

# MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

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## UT, TBR protest to stop budget woes

Protesters join  
together at UT  
Knoxville's law  
school to try,  
stop rising costs  
of education

By JAY BAILEY  
Staff Writer

More than 300 students, faculty and staff members from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville united with members of the Coalition to Save Our Schools to protest higher education budget cuts yesterday.

While the University of Tennessee does not fall under the control of the Tennessee Board of Regents, they are controlled by a sister system known as the UT System. Both higher education systems report to the Tennessee Higher Education Commission.

"It is amazing to see this many students taking an interest in the future of their education," said Ashley Renner, a senior liberal arts major at MTSU and a leader of the Coalition to Save Our Schools.

CSS did not organize the protest, however many its members participated in the demonstration as a sign of solidarity between the two school systems, Renner said.

Protesters gathered to speak out against possible actions the UT System may take that will mirror many of the policies in Chancellor Charles Manning's new business model.

PROTEST, PAGE 4

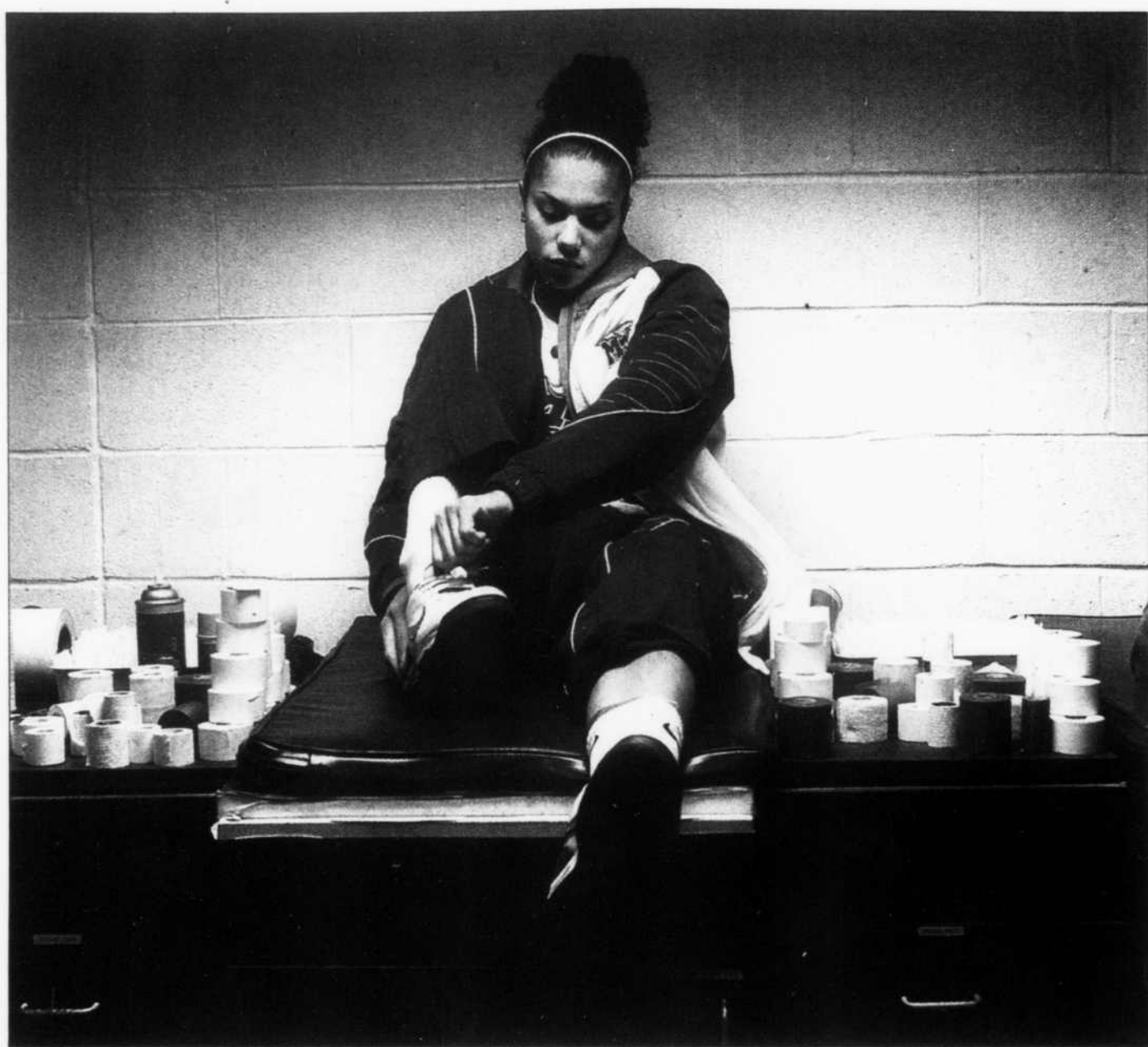


Photo by Alex Blackwelder, photography editor

Alysha Clark puts on her shoes after having her ankle wrapped by a trainer before the University of Arkansas at Little Rock game.

## Alysha Clark

### Second-leading scorer in nation opens up about life on, off court

By TIFFANY GIBSON  
Managing Editor

Fans know her as the 5-foot-10-inch unstoppable force under the basket. Coaches know her as the go-to player that will always step up and make big plays when needed. But

very few people know her as a model, reporter and volleyball player.

