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The metrics are coming...

By ROBIN RAMEY
Reporter

Do you know about the metric system? Are you worried that the United States is going metric and you do not understand the system?

Learning the metric system can be as simple as learning to use a CB radio, according to Dr. James R. Keller, assistant professor of mathematics.

"The metric system is simple if people would take the time to learn it," he said. "There are fewer new terms in the metric system to learn than learning to use a CB radio."

He said the United States is being forced into the metric system because of trade with other countries. "I like the idea of the United States using the metric system because it is much easier to calculate and to operate than the present system," Keller said.

The metric system has been a long time coming to the United States. The federal Office of Consumer Affairs said George Washington urged Congress in 1790 to adopt a uniform system for currency, weights and measures.

It was 1975 before Congress acted, passing the Metric Conversion Act, establishing a 17-member U.S. Metric Board to coordinate a voluntary switch to the metric system.

The board has several duties under the law. It is required to make sure the public is represented fairly in the conversion process, to publicize proposed changes, to encourage the standardization of metric language in science and engineering, and to consult with other countries to make sure the United States standards are keeping with those in the world.

The Office of Education has awarded contracts to state and local governments for metric instruction projects. The agency will start issuing similar grants to public and private nonprofit organizations this year.

The money covers four basic types of projects:

1. School programs operated by a local education agency.
2. State and multistate planning programs.
3. Teacher training programs conducted mainly by colleges and universities.
4. Programs providing technical support for national metric education.

Marshall has a one-hour course in metrics taught in the fall, according to Keller. He said the course is for teachers and prospective teachers to give them methods for teaching metrics in elementary and secondary schools.

Keller said "Metrics should not be taught as a regular course in colleges and universities because it is so easy to learn." He added "Anyone wanting to learn the metric system can, without taking a course in metrics."

According to a book, "The United States And The Metric System" by Susan Holt, the metric system grew out of dissatisfaction with the lack of uniformity in the European measurement system. Weights and measure differed not just from country to country, but from town to town and from one craft to another.

Holt said the lack of uniformity led the French National Assembly in 1790 to request the Academy of Sciences to deduce an invariable standard for all of the measures and weights. The result was the metric system, named for the Greek word metron, meaning measure.

According to Holt, as of 1972 the only countries not yet committed to the metric system were Barbados, Burma, Gambia, Ghana, Jamaica, Liberia, Muscat, Oman, Nauru, Sierra Leone, Southern Yemen, Tonga, Trinidad and the United States.

Holt listed some arguments for the metric system and the customary systems. Some of the pro-customary arguments were:

1. Since computers can handle any kind of units there is no need to convert.
2. People would have to be retrained if we change to the metric system. This would be costly and time consuming.
3. It would not be wise to risk our industrial success with a measurement system used by countries not as technologically advanced as the United States.

Some of the pro-metric arguments were:

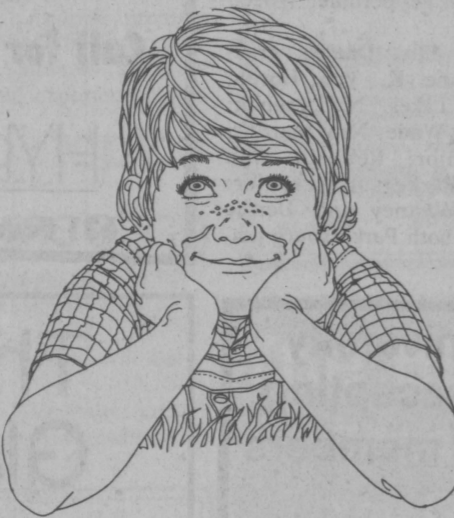
1. The decimal base and the logical relationship among metric units make calculations both easier and quicker.
2. Because the metric system is easier to learn, teachers would have more time to concentrate on subjects other than arithmetic.
3. The experience of other countries has indicated that metric conversions are both easier and less expensive.

Slowly, the United States is turning to the metric system. Liquor bottlers started introducing the metric sizes last fall and will convert completely to six basic metric sizes within two years, according to an Associated Press release. Almost half of the states are using metric measurements on some road signs.

"Almost anyone that is familiar with the metric system prefers it over the present system," Keller said. "Only those not familiar with the metric system are against it."

