



North Carolina passes over coach Randy Wiel.

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Will this be the year MTSU athletics squashes student apathy?

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Parking Services changes the rules.

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SIDELINES

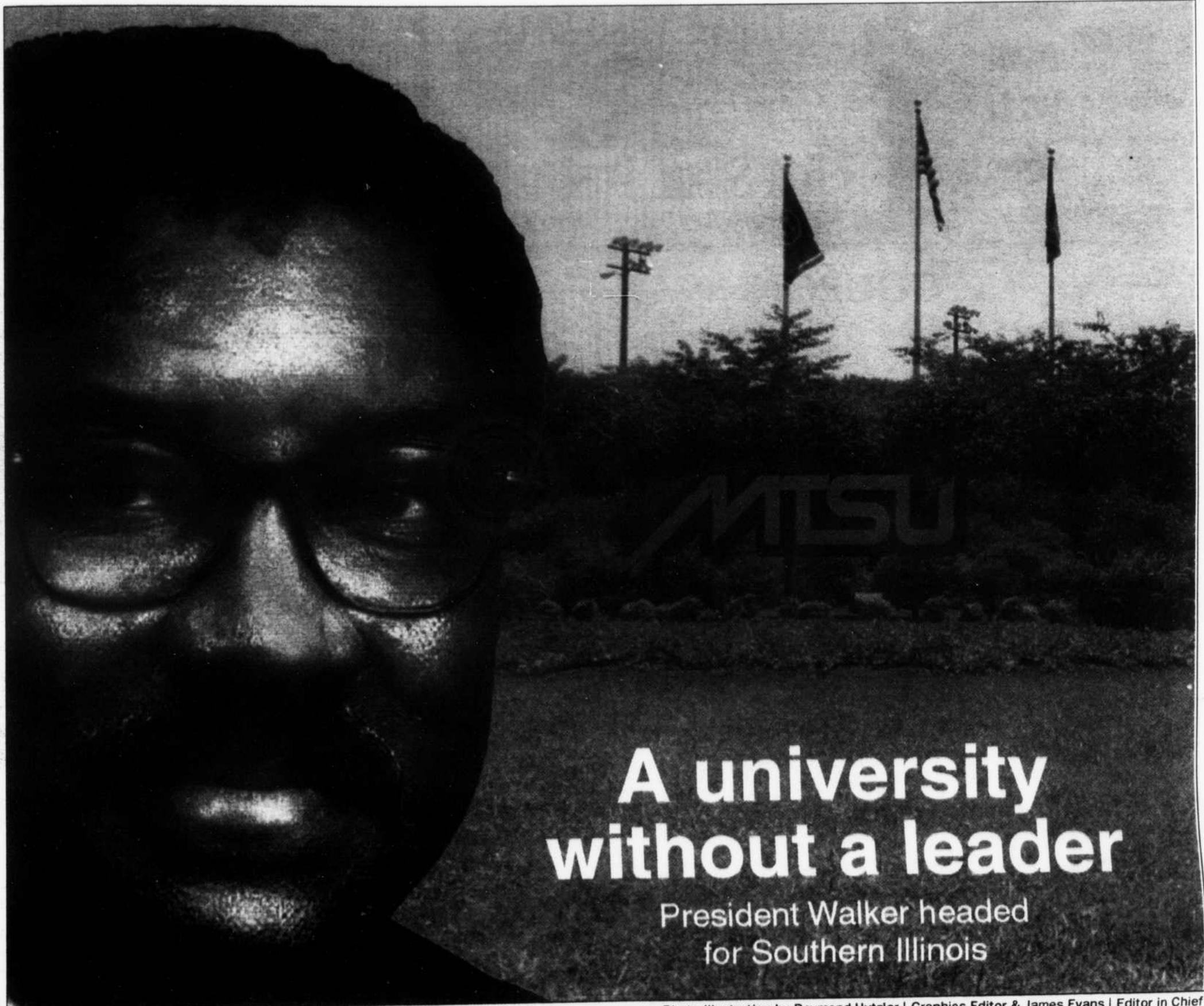
Middle Tennessee State University

Volume 76 No. 1

www.sidelines.mtsu.edu

Murfreesboro, TN

INSIDE: University introduces new combined fee to make student finances 'more convenient.'



A university without a leader

President Walker headed for Southern Illinois

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President Walker, we're not worthy

We understand why you're leaving, but we don't want you to go

When I transferred to MTSU from Tennessee Tech, I knew there was a major difference in this university, but I couldn't put my finger on it.



Not long after transferring, I joined the staff at Sidelines as a news reporter and on one of my first assignments I had the opportunity to meet President Walker. Needless to say, I was nervous just being in the same room with the man who called all the shots.

The event I was covering was a simple

FROM THE EDITOR

James Evans

faculty meeting in the KUC Theatre, and Walker was there to answer any questions that the faculty wanted to ask. After the meeting, I gathered my notes and proceeded to hurry out of the room as fast as possible, because I felt a bit out of my element.

But something about the way Walker addressed the group intrigued me.

Some of them had asked some rather blunt questions, but he never wavered. He answered each one of the questions candidly and with such ease. It was amazing to

see the man control such a potentially volatile situation.

I knew I had to talk to him one-on-one. So as the others left, I walked up to him. He was standing on the ground level of the theatre, leaning against the wooden stage.

I don't remember what we talked about, but I remember that I was even more impressed by him, because he didn't treat me like a young adult or a reporter. He just talked frankly.

After that, I knew what made MTSU different from other schools. It was because of this man.

And now, Walker's

leaving to become the president of Southern Illinois University.

I know that he started his teaching career there years ago, so part of me understands why he is leaving. Still, there's part of me that wants to act like a small child and say, "Mine!" I'm sure I'm not the only one.

We've all benefited from Walker's ambition and dedication to thousands of students whose he's never met personally. It's more than just all the new buildings and enormous stadium. It's the atmosphere that he's nurtured.

Before he came, MTSU had a bad reputation of being a low standard school. Now only a

decade later, when people in Tennessee think of MTSU, they think about progress, academic strength and growth.

All this thanks to Walker.

I hope the people at SIU appreciate the type of person they are getting, and all of the assets that come with him. I still think we need Walker more than they do, especially considering the condition of higher education in Tennessee, but maybe it's for the best.

Maybe he'll reconsider his decision and not go. I certainly hope so, and until Oct. 1, I'll be holding my breath, waiting to see if our president will stay where he is needed. ■

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TBR hikes tuition 10 percent

Elizabeth McFadyen-Ketchum
Staff Reporter

MTSU students will pay an extra \$202 in tuition annually beginning this fall, but what most of that money will be used for is anybody's guess.

A good portion of the new funds will finance a 3.5 percent pay raise for all faculty and staff, but the Tennessee Board of Regents voted Tuesday, July 11 to up tuition 10 percent before university officials had even decided where to spend it.

The university president, provost and the associate vice president in the business office couldn't say the day of the vote where the funds will be used.

"I think they will take that budget back and determine what to do with it," said Doug

Williams, director of news and public affairs. "All the universities put in needs they have and TBR decided on the increases from there."

"About a 15 percent increase was needed for the university to break even," said Barbara Haskew, provost and vice president of academic affairs. "This will leave the university in a tight spot."

The hike is not unique to MTSU — the Tennessee Higher Education Commission has approved a system-wide 8 percent increase. Even with a 10 percent increase for TBR institutions, MTSU's tuition remains lower than all other state four-year colleges and universities. The only exception is East Tennessee State University, which costs approximately \$30 less than

MTSU if fees are factored into the mix.

"My recommendation to the board is an 8 percent hike to all university sectors," said Charles Manning, the Board of Regents chancellor, "and an additional 2 percent because of the distance that the universities really [have] in resources...compared to peer schools."

"We're pretty far behind," Manning said.

Students have varying reactions to the increase.

"Nobody wants a tuition hike," said Brian Farr, a senior history major, "just like nobody wants a tax hike. It's a necessary evil if you want improvement. I think the quality of education at MTSU is very good compared to the cost."

"I think it's kind of like taxes," said Pat Nixon, a junior education major. "It's too much and it's mismanaged."

The 10 percent hike adds up to about \$3.9 million in funds.

Some new faculty may be hired for the fall, said Haskew. The university now lacks about 60 professors.

See **Tuition**, 18

How we stack up

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University of Memphis (10% increase)

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University of Tennessee Knoxville (8% increase)

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Graphic by Raymond Hutzler | Graphics Editor



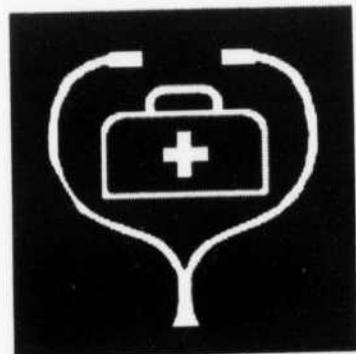
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General access fee engulfs miscellaneous costs

Angela White
Managing Editor

A general access fee was passed Tuesday, July 11 at a Tennessee Board of Regents meeting.

The fee will group together past fees, including the student activity fee, the debt services fee and the SGA fee.

Parking will also be included in the fee, and every student will be charged whether or not they drive a car to campus.

According to John Marshall, SGA president, the total amount of fees is not rising, just being categorized better. "There will be no significant difference in fees," said Marshall, "but they will be more conveniently packaged."

The new fee will include the following: the parking fee, \$23; the graduation fee, \$4, the technology fee, \$100; the activity fee-athletics, \$20; and the activity fee-Recreation Center, \$15, a total of \$162. Students not enrolled full time will be charged a \$27 flat fee plus \$11 per hour.

These amounts are on a per-semester basis.

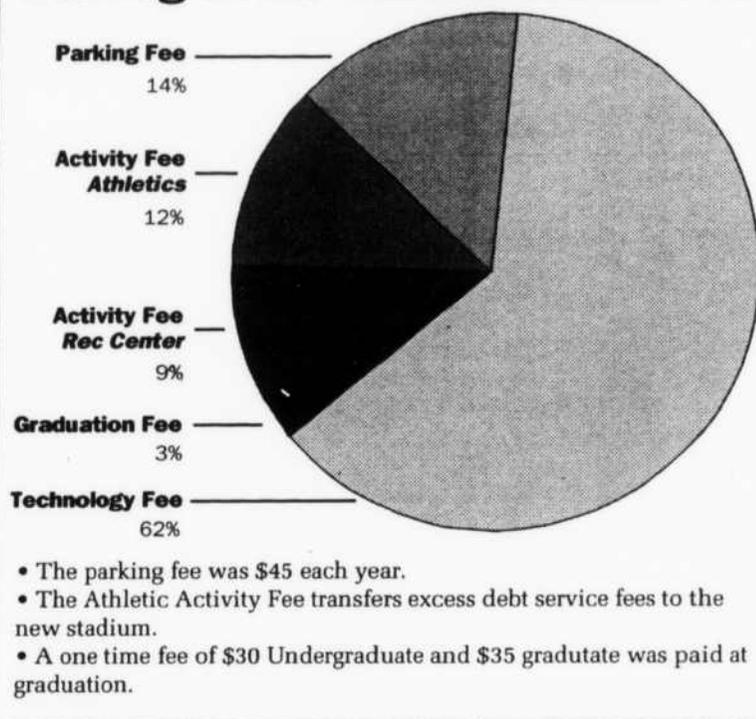
According to the MTSU Bursar's Web site, other fees not included in the general access fee are the debt services fee, \$8 per academic hour with a maximum charge of \$95; a recreation activity fee of \$15; a

postal services fee of \$8 for full-time students; and a SGA fee of \$15.

Last spring the SGA fee was \$10, the technology fee \$100.

See Fee, 10

Looking at the General Access Fee



Graphic by Raymond Hutzler | Graphics Editor

New parking fee meets little student opposition

James Evans
Editor in Chief

The new method of charging students for parking for the upcoming semester has been met with little controversy from students except for a minor need for clarification, according to Parking Services officials.

In fact, Parking Services Director Connie Hagberg said the only calls she has received from students about the issue dealt with questions on how parking permits were going to be distributed under the new system.

"I haven't had one [complaining] call," she said.

This year, it won't be necessary for students who wish to park on campus to buy a parking permit because everyone is paying a parking fee as part of the new general access fee, which was passed by the Tennessee Board of Regents in mid-July.

During the 1999-2000 school year, 16,715 green permits and 314 black were sold, and 350 blue disabled student permits were issued.

Because all of approximately 18,500 students will be paying \$23 per semester — or \$46 annually (which is a dollar more than the previous cost of green permits) — an additional \$96,000 in revenue will be raised for Parking Services.

"I think at this time it's going over well," Hagberg said.

The process for students to get their permit will work similar to that of the previous years, minus the writing of a \$45 check. Students will have to go to the Parking Services office, complete the vehicle registration form, and after presenting a valid student identification card, will be issued a parking permit.

On Aug. 1, Parking Services began issuing the permits to students who have already paid

See Parking, 10

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University buying up surrounding property

R. Colin Fly
Online Editor

MTSU is negotiating with three organizations — two of which are churches — to purchase property bordering the university in an effort to expand in accordance with the campus's master plan.

The master plan map, drafted by Campus Planning, is a project to show the future of the buildings and property lines of the university.

The campus plans to buy all of the land from the corner of Tennessee Boulevard and Greenland Drive to Bell Street as well as all of the land between Tennessee

Boulevard and East Street.

On the southern end of the campus, the university plans to extend the campus from Tennessee Boulevard to Rutherford Boulevard along both sides of East Main Street.

Acquisition of different properties is quite simple, Mike Gower, associate vice president in the business office, explained.

"Owners approach us and want to know what the procedures are [to sell land to the university]," Gower said. "If they want to sell to us, and they make that clear to us, then we will go to the building commission and seek approval, just like

we're doing for St. Mark's Church. We have to get the permission of the state to purchase the property first."

St. Mark's United Methodist Church is located at 1403 E. Main St. Officials from both St. Mark's and the university have confirmed that there is a verbal understanding — pending approval from the state — that the university will purchase the two-acre plot of land.

"I think it is in the university's master plan to acquire the church, and that suits us just fine," Rev. David Huffman of St. Mark's said.

St. Mark's approached the university about selling the property in

late summer or early fall of last year, Gower said.

St. Mark's has been on the current property since 1948. Their new building, tentatively set to be finished in the fall of 2001, will be located at

the corner of N. Rutherford Boulevard and Old Lascassas Road.

Belle Aire Baptist Church is currently in a different stage of negotiation than St. Mark's. The university

already has approval from the state building commission to purchase the land located at 820 Fairview St.

"We have approval to

See **Land**, 24



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Students killed during Fourth of July weekend

Staff Reports

MTSU students Jiang Yu, 27, and Rui Yang, 30, died in a car accident July 5 outside Morton, Ill.

The two international students from China were returning to Murfreesboro after visiting Yu's

sister in Iowa. Yang was driving southbound in a construction zone on Interstate 155 when the vehicle swerved and hit a guardrail. The car then spun and hit a semi-truck. It is unknown whether road construction contributed to the accident.

Yang died at the scene. Yu died at an area hospital.

The students were both first-semester computer science graduate students. Before coming to MTSU Yang received her undergraduate degree in China. Yu received a master's in business administration from Tennessee State University.

Yu was from Nanjing, China, and Yang was from Dalian. ■

Student dies in plane crash

Staff Reports

An MTSU student died Wednesday, July 4, from injuries caused by a plane crash.

Patrick Michael Couch, a flight instructor with SDS, Inc. in Murfreesboro as well as a student at MTSU, was flying with Mitchell Clark Herndon, a student of Couch's, when the plane clipped a house and crashed into the yard of Dave M. Hearn Jr.'s home at 1718 Dover Court. The plane then caught fire with the two trapped inside.

Neighbors, along with Murfreesboro police officer Eddie Burgess, rescued Herndon while Murfreesboro firefighters freed Couch. They were then flown to Vanderbilt University Medical Center, where Couch died at 12:28 p.m.

The plane, which took off from Murfreesboro Airport, was a Cessna single-engine aircraft owned by SDS worth \$25,000.

It was moved to a secure hanger at the airport, where FAA officials are investigating the cause of the crash.

According to George

Huddleston Jr., chair of the Murfreesboro Airport Commission, an engine problem is suspected to have caused the crash.

This is the third plane crash near Murfreesboro Airport since December. The pilot in the first incident died Dec. 18 when the plane crashed on Leaf Avenue.

An MTSU student and instructor pilot survived the second crash April 4 on DeJarnette Lane.

Couch was from Macon, Ga. He had 500 hours of flight time logged before his death. ■

Fee: some issues raised

Continued from 6

the recreation fee \$15, the postal fee \$8 and the student activity fee \$65 for a typical full-time student.

The \$4 per-semester graduation fee will replace a one-time fee of \$30 and \$35 paid at graduation.