Alysha Clark is currently a junior forward for the Lady Raiders and the second-leading scorer in the nation but outside of basketball, she is a regular student with goals and aspirations.

"I want to pursue modeling," Clark says. "I took some modeling classes this summer and throughout the first semester."

"That was something I've always wanted to do."

Clark explains that in addition to modeling, she would also like to pursue coaching. After helping coach an Amateur Athletic Union team, Clark

says she loves being able to give knowledge that she's learned from coaches to girls so they can be farther advanced than she was when she was a junior in high school.

Originally, Clark says she wanted to be a print journalism major but switched

PROFILE, PAGE 8

## Pundit puts spin on Black History Month

Associate  
editor, columnist  
gives insite  
on post-racist  
America

By DUSTIN EVANS  
Staff Writer

Eugene Robinson, an associate editor and columnist for *The Washington Post*, is scheduled to speak at an event called "We're Someplace We've Never Been: Race, Diversity and the New America" to discuss his career in relation to diversity.

The event is scheduled at 10:20 a.m. in the Keathley University Center Theatre.

The event is cosponsored by the Seigenthaler Chair of Excellence in First Amendment Studies and the Black History Month Committee.

Sekou Franklin, a professor in the Department of Political Science, said that Robinson can bring a unique viewpoint on the politics of Washington, D.C. This specific event has been selected to give students a viewpoint on race and politics and their perspective in relation to the media.

"I think the biggest value he brings is that he's been intimately involved in covering elections, specifically this [past] election," Franklin said. "He can bring you a first-hand analysis of how the election took place from the Washington press corps perspective."

ROBINSON, PAGE 2

## Parking garage plans still unsettled for next fiscal year

By MICHAEL STONE  
Editor in Chief

University officials are drafting a referendum regarding a transportation improvement plan that includes the construction of a parking garage.

"It's like a city when all the people are on campus," said Ron Malone, assistant vice president of Events and Transportation Services. "The first thing students think about when they come to campus shouldn't

be 'Where am I going to park?'"

Along with the parking garage, the referendum is scheduled to include improvements to MTSU Boulevard, an expansion of the Raider Xpress shuttle service, and the construction of a new road that will connect Greenland Drive to Blue Raider Drive.

Before the referendum can be presented to and voted on by the student body, the Student Government Association Senate

must vote to make it a referendum, said Gene Fitch, associate vice president for Student Affairs and dean of Student Life, adding that the SGA.

If the SGA Senate votes against the fee increase being placed on the ballot, the proposed referendum "should die," Fitch said.

"Parking would have to regroup and decide where they would go from there,"

PARKING, PAGE 3



Graphic courtesy of Events and Transportation Services



# Black History Month begins with formal ball

## STAFF REPORT

MTSU's chapter of the NAACP and Scholars Academy will cosponsor "Elegance of Ebony," a ball in an effort to raise funds for minority scholarships as well as begin the black history month celebration Friday.

The ball is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. in the James Union Building Ballroom. Ticket prices for individuals are \$7 and \$10 for couples.

Tickets may be purchased in the Keathley University Center lobby today and tomorrow from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m.

"We are partnering with the NAACP in order to raise money for minority scholarships," said Janay Moreland, a senior social work major and president of the Scholars Academy.

The Scholars Academy has set a goal to raise the graduation rate for minority students and it hopes

to promote its initiative throughout campus, Moreland said.

**"The NAACP does not fight for the rights of just black people, but the rights of all people."**

**CARLISSA SHAW**  
PRESIDENT OF MTSU'S NAACP

"This is the first event to kick off Black History Month," said Carlissa Shaw,

a senior liberal arts major and MTSU NAACP president. "We wanted to bring

something new to campus that students could dress up for."

Black History Month is a time to commemorate and recognize those that fought for us to get where we are today, Shaw said.

This year, the NAACP is also celebrating its centennial anniversary.

Shaw said that the most important reason for the NAACP lasting as long as it has is because of the organization's ability to "evolve with the social climate of the era."

"The NAACP has always been a forerunner to fight for human rights," Shaw said. "As long as there are humans, there will always be adversity."

The ball is open to students and community members.

"The NAACP does not fight for the rights of just black people, but the rights of all people," Shaw said.

The Office of Intercultural Diversity sponsors the Scholars Academy.

## Through the *Sidelines*' Lens



Photo by Alex Blackwelder, photography editor

Kristen Tithof, a freshman distance runner for the MTSU track team, takes a cool-down jog after a race at the Blue Raider Invitational last Saturday.

## ROBINSON FROM PAGE 1

The Seigenthaler Chair promotes national speakers throughout the year for different events like Black History Month as it has done in the past since it was created.

"This is the second year that we have partnered with MTSU's Black History Month Committee to bring in a nationally known speaker," said Beverly Keel, director of the Seigenthaler Chair of Excellence. "Not only do I think these events are important because of the information the speakers bring, but also because it is important to meet these speakers, to be inspired by them."

Franklin said that Robinson got his first experiences in journalism by reporting on international affairs. The students who choose to attend would learn a lot simply on his perspective around race, politics and the media, Franklin said.

