

# Middle Tennessee State University SIDELINES

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## System eliminates collect dialing

By LIZ WILLIAMS  
Sidelines Staff Writer

Unauthorized long-distance telephone calls have prompted MTSU officials to discontinue long-distance service with AT&T, leaving

students without collect-call dialing capacity, according to MTSU's Business and Finance Office.

The new phone policy, effective yesterday, requires students to obtain a calling card, authorization

number or access code from one of several different telephone carriers.

According to Jerry Tunstill, assistant vice-president for business and finance and coordinator of the changeover, students charging long-distance phone calls to phone numbers other than their own necessitated the action. Some calls were even being charged to on-campus extensions.

"We were losing between \$600 and \$1000 a month, conservatively, on unauthorized calls," Tunstill said.

He said that the university's purchase of their own phone system in June of last year left them responsible for fraudulent charges instead of AT&T.

"Some [of the lost money] has been recovered," Tunstill said, adding that students who were discovered abusing the system were charged an additional 10 percent. He said that if the violations continued then the service in their dorm room would be discontinued.

But, according to Tunstill, all of the violators were not being apprehended, and continued efforts to trace the unauthorized calls were

becoming too costly.

Twenty-four operators hired by the university the past year to handle calls going through the switchboard were tracing calls in their spare time, Tunstill said, at a cost to the university of \$16,000 per year.

Now that those employees are gone, officials say it would cost approximately \$20,000 to keep two full-time employees on staff to track down abusers.

The final nod of approval for the new long-distance procedure came from MTSU President Sam Ingram.

Ingram said that he was aware at the time of his approval of the elimination of collect-call dialing.

"It was my understanding that this new system was a reasonable solution. We had to make the best of a bad situation. I would hope that there was representative input from staff in student personnel services to ascertain students' opinions," Ingram said.

Tunstill said that based on his office's research and his past experience as a student, on-campus residents do not rely on collect-calls for their long-distance communi-

cation to family, but he added that the university did try to negotiate some sort of viable plan with AT&T to keep that service available to students.

"Over a six-month period, we ran a listing to show the number of calls that AT&T was going to lose," Tunstill explained. "We tried to get them to screen calls and only accept collect calls. They wouldn't do it."

MTSU Telecommunications spokeswoman Dianna Reeves says that other universities have encountered the same problems with unauthorized calls and have taken similar measures, and some have gone as far as to ban long-distance dialing altogether.

"We had several options, [such as] requiring a deposit," he explained, "but we'd still have to have a staff to trace down the calls."

"Unless AT&T comes up with options that allow access to collect calls, the use of the other phone carriers is permanent," Tunstill said.

"At the present time, Long Distance Exchange (LDX), MCI Telecommunications Corporation, and TeleMarketing Communications of Nashville (TMC) are accepting ap-

plications for on-campus students' long-distance service. Reeves says the time period for receiving a calling card, authorization number or access code is two to five days.

"We don't care what carrier a student goes with, nor will we choose a carrier for them," Tunstill said. "Only that that carrier provides [the student with] a local access number."

"These other vendors can offer a competitive price. They either set up the billing to a third party consistently, to a Mastercard or Visa, or billing directly to the student," Tunstill said.

He said students not present during summer session but who plan on returning in the fall will be sent the information and brochures on how to obtain a phone carrier. The information will also be available during registration.

And in case of an emergency, Tunstill's advice is to call campus security, or if the student needs to suddenly call home collect then he or she can "go to a pay phone."

Tunstill says it's all in the name of convenience.

"Please don't think that we did this to get at the student," he said.



Photo by Bill McClary

Students wanting to make long-distance phone calls are required to obtain either a calling card, authorization number or an access code under the new system.

## MTSU Foundation asks for more donors

By LISA FLOWERS  
Sidelines News Co-editor

The MTSU Foundation requested faculty and administrators to increase their private support of the Academic Development Fund.

Presently, 29 percent of the faculty and 5 percent of alumni contribute to the foundation.

The foundation commended faculty and alumni for their contributions.

"We are hoping to increase the number and the amount of the donations," Boyd Evans, director of the foundation, said. "We are doing well, but we can do better."

The Academic Development Fund is used to support the Outstanding Leadership Performance Scholarships, Outstanding Teacher Awards, Outstanding Faculty Research Awards and Public Service

Awards.

Outstanding Leadership Performance Scholarships are four-year scholarships given to 20 entering freshmen each year, who must maintain a 2.75 GPA.

Three Outstanding Teacher Awards are given annually, along with one Faculty Research Award and one Public Service Award, which total \$5,000.

"This year, we would like to increase internal support," Paul Cantrell, dean of students and chairman of the annual giving committee, said. "Next year, we would like to gain more support from the alumni." "We would also like to increase support from the public sector next year," Cantrell added.