The new athletic activity fee will include the excessive debt service fee on Floyd Stadium.

Some issues have been raised about students being unfairly charged fees, such as the case with parking and the graduation fee, which will be partially paid by undergraduate students not graduating that semester.

The Student Government Association, according to

Marshall, is still ironing out some wrinkles with Duane Stucky, vice president for Finance and Administration.

"There are still questions about some fees which are being discussed with Stucky," Marshall said. "He has been very cooperative so far."

Marshall says the main advantage of the new fee is convenience for students, especially with parking. "It will be easier for students to get parking passes," he said.

"Some students won't benefit from this," said Marshall, "but some will. Fees aren't something we want to pay, but something we have to pay. This will at least make them more convenient." ■

Parking: white pass problems

Continued from 6

all of their fees.

Some students who have to buy white permits — such as those students who work as area coordinators — may have a problem with the new system.

As of yet, Hagberg said it hasn't been decided how

those students will be charged for the white permits because they will have already paid fees for a green permit.

"That's one of the issues that needs to be addressed," she said.

The general access fee was passed Tuesday, July 11 at the Tennessee Board of Regents meeting. ■

Womack Lane, Scarlett Commons, Greek Row Resident Parking Notice

The parking areas at Womack Lane, Scarlett Commons and Greek Row are "reserved" for residents only, 24 hours a day/ 7 days a week.

PLEASE NOTE: All residents must have the appropriate validation sticker permanently attached to his/her green parking permit. Any vehicle that does not have the appropriate validation sticker and/or does not have the validation sticker permanently attached to the permit will be issued a citation. If you have any questions regarding the proper attachment of this sticker, please contact Parking Services at 898-2850.

The residents of Womack Lane, Scarlett Commons and Greek Row are allowed to park in certain areas on the campus **24 hours a day with a valid green parking permit.** These areas are as follows:

- Greenland Drive parking lot (green permit parking).
- Green permit parking spaces located on Faulkinberry.
- Green permit parking lot directly located east of the Library (this does not include the lot located directly north of Ezell Hall).
- BOTH the gravel and paved parking areas at the Recreation Center.
- The new gravel parking lot that will be constructed during the Fall semester located close to Greek Row and the Recreation Fields.

The residents who hold a valid parking permit will be allowed to park **from 6:30 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.** in any legal "white or green" permit parking area. **Residents are not allowed to park in any other areas on campus, until 6:30 p.m. If a resident vehicle is found on the campus in a parking area other than those listed above before 6:30 p.m., the vehicle will be issued a citation.**

Any resident who holds a valid **MTSU Blue Parking Permit** may park in any blue, white, or green permit parking area as well as in the metered spaces. Any resident who holds a valid **MTSU White Parking Permit** may park in any legal white or green permit parking area.

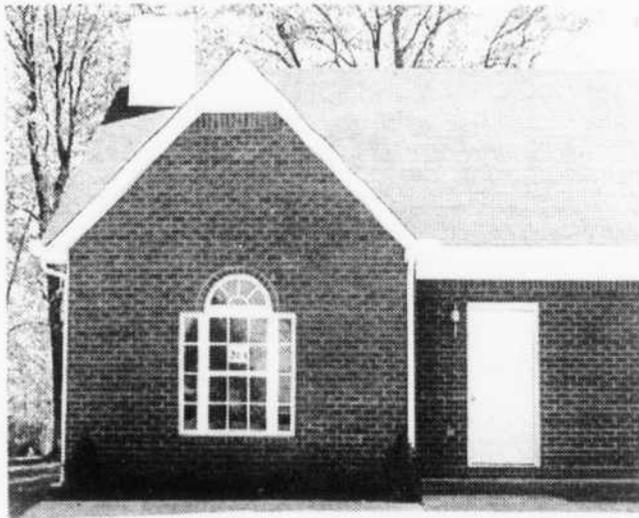
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Business college marries Jennings, takes his name

R. Colin Fly
Online Editor

In a ceremony July 10, the College of Business was renamed the Jennings A. Jones College of Business after the former mayor of Murfreesboro.

"I consider it quite an honor," said Jones, "that I have been recognized in this way. I've been happy with how [MTSU] has used what I have given to the program. I think they're right on track."

The ceremony celebrated Jones' many contributions to MTSU and the surrounding community.

James Walker, president of MTSU, stressed that more important than their financial contributions, Jennings and Rebecca Jones are giving of their time. He also stressed their impact on the lives of students.

"Their dollar contributions in terms of chairs of excellence, institutes, scholarships and money for computers are very meaningful to students in terms of enhancing their education and changing their lives," Walker said. "However, I think equally as important is the Jones' willingness to give of

their time to attend functions, and sponsor special institutes and speakers to come to the campus."

Joe Rodgers, former chair of excellence in free enterprise, which Jennings A. Jones funded, spoke of the Jones' kind and generous contributions "not only to the university, but also to the community," and praised Jennings for his vision and success.

Earl Swensson, former chairholder of the Jennings and Rebecca Jones Chair of Excellence in Urban and Regional Planning, said that Jennings always understood human nature, time and investment.

"He understood investment, not only in time and money, but also in holdings."

After the unveiling of the plaque, Jennings Jones thanked MTSU.

"It is quite an honor to have one's name connected with a university which has gained so much stature and respect as MTSU."

Jones, 90, has been active in the Murfreesboro community for more than 60 years. He

See Jennings, 20

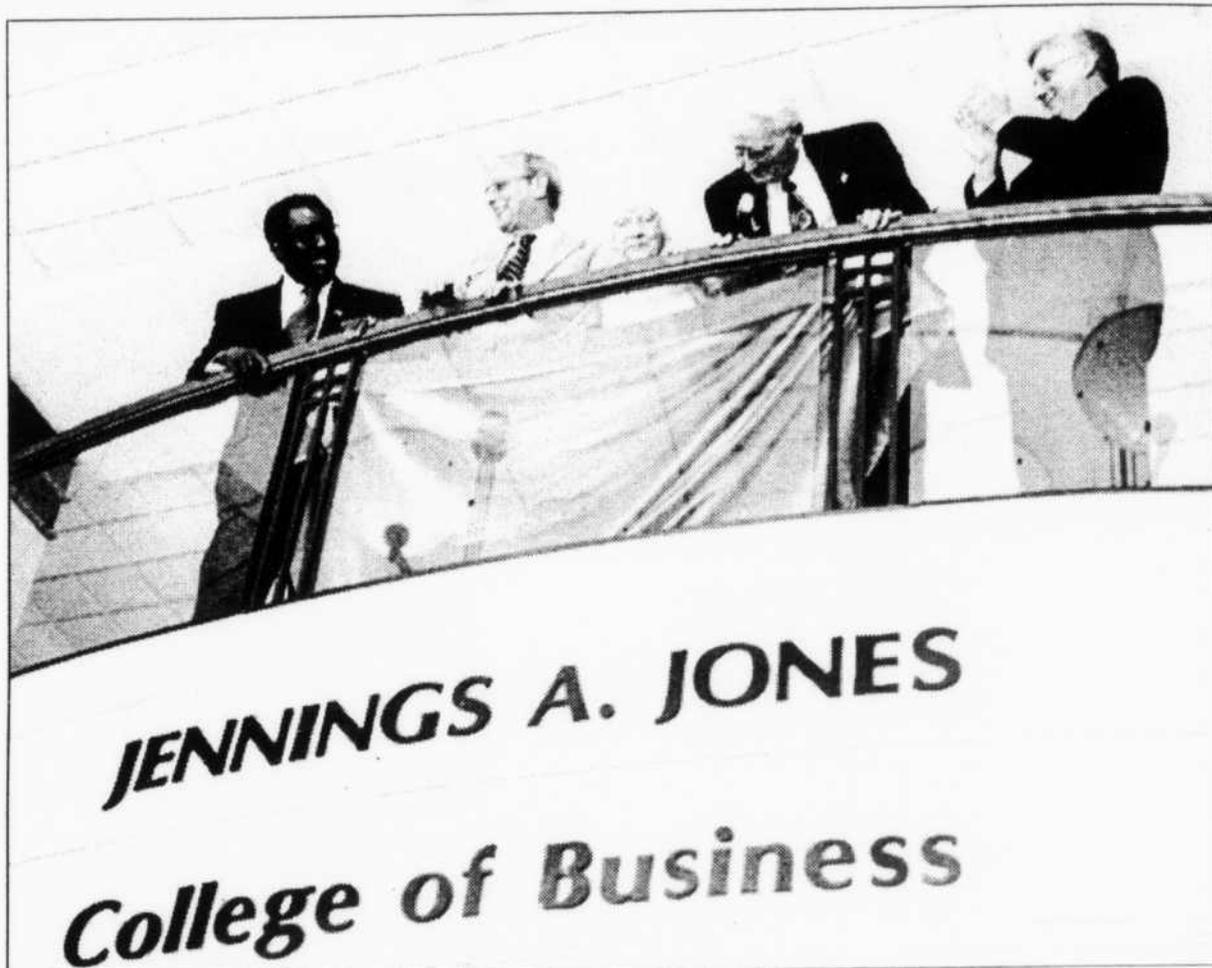


Photo by R. Colin Fly | Online Editor

James Walker, Charles Manning, Rebecca and Jennings Jones and James Burton unveil the College of Business' new nameplate in the south lobby of the Business and Aerospace Building.

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Red Cap honorees look ahead to Heart Walk

Jenny Cordle
News Editor

The largest fundraiser in Rutherford County is a heartbeat away from preventing the No. 1 killer in America from attacking again.

As an eight-year sponsor of the American Heart Association's Heart Walk, MTSU remains on the forefront of such a task, said County Executive Nancy Allen.

Allen said the Heart Walk committee hopes to raise \$110,000 for American Heart Association research, but more importantly they're aiming to open the public's eyes to what nearly 60 million Americans suffer from — cardiovascular disease. Sponsored individuals commit to walk the miles at the Sept. 17 Heart Walk down Main Street.

"Forty-one percent of more than 2.3 million Americans suffer or die from it," said Allen, who has a family history of heart disease.

As chair of the Heart Walk committee, Allen began preparing for the walk in March by gathering new teams

of college students to participate. But fundraising for research begins as early as elementary school, when children "Jump Rope and Hoops for Heart."

The American Heart Association names Red Cap honorees each year in different age groups who have battled with the disease.

This year's Red Cap child honoree struggled with heart trouble since the day he was born.

Five-year-old Larry Douglas Brandon II, nicknamed L.B., underwent open-heart surgery after doctors discovered a missing valve at the base of his heart.

The experience had a profound effect on his family.

"It makes you appreciate life," said father Larry Douglas Brandon I, MTSU assistant professor of accounting and an attorney whose 55-year-old sister died of a stroke two months before L.B. was born.

Brandon said his wife and son walked in the Heart Walk last year and are looking forward to walking it again.

The female Red Cap honoree is Rhonda Smith. It will be her

fourth year participating in the Heart Walk.

Smith, who has been a Rutherford County resident for 45 years, suffered from a heart attack in 1998 and has been watching her diet ever since.

She said her objective as an honoree is "to increase public awareness."

Such is the goal of male Red Cap honoree Joe B. Jackson, an MTSU graduate who served as a city council member, vice mayor and mayor of Murfreesboro during his 16 years of public service.

Jackson, who has lived in Rutherford County since 1951, has used a "pacemaker the size of a silver dollar" as a precautionary measure to regulate his heartbeat for two years after it fell short one Sunday after church.

"I remember when my neighbor used a pacemaker the size of a jewelry box," said Jackson.

"How far [researchers] have come in the last fifteen years is amazing to me."

"Research has prolonged all of our lives and must continue to be ongoing in order to develop new technology

designed to combat these problems," Jackson said. "It helps the longevity of our lifestyles."

MTSU campaign leaders Doug Winborn and Deborah Gentry, organizers of the August 29 campus kick-off at the Alumni Center, plan for students to get involved in the Heart Walk through the Student Government Association and various courses that lend themselves to such a topic, such as nursing and exercise science.

Although Winborn has no family history of heart disease, he's been "very active" in the American Heart Association for years, educating people about heart-related problems.

"American Heart Association helps the beginning researcher who might not be able to access such funds elsewhere," said Winborn, a professor in the Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Safety Department.

"The primary goal of the AHA board is to help educate all citizens about the effects of heart disease and stroke as well as the efforts being made to

conquer it," said Tom Tozer, president of the Rutherford County AHA Board.

"Raising funds is certainly vital, but those funds need to be used to educate, inform and raise awareness of the huge strides researchers have made in fighting this disease."

The Heart Walk will begin at 1 p.m. on MTSU's campus and continue down Main Street. ■

Related Web sites

American Heart Association:

<http://www.americanheart.org/>

OnHealth's Cardiovascular Center:

<http://onhealth.com/conditions/condctr/cardio/>

Mayo Clinic Heart Resource Center:

<http://www.mayohealth.org/mayo/common/html/heartpg2.htm>

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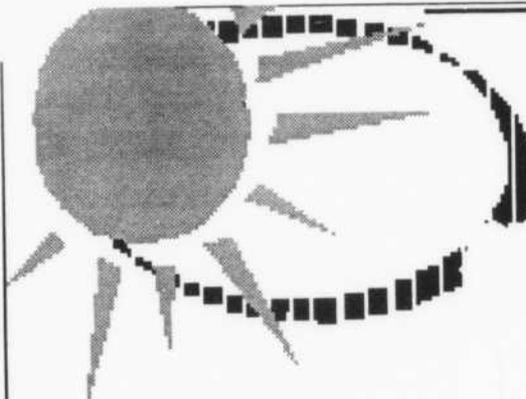


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- > Core Parking areas fill up first and fast. There is **ample campus parking** and a shuttle service to all major points on campus.
- > If a vehicle receives five (5) or more traffic/parking citations (paid or unpaid citations) in a semester, the vehicle will be subject to towing or booting.
- > Any employee or student who receives a traffic/parking citation may appeal it **within seven (7) class days of issuance**. Students who hold a green parking permit may appeal by going to the SGA web site at <http://SGA.MTSU.EDU>. Any student who holds a white parking permit must complete an appeal form which may be obtained at the the Parking Services Office.
- > Please become very familiar with campus regarding parking areas. Legal parking areas are designated by signs, painted stripes, bumper blocks (unless the bumper block is painted yellow) and pavement markings. Park in designated legal parking areas. If it isn't marked - **DO NOT PARK**.
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- > Your visitors are welcome on the campus and may park in a legal parking space designated by Parking Services. Please remind your visitors that they are subject to the regulations, ordinances and laws pertaining to motor vehicles while on the campus, and that violation of such may result in a citation and/or towing of the vehicle.
- > It is considered fraudulent for a registered permit holder to give his/her permit to another person for use on the campus. Do **NOT** use another's permit or loan your permit to someone else.

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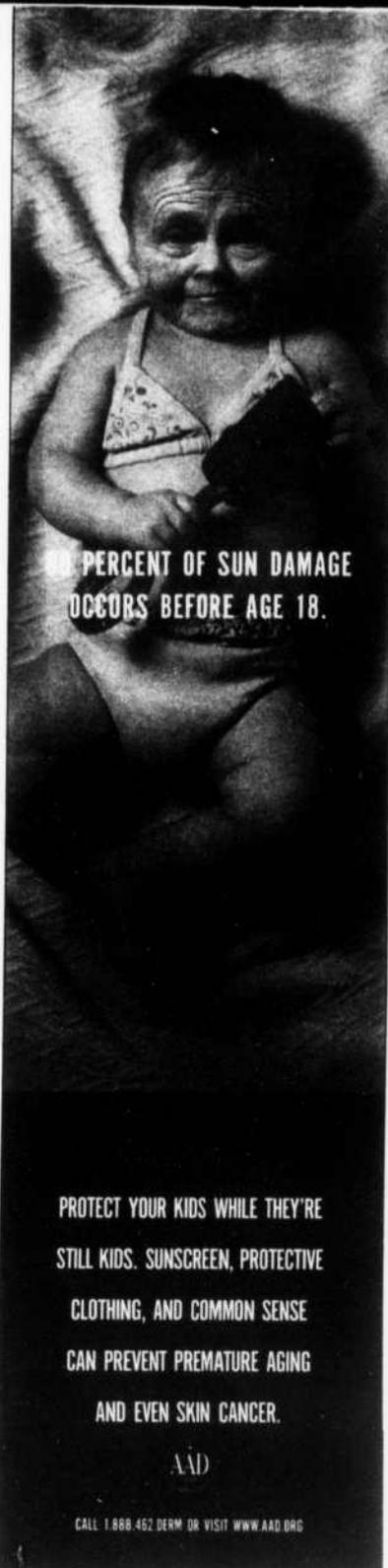
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Music Department changes name to School of Music

James Evans
Editor in Chief
Raymond Hutzler
Graphics Editor

The MTSU Department of Music has received approval from the Tennessee Board of Regents to officially change its name to the School of Music.