...you can count on it

km to m
16 mm = ?
1 metre = 1,000 centimetres
centi ?
deka ?
12 inches = ?



Celsius, centimeter, kilogram. Americans will be seeing a lot of these terms in the future. Some Marshall students like the idea of the United States using metrics and some do not.

Julie Fox, Huntington junior, said, "I do not understand the metric system." She added, "I think it is a more efficient system than the present system."

Belinda Gail Sammons, Dunlow freshman, said she does not know the metric system. "Every other country seems to be changing to metrics but I do not see any sense in the U.S. changing," she said.

Camella Ramey, Harts senior, said, "Although I am a Math major I honestly do not know the metric system." She added, "I do not see why people in America should have to learn a new system. People have enough trouble with the present system."

Kathy Baker, Proctorville, Ohio freshman, said, "I know what a centimeter is because I studied metrics in high school." She added, "I do not like the metric system. I hope the U.S. does not change to metrics because everyone is used to the present system."

James M. Dean, Fort Gay freshman, said the U.S. should not change to metrics because a lot of elderly people do not know metrics. "I do not understand the metric system because I never had the need for it before," he said.

Debra Trautwein, Genoa freshman, said, "I understand metrics pretty well because I had metrics in high school." She added, "I can see why metrics would benefit the U.S. with relations with the rest of the world but I hope the U.S. keeps the present system."

-Robin Ramey



Spring Weather brings on Spring Fever

Photo by DAN SHREVE

Senate withdraws support

By MARTIN HARRELL
Reporter

Student Senate withdrew its representatives from the constitutional revision committee Tuesday evening, citing committee inactivity and lack of cooperation from executive branch members.

"We felt we should pull out because senate was not being consulted," Dinah Lee Arnett, Charleston junior, said.

"Searls (committee chairman and student body president Tom Searls) had called only three meetings since late September and we didn't feel there was any support in senate for staying in the committee," she said.

The committee was formed in Sept. 1976, to revise the Student Government constitution, according to Richard W. Ramell, student body vice-president and executive branch member of the committee.

Police seek Satan group in beating

By STEVE MULLINS
Editor

Huntington police are searching for a group of "Satan worshippers" in connection with the severe beating of a Marshall student Monday night.

The student was found lying behind the Campus Christian Center at about 7:30 p.m. Monday badly beaten and possibly raped, according to a Huntington Police report.

She was found in a state of shock and dried bloodstains were evident on her hands, abdomen and forehead where "slice" marks also were visible.

Police said she told them she was forced inside a vehicle by suspects but she was unable to say more.

Although no comment could be obtained from the victim, police said she was on her way to the office of David J. Lockwood, attorney for students, when she was apprehended.

Lockwood said he did not know the nature of her visit.

A police official said members of a "Satan's worshippers" cult may be responsible for the assault on the student. He said the cult consists of about 25-30 persons, not all of whom are college students.

He said the group may have been around campus recently, recruiting new members, preferably young, white females.

"They are known to have a very frightening and dangerous initiation ceremony, so anyone with any information about the group should let the police know," he said.

The police official said they were considering a federal violation and expected to discuss the case with federal agents.

Captain N.E. Noble said, "We're doing everything in our power to arrest and break up this group."

Noble said any persons with information about an area occult group should call 696-4420 at the Huntington Police Station or his private number, 696-5975.

Any information received will be entirely confidential. "A person doesn't even have to give a name. All we want is any information leading to the arrest of the 'Satan worshippers.'"

Before the senate's withdrawal, the committee had been composed of nine members three each from the executive, legislative and judicial branches of Student Government.

Ramell disputed Arnett's statement concerning the number of meetings.

"Numerous meetings have been called, but we've had trouble getting everyone together," he said.

Showers

Showers and thundershowers are expected today ending tonight. The high today near 65 and the low tonight near 35. Precipitation is 80 per cent today decreasing to 40 per cent tonight.

Inside today

Enthusiasm, a sense of humor and flexibility are musts in the daily routine of Nancy P. Hindsley, MU's coordinator of Student Activities. See Page 2.

Marshall's track team is introduced to their first taste of "Southern cooking" today as they begin competition in their first conference meet in Lexington, Va. Story on Page 3.

An inside look at the United Nations is in store for students participating in a tour sponsored by the Political Science Department. Story on Page 4.

