MTSU gets in trouble with the NCAA, the Southern won't want us and we'll be forced to stay in the OVC.

This is the real world. It's no laughing matter and certainly no jigsaw puzzle.

But if it were, the pieces sure do seem to fit together.



East Division					West Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB		W	L	Pct.	GB
Toronto	39	31	.557	—	Minnesota	43	27	.614	—
Boston	36	31	.537	1½	Oakland	39	30	.565	3½
Detroit	33	35	.485	5	California	38	31	.551	4½
Milwaukee	31	36	.463	6½	Seattle	37	32	.536	5½
New York	28	37	.431	8½	Texas	34	30	.531	6
Baltimore	26	41	.388	11½	Chicago	34	33	.507	7½
Cleveland	23	43	.348	14	Kansas City	32	36	.471	10



East Division					West Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB		W	L	Pct.	GB
Pittsburgh	40	26	.606	—	Los Angeles	42	26	.618	—
St. Louis	36	32	.529	5	Cincinnati	36	32	.529	6
New York	35	32	.522	5½	San Diego	37	34	.521	6½
Montreal	33	36	.478	8½	Atlanta	34	32	.515	7
Chicago	31	38	.449	10½	San Francisco	29	41	.414	14
Philadelphia	30	39	.435	11½	Houston	27	42	.391	15½

Note: Standings do not include last night's games.



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Comics

ZOO U.

by Mark Weitzman



"Next time, try to leave your work at work."

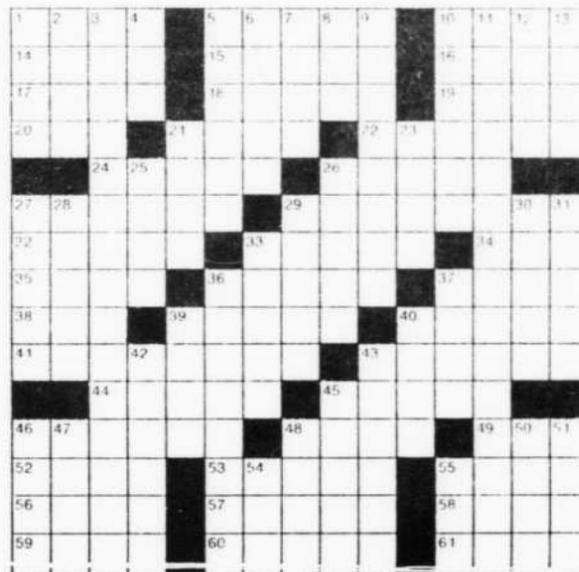
ACROSS

- 1 Caps
- 5 Body area
- 10 Adjective
- 11 Multiple
- 15 Furthest
- 16 Pious elder
- 17 Too
- 18 Inquisitive
- 19 Relative
- 20 Fatted
- 21 Social insect
- 22 Followers
- 23 Followed
- 24 Defiant
- 26 Carbs
- 27 Reproductive
- 28 Motives
- 32 Fictitious
- 33 Acknowledged
- 34 Gumbo
- 35 London area
- 36 Fears and
- 37 Tampa city
- 38 Constant
- 39 Scam off
- 40 Gave light
- 41 Guts into
- 42 Inundates
- 44 Lightning
- 45 Racy snow
- 46 Anti-knock
- 47 Hang around
- 48 Spiffs
- 53 Qualities
- 55 Cart game
- 56 Year
- 57 Building trip
- 58 Murchies
- 59 Has title to
- 61 Outline

DOWN

- 1 Fish
- 2 Name unknown
- 3 Capt. Bligh's
- 4 Dishes abroad
- 5 Entered
- 6 Outsider
- 7 March date
- 8 Dry
- 9 Some bridges
- 10 Residual
- 11 Bowl activity
- 12 To chatter
- 13 Grassy area
- 21 "Roger"
- 23 Amphibian
- 25 Mountain
- 26 Drain
- 27 Attack
- 28 Love affair
- 29 Skin spots
- 30 Antelope
- 31 Instruments
- 33 Crazy
- 36 Lesson
- 37 Sneaker
- 39 College
- 40 Weaver's reed
- 42 Rascals
- 43 Spotted buzzes
- 45 Metric unit
- 46 European
- 47 Corner of
- 48 Winter sports
- 50 Opera part
- 51 Hug
- 54 Hot spring
- 55 Dandy

The Weekly Crossword Puzzle



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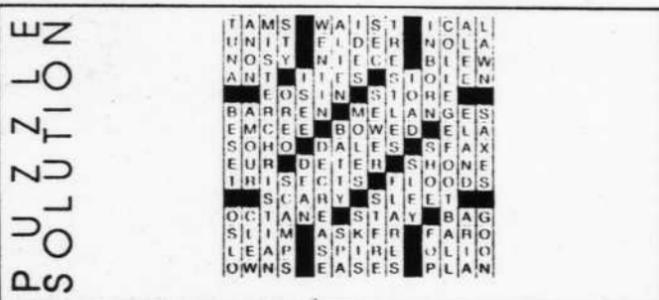
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