The foundation would like 1986 to be its best year, since it will be MTSU's 75th anniversary.

## Fireworks prohibited here

By EVE WEST  
Sidelines News Co-editor

Fizz! Whistle! Ka-blam! Fireworks! A traditional part of Fourth of July celebrations across the nation.

But the recent deaths of 21 persons caused by an explosion at an Oklahoma fireworks factory serves as a reminder of how dangerous fireworks can be if proper precaution and supervision are not exercised.

The MTSU Rescue Student Handbook states that explosives, fireworks and flammable materials are not permitted on campus.

"The unauthorized possession, ignition or detonation of any object or article which could cause damage by fire or other means to persons or property or possession of any substance which could be considered to be and used as fireworks," are considered disciplinary offenses under the general regulations of student conduct.

According to John David Hays, associate dean of men and editor of the student handbook, the fireworks rules are formulated by the State Board of Regents.

The only way to obtain permission for a fireworks display is an authorization from President Ingram for a special event that would be done under professional safety guidelines, Hays said.

"Problems arise when fireworks are set off in residence halls without adequate supervision. The possibility of fire or personal injury are the main reasons fireworks are not al-



Photo by Bill McClary

Shane Colvin browses at Uncle Sandy's Fireworks Supermarket on South Tennessee Boulevard.

lowed on campus," Hays said.

"Incidents are reported every year by campus security. Students don't follow manufacturers safety instructions which can lead to accidents," Hays added.

Violations of disciplinary procedures may result in suspension or expulsion from the university, according to the student handbook.

"About three years ago, some students concocted homemade

bombs from blasting caps," Hays said. "One bomb was set off about 10 feet away from a residence hall director's apartment window. The explosion traumatized her two children to the point that they had difficulty for some time getting to sleep at night."

"This is one example of an incident of why fireworks are outlawed on campus," Hays said.

## GI bill revises benefits for recruits

By EVE WEST  
Sidelines News Co-editor

The Veterans Administration implemented a new version of the GI Bill, effective yesterday.

The Veterans' Educational Assistance Act of 1984 was enacted last year and established a program of educational benefits for individuals initially entering military service from July 1, 1985 through June 30, 1988.

Recruits entering the military during that period are automatically eligible to participate in the program unless they decline in writing.

To participate, the recruit's basic pay will be reduced by \$100 a month for the first 12 months of service. In return for a two-year enlistment, the government will pay a basic benefit of \$250 a month in educational assistance for up to 36 months following the active duty commitment.

For a three-year enlistment, the government will pay \$300 a month for up to 36 months. In addition, the Secretary of Defense may provide up to a \$400 a month "kicker" on top of the basic benefit for those in critical skill areas. The secretary also has the authority to provide another \$300 a month to those members who serve an additional five years following their original three-year enlistment.

## Campus survey reveals new Coke is not the real thing

By MICHELLE VENSKE  
Sidelines Staff Writer

"The Coca-Cola Co. is out of its mind!" is the consensus of a campus survey on the new taste of Coke.

Of the 125 people who responded, 104 have tried the new Coke. Only 14 of those liked it.

Many of those who did not like the new taste were vociferous in their disapproval.

"CHANGE IT BACK!" cries one, while another hopes "the Coca-Cola Co. goes under!"

"STUPID CHANGE! FIRE WHOEVER MADE THE DECISION!" screams one, and another

person has vowed to "avoid it like the plague!"

Others who disapproved of the change would like to solve the problem democratically: "The coke company should have let the people have a choice between the old and new Coke. That would have been the 'American' and 'democratic' thing to do."

Another person said marketing the old and new Coke is "the only logical way to please everyone."

One person believes the change is an advertising trick: "In a couple of months they'll probably say, 'Because you liked it better...we

changed it for you!'"

Health-conscious individuals have rejected the new Coke because it has caffeine and because it is too sweet.

"O.J. is it!" proclaims one, and another has switched to iced tea.

Some "Cokeaholics" just do not understand why Coke changed their formula: "Why couldn't you just leave well enough alone?" asks one.

"Why would the Coca-Cola Co. change a best-selling drink?" someone else would like to know.

In answer to these queries Ron Coleman, public relations spokes-

man in Atlanta, said extensive research had been conducted before the change. Over 190,000 consumers participated in blind taste tests resulting in 55 percent preferring the new formula.

Consumers participating in a taste test knowing they were trying the new Coke preferred it 61 percent to 39 percent.

Coleman emphatically stated, "That's not going to happen," when asked if the original Coke formula will be brought back. This is because research has shown that 110 million people have tried the new product and 80 million of those say

they will buy it again.

When asked if the current lower price of Coke could be a factor in the sales, Coleman said the sales promotion "has nothing to do with selling the new Coke." The promotion is in effect for the summer months and would have been enacted regardless of the emergence of the new formula.