"I think they [the media] have a dramatic influence of politics," Franklin said. Keel said that America is in "uncharted territory" and that the paths of race and political media relations are constantly shifting, which was made very evident by the election of President Barack Obama.

"What hit me is when I went up for the inaugura-

one," Jones said. "Don't look at him based on his skin color, look at what he can do for you."

"As a whole, we are in a recession," Jones said. "We need someone who is going to get us out of it."

Keel said that during today's political world, everyone is trying to find out what this election means to America and what the impact of it will be. She

**"Don't look at him based on his skin color, look at what he can do for you."**

**KARA VETTA JONES**  
FRESHMAN LIBERAL ARTS MAJOR

tion and when I went to the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History," Keel said. "He is up there now, on the wall, but he is just a president, not a president with an asterisk."

Kara Vetta Jones, a freshman liberal arts major, felt that the new change in America is not just about race.

"He represents every-

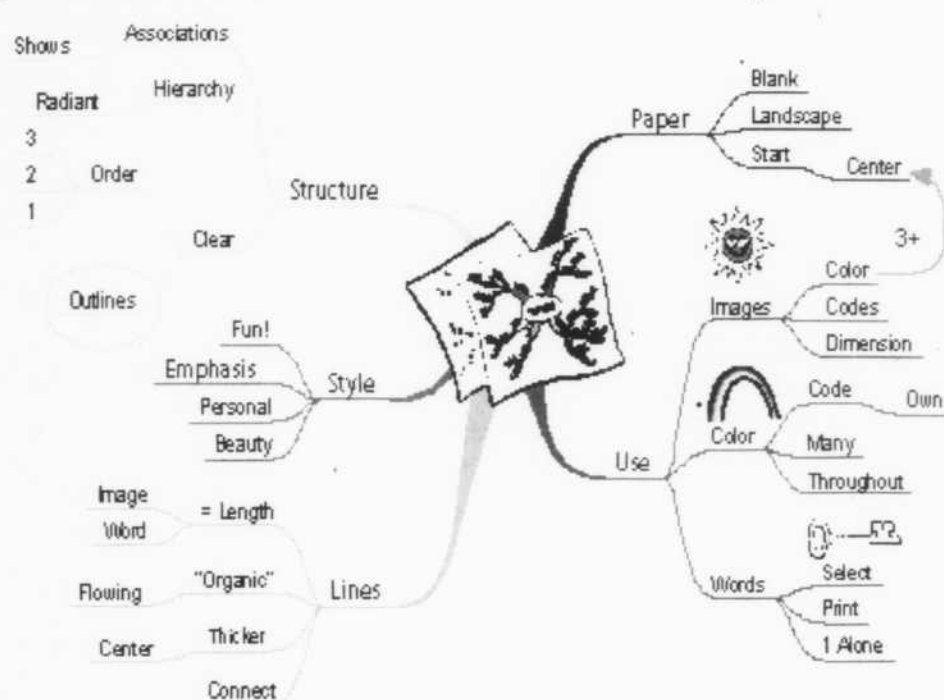
said the students that attend will be able to ask Robinson questions and truly see how hard work pays off with success.

"He will have seen and heard things that we don't know [and] that he can share with our audience," Keel said. "I'm excited that these nationally known speakers want to come to MTSU."

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a national expert on

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615.904.8270





## PARKING FROM PAGE 1

Fitch said. "They most likely would step back and reevaluate if they wanted to move forward."

If the SGA votes to make the proposal a referendum, it will then be presented to the student body for a simple majority vote. If passed, the referendum will result in increased fees for students to fund the project. Funding will come solely from student fees, Malone said.

The current proposal calls for a \$5 per-student fee increase during the 2009-2010 school year. This fee will be raised to \$15 for the 2010-2011 school year and have an additional \$15 added every year until the 2013-2014 school year, when the fee will be \$60.

Malone said that some students may vote against the referendum because of troubling economic times or because they will have graduated by the time the construction aspects of the referendum are complete.

"We realize it is a tough economic year," Malone said. "I hope students will see a greater good as far as the university is concerned."

"We hope that students will realize that past students have voted on things that did not materialize until after they graduated."

If the referendum passes, the groundbreaking date for construction will be during the spring semester of 2011, said Patti Miller, assistant vice president of Campus Planning.

The voting dates for the referendum have not yet been confirmed, but a proposal made by university officials shows the vote may take place Feb. 24-26 through the PipelineMT.

If the referendum passes through the student body, it must also be approved by the Tennessee Board of Re-

gents and the State Building Commission, Malone said.

Designs for the garage indicate that it will be five stories tall and contain 830 spaces. It is one of five parking garages that are in MTSU's Campus Master Plan.

The expected location for the garage is the gravel parking lot beside the Campus Recreation Center across the street from where the new student union building is to be built. A walking bridge that will pass over Blue Raider drive connecting the second floor of the garage to

in the lottery," Malone said, adding that the winners will be chosen at random.

The entrance road to the garage is scheduled to be built off of MTSU Boulevard beside the Blue Raider Softball Field. To prevent motorists from turning into the entrance when the garage is full, a sign indicating if space is available will be placed near MTSU Boulevard, Malone said.

For security purposes, a guard will be on duty at all times, and cameras and lights will be installed in the garage, Malone said.

