Students needing federal or institutional aid for the 1997-98 school year should fill out and return the Free Application for Federal Student Aid and Institutional Reapplication for Financial Assistance immediately. These forms can be picked up in the financial aid office.

Don Morris, assistant vice president and director of financial aid, said that all students, whether applying for need-based aid or merit-based aid, need to fill out the Institutional Reapplication for Financial Assistance. Morris said any student who wants to be considered for federal aid, including Stafford loans or parent loans, needs to fill out the FAFSA.

Morris said the Pell Grant maximum for 1997 has gone up to $2700, from a maximum of $2470 in 1996. The Tennessee Tuition Grant, for resident Tennessee students attending private institutions, has increased from $3014 in 1996 to $3234 in 1997.

Ministry program hopes to bring LIFE to new Union students

By Stephanie Lim
Staff Writer

For 1997’s incoming freshmen and transfer students, starting a new LIFE at Union will prove to be an additionally rewarding experience. Next fall, freshmen will not be the only students participating in orientation activities.

Besides mandatory enrollment for freshmen in FOCUS and the CLU course, Campus Ministries is providing voluntary involvement in a LIFE Group Ministry for new students. LIFE Group Ministry will be comprised of several student-led discipleship and fellowship teams. A student-driven orientation effort, LIFE aims to minister within the student body.

Todd Brady, campus minister, had the vision for the LIFE Group Ministry. Junior Steve Moses and sophomore Suzanne Frost quickly embraced Brady’s flegding idea as a way to help new Union students, both freshmen and transfer, to find their places in the student body.

“There were a lot of students coming in and saying it’s hard to find their niche at Union,” Moses noted. He said that he also saw a need for discipleship in the student body. LIFE Groups will provide this needed peer support and accountability.

Upperclassmen will be selected as leaders for LIFE teams on an application and interview process. Once selected, group leaders will attend a training retreat in April and commit their time and effort to future members of their team. Two upperclassmen—one male and one female—will head each LIFE group, and provide mentoring, encouragement, and accountability with each student assigned to them.

“As a new student, you will see LIFE, page 3

TISL: From Student to Senate

By Beth Chapman
Staff Writer

For the first time in Union’s history, eight students participated in the Tennessee Inter-Collegiate State Legislation Convention. Those eight students won two awards, passed one priority bill and had three students appointed as administrators of the statewide organization.

As a whole the group won Best New Delegation. The Executive Council of TISL says the award was created because it is intimidating to come to TISL for the first time and debate issues with delegations who have been members for a long time. The Council therefore evaluates all new delegations and selects what it considers to be the best.

Annie Laurie Crane, who organized and led Union’s delegation, was given the Douglas Carlisle Award. This is one of the highest honors at TISL. It is given to students who have made the greatest contributions to TISL during the past year. Crane was one of only three students from across the state to receive this award.

“I was totally shocked. I was honored to receive the award, but I wish I could put every single person’s name on it because they all deserve it. Every person from our delegation worked so hard,” Crane said.

Crane’s proposed bill also became priority legislation. Out of the hundreds that are heard at the convention, only 10 bills are picked for priority legislation. Those 10 bills will be sent to the real Tennessee Legislature where they are heard and even have a chance to be voted into law.

Crane’s bill recommended that all vending machines work on a token system instead of change. Her bill said that too many underage children were buying it now the Director of Recruitment

See TISL, page 4
From the Roof
by Tracy D. Snyder
Why the chicken crossed the road

On the road again. Just can’t wait to get on that road again. Ah, nothing like a road trip. I haven’t exactly been back in school long enough to be wanting to get away, but the opportunity arose and I took it. Long car trips are the essence of life. At least they have the potential to be.

So what do car trips hold? Great conversations and great scenery. When two or more people are stuck in one place with no outlet to escape, the most interesting conversations are bred.

Forget the “How are classes going” garb. This is time for serious stuff like, “Who’s your favorite Sesame Street character (Cookie Monster).”

Seriously, though, it can be quite fun to entangle your thoughts with another as you try to grasp the meaning of life, love and the ingredients of bologna.

To really spice up a trip, take along someone you don’t get along with and iron out some of those differences. If you have the wheel, you have the power.

Of course the person could retreat into sleep or a book, thus thwarting the plan. Don’t despair. He or she might just might make funny noises or talk while sleeping, which later can be used for blackmail.

If no time exists (and does it ever for a college student?) to just pack up and explore the open road, try some light philosophical conversation under the aroma of grease in the Snack Bar.

On other notes, kudos for the extended hours in the library. Of course this does not give professors liberty to assign more library-oriented work for us on the weekends. It just means we can wait a bit longer to do those research papers. Good thing we don’t procrastinate.