The name change is purely cosmetic, said music chair Roger Kugley, and is only intended to reflect the size of the department.

"I think it's an appropriate designation to describe the department," Kugley said.

The size and various degrees that are offered through the department, he said, warrants the change. Currently, MTSU has approximately 30 full-time

faculty members, 35 adjuncts, 300 undergraduates, seven undergraduate degrees and three graduate level programs.

By comparison, the University of Tennessee's School of Music has approximately 50 full-time faculty and offers four undergraduate and five graduate programs.

On the flip side, Tennessee Technological University, which has a combined Music and Art Department, has approximately 45 full-time faculty for both art and music, three undergraduate music degrees and five on the graduate level.

The Tennessee Higher Education Commission approved the change Thursday, July 13 at its quarterly meeting. ■

Tuition: renovations planned for Todd building

Continued from 5

The state also appropriated approximately \$9 million to renovate the Todd Building — formerly the Todd Library.

"We have a plan for Todd," said James Walker, university president.

"The plans are to renovate it and move the art department

there until which time the state will provide us with adequate resources to build a new art building."

Part of the Todd Building will continue to house the curriculum library and some faculty offices, Haskew said.

TBR also approved a \$25 increase toward the technology access fee. ■



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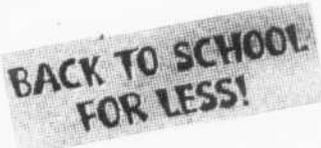
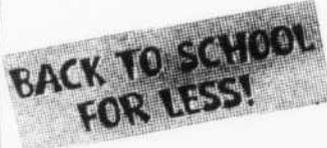
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Jazz program receives donation

Staff Reports

Jamey Aebersold, jazz educator and saxophonist, has donated more than \$5,000 in securities and more than \$2,000 in educational materials to the MTSU Jazz Program.

Known for the "Play-A-Long Series," a set of almost 100 instructional compact discs that feature rhythm tracks performed by famous musicians, Aebersold made the donation after hearing from Don Aliquo, assistant professor of saxophone in the Department of Music, who sent Aebersold a copy of the MTSU saxophone newsletter.

Aebersold is the world's No. 1 producer and seller of jazz educational materials.

"Aebersold has done a lot for jazz education," said Aliquo. "In fact, he put it on the map because of the deluge of materials he provided."

"I can't think of anyone from my generation [who] hasn't had exposure to his 'Play-a-Long' series."

The series also comes with a coordinated booklet complete with music and chord changes for all instruments.

"It [the series] is a very helpful program in learning how to improvise because [the student] can play along with a rhythm section when there is no opportunity for a live rhythm section," said Dana Landry, coordinator of jazz studies and an assistant professor of music.

Landry said he is familiar with "Jamey Aebersold Practice Rooms" at other universities, where each of the sax player's series was available online for students to use to improve their musical improvisation.

Landry asked Aebersold what it would take to get "a practice room like that set up at MTSU." Aebersold responded by donating approximately \$2,000 worth of instructional CDs and books.

A room in the Wright Music Building has been designated the "Jamey Aebersold Practice Room." Aebersold has also agreed to be a guest teacher during the MTSU Jazz Festival in March 2001.

Aebersold is a music teacher at the University of Louisville. He also coordinates "Summer Jazz Workshops" and teaches at clinics throughout the United States. ■

Jennings: became mayor in 1950

Continued from 12

served as the mayor of Murfreesboro from 1950-1954.

Jones held leadership positions with the city of Murfreesboro's Water and Sewer Commission, Chamber of Commerce, Rutherford Hospital Board and Middle Tennessee Medical Center Development Foundation.

Jones' influence in education has had key roles in the development of Mitchell Neilson Primary and Elementary, Hobgood, Bradley and Bellwood Schools. He also helped in the funding of the Jennings and Rebecca Jones Academy for Teachers of the Gifted that is on-going on campus.

Walker presented Jones with the MTSU President's Award during the 1999 spring commencement for his work with the community.

"Jennings' life and work experiences and the gifts he has made to university programs have made us richer," said Barbara Haskew, provost and vice president for

Academic Affairs.

Jones was born in 1909 in Del Rio, Tenn. A high school graduate at age 16, Jones attended the University of Tennessee, where he studied electrical engineering. He graduated in 1931.

In 1939, he opened his own business, Jones Locker and Cold Storage System.

Jones met his wife, Rebecca Ransom Jones, while working with Tennessee Electrical Power in January of 1937. They married in June of that same year.

In 1941, Jones was called to serve in the Army and attained the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Jones chaired the Murfreesboro Planning Commission from 1946-1950 before becoming mayor in 1950.

"Beyond MTSU, the Jones' investment in education has quite literally raised the bar on the quality of life for thousands of children, young people and older citizens who have lived and worked right here at home in Middle Tennessee," Walker said. ■

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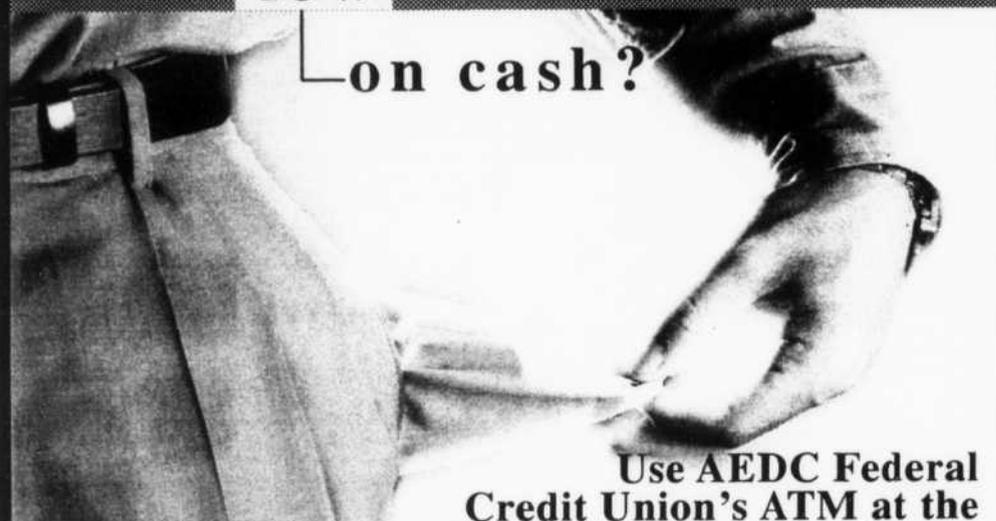
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A public service of this newspaper

Mentoring program helps physically challenged

Nathalie Mornu
Staff Reporter

Most people probably don't give much thought to hopping into a car and driving to a movie or a restaurant, or to doing a little weight training or swimming a few laps.

For those with disabilities, however, these activities can present enormous challenges.

"Living with a disability can be isolating," said Ed Woodall, a graduate assistant of marketing at the Recreation Center.

He explains that along with the physical challenges come social ones, which may in turn cause problems of low self-esteem.

In 1998, the Rec Center started its accessibility program in an effort to meet the recreational needs of special students. But about a year and a half ago, Ray Wiley, Director of Aquatics at the Rec Center, decided that the accessibility programs in place weren't really addressing some of the problems of special-needs

students. Taking disabled students to a hockey game a few times a semester didn't fulfill the day-to-day needs of friendship necessary for a well-balanced life.

So last semester, Wiley, his staff and volunteers at the Rec Center developed a mentoring program. Mentors in the program pair up with disabled students, target their wants and needs and help them achieve their goals.

Molly Walroth, an MTSU student intern, worked closely with Wiley and Woodall to create the program.

"We asked a few students what was holding them back from coming to the Rec Center and using the pool and the weight room," she explained, "and a lot of it was that they wanted to come work out, but like anybody else they didn't have anybody to work out with."

"It's not necessarily a need for assistance. You just want somebody to talk to while you're working out."

A questionnaire matched up 20 mentors with special-needs students who share similar

interests and compatible schedules.

"We tried to eliminate as many of the things that were preventing disabled students from participating as we could," said Wiley.

Mentors worked with the university's Department of Disabled Student Services to learn approaches to special needs, such as how to transfer disabled students from a dry wheelchair to a water-accessible wheelchair or assisting with changing of clothes. A new changing room with more privacy and a heater was also added to the facility. A special weight machine called Uppertone allows disabled students to move their own weights around so they can do an entire workout without assistance.

Through the mentoring program, special-needs students have tried new activities such as swimming, wall climbing and martial arts.

Everyone benefits from participating.

See Mentoring, 27

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- * August 21 Cokes on the Knoll (11 a.m. - 1 p.m., K.U.C. Courtyard)
- * August 22 BSU Progressive Dinner (meet at BSU at 4:30 p.m.)
- * August 23 Alpha Omega yard party (11 a.m. - 1 p.m., K.U.C. Courtyard)
FREE meal (5 p.m. at Belle Aire)
Connecting Point (7:30 p.m. at Belle Aire)
- * August 25 Luau at Rec Center (5 - 9 p.m. at MTSU Rec Center sun deck)
- * August 27 Campus-wide worship/**FREE lunch** (11:30 at Tucker Theater)

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Land: Close of Belle Aire Baptist purchase almost completed

Belle Aire Baptist

Continued from 9

purchase Belle Aire Baptist, and we are in the process of going through procedures that will close out the purchase," Gower said.

The money to purchase property comes from a university reserve fund. Gower explained that the majority of funds come from these reserves, but occasionally larger purchases have to be financed.

Belle Aire's funds will be transferred after the church moves to N. Rutherford Boulevard, about a block from campus.

"We will be holding the funds in escrow until the church actually moves out of the building," Gower said. "Occupation of the building would be sometime around a year from fall."

The building will be used for academic programs as well as parking services.

Rev. Ron Moore of Belle Aire said that a few churches called to inquire about the buildings and the property, but from the start, the university expressed the most interest.

Belle Aire has owned the

property since 1954.

John Woodfin of Woodfin Memorial Chapel, which burned extensively in February, is selling the property on the corner of Tennessee Boulevard and Greenland Drive. They are currently using very little of the property.

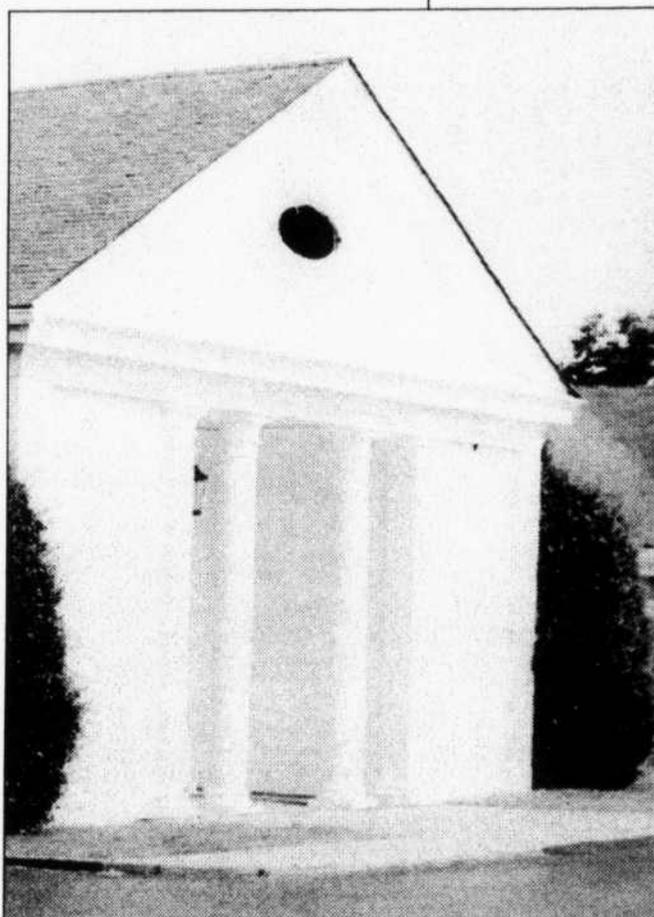
"We are using the garage area and some of the back areas of the property, but we're not going to have a permanent building there," Woodfin said. "Our new location is on New Lascassas, and construction has already begun there."

However, the old location is at the corner of a major intersection, and Woodfin confirmed that there have been inquiries about the property.

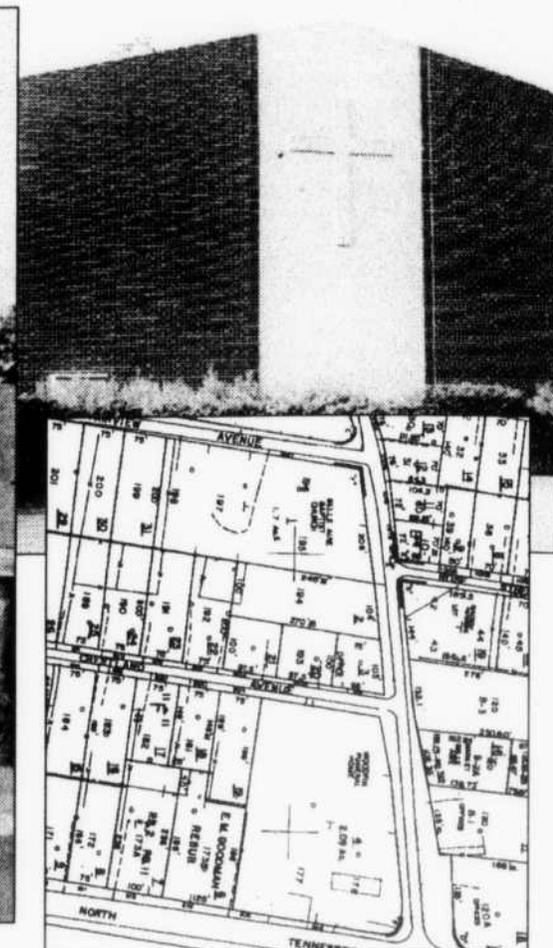
He also said that the university and the chapel have been good neighbors over the years, and verified that the university has expressed interest in purchasing the property.

"We would very much like for the university to have the property," Woodfin said.

Woodfin Memorial Chapel has owned the property at the corner of North Tennessee and Greenland since 1949. ■



Woodfin Memorial Chapel

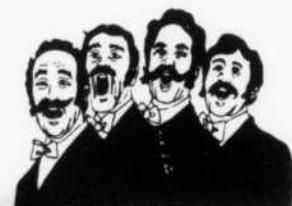


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We-Haul - volunteers help move students into halls

7:00 p.m.
Snacks on the Knoll (provided by ARAMARK)

7:30 p.m.
Opening program with Dr. Glen, Coach McCollum, MTSU band, cheerleaders and SGA president

8:00 p.m.
Movies on the Knoll - *Galaxy Quest* and *Sixth Sense*

Saturday, August 19

8:00 a.m.
Move in to residence halls (We-Haul available)

10-12 p.m.
Meet the football team
Media Day

11:30 a.m.
Hot dog cook-out between Cummings

and Corlew (sponsored by Alpha Omega)
5:00 p.m.
Luau dinner on the Knoll
7:00 p.m.
Entertainment by hypnotist Banachek

Sunday, August 20

5-7 p.m. Dinner in housing areas

Monday, August 21

4-7 p.m.
President's Picnic - President Walker's lawn

Wednesday, August 23

7:00 p.m.
GreekFest - Rec Center

Thursday, August 24

6:00 p.m.
Football kick-off event - Foundation House

Friday, August 25

Afternoon and evening
"Hangin' Out on the Knoll" Lightning Auction - must be present to win

4:00 p.m.
Giant water slide, incredible rock climbing wall, DJs and music, door prizes

5-7 p.m.
SOBE sampling and oxygen bar

6:00 p.m.
Music by Toshi Reagon

Saturday, August 26

3:00 p.m.
MTSU volleyball alumni game

Sunday, August 27

1:00 p.m.
MTSU Soccer vs. Southeast Louisiana State



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When job hunting becomes a job

Students can use campus, online resources to find employment after graduation

Angela White
Managing Editor

Do you know what you're doing after graduation? I don't. Not exactly, anyway. S

ure, I have ideas. I know what kind of company I want to work for. I have an idea of what city I'd like to work in. I just need to know where to look.

You vaguely remember someone once telling you that it would be helpful for the future if you did an internship. But you never got around to it. So, where do you start looking for work when you have no experience?

Start with on-campus help. Many faculty members know about job openings in their fields. You simply have to ask. Check with a professor or the departmental office of your major for possibilities.

The Office of Placement and Student Employment, located in KUC, Room 329, has several resources available to students and recent graduates. You can also visit their homepage at <http://www.mtsu.edu/~career/index.htm>.