Despite the negative comments our survey received, 14 people actually preferred the new taste of Coke.

Most approved the change be-

cause "it tastes more like Pepsi." One liked it better because it is a "little smoother."

Is Coke "out of its mind?" The results of our survey indicate that if not out of its mind, the company has made a mistake.

"I'm trying to find another drink to substitute for original Coke, and that is not an easy job," claims one former-Coke-drinker.

Echoing the prevalent attitude of the respondents, one person pronounced, "Old Coke is number one!"



# Classical education helps us learn to live

A recent study in the *The Wall Street Journal* reported that 83 percent of surveyed chief executive officers said their younger executives cannot write well.

The most common problems were wordiness, poor organization of material and no clearly stated purpose in memos. Style and tone was also inappropriate for the intended audience.

Ho-hum. What has this got to do with me, you ask? These young execs are all recent graduates of our higher learning institutions. They cannot write. If they cannot write, then it follows suit that they cannot communicate in a concise manner. Since our ability to write is linked to our reading habits, one must ask: How did these people get through college?

I was talking about these things the other day with a friend, who happens to be an Elementary Education major nearing graduation. When the subject of reading came up, my friend declared, "I've never read a book in my life." A bit surprised, I inquired further. It seems with creative selection of courses in the groupings offered, and by paying an English major every time a paper was due, my friend avoided any venture into the world of books. Ever.

Buying term papers is certainly not a new practice, but there seems to be a growing inclination towards visual entertainment. Easy short-cuts. Press a key and access to information is instant.

In another study, executives complained that in strategy sessions the future leaders of their companies seemed unable to innovate new ideas or assimilate broad perspectives. There was a growing tendency to talk about trivial things, like jogging or golf.

The new breed of would-be executives seem inclined to see their jobs as status, quipped one company president. When admitting that socializing was a part of any organization, he added that he could do with less talk about personal investments and more hard work!

"I've let it be known," he growled, "that if anyone thinks kissing ass is the way to climb the ladder of success, all they'll get here is a bad smell and a dirty face."

Still, there is something more important lacking—a sense of history.

Over the past 10 or 15 years our entire approach to education has changed. As technology flings us headlong into the era of specialization, there is a feeling that anything not job-oriented is useless, a waste of time. Why should an accountant know how Hemingway changed the way prose is written? Does the price of gold in Tokyo affect my financial aid? What makes the use of color by Van Gogh revolutionary, and just when is art art?

Perhaps these things do not add to a paycheck, but they certainly can change one's perspective, broaden the foundation upon which we all make judgments, and if nothing else, bring meaning and texture to the way we perceive ourselves and others.

One of the most ubiquitous problems in today's workplace is stress. Simple anxiety that stems from job dissatisfaction. In our desperate, materialistic quest to become employable, maybe we lose sight of one old-fashioned ideal—that to constantly broaden one's horizon is the only way to find peace.

And that if we pursue the best education possible to learn how to live, then out of that we can make choices on how to make a living. **Nick Reed**



## Eating meat like cannibals devouring Grandma

By KATHY BARNES  
Sidelines Features/Entertainment Editor

Before you start throwing shoes or slurs, let me say one thing—"I am sorry." But how was I supposed to know that after I gave you those wonderful, innovative recipes, that I would suddenly develop an acute, terminal avulsion to the one main ingredient that gave those recipes that "umph" that made your face smile and tummy twitter?

No, no, not the onion or the broccoli—it's the meat.

It all happened one night about two weeks ago. I was standing in the kitchen cubing boneless chicken breasts for one of my potluck oriental dinners. As I sated through the cadavers, I was overwhelmed by the terrible feeling that I was no more justified in chopping away on a chicken than a can-

nibal would be in carving up his best buddy.

So come on people, flesh is flesh! As humans, we have the capacity to think, learn and control and therefore conclude that it is O.K. to consume members of the lesser species. It really doesn't matter whether it's a dog, cat, horse, cow or another human. It's all disgusting, morbidly nauseating.

The sad part about it all is that you will never discover for yourself how gross it is until you prepare, with in-depth study, handling and analysis—we're not talking hamburgers here—meat on a regular basis (you know, cooking yourself a decent meal now and then).

Take beef ribs, for instance. Oh, they look good alright, but do you know what YOU look like when you're eating them? When you eat ribs you always get these little strips of meat stuck in between your teeth. And then when you smile you really look gross.

And what about poultry? When you bake a chicken or turkey you have to open your hand up some dark, wet opening at the lower extremity of the bird, reach in, pull out God knows what—some slimy semblance to liver—often wrapped in a fibrous paper, most often not, and naked to the touch of your fingers.