**"We hope that students will realize that past students have voted on things that did not materialize until after they graduated."**

**RON MALONE**  
ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT OF EVENTS AND TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

## Best-selling author 'gets students fit'

Anne Fletcher comes to MTSU to promote healthy eating

By ALEX MOORMAN  
Campus News Editor

Anne Fletcher, a best-selling health and lifestyle author, is scheduled to attend MTSU on Feb. 3 at 5 p.m. in McCallie Dining Hall to discuss her book, *Weight Loss Confidential*.

Aramark is hosting Fletcher to better educate the MTSU community about healthy eating habits and a healthier lifestyle, said James Perry, marketing coordinator for Aramark.

"I believe that Mrs. Fletcher's visit will be a positive influence to everyone," Perry said, "especially those on our campus that might want to learn about health living just in time to keep those New Year's resolutions."

In *Weight Loss Confidential*, Fletcher writes about youths who succeeded in losing weight. It has stories from more than 100 formerly overweight people who lost weight and kept it off.

"She may inspire students, but I believe that

also the testimonial from other young adults that she encountered in her books will inspire the most," Perry said.

Fletcher will tell students about her food secrets for maintaining a healthy weight, as well as tips for having a healthy attitude about weight and lifestyle change, Perry said.

"By Fletcher, merely introducing contemporary ways of having a healthy lifestyle while maintaining the college life, some students may realize the power to control their health is attainable, just from only a few hints that she can provide," Perry said.



Fletcher

To read more, visit us online.



## Flutist rally at MT

The ninth annual flute festival hosts renowned artist

By ALEX MOORMAN  
Campus News Editor

The ninth annual MTSU Flute Festival is scheduled to take place in the Wright Music Building on Jan. 31 at 8 a.m.

"Katherine Kemler, a professor at Louisiana State University who also has several albums out will be performing for the attendees and also teaching a workshop," said Deanna Little an associate flute professor and organizer of the festival. "She took time off to study the Alexander Technique, which helps gain body awareness for musicians, and will be teaching a 'Body Mapping' seminar."

Kemler will give a recital performance at 1 p.m. and a master class at 3:30 p.m. in the Hinton

Music Hall located in the Wright Music Building. In addition, Kemler will hold a workshop titled "Introduction to Body Mapping for Flutist" at 2:30 p.m.

The flute festival is scheduled to include a high school solo and a junior solo competition and a Mock Orchestral Audition, which is a new event this year.

It also will include a Flute Choir Reading, with guest, Sarah McVey and flute exhibits that will feature various flute-related vendors, including Pearl

Flutes from Nashville and Miles Ahead Instrument Service and Sales, with repair services available.

"Anyone is welcome to come, we encourage it," Little said. "You don't just have to know how to play the flute. Anyone who enjoys music will find something at this festival that they really enjoy and find rewarding."

The festival is open to all members of the MTSU community. Admission is \$15 for flutist and \$5 for people who do not play but want to come and see the performances.

"We have 13 students from ninth grade and under and 13 to 14 students

**"Anyone who enjoys music will find something at this festival that they really enjoy and find rewarding."**

**DEANNA LITTLE**  
ORGANIZER OF THE MTSU FLUTE FESTIVAL

from high school participating in the festival," Little said. "Which will help students at MT who could be thinking about teaching music learn the level that these younger students are on."

Little said that this is a great opportunity for MTSU students and to help get the community involved as well as help younger students.

"This festival will help for recruiting purposes by helping the younger students experience what college level flutists are work-

ing on but even more than the students it will help get the community involved on MTSU's campus," Little said.

Kemler is the Charles and Mary Barré Alumni Professor of Flute at Louisiana State University, a flutist with the Timm Wind Quintet and a regular visiting teacher at the Oxford Flute Summer School in England. She has performed as a soloist with the British Chamber Orchestra in London's Queen Elizabeth Hall and with the Orchestra Medicea Laurenziana throughout Italy. She has toured with the Kemler/Benjamin flute/harp duo and with the Timm Wind Quintet.

She also performed in China, Poland, Slovenia, Switzerland, Canada and

France and throughout the United States and she has had a solo broadcast on BBC Radio 3 and National Public Radio.

Besides Kemler other flutists will be attending to perform and help students learn. These artists include Anne Richards, a Nashville Symphony flutist, Heidi Pintner, a flute professor at Western Kentucky, Lisa Vanarsdel, flute professor at Austin Peay State University and Jennifer Whitehead, a doctoral candidate at the University of Memphis.

The garage will have a "one-stop shop" attached to the side of the building containing admissions, records, financial aid, business, student ID and scheduling offices, Malone said, adding this consolidation of offices will help students that are new to the university.

The proposed expansion to the Raider Xpress bus service includes the purchase of "larger, more environmentally friendly buses" and quicker travel times, Malone said.

"Studies are telling us that it should take the buses seven minutes to get from one side of campus to the other," Malone said.

Even if the referendum does not pass, construction of the road connecting Greenland Drive and Blue Raider Drive will still take place, Miller said.

Departments including Events and Transportation Services and Campus Planning are involved in drafting the referendum and are collecting feedback from student organizations, including the SGA and Sidelines.