Available options range from posting your resume on the Internet to workshops on interviewing and cover letter writing.

According to Martha Turner, director of the Placement Center, students have many chances to find employment with the services they offer. "It allows [students] the opportunity to investigate career opportunities and to choose a major compatible with their own interests," said Turner.

A diversified group of companies attend the office's job fairs throughout the year, including insurance companies, manufacturing companies and publishers.

Turner considers the job fairs to be beneficial to students. "It allows them to make contacts with employers while on campus," she said.

Campus isn't the only place you can get help. The Internet has hundreds of job search sites. Some are general, while others are career-specific.

For instance, Monster.com provides listings around the world and allows visitors to apply for jobs online after

creating up to five different resumes and cover letters.

A job seeker can also set up five different job search agents with this Web site, specifying area and job type, to hunt for jobs every day. The results are then e-mailed to the applicant.

In addition, several search engines such as Excite, Yahoo and AOL offer career sites with links to job information.

There are also sites designed especially for certain careers. For computer programmers or technicians, job seekers can try www.computerjobs.com. Engineers can visit www.interec.net. And future teachers can post resumes at www.eduteach-1.com. There is a job search Web site available for almost any specified field.

Don't stop with searching for a job -- develop good interviewing skills by planning well-thought-out answers to obvious interview questions. And expect to be turned down a few times.

It will increase your experience with interviewers and make you feel more comfortable with the job search process. ■

Other Job Search Web Sites

www.americanjobs.com

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www.collegegrad.com

www.bestjobusa.com

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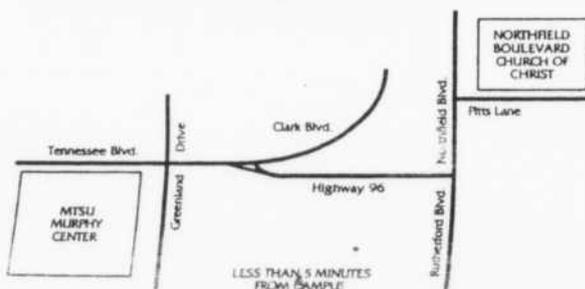
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Luke 11:28

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Mentoring: New equipment helps disabled get involved, try new things

Continued from 22

"Often you're just taking turns working out," Walroth said, "so the volunteers are getting a chance to work out also. They're meeting people, and they're able to help others reach goals. They see success and improvement from the people they work with, and any time you're around people with disabilities, you're going to open yourself up."

Because participants in the mentoring program work

closely and for an extended period of time, the pairs of students can develop trust and friendship. This encourages the disabled students to get involved and try new things. This participation helps them break out of their shells.

"The mentoring program broke down a lot of fears in people — it broke down walls," said Wiley.

The efforts of Victoria Shelar, a professor in the Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Safety Department, resulted

in the Veteran's Administration's donation of a van this past spring. The van, which carries up to eight students in their wheelchairs, is instrumental to the success of the accessibility program, said Woodall, because without transportation the students are confined to campus. Wiley had tried to get such a van for three years, and it took 14 months to get the Uppertone weight machine.

"It was a real challenge," said Wiley. "We worked

diligently to get the needed equipment and transportation. We had to sell the idea of the need for equipment, and we had to sell the special students on the building and on the sincerity of the staff wanting to work with them."

Wiley said the support from volunteers like Brenda Maynard and MTSU staff like John Harris, the director of Disabled Student Services, has made a tremendous difference in helping the accessibility program succeed. And now that

the Rec Center has more specialized equipment and facilities as well as the mentoring program, Wiley thinks even more disabled students will come use the center's services.

In part because of its flat, accessible campus, and because of aggressive recruitment, MTSU has the highest per-capita ratio of special-needs students in Tennessee. More than 500 students at the college have disabilities and/or special needs. ■

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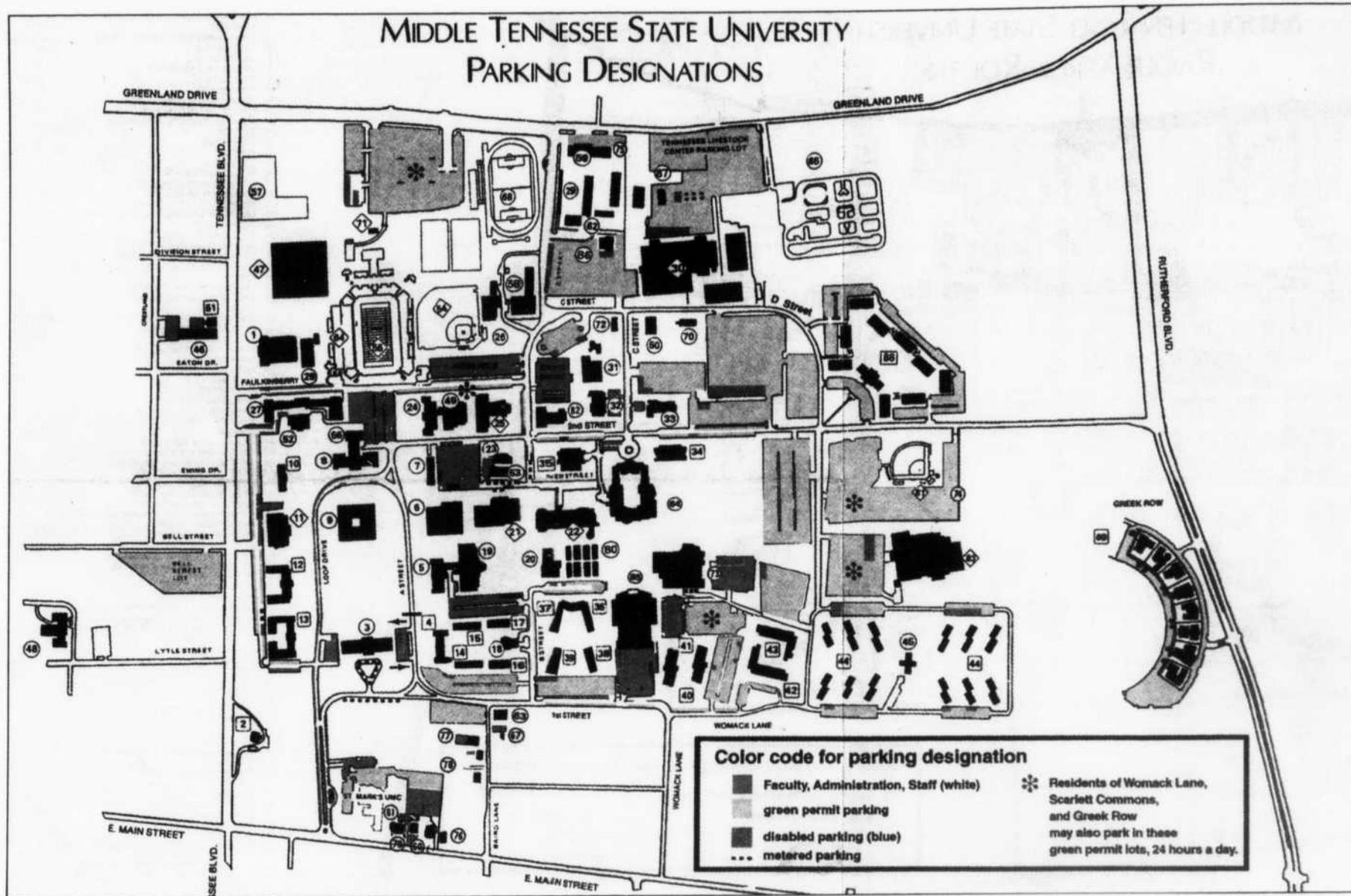
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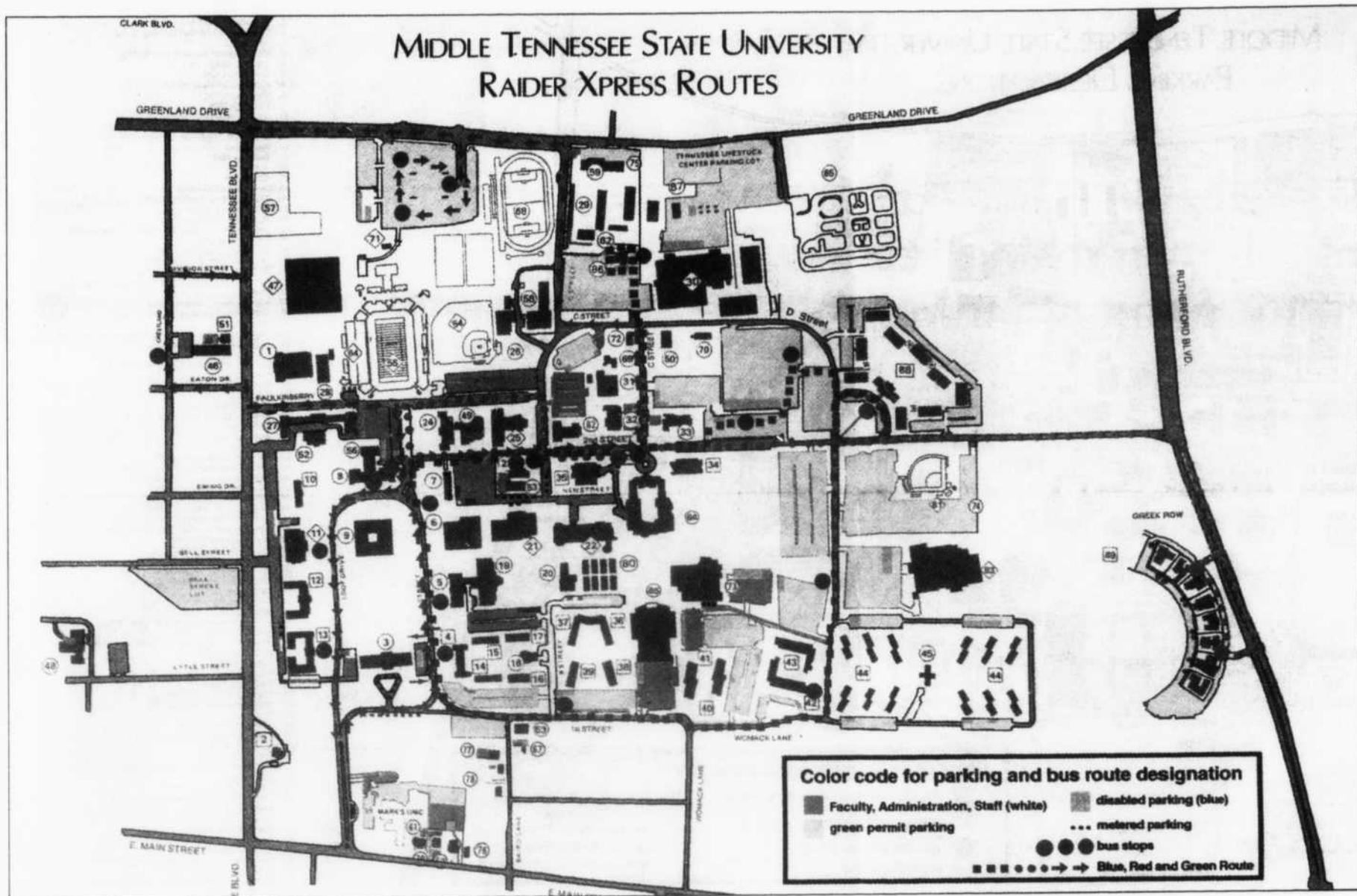
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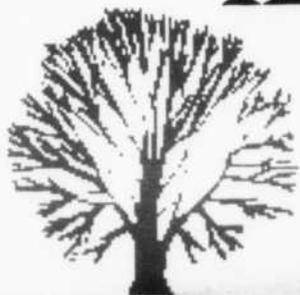
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OPINIONS

30 ■ SIDELINES

Friday, August 18, 2000

Murfreesboro, TN

Timing is everything; so much for good planning

James Evans
Editor in Chief

Working here over the summer, the staff has come to one conclusion. Lots of things that affect students are decided during the months when a majority of the student body is away at home or traveling.

For once, this state's policies rather than the people in charge are to blame.

Fees are revamped, budgets are passed and decisions are made without the students even having a say in the matter.

Then when the students return in the fall, they are confused when it's time to pay the man.

It's hard to say what the solution is, but something is needed to make the system more democratic in nature.

Why does the fiscal year

begin in July? Wouldn't it be better if the year started in January and policy decisions were made in November?

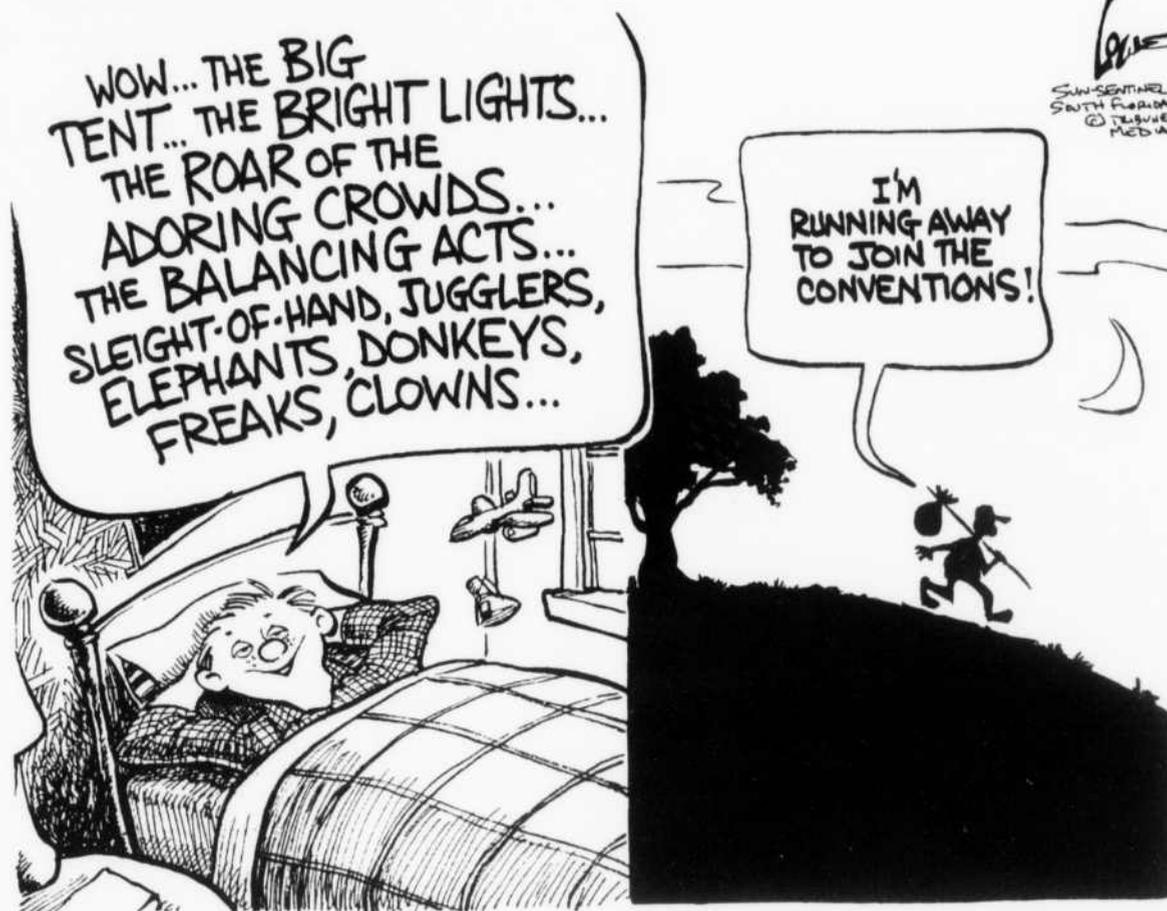
I guess people are always resistant to change.

Still, this is the first summer I have been able to witness the process of how the fees that we pay are decided.

But most years, I come back, get my bill, wonder what's going on with all the fees and reluctantly pay the increases that have become an August ritual.

I feel sorry for those returning students who walk into the business office and begin to feel that stress knot developing in their stomachs when they see how much they owe.

I guess the price for improving oneself isn't cheap, even at the "most affordable school in Tennessee." ■



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The opinions expressed herein are those of the individual writers and not necessarily of "Sidelines" or the university.

State government sinking higher education's future

James Evans
Editor in Chief

"It's bad and it sucks!"

That was the general reaction from the editorial staff when they heard about the 10 percent tuition increase that the Tennessee Board of Regents approved this summer.

But after the sarcastic remarks died down, the staff began talking about the bigger

problem.

You see, for some time now this university has been regarded by most as a good value.

We had the least expensive tuition in the state, but for the most part still offered high-quality programs. That now seems to be a diminishing advantage.

No, a 10-percent increase isn't that detrimental to most students, but there is a larger

issue looming overhead.