Additional kudos to George Lucas for the recent running of the “Star Wars Trilogy.” It makes me happy.

I’m reminded of a great quote from Jane Austen’s book “Pride and Prejudice”: “For what do we live, but to make sport for our neighbors and laugh at them in our turn?”

Cheerio.

My Point
...Exactly
by Jeff Rushing
Making the chapel system work for everyone

Excerpt from a typical conversation at 9:50 a.m. on Monday or Friday:

“So, (insert name here), are you going to chapel today?”

“I don’t know, who’s speaking?”

“I don’t know. Some preacher. I guess I’ll go for chapel credit since I’ve only been to 12 so far.”

“You’re right. But I have to work on homework. I wish I had time to do everything!”

Is this you and your buddies? Do you wish you had more time for chapel and studying? Sure, we all do.

Well, I have a plan to suit all of our needs—a graduated chapel system, where students are required to attend chapel based on their classification.

Seriously, 21 chapels is a lot to accomplish, and the administration wonders why so many of us are deficient. It is generally because students are spending that extra time in the library or the dorms studying or completing homework. And many of those who do go never listen to the speaker because they are busy looking over notes or catching up on sleep.

Ever wonder why students are so happy come revival time? That week is the best time to get five or 10 chapels out of the way so students don’t have to cram them all in at the end of the semester.

Even the professors can be heard complaining about having to fit in all five of their required chapels.

So, here’s the plan that could make everyone happy.

The graduated chapel plan: Freshman- With basic 100 level classes, I think 19 should be sufficient. Students are still adjusting to college life and many freshmen take on more than they can handle in organizations and other activities.

Sophomore- Classes are getting a little tougher, so let’s bring down the number to 14 a semester.

Junior- The stress is starting to get to these guys, with activities and difficulties in classwork. I believe 12 is a good number to shoot for. That would give juniors plenty of time to work on other projects.

Senior- Well, I am a little biased here, since I have to graduate in May, so I think nine chapels is OK for us elders. I have been more worried about getting into graduate school than getting to chapel.

Professors- Well, I think five is enough to ask for our beloved teachers. Let’s not be too extreme.

Now, of course there are other loopholes students can jump through for fewer chapels, such as working outside the school, commuting or committing to organizations that help lessen the chapel load. But the graduated system could work for the rest of the student body, because we could all use some extra time in our schedules.

The other side
by Michael S. Rowland
What washed up on Union’s shore

After a few days of tossing about ideas, I finally found a topic to address in this, my first column.

While taking a break from studying French, I walked across the courtyard in the McAfee complex to fetch a Snickers. So far, there is nothing new; Snickers have become an almost daily ritual for me. However, the trip back to my room set my mind into high gear.

I was looking toward the ground as I walked back in order to avoid falling into an abyss of mud. I stepped to one side and just missed a nasty mud hole. Imagine my surprise when I noticed a Bud Light bottle lying there in the grass. A beer bottle - at Union? How ever did that happen? Surely it was just the rain that caused that bottle to wash up to Union’s shore.

It would be a waste of my time as well as yours to discuss the ethics of drinking. Everyone has his or her own opinion on that subject, and as college students, we supposedly have the sense to deal with the subject of drinking in a mature fashion.

My problem lies in the fact that some irresponsible, immature individual formed the opinion that if he or she drank a beer and left the bottle outside, it would magically make them better, or more sophisticated than everyone else. I have prepared a statement for this person; the statement also applies to everyone else that litters this campus with their marks of immaturity. If you know any of these people, please read the statement to them because they are probably too drunk or hung over to walk, much less read in a straight line.

Dear (insert name of immature individual),

In case you did not already know this, and decided that it did not apply to someone as sophisticated as you; alcoholic beverages are prohibited on campus. If you insist on making property look like a bar parking lot, then I have a suggestion for you: Go to your parents’ house and throw beer bottles on their lawn. I am sure that if that makes you special here, then your parents would be extra proud if you displayed your talent in their front yard. It is time for you to grow up and start thinking of someone other than yourself.

Sincerely,

A concerned citizen

In case this column appears to be making fun of individuals with drinking problems - I assure you that is not my intent. If you have a drinking problem, get help now. The local number for Alcoholics Anonymous is 426-8330. But if you are drinking to prove your “coolness” - give up. It will never work.

Stop turning our campus into a filthy garden landscaped with beer containers.

Inspirations
Lily Tomlin, comic and actress

The human mind is kind of like a pinata. When it breaks open, there’s a lot of surprises inside.