Parking and Transportation Services is planning to have open forums about the referendum if it passes through the SGA Senate, Fitch said.

"We're really moving towards the future when it comes to parking," Malone said.



Photo by Alex Blackwelder, photography editor  
Sigma Nu alumni and current members gather around picture of Mark Obert in honor of his outstanding service for their fraternity.

## Sigma Nu starts scholarship

Local fraternity raises funds in honor of former member killed by drunk driver

By ALEX MOORMAN  
Campus News Editor

Sigma Nu hosted a fundraiser for a scholarship in honor of one of their members who was killed in 2007 by a drunk driver.

The event was held on Jan. 17 at a Sigma Nu alumni's house where food was donated from several local restaurants and money was donated from members of Sigma Nu.

"This [Mark Obert] scholarship will last as long as Sigma Nu is at MTSU so his name forever, said Brandon McNary alumni relations director for Sigma Nu. "We want to carry it on because he always put the fraternity first and unfortunately was unable to reap the full

benefits of Sigma Nu."

Active brothers, alumni and friends from various regions of Tennessee gathered to help raise money for the scholarship. Through various donations, Sigma Nu raised \$3,000 for the scholarship fund.

"This scholarship is important because Mark was a great brother and this is a way for us to honor his memory," McNary said.

McNary said the fraternity's goal is to reach a benchmark of \$10,000 that will be raised over the next three years.

This is the minimum amount that must be deposited to obtain an endowment through the MTSU Foundation. The Mark C. Obert Scholarship will be given to a new

member of Sigma Nu each semester, McNary said.

"This scholarship will motivate the new members because they will be able to get financial help while honoring a lost brother at the same time," McNary said.

McNary said this is the first event of a semi-annual effort to meet their ultimate goal in the allotted time frame provided by the MTSU Foundation. Accompanied with a donation from Mark's family, the fraternity is about half way to their goal, McNary said.

"Once the benchmark is met, the fraternity will continue to raise funds in order to increase the amount of the scholarship each year," McNary said.

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**SIDELINES**

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## PROTEST FROM PAGE 1

The potential policies the UT System will utilize from Manning's business model include faculty cuts, a tuition increase and a removal of the 12-hour-cap in tuition rates resulting in yet another "hidden" tuition increase.

The protesters marched around the campus for 30 minutes to raise awareness about the budget cuts and

those who will be impacted. Following the march they gathered at UT's law school to listen to speakers from the student body, faculty and campus work unions.

TBR is currently making provisions to implement their new policies as well as a new budget cut.

"The ruling on the 12 hour cap stands," Manning said in a recent TBR meeting on Monday.

The "Tier 1" budget re-

lies on President Barack Obama's recently passed stimulus plan and will make minimal cuts to programs.

The result of which is a 10 percent reduction in the funding universities receive at the state level.

However, the "Tier 2" budget is based on receiving no additional funding from the government and makes approximately a 17 percent cut at the state level.

"[We should] keep in

mind the impact on educational programs," said Vice Chancellor Paula Short.

While TBR has already passed portions of the new business model, CSS has begun mobilizing and uniting students in both collegiate systems in an effort to make higher education a priority in our state again.

"Its time that we fight for our future and stand up for what we believe in," said Student Regent Gionni Carr.

## Georgia recalls peanuts due to Salmonella

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR  
Associated Press Writer

The salmonella outbreak spawned one of the largest ever product recalls Wednesday by a Georgia peanut plant where federal inspectors reported finding roaches, mold, a leaking roof and other sanitary problems.

Managers at the Blakely, Ga. plant owned by Peanut Corp. of America continued shipping peanut products even after they were found to contain salmonella.

Peanut Corp. expanded

its recall Wednesday to all peanut products produced at the plant since Jan. 1, 2007. The company is relatively small, but its peanut paste is an ingredient in hundreds of other food products, from ice cream, to Asian-style sauces, to dog biscuits. Major national brands of peanut butter are not affected.

A senior lawmaker in Congress and Georgia's agriculture commissioner called for a criminal investigation of the company, but the Food and Drug Administration

said such a step is premature while its own food safety investigation continues.

More than 500 people have gotten sick in the outbreak and at least eight may have died as a result of salmonella infection. More than 400 products have already been recalled. The plant has stopped all production.

"We feel very confident that it's one of the largest recalls we've had," said Stephen Sundlof, head of the FDA's food safety center. "We're still in the process of identifying

products, but it certainly is among the largest."

Most of the older products recalled Wednesday probably have been eaten already. Officials said they were seeing no signs of any earlier outbreaks that might be linked to the plant.

The latest recall covers peanut butter, peanut paste, peanut meal and granulated products, as well as all peanuts — dry and oil roasted — shipped from the factory.

"We have been devastated by this," Parnell said.

## CURRENT EVENTS

### Road Closure

Beginning Jan. 20  
Main Street campus entrance by Monument will only service those wanting to gain access to Cope Administration Building's visitor's circle, parking services, and the Wood/ Steagall building. Parking will not be allowed on the street to assist traffic flow.  
More information: visit <http://frank.mtsu.edu/~parking>

### Blood Drive

Thursday, Jan. 29 from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.  
Friday, Jan. 30 from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.  
Location: KUC 322  
Sign up at KUC 208 or stop by announced dates.