The problem can be summed up in three words: the Tennessee legislature. Make that five words — Governor Sundquist.

If the current trend continues, the state government and their partisan, inefficient ways of doing business are going to ruin any future our higher education system may have.

It's not like we can slip too

far. We're already ranked 49th in the country in higher education.

You would think that we had no place left to go but up.

Guess not, though. Donnie's not going to be satisfied until we're dead last.

Until then, we can continue giving our faculty small pay increases every few years, while their peers in other states are getting more of what is deserved. ■

The parking fee finds a new victim: the non-driver

Angela White
Managing Editor

A general access fee has been passed for the next academic year, which will combine a variety of fees, including the parking fee. Formerly \$45 per year, the fee is now \$23 per semester.

The main difference, however, is that now every student will be paying this cost, not just the ones buying parking passes.

On one hand, this will add a slight convenience for those who commute to

campus. No longer will they have to worry about cutting a check to the parking nazis. Now they can simply show up at the office, prove they're a student and ask for a parking pass.

On the other hand, those on campus who do not drive are basically being screwed. They are now being forced to bear the cost of parking along with their driving colleagues.

The increase in the amount of students paying for parking is estimated to bring in about \$96,000 more in revenue.

While this is reportedly being offset by a \$132,000 decrease in the amount

collected for the Recreation Center activity fee, the increase in the parking fee, along with an estimated \$52,000 increase in the graduation fee, is expected to bring in about \$22,000 extra for the university.

And some estimates have claimed much more.

Is it fair to make students who don't use parking spaces pay for them?

Students are forced to pay for the Recreation Center even if they have never worked out a day in their life. Fair or not, this is about best serving the majority. And in this case, the majority is the car-owners. ■

Contributing to the delinquency of character

Greeks irresponsible in handing out beer 'coozies' to freshmen at Customs

James Evans
Editor in Chief

At the first Customs session of the summer, one Greek organization was seen giving away insulated beverage holders, or "coozies," to incoming freshmen at its information booth. Now maybe these gifts were innocent, but what about the perception associated with coozies?

Whether those Greeks wish to admit it or not, a lot of incoming freshmen have the perception that fraternities and sororities are just organizations that party and drink all the time. Giving away these types of gifts doesn't help the situation.

Greeks are constantly writing letters to this paper complaining about the negative coverage they receive and the bad reputation that accompanies it. Maybe giving away more tactful and appropriate gifts would contribute to improving their image.

Don't get me wrong, I have

nothing against drinking, as I am an accomplished drinker myself. I also know that underage drinking occurs, and I have participated in that as well. Furthermore, I don't agree with the no-tolerance drinking policy on this campus. If a student is of legal age, why shouldn't they be allowed to drink? Why should they lose rights because they are pursuing an education?

Still, the Greeks blatantly solicited new pledges with the between-the-lines promise, "join us and you'll get beer." Most incoming freshmen are under the legal drinking age, so why would the Greeks further tarnish their image with such an obvious gesture?

The Greeks would probably use the defense that coozies can be used for any canned drink, not just beer, but do they really think that's what everyone else thinks?

Everyone knows that drinking happens on this campus, but why be so stupid as to throw it in the faces of the powers that be?

Try thinking next time. ■

Prayer ruling necessary to protect unpopular beliefs

Angela White
Managing Editor

The Supreme Court recently decided that organized prayer at school events — even off campus — violates the freedom of nonbelievers.

Some believe that the court went too far in its decision, and that students under the former system had every opportunity to go against the norm and refuse to pray.

They obviously do not remember what it is like to be in high school.

Freedom of choice can lose all meaning when peer pressure is at hand. It is hard enough to be in the minority, but religion is its own separate beast — to not believe makes you not only different, but immoral and damned as well.

The Supreme Court made

the right decision to protect the rights of the coerced. While it is true that no one is forcing these children to pray if they wish not to, the threat of being social outcasts if they do not is far too overwhelming for many of them to do otherwise. Teenagers simply have not developed the self confidence or independence to assert their unpopular beliefs, especially in public.

No one was hurt by this decision. There is no need for a public declaration of one's faith at every turn. There is church, bible study and other places of worship reserved for that aspect of one's life.

People have begun to accept respect for nonsmokers by banning smoking in restaurants and other buildings because they wish not to be exposed to such toxins. The same could be said about prayer. ■

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Pageants flaunt modern inequality between sexes

Angela White
Managing Editor

Beth Hood, an MTSU student, was announced the brand-spanking new Miss Tennessee. She will be heading off to the Miss America pageant later this year.

I've decided to make good use of this newfound presence of pageantry on our campus by analyzing the current need, if any, of pageants in our society.

Pageants today are a strange hybrid. You have the typical sexist traditions — sequined evening gown displays (complete with taped up buns and breasts), bathing suit competitions (although they did finally realize that stiletto

heels were not popular by the poolside) and the dainty diamond crown adorned on the newly-appointed princess's head.

Then you have the more "modern" aspects — society-conscious platforms, seemingly cleverly-thought-out answers to life's tough questions and, of course, the whopping scholarships aimed to help the beauty queen become an educated, successful member of the community.

Despite any attempts made by the "pageantry experts," there is one thing they cannot change.

Pageants, no matter how modern one attempts to make them, are simply an excuse for women to be judged by their

looks. You can add all the talent competitions, intelligence quotients and ambitions you want, but in the end there will simply not be an intelligent, ambitious, ugly Miss America.

Until women stop allowing themselves to be subject to this constant scrutiny of their public appearance, we can never truly be equal. As long as we allow men, other women, even ourselves to evaluate our self-worth based almost entirely on how we look, we can never be free.

The women in these pageants are not victims. They are accomplices in the crime against equality. And nothing will change until they are stopped. ■

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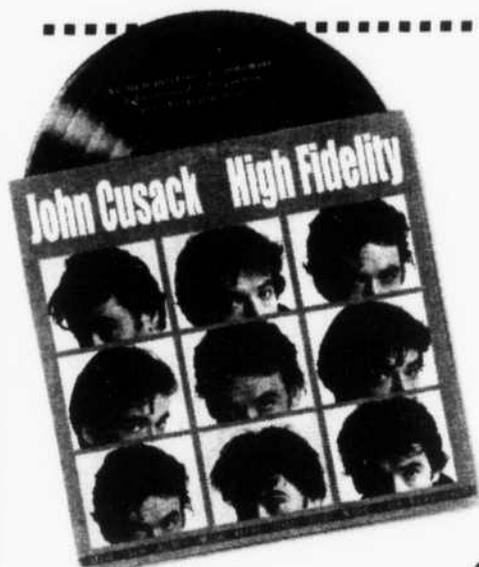


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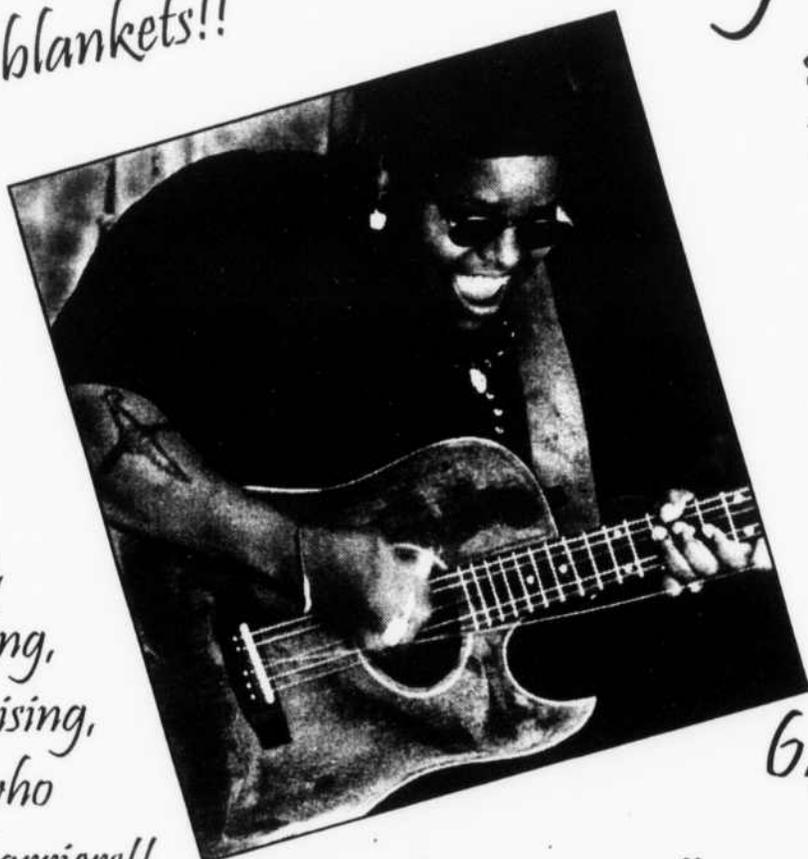
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FEATURES

34 ■ SIDELINES

Friday, August 18, 2000

Murfreesboro, TN

Former freshman shares wisdom

Jenny Cordle
News Editor

"Would you like a copy of your grades sent to your home?" the recorded voice on TRAM asks me after I just listened to what my professors graciously gave me for basically slacking off all semester.

"I'll pass," I thought. But I didn't. I went ahead against my better judgement and pressed the tiny button on the phone. Mommy and Daddy will want to see them, I knew.

"I'll pass." That's what I told myself all semester. After I

didn't study. After I failed the test. After I skipped the class. Over and over. It was a lie.

I didn't pass. And now the moment was here. The moment I knew would come. The moment when I was officially a failure.

My wish had come true. The spring semester was over. My freshman year was done. And all I could think of was what I had done wrong. Instead of being ecstatic, I was exhausted. Instead of feeling smarter, I felt dumber. And instead of looking back with nostalgia at the good old days I was to call part of my first year as a college student, I

never looked back.

Until now, I wouldn't do this for just anyone. I'm recalling my mistakes for the sole purpose of helping you, to give you advice. And if you're smart, you'll take it.

Your roommate holds the key. Not to your future, but as to whether or not your lavish living style in a dorm room/roach motel will be the best it can possibly be or the worst you could imagine. The roommate from hell wears a nice smile and constantly talks about how much fun you're going to have all year together. I know. She was mine.

And let me give you a bit of advice. If you don't have any other standards for choosing a roommate, have this one. Make sure he/she takes a shower once a day before you swap social security numbers to write on the housing application. There is nothing more annoying than to have other dorm groupies walk into your room at any given time and stop in mid-sentence to ask, "Umm, what is that awful smell?" Eventually you'll get tired of watching their faces crinkle as you remind them for the 10th time that your roommate thinks water is simply something you drink.

If you're like me, the stench is just enough to get you up for class. But in order for you to keep that routine without giving into the temptation of skipping, you can't give yourself a choice.

I had a friend who absolutely refused to skip one class. We called her a dork, of course. But when we all compared grades, she was the one ready for a new semester of classes, while we scheduled a few take-overs.

Just because the class is a general requirement or physical education (HPER) doesn't mean

See Advice, 40

Blending paper, light and creativity

Local artist uses paper instead of metal to make her sculptures

Nathalie Mornu
Staff Reporter

Joy Smith wends her way through her studio, a space packed with completed or nearly finished sculptures, foam models, experimental samples of fiberglass and paper and scads of implements.

Her sculptures have impact because of their large size and their primal forms. They look weighty and weathered, seemingly made of leather or metal, or carved from stone or wood.

However, they can easily be picked up with one hand — because they're made mostly of paper, her works are surprisingly lightweight.

Smith uses paper for a practical reason.

"I have a bad hip and a bad back, and I can't lift," said Smith. "I've always wanted to be a welder, but it's very hard to lift large pieces of iron or steel."

"I began to see ways to use materials like paper that were lightweight and make them look like metal, plaster or other materials. This is the wonderful thing about paper. You can make it look like wood, cement, metal or stone."

Paper-making as a visual art is relatively new,

said Smith. While paper has existed for thousands of years, only in the last 50 years or so has it been used to make three-dimensional images other than kites.

"[Artists] are exploring this new material and combining [it with others]. Paper is being used in new ways," she said.

She uses cotton, abaca or flax fibers because each material has different characteristics. Smith treats cotton, for example, so that it resembles metal, clay or leather. Abaca can copy the look of marble, wax or flesh, and flax has a rough grittiness.

Smith makes her pieces using construction, carving and casting techniques. She carves the shape out of styrofoam. Using a reverse casting method, she then covers the surface of her model with fibers chosen for their specific characteristics.

While the fibers are still wet, she sometimes embeds other materials into it, such as wire or wood.

Smith focuses on surface treatment, texture and form. Color, she says, isn't so important as an element of design in her work because it isn't

See Artist, 40

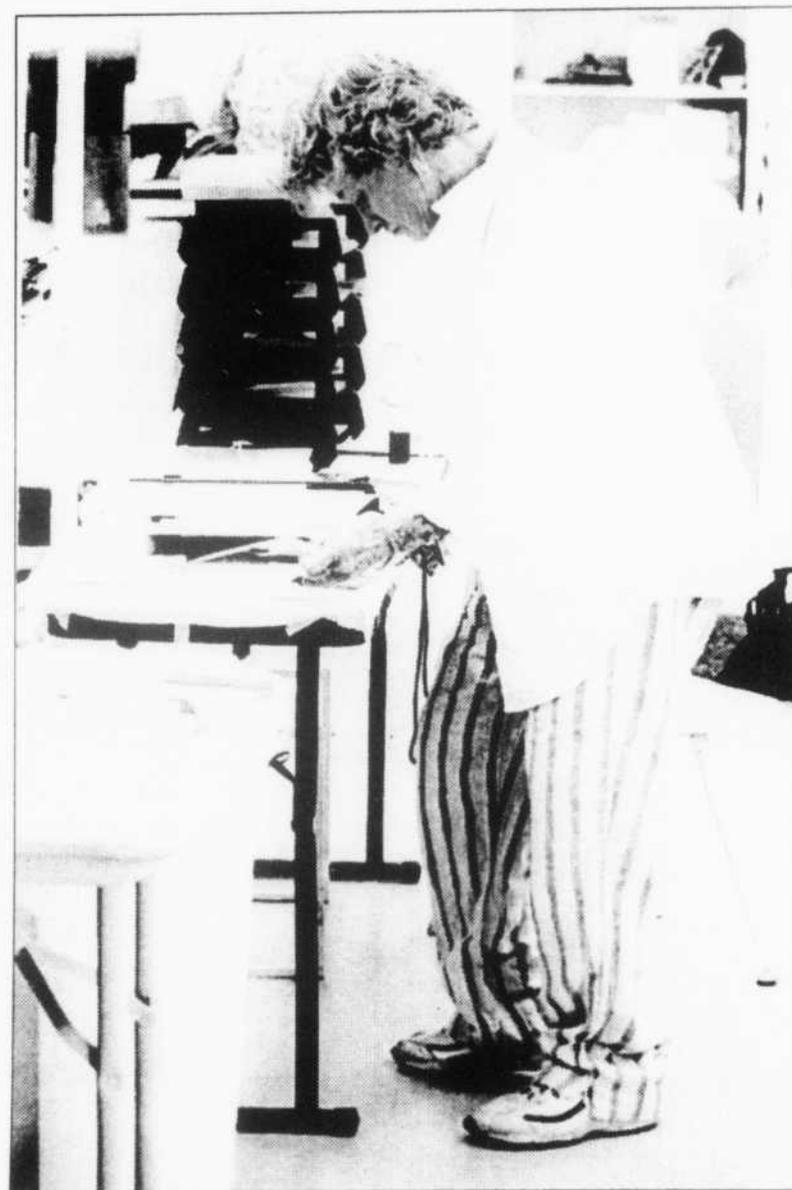


Photo by Jessica Norton | Photo editor

Artist Joy Smith examines photographs of her sculptures in her home studio.

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Answer your financial aid questions

Angela White
Managing Editor

Financial aid can seem complicated at times, so much so that filling out the FAFSA may feel like the SAT all over again. But underneath all the technical terms and abbreviations actually lies a method that will prove useful to many students this fall, including some of those who never thought they'd be eligible for aid.

Aid can come in four forms: scholarships, grants, loans and work-study. Scholarships can come from a variety of sources, as can some grants. However, when filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, more commonly referred to as the FAFSA, only grants, some loans and work-study will be applied.

Most students are eligible to apply for and receive financial aid. However, a new law implemented July 1 will suspend eligibility for financial aid for students convicted under federal or state law of sale or possession of drugs.

The FAFSA must be

received by July 2, 2001 for the 2000-2001 academic year. Students wanting to receive aid for the following fall semester should send it as soon as possible after January 1. However, it should never be sent prior to January 1, or even signed and dated before that time. Doing so will cause your FAFSA to be voided.