Dr. Elaine Baker, Student Government adviser and assistant professor of psychology, asked senate members if, in the event the committee did recommend changes, whether they would oppose them solely because senate had not participated.

"Change is so desperately needed, I hate to see any roadblocks," she said.

Several senators replied they would have to wait and see what the recommendations were before making a decision. As for not participating, D. Randall Cole, senate president, said, "Senators were interested in participating. It is unfortunate the committee was not functioning."

Legislatively, senate failed by one vote to override a Searls veto on a bill appropriating money to pay for expenses incurred by Marshall students attending the recent Model United Nations Conference.

The bill was originally passed before the conference began, but was vetoed after the students had returned to Marshall. The five students, members of the Council on International Relations and United Nations Affairs, spent \$190 of their own money for the conference, according to Arnett.

James O. "Jimmy" Carter, South Point, Ohio, senior was sworn in as a senator from the transient caucus.

Academic affairs veep candidates interviewed

By PHIL McCLURE
Reporter

Two candidates to replace the retiring Vice President for Academic Affairs have been interviewed, according to Dr. A. Mervin Tyson, the current office holder and chairman of the Search Committee. A third candidate will be interviewed in early March.

The three candidates, two men and one woman, were chosen from approximately 60 applications received by Marshall University. If the woman were chosen, she would be the first female Vice President at Marshall, according to Tyson.

After a process of discussion, evaluation and balloting, five candidates were recommended to President Robert B. Hayes in late January. Hayes pared the number to three and the interviewing started earlier this month.

Each candidate will visit MU to be interviewed by, and meet with, the people who work with, or under, the academic affairs office. These include the President, Executive Vice President, Vice Presidents of Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and Business Affairs, the academic deans, select department chairmen, the Director of Libraries, and the Search Committee.

The Search Committee, which started meeting in December, is on its second selection process. Tyson had planned to retire last July, but when none of the applicants were deemed suitable he stayed another year at the request of Hayes. The 66-year-old Tyson expects to retire in July.

Four faculty members and two students comprise the Search Committee. The faculty members are Dr. Mahlon C. Brown, chairman of the Academic Planning and Standards Committee, Dr. Price Wiswell, College of Business and Applied Science, Dr. David Woodward, College of Arts and Sciences, and Dr. Dorothy Hicks, College of Education.

The student members are Tony Murphy, Taplin senior, and Nikki Humrichouser, Ashland graduate student. Tyson said he was pleased with the students' contribution.

"They have used our files extensively, and have contributed very well," Tyson said.

A decision is expected in the next few weeks, although no official date has been selected, according to Tyson.

Bar harassment leads to petition about police

A petition concerning alleged activities at Huck Finn's Tavern, 157 Olive St., is being circulated at MU by some Marshall students.

The petition asks council to instruct City Manager Barry Evans and Huntington Police Chief Lawrence Nowory to "cease the harassment of adult citizens by the police department in their attempt to attend a certain place of entertainment."

Starting Feb. 10, police arrested 23 people in three days as they left the bar, and charged them with public intoxication. The owners of the bar, and some of those arrested, called it harassment and an effort to close the bar.

By Tuesday evening, 170 people had signed the petition and it is expected to be presented to City Council Monday.

Permanent LSAT center established at Marshall

The Educational Testing Service (ETS) in Princeton, N.J., has authorized the establishment of a permanent test center at MU for administering the Law School Admission Test (LSAT), according to Dr. A. Mervin Tyson, MU vice-president for academic affairs.

Tyson said the LSAT is required for admission to most American law schools. It is administered under the direction of the Law School Admission Council, an organization comprised of 160 law schools accredited by either the American Bar Association or the Association of American Law Schools.

Before the authorization, the test was given three or four times a year with a

minimum of 25 applicants per test, Tyson said. Now the test will be given five times a year regardless of the number of applicants.

The first test will be given Saturday April 16 at 8:30 a.m. in Harris Hall Room 134. Registration forms are available in Smith Hall Room 741 and the deadline for applying is Wednesday, March 2. Candidates who wish to enter law school in the fall 1978 semester are advised to register.

Other test dates are Oct. 8, Dec. 3, Feb. 4, 1978, April 15, 1978 and July 15, 1978. Tyson said MU is expected to be the only test center authorized to give the LSAT five times a year.



Photo by DAN SHREVE

Here comes the sun...