### Nick & Norah's Infinite Playlist

Jan. 26-30  
Monday-Thursday 7 & 10 p.m.  
Friday 7 p.m.  
Admission: \$2  
Location: KUC Theater

### Elegance of Ebony

Friday, Jan. 30 from 7 p.m. until 12 a.m.  
Location: JUB  
Tickets: KUC Lobby 11 a.m. until 2 p.m.  
Attire: Semiformal

### W.

February 2-6  
Monday-Thursday 7 & 10 p.m.  
Friday 7 p.m.

Admission: \$2  
Location: KUC Theater

### Literarily Speaking

Thursday, Feb. 5 at 1 p.m.  
Location: BAS

### Middle Tennessee Choral Society Concert

Sunday Feb. 8 at 3 p.m.  
Admission: Free for MTSU students, \$10 for adults, \$9 for Seniors, \$8 for children 12 and under.  
More information: contact MTSU Choral office at 615.898.2849

### NAACP Centennial Celebration

Thursday, Feb. 12 at 12:30 p.m. until 1:30 p.m.  
Location: KUC Lobby

### Taste of Soul

Thursday, Feb. 12 at 6:30 p.m. until 9:30 p.m.  
Location: Bradley Academy

### Recycled Percussion

Thursday, Feb. 12 at 7 p.m.  
Admission: Free  
Location: JUB Tennessee Room

### Miss MTSU hosted by Sigma Alpha Epsilon

Friday, Jan. 30  
More information: contact Justin McKee at 615.653.8522

### Harlem Renaissance Event

Tuesday, Jan. 17 at 7 p.m. until 9:30 p.m.  
Location: BAS 102

## CRIME BRIEFS

Jan. 23, 8:26 a.m.

### Theft

Davis Science Building  
Victim reported that her coin collection had been stolen.

Jan. 23, 10:37 a.m.

### Theft

Phillips Bookstore  
Subject called and requested an officer in reference to some backpacks being stolen. Backpacks contained books and one contained a laptop.

Jan. 23, 4:30 p.m.

### Trespassing

Keathley University Center  
Steve Ambrose was arrested and charged with criminal trespassing.

Jan. 23, 11:30 p.m.

### Trespassing

Greek Row  
Officers reported a physical fight taking place behind one of the Greek houses. The parties involved were not MTSU students.

Jan. 24, 12:42 a.m.

### Trespassing

Homecoming Circle  
Ted Riley was issued a trespassing warning after being involved in a traffic stop on campus.

Jan. 24, 1:26 a.m.

### Underage Drinking

Tennessee Livestock Center lot  
Tiffany Clark was charged with underage consumption of alcohol.

Jan. 24, 9:53 a.m.

### Medical Assistance

Recreation Center  
Subject reported having chest pains, but refused transport.

Jan. 25, 12:53 a.m.

### Underage Drinking

Greek Row  
Denver Armstrong was cited for underage consumption of alcohol and John Ford and James Pyron were both cited for underage consumption of alcohol and given criminal trespassing warnings.

Jan. 25, 2:51 a.m.

### Drug Possession

Driving Track  
Sarah Williams was issued a citation for simple possession of marijuana.

Jan. 26, 3:57 a.m.

### Harassment

Greek Row  
Victim reported that he was receiving harassing phone calls.

Jan. 26, 8:03 a.m.

### Medical Assistance

Nicks Hall  
Subject called and advised that his roommate was having stomach pains and felt like he was going to faint. Roommate was transported to MTMC for further evaluation.

Jan. 27, 12:11 a.m.

### Theft

Fairview Building  
Victim reported that her catalytic converter had been stolen from her vehicle.

### 2008-09 Student Health Insurance Plans Developed for the Middle Tennessee State University Students

Approved by The Tennessee Board of Regents  
Student Insurance Committee

#### Features include:

- ✓ Covered charges at the Student Health Center paid at 100% with no deductible
- ✓ Coverage for inpatient and outpatient hospital expense such as: surgery, physician's visits, diagnostic testing, prescriptions and other services
- ✓ Coverage: 80% in PPO & 60% Non-PPO; \$100,000 maximum benefit
- ✓ Discount Prescription, Dental & Vision Plans included
- ✓ Reasonable premiums — see brochure and enrollment form for payment options: annually, semi-annually, semesterly or a nine payment option is available

#### Brochures & Enrollment Forms available at the:

- MTSU Student Health Center
- [www.hbcstudent.com](http://www.hbcstudent.com) or calling 1-800-463-2317
- on-line enrollment at [www.gmsouthwest.com](http://www.gmsouthwest.com)

This insurance plan does have certain limitations and exclusions. For complete detail see policy on file at the Tennessee Board of Regents.

## Female Ecstasy users needed for research

Researchers at Vanderbilt are recruiting female Ecstasy users (ages 18-25) to complete a confidential brain imaging study; compensation is provided for time. Females who have used Ecstasy at least 25 times in the past may qualify. For inquiries or to enroll, contact Gavin Lillevig at 615-936-1013.

This study is sponsored by the National Institute of Drug Abuse.



## Clean Energy Fee Funding Available

A Clean Energy standing committee has been established to administer the funds generated by the \$8 per student per semester Clean Energy Fee.