The FAFSA can be submitted in various ways, including the traditional snail-mail, on the Web by going to www.fafsa.ed.gov, or by using FAFSA Express, a free software program found at many high schools and libraries that submits the form electronically via a modem, not the Internet.

MTSU's primary deadline to receive the SAR, or Student Aid Report, the outcome of the FAFSA after it is mailed, is May 15. MTSU will send an award letter after receiving the SAR, which will detail how much money is offered through grants, loans and work study.

The amount of aid for which a student is eligible is determined by subtracting the estimated family contribution, or EFC, from the cost of attendance, or COA.

The EFC is calculated by a complex method involving the questions on the FAFSA, including income and savings, whether the student is dependent (reliant upon his or her parents for more than half of his or her support) or independent, how many children are in the family and how many family members are in college.

The COA is determined by adding tuition, estimated room and board if applicable, textbook costs and other related costs. These figures are estimated by MTSU and sent to the Department of Education.

If a parent can declare a student as a dependent on his or her tax form, then that student is considered to be dependent in financial aid terms as well, meaning that the parent's income, in addition to the student's, will be used to determine the EFC.

A student is considered independent if he or she was born before January 1, 1977, is married, has a child that he or she declares as a dependent, is enrolled in graduate school, was an orphan or ward of the court before turning 18, or is a

Financial aid links

MTSU financial aid Web page: http://www.mtsu.edu/~fin_aid/

Student Financial Assistance from Department of Education:
<http://www.ed.gov/offices/OSFAP/Students/>

Student Guide 2000-2001:
http://www.ed.gov/prog_info/SFA/StudentGuide/2000-1/index.html

FAFSA on the Web: <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>

FinAid: <http://www.finaid.org/>

veteran.

The Department of Education offers several types of federal grants. The Pell Grant is only awarded to students with exceptional financial need. This grant is guaranteed to be given to every student who meets the requirements.

The Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant is given to students who are eligible for the Pell grant. However, there is no guarantee that all eligible students will receive this grant.

The Tennessee Student Assistance Grant is given to needy Tennessee citizens attending eligible Tennessee

institutions. This grant is severely limited, and funds for it are generally depleted by April 15.

The most popular way students receive aid is through loans. Federal loans include the Stafford loan, which must be paid back by the student shortly after graduation. Students are eligible for \$2,625 their freshman year, \$3,500 their sophomore year and \$5,500 their remaining undergraduate years. Independent students can borrow an additional \$4,000 their first two years and \$5,000 the remaining years.

See Aid, 41



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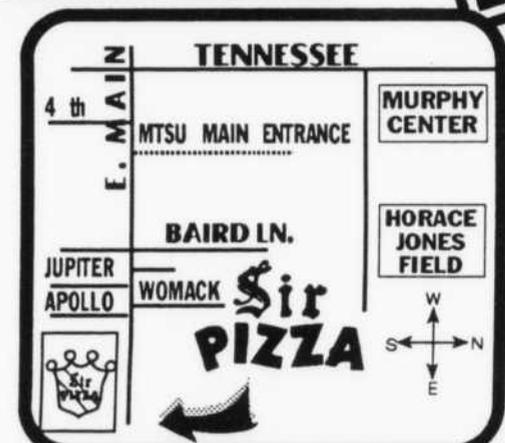
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'Island Jon' floats on WMTS' airwaves



Photo by Jessica Norton | Photo editor

"Island Jon" Joyce works while performing on his weekly show "Island Fever."

Jesse Thompson
Contributor

"...Tennessee has no oceans. I don't give a damn, and neither should you..."

I hear this familiar radio show promo during my three-minute drive to and from classes every other day. The voice is neither forceful nor plaintive -- merely content.

Claiming ownership of this voice is "Island Jon" Joyce. A junior at MTSU, Joyce graces the WMTS airwaves at 88.3 FM every Monday afternoon from 12-2 with his show, "Island Fever." Incorporating a variety of island and tropical music, the program primarily presents songs of Latin, Caribbean, Hawaiian and Jamaican descent.

"The show is about opening your eyes to different cultures and different experiences," Joyce said. "If it's not 100 percent [the region's] culture, I don't think it's really worth playing."

"It's all about where the music comes from. It's all real. It's all old music from our grandparents' age, just redone by modern bands."

Born in Framingham, Mass., on September 28, 1978, Joyce can vividly recall the first music to which he was exposed as a child.

"The first thing that I ever heard was the Beatles' White Album," he recollected. "My dad would play it nonstop when I was a kid, and I knew

all of the songs -- they were like nursery rhymes to me."

His parents divorced when he was young, and Joyce spent the majority of his childhood moving frequently with his mother throughout Massachusetts. He graduated from a high school in the small town of Milford in 1996 at the age of 17.

Immediately, he set out for California with his two best friends.

"I wasn't sure what I was going to do with myself," Joyce said. "I just had to escape the pressures of parents and responsibility for a little while."

Shacking up with a friend of a friend in Santa Barbara, Joyce eventually got employment doing door-to-door solicitation for an environmental agency.

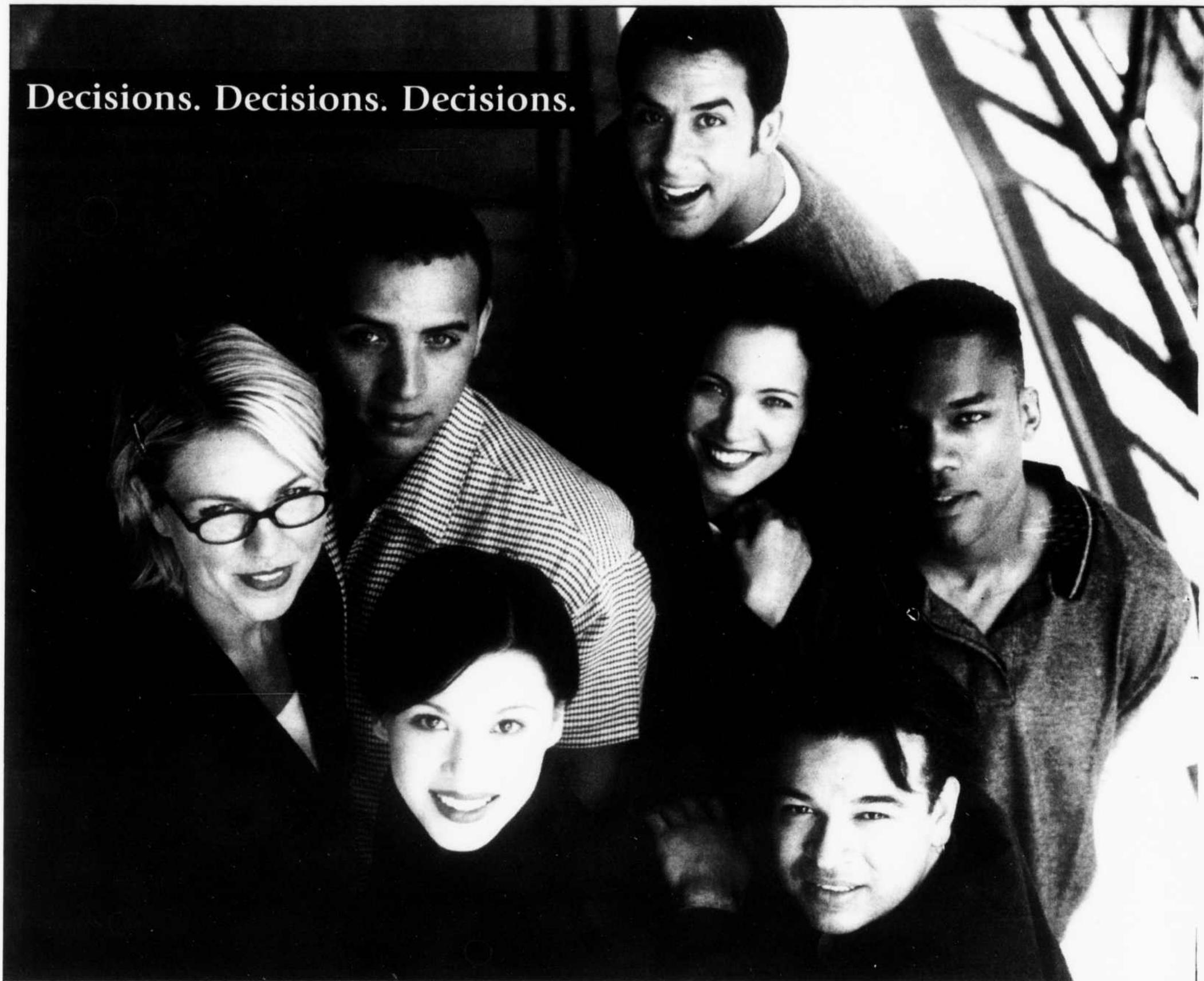
"I talked to Dennis Miller through the buzzer outside of his gate," Joyce recounted. "He didn't let me in, but he was a nice guy who listened to what I had to say. He even said, 'Nice talking to you, Jon.'"

When Joyce visited his father in Florida in 1998, he read about the recording industry program and decided to try it out. He began classes that fall. It wasn't long until he discovered WMTS.

"I started listening to the 'Red Rambler' show when I had to drive my girlfriend to school early in the morning," Joyce said. "I would just scan through the radio until I found

See Jon, 41

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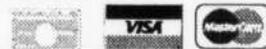
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Advice: use time wisely

Continued from 34

it holds less importance because it's not something you're passionate about. I had to learn that the hard way. Now I'm having to develop a passion for geology, and lemme tell ya, rocks are not my thing.

But writing papers is a forte of mine. That's why I wait until the night before a paper is due to write it. Good idea? Ummm....no. There's always something to forget — a fifth source to find or another concept to be discussed. I have a tendency to completely forget to type up the works cited page. And that's major points off. Get the point? Don't wait until the night before to start your paper.

And if you suffer from having no concept of time like I do, planning a study time and sticking to it is the best way to maintain your grades. Your designated study place is up to you. If you're living in the dorms, I strongly recommend you don't use the study room. Study room is code for social room.

You'll realize this when you plop your books down on the study table and three hours

later haven't opened one of them. For the number of books you brought in, you've got that many new friends. So it's an even trade, right? Wrong. Unless your biology test is going to be over which friend was prom or homecoming queen, your biology professor is going to dissect you.

You might also want to watch how much alcohol or drugs you intake at any given time. It's not fun to suffer through class with a hangover. And drugs are easy -- just say no.

Just saying no to the tiny temptations that add up to one big hell is what's gonna get you through your freshman year. It's so easy to forget why you're in college in the first place. Oh, yeah, to get dates, right? Haha...unfortunately, no.

So surf around on the waves of independence for a while, but don't forget to come back to shore to say hi to Mom and Dad. And to study. And to go to class.

That way when the recorded voice on TRAM asks you if you want a copy of your grades sent to your home, you can say, "Oooh yeah!" ■

Artist: ideas are all around

Continued from 34

interesting to look at for a long time.

After the paper has dried, Smith carves out the styrofoam model from inside its shell. Though most of her sculptures have no armature, Smith sometimes applies fiber pulp directly to a mesh armature that does not get removed.

Many of the sculptures get lit from within so that they glow.

"It's mysterious," said Smith. "It gives the work a different dimension. I was interested in working with light as an additional factor. In the visual arts, you want to use whatever you can to attract and hold attention so you can say whatever it is you're trying to say."

Smith quotes film director David Lynch, best known for the television series "Twin Peaks," to explain what her art is all about.

"He said, 'That's just my take on what's passing by.' So you're getting things from your environment or what you see around you, and you're sort of wondering about them and saying, 'this is my reaction.' I'm interested in my reaction to what I see."

In her artist's statement, Smith explains that ideas for creating art can spring from all

kinds of sources. She transforms a gesture, a fragment of conversation or a part of a thought into a sculpture.

For example, a piece entitled "Insect Violence" describes Smith's reaction to an encounter she had with a very large cockroach in Arizona and her attempts to kill it.

Because the sculptures aren't strictly representational, people who see her work often make their own associations and draw their own interpretations of her art.

"These things are clues to anyone's thinking, depending on what [they've] done in their life," said Smith. She hopes her sculptures will stimulate thought and reaction from a viewer.

"Art stimulates the imagination. It stimulates seeing and taking in information visually," she said.

Because it's so stimulating, Smith believes strongly in art education in schools. She received her Master of Arts in Teaching degree from MTSU and taught an art education course at the university for four years in the mid-1980s.

"Art-making is a first-hand experience of how to use tools. It teaches awareness of the world around you. It's not second-hand experiences that come to you from the tube." ■

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Aid: work study, loans require FAFSAs

Continued from 36

The Stafford loan can come as a subsidized loan, meaning that the government will pay the interest while the student is in school, or as an unsubsidized loan, meaning that the interest will accrue while the student is in school unless he or she pays off the interest.

All students are eligible for unsubsidized loans regardless of financial need, but must submit FAFSAs. Students who want to apply for Stafford loans must complete a Loan Request Sheet as well.

These applications should be

returned two months in advance of the date the student wishes to receive the funds.

The Perkins loan is awarded to students with exceptional financial need. Students can only borrow \$3,000 a year up to a total of \$15,000 while pursuing an undergraduate degree.

This loan features a lower interest rate and more flexible loan forgiveness and payment options.

PLUS loans are given to parents, not students. These loans can cover the full cost of a student's attendance. Repayment begins 60 days after the funds are fully disbursed.

Federal work-study involves students working on campus or for public service agencies. Students can earn only up to a pre-determined amount mentioned on their financial aid award letter. They make at least minimum wage and can only work up to 20 hours a week. They are paid at least twice a month.

If the student is offered work-study, he or she must send the signed award letter to the financial aid office in order to accept it.

Students must also go to the office during the first week of classes to pick up their job assignments. ■

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Jon: now WMTS's new station manager

Continued from 38

that show." WMTS eventually found a place on Joyce's preset dial.

In the spring of 1999, Joyce met station manager Andrew Seward at a benefit show for the station. After chatting a while about music, Seward asked him if he would like to intern for a possible summertime slot. Joyce accepted the offer.

Today, the show is broadcast every Monday

afternoon.

Having developed a strong attachment to things outside the norm, Joyce is proud of the music he plays.

"Everything that I play is really special to me, in terms of different experiences I've had and different things that have happened to me," he said.

But a show such as "Island Fever" is not without its challenges.

"My biggest problem is finding music," he confessed. "This city may house a

university, but it's not exactly a melting point for many cultures. I have to drive to Nashville to find anything, and even then it's a matter of getting lucky."

Joyce has recently been faced with a new challenge. In May he took over as the new WMTS station manager.

"I'm still not sure how I got into this position," Joyce said. "I think good things will happen. The new [officers] have a good attitude and want to get some new stuff done." ■

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SPORTS

42 ■ SIDELINES

Friday, August 18, 2000

Murfreesboro, TN

Curing the disease

Athletics, University working to squash another apathetic season

Jay Carlton
Staff Reporter

While walking on the 500-acre campus of Middle Tennessee State University it's more common to see students wearing the bright orange and white colors of the University of Tennessee Volunteers than the royal blue and white of the MTSU Blue Raiders.

It's no secret that the Vols are the pride of Tennessee in terms of college football. However, as MTSU upgrades its own athletic programs, serious efforts are under way to cultivate a stronger following of their own-starting with the students.

Even with the move to Division I-A status, the football team only drew an average of 12,472 fans over five home games in 1999. The men's basketball team only averaged 3,907 over 14 home games. Even with basketball powerhouse Kansas University playing here last year, only 7,897 fans showed up to support the Blue Raiders.

"I don't think that supporting your school is as important to the young people as it used to be," MTSU Athletic Director Lee Fowler said. "The loyalty doesn't seem to be there anymore."

"These days students don't go to their high school games and that just seems to carry over into college."

Earlier this summer a survey was conducted to determine the amount of school spirit and student involvement on the MTSU campus. Undergraduate marketing students taking an Applied Marketing Research class under the direction of Timothy R. Graeff, Ph.D. developed the survey. The class also worked closely with Robert Glenn, MTSU's vice president for Student Affairs.

Those surveyed were chosen randomly from all areas of study, student classifications



Football team preparing to improve on last years 3-8 season

Photo by James Evans | Managing Editor

and from various buildings across campus to achieve an unbiased representation of students' actual feelings and thoughts.

Of the 520 students who were surveyed, only 54.2 percent expressed an interest in MTSU sports. The study also revealed that 58.9 percent don't plan to attend any football games this year. Only 24.8 percent plan to attend the homecoming game against Louisiana-Monroe.

According to the survey's results, most students said that work, a poor athletic program and the fact that they were not interested in sports were the main reasons why they don't attend games.

What will it take to get the student body involved?