Frankly, I don't know where people get their reasoning that it is acceptable to eat animals or any kind of meat. Should we let social allowances guide our behavior so as to brainwash us into a certain line of thinking about even our food?

No. Therefore, I deduce that anybody who eats meat is not doing anything differently than a cannibal. It's all a way of life.

In case you're wondering, I resolve myself to the diet of a vegetarian, and withdraw from the barbaric habit of eating meat. Not only that, but I willfully encourage everyone to participate, if not for yourself for your country (I don't know, it sounded good).

## Reagan Administration, CIA deliberately misleading public

By DWIGHT IRONS  
Sidelines Columnist

It's a widely held belief among high-ranking government officials and members of Congress that the Reagan Administration, in an attempt to justify CIA efforts to overthrow the Nicaraguan government, is deliberately misleading the American public about the flow of arms to Central America.

In an article that appeared in the *New York Times* on June 11, 1984, David C. MacMichael, former CIA analyst of military and former CIA developments in Central America, said, "The whole picture that the [Reagan] Administration has presented of Salvadoran insurgent operations being planned, directed and supplied from Nicaragua is simply not true."

"The Administration and the CIA have systematically misrepresented Nicaraguan involvement in the supply of arms to Salvadoran guerillas to justify its efforts to overthrow the Nicaraguan government," MacMichael added.

MacMichael worked for the CIA from 1981 until his resignation in July of 1983 in protest of administration policy in Central America. Since that time he has joined other CIA protestors outside the U.S. Embassy in Managua, Nicaragua.

He allegedly had access to the most sensitive intelligence information about Nicaragua and arms shipments to El Salvador.

While it is impossible to verify his claims independently, both administration officials and members of Congress familiar with the data

in question support his challenge to a surprising degree. Between 1982 and 1983, the House twice voted to cut off all aid to the contras, whom Reagan affectionately refers to as "freedom fighters."

Gabriel Marquez, winner of the Nobel prize in literature in 1982, and his colleagues are correct in asserting that Reagan's war is covert, irrational and reactionary in nature. It is also unauthorized by Congress and the American people.

In December of 1982, Congress passed a Constitutional Amendment which bans financial support for "military equipment, military training, or advice or other support for military activities...for the purpose of overthrowing the government of Nicaragua or provoking a military exchange between Nicaragua and Honduras."

This means the Reagan Administration is presently in direct violation of that law. The problem for prosecution is not lack of evidence, but apparent willingness on the part of Congress to accept the legal sophistry.

In a prepared statement presented before the subcommittee on Inter-American Affairs, Committee on Foreign Affairs and the U.S. House of Representatives, in December, 1982, Lt. Col. John H. Buchanan, U.S.M.C., announced "I am here to criticize the present Administration's policy toward Central America. It is a misguided policy, and if it is not soon reversed, the people of this land and the rest of this continent will suffer for decades from its grave consequences."

It is not in our interests as a nation."

Besides ignoring international and federal law in its obsession to militarize the social and economic crisis of that region, the Reagan Administration has subsidized a major military build-up in Honduras which observers say will only lead to further repression.

Ads recently on television urging 18-year-olds to register for the draft are set to slick disco music with a narrator saying, "Get on down/to the Po-o-o-st Office," and finishing with the statement, "Because you never know when there will be a national emergency."

One can't help thinking that the Administration has been priming the media and the American public for a war in Central America, at-

tempting to mislead by revealing false information.

An imminent invasion of Nicaragua could be justified with a barrage of prepared and fabricated misinformation, neatly packaged for the American public to swallow. Those who oppose such action would be labeled 'traitor' or 'Commie,' while those who blindly accept would be stooges for the right-wing propoganda corps.

In the end, everyone would lose because U.S. Foreign policy has aligned itself to right-wing totalitarianism, which cannot ultimately succeed. When people of that region come to power, they will be justifiably hostile toward U.S. diplomatic interests. Between now and then, American honor will be tainted by the blood-stains of inno-



A message about U.S. involvement in Nicaragua is shown on a fence at the construction site on Lytle Street the day before it was painted over by school children.

Photo by Bill McClary

## Letters to the Editor

### Library bell not very effective

Oh dear editor:

Seeing as you're one of our most frequent "customers," we must well understand the obstacles we must overcome when closing the library.

I, too, jump at the sound of the bell's warning rings, and I've worked the night shift as a student worker for the past 2½ years. Yet, buzzes from the bell are not enough to rouse the students who will linger.

Some nuzzling couples need personal invitations to leave the library, while other dozers who have been reading(?) the same *People* magazine for the past hour need an alarm clock. (Switching off the lights does not work for these types).

Chatting study groups are unaffected by the bells, too. Last minute students who have a paper due in the morning rush up the stairs at 9:55 p.m. to copy ten articles. Others want to check out books at this time, as they stand before a clearly written sign stating that all books are to be checked out ten minutes prior to closing time.