### All Clean Energy Projects and Proposals Should Focus Primarily On:

Renewable Energy  
Energy Conservation/  
Efficiency  
Alternative Fuels  
Sustainable Design

To submit a Clean Energy fee  
funding proposal, please visit  
SGA's website at  
[www.mtsu.edu/~sga](http://www.mtsu.edu/~sga).

### Eligible Spending May Include:

- On-site generation projects that utilize and publicize renewable energy technologies, such as solar array displays on campus;
- Opportunities that may arise to gain additional funding or offset costs through rebate programs, such as the *Generation Partners* program provided by Tennessee Valley Authority and Murfreesboro Electric Department;
- Up to 10% of the total annual appropriations may be allocated to perform studies that analyze energy efficiency initiatives;
- Up to 10% of the total annual appropriations may be used for research grants, as well as academic programs for educational, training, and research purposes, to help develop awareness of energy use, consumption, and conservation to be awarded within the MTSU community.

For more information, please contact Dr. Gene Fitch at 898-2750 or [glitch@mtsu.edu](mailto:glitch@mtsu.edu).

## Deadline to submit applications is February 29, 2009.



# OPINIONS

FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

## Possibility of parking garage raises questions

The possibility of a parking garage is likely to become an issue that will be widely discussed on campus in the coming months.

On one hand, students will have the option of passing the parking fee increases if the Student Government Association Senate approves the proposal. On the other hand, students could vote against it, preventing in the parking fee increases from happening.

Chances are, most current students will not reap the benefits of having a parking garage since groundbreaking won't occur until 2011. This isn't to say there aren't some pros to the situation that future students will enjoy.

Here are some pros and cons to passing the fee increases that will go to, among other things, a parking garage:

PROS—

**Alleviation of searching for parking.** The garage will contain more than 800 spaces. So instead of driving around in various parking lots near or not-so-near academic buildings, students will know straight where to go for parking when they arrive on campus.

**"One-stop shop."** The garage will have offices, including financial aid, scheduling and the business office, attached to it. This will take the burden off students, especially incoming freshman, of traveling from building-to-building searching for where to go.

CONS—

**Crime.** With the student population that MTSU has, crime is an issue that is just going to happen, usually on a daily basis. A parking garage seems like a breeding ground for perpetrators to perform injustices including theft, robbery, rape and, as bad as it sounds, murder. Granted, there will be lights, cameras and 24-hour security, but those steps aren't likely to stop all, or even most, of the crime that is bound to happen.

**Structural integrity.** Steps have not yet been taken to analyze the ground-work of the area where the building is to be built. It seems like this should have been the very first thing done before any discussion on construction began.

**Consolidation of traffic.** Picture a very big parking lot with several exits. Now stack the spots on top of each other and take away all the exits except for one. When traffic is bottlenecked, it is obviously going to be a nightmare. Parking garages in cities may see people going in and out at different times throughout the day. Class times are universal, though, and people are going to be driving in and out of the garage at the same time.

## GOP bunch of sour grapes



**Straight Talk**  
Lauren Collins

having a Muslim middle name equals being one and closing Guantanamo Bay equals terrorists on our streets.

I'm not saying you have to agree with all of President Obama's policies, but I am saying that having a rational approach always helps. The systematic polarization of issues has been the trademark of Republicans far on the right for decades now.

It seems to me that some

Republicans, mainly the extreme ones, think that their party is the only one that knows how to do anything right.

Excuse me, but am I the only one that remembers the past eight years? It's funny how Republicans have selective amnesia.

Where were all of these Republicans when Bush was lying to the American people about weapons of mass destruction? Or what about when he was invading the privacy of regular Americans like you and me, namely American soldiers and journalists?

I have another good one. How about when Bush blatantly broke the law and approved the use of torture to interrogate detainees at Gitmo?

In so many ways, Bush did a disservice to the American people by either

lying to them or employing secret schemes to do whatever he felt like. Republicans will scream about how Bush's practices kept us safe, but that point is debatable.

I don't know about you, but I am happy to finally have a president that wants to be honest with me and follow the Constitution of the United States.

Take a good look at our economy. Look at the way the world views America.

Republicans have incredible audacity to criticize President Obama the way they do after their guy got us into the mess we're in today.

To make things even worse, they offered up Bush's twin McCain and airhead Palin and expected the American people to vote for such lunacy. If Republicans wanted to stay in

the game, they should have been recruiting some better candidates to run for office.

I have news for Republicans. America has voted. Not only did Barack Obama win, but he won by a landslide. The constant bitterness and negativity coming from certain conservatives is unbecoming and in some cases un-American.

So, to remedy this ugly epidemic, I have some advice—look for the good in this situation. I have met very few people in life I can find no common ground with. Instead of wasting energy being negative and hoping Obama fails, find a cause you believe in and work towards making America better.

Support your country. Support your president. Stop the drama.

## English only? Tennessee already is.

By CATHARINE BROEMEL  
Contributing Columnist

On Jan. 22, Nashville voted against the English-only referendum that would have made English the official language of metropolitan Davidson County.

To paraphrase the document, government communications and publications could only be written in English, all official meetings would use only English, and people would have the right to municipal services only in English. The only exception would be for health and safety services.