Several MTSU officials have designed a plan to generate student interest in the athletic programs. Fowler, Coordinator

of Special Events Michael Jordan, Account Executive Kyle Turnham and Glenn are leading the initiative.

"We're trying to listen to what the students want and respond accordingly," Glenn said. "We plan to have more live and big-time entertainment come here to MTSU."

The plan will begin this fall with a "school spirit" day scheduled for each Friday. This includes wearing MTSU colors and logos to foster more school pride. Fraternities, sororities, campus ministries and the division of student affairs will lead the way, as they have agreed to participate in the program.

Also, the university plans to provide quality entertainment that will keep students on campus on weekends when a home sporting event is taking place. Although a deal has yet to be reached, comedian Sinbad

and the rock group Cheap Trick have been contacted about performing on campus.

"This is our third attempt to try and book Sinbad," Glenn said. "We would like to have him perform on Friday Sept. 15, the night before the first home football game against Murray State. If he turns us down again, then we will find someone else that the students would like as well."

Glenn said that the decision to try to get Cheap Trick to perform here was because of a desire to appeal to several different audiences. "Cheap Trick was real big in the '70s and '80s, but still appeal to a number of recent alumni and current students."

Negotiations are under way with Cheap Trick that would have the band play a post-game concert following the Oct. 14 homecoming game. Should a deal be reached, plans call for

the concert to be free to students who attend the game. Students and alumni who wish to only attend the concert would have to pay admission.

Another way the university intends to encourage students to attend sporting events is through a program called "Raider Rewards." Jordan and Turnham of the athletic department are spearheading this effort.

Before the upcoming football season, ticket holders will receive an application in the mail. Students will have the opportunity to fill one out beginning at the first home game, or before via the Internet.

The application will ask for information regarding the spending habits of the individual. Once a fan has their card, each time they attend a game they will receive points

See Disease, 47



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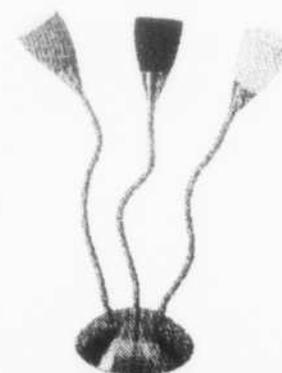
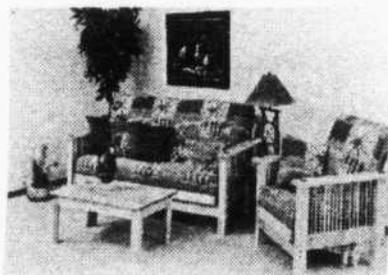
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Thigpen move over; Pickens is here

Jay Carlton
Staff Reporter

Now more than ever the heat is on Titans' oft-injured wide receiver Yancey Thigpen to perform. With the Titans' recent signing of long-time Cincinnati Bengal wide receiver Carl Pickens, Thigpen is in jeopardy of losing his status as the primary receiver on offense.

As talented as he is, Thigpen's career has been plagued by one injury after another. He has played in 16 games only twice in his career. Drafted in the fourth round in 1991 by the San Diego Chargers, he has played in 103 games in nine seasons, including three playoff games last year.

Thigpen signed a five-year \$21 million free-agent contract with the then-Oilers in 1998. The ex-Steeler was supposed to pose the deep threat the team lacked. It hasn't quite worked out that way. In his first year he only appeared in nine games.

Last year he played in 10 regular-season games and three in the playoffs.

The Titans aren't getting their money's worth.

With Thigpen still nursing a fractured left foot he suffered in the AFC Championship game last year, the Titans decided to go after former University of Tennessee star Carl Pickens, who was finally released by the Cincinnati Bengals just before training camp opened.

After negotiating a five-year \$20 million contract, the 30-year-old Pickens joined the team after they returned from a scrimmage against the NFL Champion St. Louis Rams in Macomb, Illinois.

The 6-foot-2, 206-pound Pickens brings much-needed consistency to the Titans' receiving corps. He has played in 16 games in a season five times in a career that spans eight years. The fewest games he's played in a season are 12, which was during the 1997 season. His most productive year was 1995, when he played in 16 games, had 99 receptions

for 1,234 yards, and had a career-high 17 touchdowns.

Making his debut against the Kansas City Chiefs, Pickens pleased the crowd of more than 68,000 fans with his first-ever touchdown as a Titan.

On fourth-and-goal Steve McNair found Pickens in the left corner of the end zone on a fade route for a two-yard touchdown.

It seems almost ironic that not long after the Titans signed Pickens to a multi-year contract, Thigpen has been making a seemingly dramatic comeback from injury. It wasn't that long ago that he wasn't able to plant his feet, or make quick adjustments. I'm not saying that anything fishy is going on with Thigpen, but it just seems ironic.

Let me be the first to predict this. Pickens will have a career year, and Thigpen will struggle to prove that he's the man. I'm pulling for both players to have a great season.

I just think it's funny what a little competition can do for a player. ■

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Disease: fan participation necessary to raise team performance level

Continued from 42

by swiping their card in a "kiosk," which is like an ATM machine. The "kiosk" machines will be placed around the football stadium and inside Murphy Center. Points accumulated will be good toward Blue Raider merchandise and other prizes.

"When fans come to Blue Raider games, they will swipe their card," Turnham said. "After swiping their card, they will be asked about three questions like where they shop at, what restaurants they frequent, etc..."

"Every time somebody comes to a game they will get at least something small. The machine will then print out a voucher with their point total on it, along with coupons good for maybe a free Coke, ball cap or movie rental."

The technology that will be used in the "Raider Rewards" program was developed by AIM Technologies in Austin, Texas. Many professional sports franchises are using similar programs, including the Texas

Rangers, Nashville Predators and Nashville Sounds. The only other university in the country currently using this program is San Jose State. The Naval Academy plans to begin its program starting this fall, too.

"We appreciate the financial commitment from our fans," Turnham said. "We also want the physical commitment. This program will encourage fans not only to buy season tickets, but to actually come to the games."

Fan participation and attendance is important for a couple of reasons. When athletes play in front of large crowds it tends to raise their performance level. Having a home-field crowd makes a huge difference; just ask the Tennessee Titans.

From a recruiting standpoint, the ability to draw a large crowd can make or break an athlete's decision whether or not to attend a particular university.

Most top-notch athletes like to be watched, and if they aren't going to play in front of a large

crowd, they will go somewhere where they can. If coaches can't attract talented players, winning becomes more difficult.

"It would be really nice to see this community get behind not just our football program, but the university as a whole," MTSU starting quarterback Wes Counts said. "I see the stadium half-full and I just wonder why. I've never worn orange and white, I've always been a Blue Raider."

Whether it's just not having the time, not caring or lack of school spirit, MTSU is going to great lengths to create interest in the athletic programs. There has been a lot of time, money and energy spent to determine why students aren't more enthusiastic than they are. Only time will tell if the efforts are worth the rewards.

"We're trying everything in the world to get students involved," Fowler said. "We want to plan activities to keep students on campus over the weekends, so that they will be more apt to attend one of our sporting events too." ■

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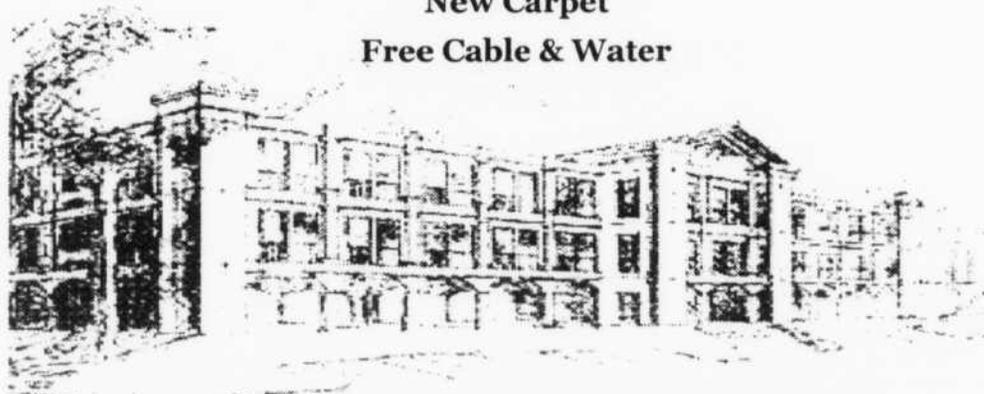
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The Weatherford Chair of Finance is now taking applications for the following scholarships for 2001-2002. The application deadline is December 8, 2000.

❖ **Cavalry Banking Scholarships honoring R.H. Donnell (\$1,000 per year)**

To qualify a candidate must:

- Be a business major, with an emphasis in Financial Institutions Management.
- Have a cumulative GPA of 2.8 or better, on at least 60 hours of undergraduate work that counts toward his or her degree in business, plus a 3.0 GPA in business or economics courses.
- Have no record of felony or misdemeanor convictions, or adverse academic actions.
- Be enrolled as a full-time student at MTSU.

❖ **SunTrust Banking Scholarships (\$500 - \$1,000 per year)**

To qualify a candidate must:

- Same as the Cavalry Bank Scholarship qualifications, except you must have a GPA of 3.0 or better.

❖ **Bank of America Scholarship (\$1,000 per year)**

To qualify a candidate must:

- Be a resident of the State of Tennessee.
- Be a Junior with a business major, with a emphasis in Financial Institutions Management.
- Same as the Cavalry Bank Scholarship qualifications, except you must have a GPA of 3.0 or better.

❖ **Jack O. Weatherford Scholarships (\$500 - \$1,000 per year)**

To qualify a candidate must:

- Same as the Cavalry Bank Scholarship qualifications, except you must have a GPA of 3.0 or better.

❖ **Virgil H. Moore, Jr. Scholarship – First Farmers & Merchants National Bank, Columbia, Tennessee (\$1,000 per year)**

To qualify a candidate must:

- Be an MTSU College of Business Junior or Senior.
- Be a graduate of the public high school or a current resident of Maury, Dickson, Hickman, Lawrence or Marshall counties.
- Have a GPA of 2.8 or better and be a student in good standing.

❖ **Q. M. Smith Scholarship – First Tennessee Bank (\$500 per year)**

(a foundation scholarship administered by the Weatherford Chair of Finance)

To qualify a candidate must:

- Be a business major, with an emphasis in Financial Institutions Management.
- Have a cumulative GPA of 2.8 or better, on at least 60 hours of undergraduate work that counts toward his or her degree in business, plus a 3.0 GPA in business or economics courses.
- Have no record of felony or misdemeanor convictions, or adverse academic actions.
- Be enrolled as a full-time student at MTSU.

To Apply for the above scholarships...

Complete the scholarship application, attach: your college transcript, 3 letters of recommendation, and a one to two page typed essay explaining why you are interested in a career in the financial services industry.

❖ **AmSouth Bank Scholarship (\$500 – 1,000 per year)**

To qualify a candidate must:

- Be an exemplary Blackman, LaVergne, Lebanon, Mt. Juliet, Oakland, Riverdale, Smyrna or Woodbury High School Graduate who is interested in pursuing a Business administration degree at MTSU, with emphasis in Financial Institutions Management.
- Have a 3.0 (B-) GPA or better, and an ACT score of 21 or better.
- Show evidence of positive participation in non-academic aspects of high school and/or community life.
- Have no record of felony or misdemeanor convictions, or adverse academic actions.
- Be enrolled as a full-time student at MTSU beginning Fall 2001.

To Apply for the AmSouth Bank Scholarship..

Complete the scholarship application, attach: 2 letters of recommendation from 2 high school teachers or coaches and one from a high school counselor, your high school transcript with a copy of your ACT scores, and a one to two-page typed essay explaining why you are interested in attending MTSU and pursuing a career in the financial services industry.

For more information, contact Gina Poole at 898-2883 or come by BAS N330.

Wiel of fortune

Fowler happy coach stays, does not go to North Carolina

Jay Carlton
Staff Reporter

There was a Wiel, but there wasn't a way.

MTSU head basketball coach Randy Wiel interviewed for the vacant coaching position at the University of North Carolina, but it was announced that Notre Dame's Matt Doherty would inherit the title of head coach of the prestigious basketball program.

"Matt's been at Notre Dame and people see him all the way in California," said Wiel. "Matt has a big upside. Matt's very popular, he's a good coach, he's coached a year and proven he could do it."

The resignation of Bill Guthridge as the Tar Heels' head coach has set off a domino effect that has impacted basketball programs on the collegiate and professional levels. Kansas coach Roy Williams, who was an assistant under former North Carolina coach Dean Smith, was the first choice. To the surprise of many in the basketball world, Williams turned down the opportunity.

South Carolina coach Eddie

Fogler, another assistant under Smith, also declined to accept the job.

Other coaches with strong North Carolina ties also took their names out of consideration, including Philadelphia 76ers' coach Larry Brown and Milwaukee Bucks' coach George Karl.

While playing from 1976-79 as a Tar Heel, Wiel lettered every year. During that four-year stretch, North Carolina won three ACC championships and made one appearance in the NCAA championship game.

The 49-year-old Wiel, who graduated UNC with an A.B. degree in education in 1979, has been in the Tar Heel family for many years. From 1985-86 he served as a graduate assistant at North Carolina. From 1986-93 he was an assistant coach. The Tar Heels won the national championship in 1993.

Wiel forged a close relationship with longtime coach Dean Smith. The fact that Smith still serves as a consultant to the basketball program and his loyalty to those in the Tar Heel family contributed to Wiel's consideration for the job.

"Dean Smith is very close to

Randy Wiel," said Steve Kirschner, UNC director of media relations. "He stays in close contact with all his former assistant coaches."

Wiel took over as head coach at MTSU in 1996. In Wiel's four years, the Blue Raiders have compiled a record of 65-53.

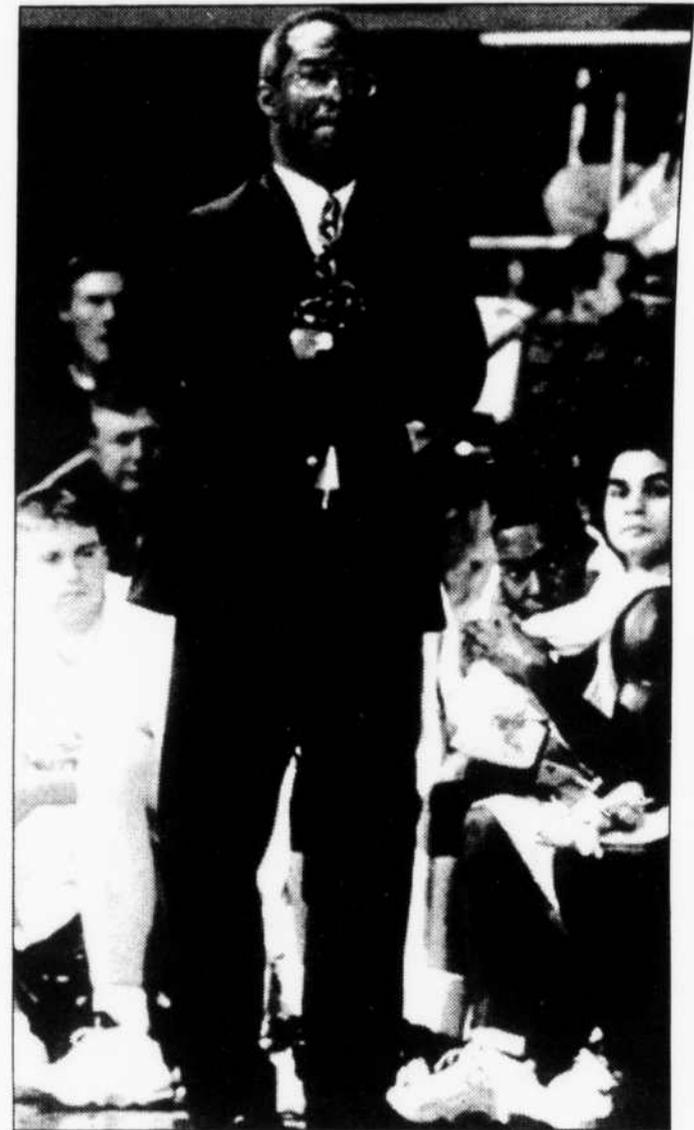
"I'm not really surprised by North Carolina's interest in coach Wiel," said MTSU senior center Lee Nosse.

Considering his close ties with the university, Nosse said he thought that Wiel was deserving of the job.

During the 1999-2000 season, Wiel led his troops back from a 5-10 start. The Blue Raiders won 10 of their last 13 games to qualify for their fourth straight OVC semifinals.

MTSU athletic director Lee Fowler said he understood all along that Wiel was a very strong candidate for the position.