As you see, dear editor, not all people can deduce the "meaning of the bell" as you so brilliantly did.

Barbara Boyd  
Box 8066

### Students disregard closing warnings

To the editor:

Mr. Frazier, I believe you have judged our librarians and our system too harshly. We are committed to service, but like the department store, we must face reality.

First, we have a sign near the front which says, "ALL BOOKS MUST BE CHECKED OUT 10 MINUTES BEFORE CLOSING TIME." If every patron obeyed this regulation, we would have no problem, but like in the department store, there are those who linger and even sleep. Too, handicapped students use our library. Some are blind, they cannot see a flick of the lights. Some are deaf and they cannot hear the bell.

So, you see, we are neither ill-mannered nor devising shenanigans to scare patrons.

Second, there is more to closing the library than locking the front door. A physical check of the building is made, inside doors are locked, the book-drop is opened, cash is secured for the night and books from carrels and table-tops are gathered on trucks for reshelving the next day.

Third, please put yourself in the place of those who have worked all day and part of the night and would like to get home on time. Is it fair for librarians and staff to work 10 minutes, 30 minutes or even one hour longer (it has been done) accommodating those who could have come to the library a few minutes earlier to complete their work? I think not.

Ida D. Read  
Catalog Librarian

### University housing often a pain

To the editorial staff:

Living in University housing is often a pain. However, this summer has been the ultimate. In three years of living on campus in various halls, Housing has finally done it. They have made us realize that students on this campus are second-

class citizens.

Before signing up for Intercession housing, we had to sign an agreement about the possibility of no utilities. Housing made no promises for utilities during Intercession, although we had to pay full-price. The residents of Wood Hall took [extremely] cold showers for the first full week.

Housing suddenly decides to move the residents to Felder... permanently (we hope), for the rest of Session Two and Session Four. Of course, this must be done. The last week of Session Two when students are trying to study for their finals! If you were able to move over early you would not be so surprised to find no hot water (again) and no air-conditioning.

For past residents of Wood and Felder Halls, it is apparent [to residents] that Housing knew of maintenance problems before they

opened the Halls for summer housing.

Therefore, I think it would be nice if Housing helped students move their things.

Clearly, Housing is too pleased with the money gained from camps and other activities that frequent the campus for the summer. We are the students and should be the primary concern of Housing.

We understand the school needs all the money it can get, but enough is enough! **Angelia Bratcher**  
**Janice Tobitt**

*Sidelines* is published every Thursday by the students of Middle Tennessee State University. Editorials and columns reflect the opinions of their authors and not of the MTSU administration, faculty or staff.  
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Middle Tennessee State University  
SIDELINES

# Entertainment

Kathy Barnes  
Editor

## Fireworks fly at concert gala

By KATHY BARNES

**Sidelines Feature/Entertainment Editor**  
BIG BAM BOOM! No, this is not a Hall and Oates press release, but a once-a-year special for all you people—students and locals alike, who get to spend the Fourth of July in Murfreesboro!

What? No screaming or jumping up and down? No utter,ly sincere cries of happiness? Not even a streamer? I can't believe it!

Relax, just kidding. Of course you will manage to escape to a fun-filled weekend at home with your parents.

Yes, you can go home, have a big cookout with your family and

friends, and friends of friends and all associated rug rats.

You can stuff yourself with hot-dogs, hamburgers, potato salad and baked beans, and then sit around the yard in "majestic awe" as you watch \$80 go up in smoke.

Well, hey, you can get some sort of fireworks display just about anywhere for free! Just sit back in your own yard and watch everybody else's money go up with a bang.

Or better yet, for those confined to the 'boro, the Murfreesboro Recreation Department is organizing a "Fireworks Celebration" to be held at Old Fort Park on Memorial Boulevard.

The festivities will begin at 7:30 p.m. with a free concert by the Nashville Community Orchestra, directed by Ted Hellagarrd. A free fireworks display will follow.

If your car will make it to Nashville, you might consider skipping Murfreesboro altogether and head up to Riverfront Park on West End to take part in a celebration with the Nashville Symphony, the 129th National Guard Army Band and a 75-millimeter Howitzer.

The symphony will be conducted by Maestro Kenneth Schermerhorn, highlighted by Tchaikovsky's "1812 Overture," complete with the cannon and army

band.

Also on hand will be the New Life Singers and gospel singer Bobby Jones.

This free event begins at 7:15 p.m. and also promises a fireworks display.

So there you have a couple of options. Of course, there is another choice for all those romantics out there.

Get yourself a bottle of wine (or two), some good company and maybe a sparkler or bottle rocket and just sit back on a blanket outside somewhere and enjoy the freedom you exercise that is marked by this special occasion.