"We are happy for North Carolina that they found a coach, but we are elated to keep Randy Wiel a Blue Raider," said Fowler. "What we have known since day one is that he is a great coach and now everybody else knows the very same thing." ■



Randy Wiel

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Fall/Winter Outdoor Pursuits Adventure Schedule					Fall Intramural Sports Schedule			
Date Trip/Event	Location	Day	Cost (# Limit)	Info Mtg or Event	Sport	Registration	Captain's Mtg.	Play
August 25 Atlanta Braves	Turner Field, GA	Fri.	\$25/28 (12)	Noon, 25th	*Soccer	Aug.21-Sept.6	6:30pm Sept.7	Sept.11*
September					(M,W,CR)(TV)			
10 Raft Ocoee	Harpeth R., TN	Sat.	\$18 (Univ.) (15)	8am, 9-10	Backwoods Minitriathlon	Aug.21-Sept.15	8:30am, Sept.16 9am, Sept.18	
12 Belay Clinic	Rec Center	Tues.	\$8/10 (8)	6:00pm	(Indiv. or teams of 2-4 @ 300yd. swim, bike 8, run 2.4-on campus)(WT, MO)			
16 Mini-Triathlon	Rec Center	Sat.	\$10/15	9 am start	Pre-Season Flag Football & Pre-Season Soccer	Aug.21-Sept.1	5pm, Sept.5 6pm, Sept.5-7	
(solo or Teams: swim 300 yd./ bike 8mi./ run 2mi)					(M,W)(CG,MO)- Limited Spots! Great time to get ready for the SEASON			
17 Raft Ocoee	Ocoee River, TN	Sun.	\$18 univ. only (15)	8 am 9-17	*Flag Football	Aug.21-Sept.6,5pm	5pm, Sept.7	Sept.11*
19-20 Kayak Roll Clinic	Rec Center	Tues-Wed	\$10/15 (8)	7-9:30pm	Atlanta Braves vs. St. Louis	Aug.15-23	Noon Aug 25 7:40pm Aug 25	
22 Adopt-A-Highway	Hwy 99	Fri.	free-lunch included	2-4pm 9-22	(CG,MO)			
23 Raft/Funyak/Kayak	Hiwasee R., TN	Sat	\$12/15 (18)	8 am 9-23	Golf Scramble	Sept.1-12,5pm	11:45am, Sept 15 Noon, Sept 15	
24 Rock Climbing	Cumberland Plateau	Sun.	\$10/12 (10)	8 am 9-24	*Volleyball	Sept.11-27 5pm	5pm, Sept 28 Oct.2*	
26 Belay clinic	Rec Center	Tues.	\$8/10 (8)	6pm	MTSU/TIRSA Flag Football Shootout	Oct 23 - Nov 15,5pm	8am, Nov.20 9am, Nov.18	(6 fields)
October					3-on-3 Basketball & Free Throw	Nov. 6-22	5pm, Nov 28 6pm, Nov28-29	
7-8 Backpack/Rappel	Sipsey Wild, AL	Fri-Sun	\$25/30 (12)	5:30pm 10-4	Pre-Season Basketball	Nov.20-Jan.16	5pm, Jan.18 6pm, Jan.18	
10-11 Kayak Roll Clinic	Rec Center	Tues-Wed	\$10/15 (8)	7-9:30pm	Indoor Roller Hockey	Nov.13-30noon	5pm, Nov.30 5pm-Dec.2	
14 Rock Climbing(Intro)	TN	Sat	\$10/12 (10)	8 am 10-14	Whiffleball	Nov.13-30	6pm, Nov 30 1pm, Dec.3	
14-15 Caving	Mammoth Cave, KY	Sat-Sun	\$55/60 (12)	5:30pm 10-11	*Game time is forfeit time. Be sure to have enough players to start the game or lose \$30 FF Fee!			
19-22 Backpack the AT	NC	Fall Break	\$40/45 (10)	5:30pm 10-16	Official's Training Soccer	Aug 28-29 @6-9pm (DC,MO)		
November					Flag Football	Aug 30-31 @6-9pm (CG,MO)		
3-5 NIRSA Region II Conference					Sept. 10 @ 1-8pm for Regular Season (Armando Wood, SMU, TX)			
6-12 ICORE Conference	Miami, Ohio				Volleyball	Sept.26-27 @6-8pm(DC)		
21-26 Backpack the Grand Canyon	AZ	Tues-Sun	\$425 (9)	5:30pm 11-8	Preseason Basketball	Jan16-17, 69pm(CG,MO)		
(All deposits due Oct.6 to reserve airfare)								
December								
1 Caving	Espey Cave, TN	Fri	\$10/12 (12)	1pm 12-1				
15-21 Snow Skiing	Whistler, BC (Canada)	Winter Break	\$839/869/899 (38)	5:30pm 12-6				
(Airfare to Vancouver, 5 day lift, 6 nites @ Sunpath - Oct. 15 deadline)								
15-21 Snow Skiing	Steamboat Springs, CO	Winter Break	2 Options	5:30pm 12-7				
(1. Van to CO, 7 nites, 4 day lift)			\$375/400/425 (20)					
(2. 5 nites & 4 day lift - meet us there)			\$295/310/235 (22)					
Both Options stay @ The Lodge - Oct. 27 deadline - no refunds after 10-15								
28-Jan. 3 Canoe the Everglades	FL	Winter Break	\$125/160 (11)	5:30 pm 12-8				
Coming Spring of 2001!								
The Cuban Adventure	Cuba	Spring Break	TBA (15)	7pm 1-23				
Rio Grande's Lower Canyons	TX/Mexico	Spring Break	\$199 (12)	5:30pm 3-14				
BWCA Canoeing/Fishing	Minnesota	May Break	\$125 (12)	5:30pm 5-9				

Call 898-2104 for more information.

Coach McCollum: Recruit or lose

Jay Carlton
Staff Reporter

Anyone who has had the opportunity to talk to MTSU head football coach Andy McCollum about the program's future has reason to be optimistic.

The 41-year-old McCollum, who is entering his second season as the Blue Raiders' head coach, is considered by many of his peers to be one of the top recruiters in college football.

"I think recruiting is work ethic," said McCollum, who played collegiately at Austin Peay from 1977-80. "If you're not recruiting, you're losing. It's a matter of pride within yourself."

McCollum has every intention of building a team that can consistently challenge for a Sun Belt championship by recruiting top-notch student-athletes.

McCollum's colleagues are quick to point out his ability to relate to players and how important that is in regard to the recruiting process.

"Andy's always been a hard

worker," said Director of Football Operations Tom Fiveash. "He was like that when he was with us in the 80s. He really knows how to relate to the kids nowadays."

While possessing the necessary skills to effectively recruit desired players, McCollum's job has been made easier with the renovation of Floyd Stadium, new weight training facilities and locker room improvements.

"The upgrading of our facilities has been important," said McCollum. "We're doing the things that will draw a guy to Middle Tennessee. I think we have an easy sell here."

Having a state-of-the-art stadium, training facilities and all the other amenities that players desire is helpful in the recruiting process, but a coach's ability to relate to prospects is key. McCollum effectively does that. He has the ability to make people feel comfortable, at ease, and important.

McCollum is approachable. He's the kind of guy who will call someone by their first name, greet them with a firm handshake and look them in the eye while talking, the kind

"He will lay the law down if he needs to."

Wes Counts

of guy you can just sit down with and shoot the breeze. Don't let this nice guy fool you: He can be tough too.

"He will lay the law down if he needs to," said MTSU starting quarterback Wes Counts. "Basically he's a player's coach. He wants you to have fun while taking care of business."

Taking care of business is exactly what McCollum does. Being the head coach of a Division I-A football team is a year-around job. Realistically, there isn't an off-season for coaches.

The obvious chores of recruiting, game planning and dealing with the media are

responsibilities that fall mainly on the shoulders of McCollum, but he has a staff of assistant coaches who help out tremendously. However, there are other behind-the-scenes responsibilities that are important too.

McCollum says he tries to create a family atmosphere within the football program. The father of two young children, he understands the importance of spending quality time with loved ones. He makes it his business to ensure that members of his staff are able to spend time with their families.

"As a head coach I've got to make sure that my assistant coaches are getting the time with their wives and children that they need," said McCollum. "It's all family to us here. This whole team is our big family."

McCollum, who claims he learned his work ethic from legendary MTSU football coach Boots Donnelly, is dedicated to putting in the hours necessary to fielding a winning team. However, his family comes first and he tries to keep them involved as much as possible.

"I want my kids involved

with this program," said McCollum. "There comes a time when I just have to stop things and spend time with my own family. I'm learning to do better at that."

After a family vacation to Florida this summer, McCollum plans to jump right back into the rigors of preparing for the upcoming season. With away games versus big-time opponents Illinois, Florida, Maryland and Mississippi State, there's a lot of work to be done.

With the Blue Raiders now playing at the highest level of college football, McCollum has a tall order in front of him. It will be a work-in-progress. Realistically, the team is probably a couple of recruiting classes away from making a name for themselves.

However, with coach McCollum's work ethic, this team will go places in the years to come.

"We're going to get this thing turned around," said McCollum. "People around the country are going to take notice. We want people all over to be talking about the Blue Raiders." ■

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NCAA rules Kelso ineligible for play for 2000 season

Jay Carlton
Staff Reporter

As the MTSU's football program enters its second year of Division I-A competition, it will do so without the services of starting free safety Mario Kelso.

It was announced June 27 that the 21-year-old Kelso was ruled ineligible to play in the 2000 season by the NCAA. Kelso was unavailable for comment, and head coach Andy McCollum refused to discuss the specifics of the situation. Kelso appealed the suspension, but the NCAA denied it. He will be eligible to play again in the 2001 season.

"It was a mistake, something he should've known better than to do, but he didn't," said Andy McCollum, who is entering his second season as the Blue Raiders' head coach. "It was tough on Mario. He just made a mistake."

This marks the second time that Kelso has been ineligible to play for the Blue Raiders'. He was forced to sit out the 1997 season due to academic reasons.

The 6-foot, 189-pound Kelso is coming off a spectacular season, when he led the team in tackles with 106. He is one of the hardest hitters on the team and is constantly around the ball while playing the free safety position.

Kelso's contributions on the field will be missed, but the Middle Tennessee secondary has plenty of depth to rise to the occasion. Sophomore Kareem Bland, who is currently listed No. 2 on the depth chart, will have plenty of competition for the starting nod.

"There are no guarantees by a long shot for the starting free safety position," said Mike Woodford, who coaches the secondary and serves as an assistant coach to Andy

McCollum. "The starting player will win the position in two-a-days. The bottom line is performance."

Other than Bland, the Blue Raiders have senior Delvin Pikes, sophomore Chris Johnson, and freshman Joe McLendon — all of which will be ready to do battle in the fall for a chance to play in the defensive backfield.

"We went through spring practice with the idea that this situation with Kelso might happen," said McCollum. "We've been preparing to replace Kelso if it came to this."

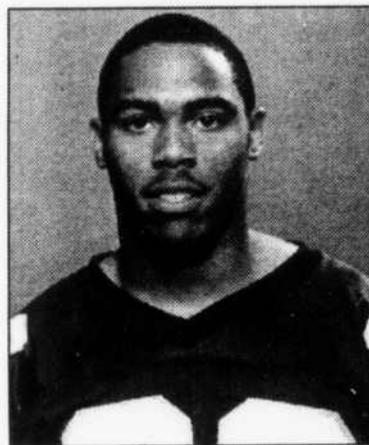
Kareem Bland, who is from Conley, GA, got limited playing time in 1999. The 6-foot, 188-pounder had three touchdowns while at the free safety position last year, one of which was a fumble recovery that he ran back for a touchdown against Louisiana Tech.

"When Bland stepped in last year, he never hurt us," said

Woodford. "Kareem is a big-play type of guy."

Odds are that the starting job is Bland's to lose. Regardless of who wins, they will be expected to perform at the best of their ability.

"Whoever wins the free safety position will really have to step up their play," said Woodford. "Like I said, the bottom line is performance." ■



Mario Kelso

Photo Provided

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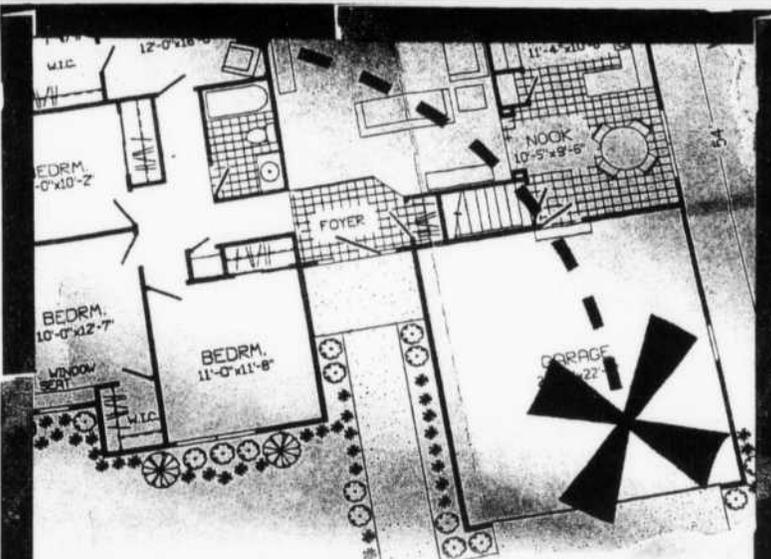
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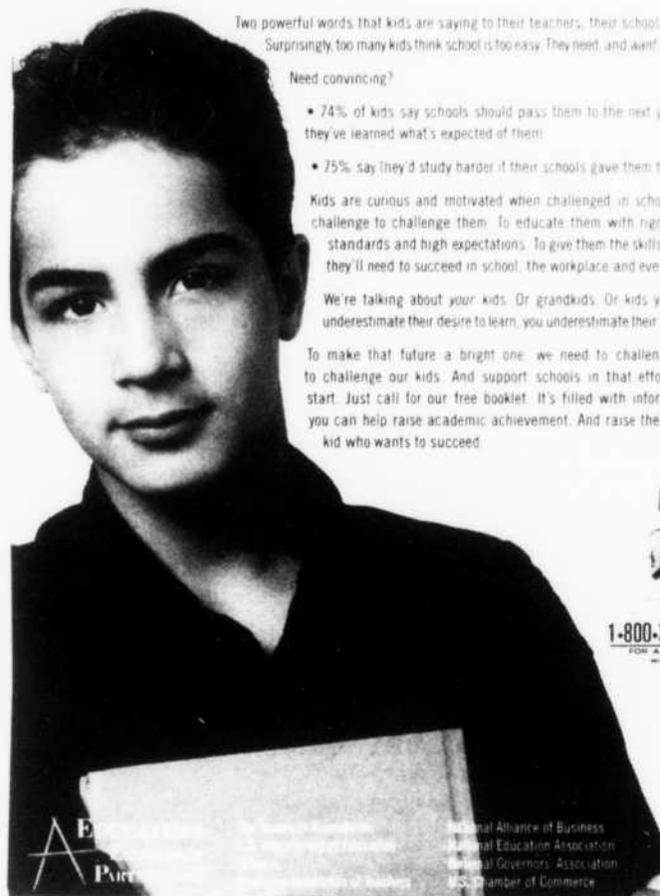
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MT administrators named to Sun Belt's Committee

MT Media Relations

After being an official member of the Sun Belt Conference for less than two months, Middle Tennessee athletic administrators have wasted no time in trying to make a difference in its new home. Several administrators have been named to the Sun Belt's Sports Committees.

Athletic director Lee Fowler will chair the men's basketball committee and the golf committee, while being a

member of the softball committee. Fowler's term on the men's basketball committee expires in 2002 and his tenure as chair of the golf committee will end in 2001. He will be on the softball committee until 2003.

Assistant athletic director Diane Turnham is on the soccer committee until 2001, while assistant athletic director/media relations Mark Owens will be on the football committee through 2003. Head track coach Dean Hayes is on the track and field committee

until 2001 and faculty representative Race Bergman will be a member of the baseball committee through 2002.

The duties of the committee members include reviewing the sports regulations and making recommendations to the Sun Belt Conference Athletic Directors Executive Committee; ensuring that coaches are informed about league rules and matters affecting the sport; conduct surveys, and administer, in general, the sport in the Sun Belt Conference. ■



Football Schedule

Sept. 2 at Illinois 2:30 PM

Sept. 9 at Florida 5 PM

Sept. 16 MURRAY STATE 6 PM

Sept. 23 at Maryland 5 PM

Oct. 7 LOUISIANA TECH 6 PM

Oct. 14 LOUISIANA-MONROE (HC) 6 PM

Oct. 21 at UAB 2:30 PM

Oct. 28 at Mississippi State 1:30 PM

Nov. 4 at Connecticut 11:30 AM

Nov. 11 SOUTH FLORIDA 2 PM

Nov. 18 LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE 2 PM

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