## Ballooning is O'Connells' way of life

By BRIAN KNOX

Sidelines Feature/Entertainment Writer

Jack O'Connell sits back quietly, reclining on the comfortable front seat of his van. The shade feels good on this hot afternoon. Jack places a wooden pipe to his lips, and the wafting aroma of tobacco adds to the atmosphere.

His face is weathered and strong. Patches of gray lightly dust his brown beard, hinting at his age. A warm twinkle in his eyes, however, softens many of his middle-age years.

Jack stares out the window toward the sky, in seeming contemplation and preparation for what lies ahead. His wife, Jane, sits behind the van perched atop a wicker gondola, happily chatting with the various spectators.

The O'Connells are a husband and wife balloon team from Tallahassee, Fla. who are participating in the 1985 Education and Auditory Research for Music Balloon Class-

ic, held at Maryland Farms in Brentwood on June 22.

"We started ballooning back in 1978," Jane recalled with a smile. "Jack and I were at an antique show when we saw this beautiful balloon in the sky. We were both surprised when we turned to each other at the same time and said, 'I've got to do that. Ever since then ballooning has been our life.'"

Both Jack and Jane have obtained their "Lighter than Air" license which allows them to fly solo, instruct other balloonists and give rides to passengers.

Jack is a Federal Aviation Administration examiner for hot-air balloons, and he and Jane have formed "Balloon Adventures by J & J" to promote and instruct prospective balloonists.

"We are on the road nine months out of the year, either training people how to fly, or flying in contests in our own balloon or sponsored ones," Jack said.

Besides winning numerous cash prizes over the past few years, the O'Connells recently captured a grand prize of a balloon valued over \$10,000.

"In this particular contest," Jack explained, "we will be flying a balloon for Darryl's Restaurant."

According to Jack, smaller cash prizes were also awarded to the balloonist who could drop a bean bag into a target area on the ground during the race.

As the ascension time drew nearer, Jack and Jane invited me to assist them in setting up their balloon. After laying the gondola on its side, the 80-foot balloon was disbursed from the van. We assumed strategic positions around the balloon, securing it at all points with rope.

As Jack lit the propane torch, the balloon began a graceful ascent raising both it and the gondola to a vertical position.

After a final check of radios, gauges and maps, Jane leaned into the gondola to give her husband a good luck kiss. Within seconds, Jack was given the signal to go. With a quick burst of hot air, he gently rose into the afternoon sky.

The sky was aglow with teardrop-shaped bursts of color as 20 balloons, like eagles, caught the air current and soared into the distance.

I was feeling what Jane had described as the "freedom and beauty" that accompanies ballooning when she suddenly interrupted, "It's time for the chase!"

We scampered into the van, and with all the skill of Mario Andretti, Jane maneuvered her way through the crowd to the highway. For the next two hours, we followed the path of the balloons (which is easier said than done) using a C.B. radio to keep in touch with Jack.



Photo by Brian Knox

Jack O'Connell is dwarfed by the size of his "Darryl's" balloon as he awaits the signal for take-off at the 1985 E.A.R. for Music Balloon Classic at Maryland Farms in Brentwood.

After running down dead-end streets and feeling like we had been on the "Cannonball Run," we found Jack and the balloon in a field in Mt. Juliet.

"I missed the target," Jack said sadly.

"Oh well," Jane sighed, "we never said we were in this for the money."

We all shared a laugh as we began our journey back to

Brentwood. On the way, Jane volunteered to sum up their feelings about ballooning.

"When we fly over a community in the early morning, children come running out of houses in their pajamas to see our balloon and smile and wave."

"Balloons make people happy," Jane reflected, "and ballooning is our way of being part of that feeling. We love the freedom and we love to fly!"

# M-I-D-L-A-N-D-E-R

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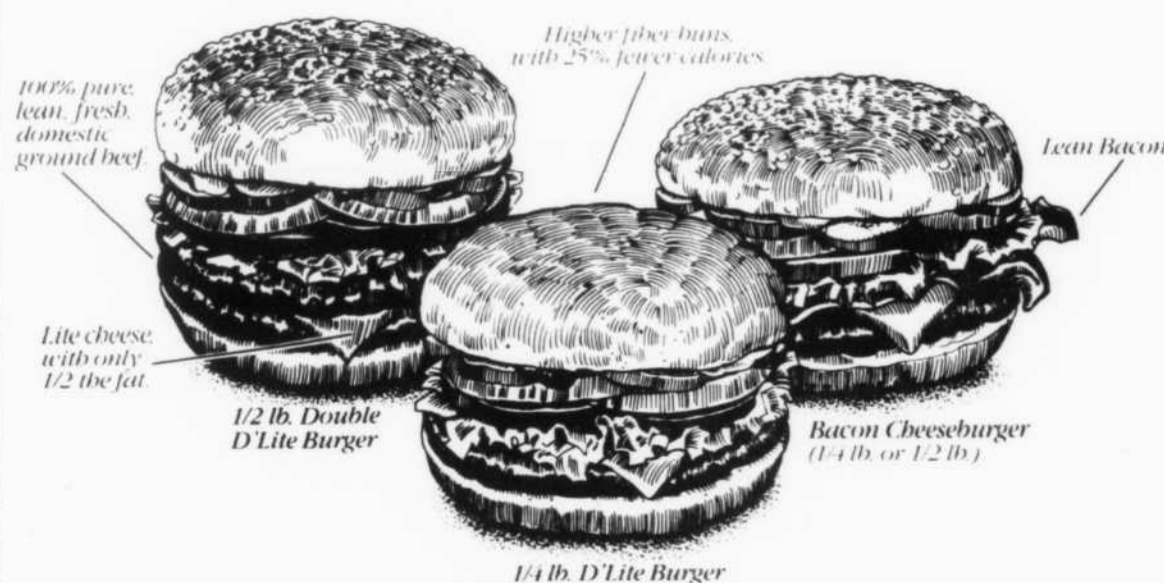
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## Potter kicking into new ranks

By MIKE ORGAN  
Sidelines Sports Editor

As Kelly Potter trotted off that brisk evening last December after MTSU had just ended the 1984 season with a loss in the division I AA semifinals, it dawned on him that he may never swing his kicking boot in a football game again.

Kelly had just ended four very successful years as a place kicker for MTSU and now it was time for a change.

And then Kelly had another thought hit him. He began to remember his past accomplishments at MTSU and he started to think that maybe this final collegiate game marked the start of a whole new beginning.

After all he had, A. become MTSU's all-time leading scorer, B. become the OVC's all-time leading scorer while making the All-OVC team twice and the NCAA IAA All-American list once, and C. most importantly just helped the Blue Raiders to their best season in 20 years with an 11-3 record.

With all of these laurels, surely somebody in the "big leagues" would give him a chance.

Well, the scouts didn't beat Potter's door down during the draft, but the possibility of the former Blue Raider playing in the NFL still exists. He was not selected in the April 9 draft, but soon after, he signed for a tryout with the Buffalo Bills.

Potter wasn't bothered by not getting drafted. "It gave me a chance to look around and see where I was needed most and where would be the best place for me to try," he said from his Franklin home last week.

The Bills' training camp will begin July 19, and one of their primary tasks will be to sign a place kicker for the upcoming season. Veteran Joe Danelo, the Bills' kicker from last year, was released just after the season ended and that makes the position "wide-open," according to Potter.

But even without a returning kicker the job will be a hard one to get because of the flood of walk-on free agents which are expected to pour into the camp. Potter is well aware of the possible stiff competition and even welcomes it. He plans to make it work in his favor.

"I hope it's tough competition," Potter said. "The better it is the better it'll make me. I've been working for this for a very long time and I'll be ready for it."

Former NCAA All-American Paul Woodside from West Virginia will supply the most competition of all. He too is bidding for a shot at the position. Woodside was a four-year starter for the Mountaineers and

set an NCAA record for most field goals kicked in one season at 25 in 1983.

"Yeh, I hear he's tough," Potter said of Woodside. "But it doesn't bother me. He's in the same boat I'm in right now."

Potter assures that whatever the outcome, the Bill's kicking game will be in good hands, or good feet in this case, next season.

"I'm excited about it, and I feel I've got a good chance at it. If I don't get the job, they're gonna have one heckuva kicker there next year," a determined Potter added.



Sidelines File Photo

KELLY POTTER

## Recruits eyed by MTSU Roundball camp held at Murphy

By MICHAEL FREEMAN  
Sidelines Sports Writer

MTSU's Lady Raider basketball coach Larry Inman and his staff sponsored the annual MTSU Girls Basketball Camp last week in Murphy Center.

"This is a great opportunity for everybody involved," according to MTSU assistant coach Diane Cummings who served as camp coordinator. "The teams get to practice and play various other teams. The coaches get to see who on their own teams can play, and to what level. It's good for us. We can see if there's anyone we can recruit."

MTSU is the ideal place for the camp according to Cummings because "we have the facilities for a really good camp. We have the main floor, the two auxiliary gyms and the Alumni gym. We also have dorms for them to stay in, and the State Championship floor."

Teams from Tennessee, Kentucky and Georgia participated in the camp, including Riverdale and Oakland from Murfreesboro and

several schools from Nashville. There were 15 teams participating in the five-day camp.

Buddy Pate, head coach from Riverdale, spoke confidently of his team this year. "We have three seniors on the team, and although this year's competition is tough, we should do fairly well."

Pate went on to say that he was glad of the opportunity for a camp in town and to be able to work with his players near home.

Oakland's coach, Bill Cates, came to the camp with a young team and hoped to use the time to set a lineup and work his team into shape for the coming season.

"I'm playing three juniors and four sophomores this year. We are really rebuilding here, but we should come in at least third in the district," Cates predicted.

Some coaches feel that going all out this early is hard on their girls. The concern is that the break between spring practice at the first of May and summer camp is too long,

and that pushing the girls like this is too much too soon. Another reason that some of the girls may push so hard is to "strut their stuff" before college recruiters.

Cummings admits that prospects are good with a great number of potential recruits. Riverdale's Bernice Brown is on the list of "maybes" at this point. Brown said she would like to play at MTSU, and that the prospect of playing in her home town is exciting.

However, Cummings would not limit herself to watching seniors only at the camp. "We look to all ages for future players," she said, adding that Leslie Hampton, a junior at Hampton High School in Butler, Tennessee, and Angie Peters, a sophomore from Unica are two exclusions from the seniors.

Whatever their reasons for coming to camp at MTSU, all the teams hope to go home at least a little better prepared for their upcoming seasons, which will be here before they know it.

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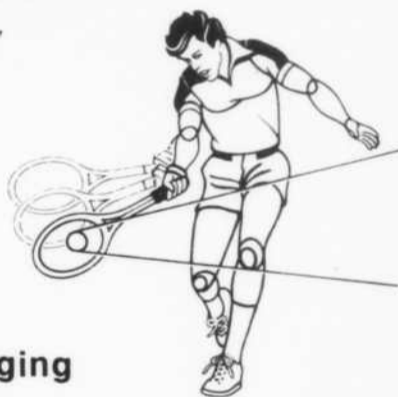
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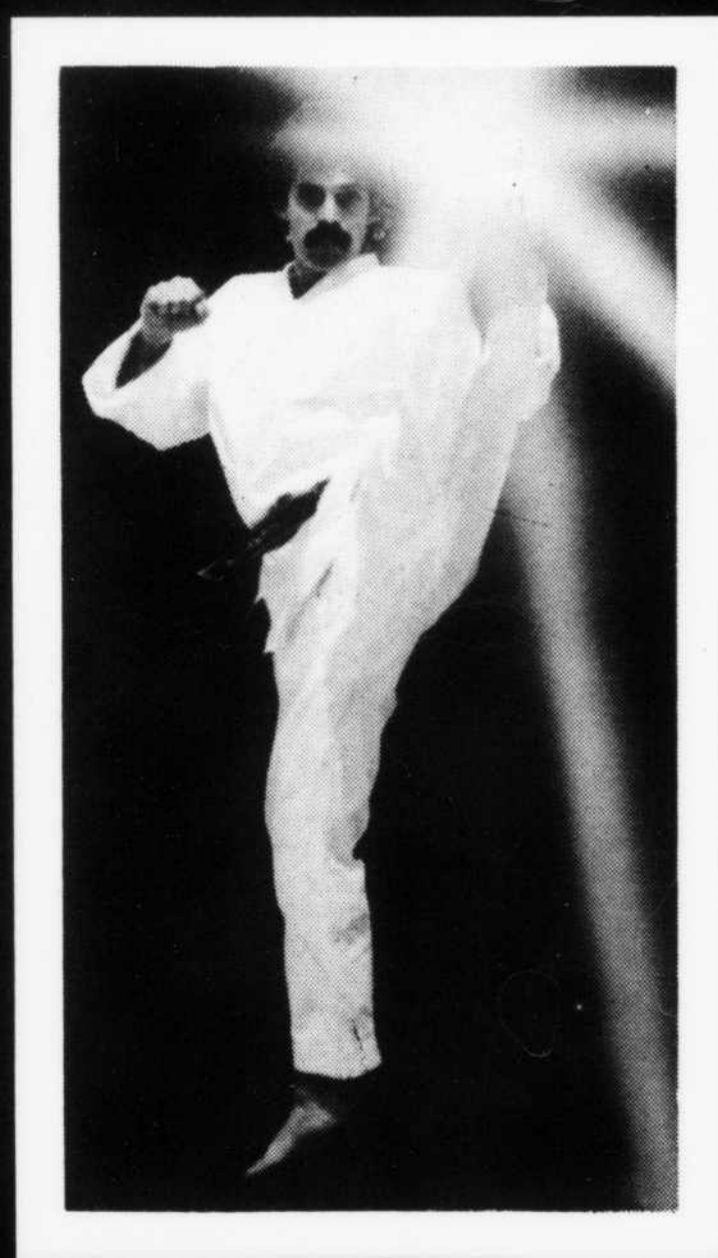
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