As a resident of Davidson County, I've been watching this whole debacle play out

over the past few months.

I finally came to the conclusion that, well, I'm sorry, but both sides contain some really ignorant, shamefully biased people.

The worst thing has been the media advertisements and commentary. A number of Nashville's elite came out in strong opposition to the English-only vote.

Many prominent figures, including Mayor Karl Dean, Bishop David Choby and Councilman Buck Dozier appeared in a TV commercial speaking out against the English-only vote. The ad, which appears on youtube.com, claims that the measure will divide Nashville, scare away international compa-

nies and create an unwelcoming environment for new immigrants.

Also, the Tennessean launched a campaign against the referendum. In a series of articles, they complained that the measure was anti-immigrant, saying "How can [immigrants] assimilate if they cannot first get basic services—deeds, permits, driver's licenses, police and fire protection?"

Well, how's this for a solution: why don't immigrants learn English in order to assimilate? Why didn't anyone think of that?

Of course, the supporters for the measure aren't much better.

Radio talk show host

Steve Gill claimed that since the measure failed, illegal immigrants would now swarm to Middle Tennessee and commit all kinds of horrendous crimes.

OK, that could happen. But it's so unlikely that he might want to wait until it actually does happen to complain about it.

What both camps fail to understand is that this whole issue is a non-entity.

The United States of America does not have an official language. But 30 states, including Tennessee, have declared English as their official language.

Yes, you heard that right.

English is Tennessee's of-

ficial language.

So how much does it really matter if English is Davidson County's official language? It's all a matter of semantics.

Maybe both sides should have stepped back and realized that they're both partially right.

Speaking a foreign language is a valuable asset: it can get you a better job, expand your cultural horizons, and enable you to communicate with people in other countries.

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## COMICS



## FACES IN THE CROWD

### How do you feel about a parking garage on campus?



Winter

"I don't feel that another building is really necessary if people would start walking or riding their bikes."

Benajamin Winter, junior computer engineering



Douglas

"I don't like the idea. We have enough parking; we don't need a garage."

Chelsea Douglas, sophomore pre-med



Hill

"I do think a parking garage is a good thing, because it secures [people's] cars and their personal items."

Antonio Hill, recreation sophomore



White

"I think it would be unnecessary because it's more money, and that means tuition is going to go up."

Jennifer White, nursing sophomore



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## Horror remake in 3-D *Film Review*

### Valentine's Day alternative for those who like gore

By TIFFANY GIBSON  
Managing Editor

Valentine's Day is often recognized as a time to spend with loved ones, stuff your face full of chocolates wrapped in heart shaped boxes and watch hopelessly romantic movies, unlike "My Bloody Valentine 3D."

Directed by Patrick Lussier, "My Bloody Valentine 3D" is a fantastic remake from the early '80s that demolishes the meaning of Valentine's Day by ripping out hearts instead of catering to them.

Screenwriters Todd Farmer and Zane Smith kept the original concept for the storyline, except for skipping ahead 10 years instead of 20 after the first massacre.

Lussier's decision to add a third dimension to this film really doesn't change the seat-jumping scares it

delivers. Pickaxes may be flying out of the screen at the audience, but other scenes are just as real and eye popping.

The plot revolves around a character named Harry Warden, who is one of eight

on Valentine's Day to continue his killing spree by first shredding the entire hospital to pieces – body pieces that is.

In the opening minutes alone, the film has already used buckets of fake blood

ing Tom Hanniger (Jensen Ackles) who is the mine owner's son.

It is here that audiences are introduced to the three vital characters in the film, which are Tom, Axel Palmer (Kerr Smith) and Sarah Palmer (Jaime King) who all form the typical love triangle.

While Jensen and King have good onscreen chemistry as a couple, Smith seems like a wild card thrown into the cast.

With Smith's history of versatile roles, it's no shock that he plays a cheating, high-strung sheriff 10 years after his first near-death encounter with Warden.

After jumping a decade ahead, the characters are forced to change, but character evolution really starts to happen after rumors fly that Warden has returned to finish what he started.

Axel worries that Tom's return to town will prove fatal to his marriage to Sarah, considering they were "hot and heavy" in high school. Adding to Axel's paranoia is the fact that his mistress is pregnant.

With all this pressure, Axel soon turns harsh and cold, which only delays his capture of Warden but displays the makings of a man on the edge of a nervous breakdown.

In nearly every scene Axel is in there seems to be tension between himself and all the other characters.

Creating this type of atmosphere allows audiences to question whether or not Warden is really back for

revenge or if someone else is trying to start where he left off.

While the characters were perfectly cast, the script for the most part is mediocre. It doesn't have any memorable lines that moviegoers can find themselves repeating on the way out of the theater.

Even though this movie embodies all the elements of a stereotypical horror film – gory scenes, violence, an unintelligent female lead, drugs, alcohol and sex, it will keep viewers guessing what is going to happen next.

For special effects and Lussier's vision, I give it three and a half stars.



Photos courtesy of Lionsgate Studios

(Left) Axel Palmer (Kerr Smith), Burke (Tom Atkins) and Sarah Palmer (Jaime King) all visit Harry Warden's grave to see if he dead or on the loose after rumors fly that he is back for a second Valentine's Day massacre. (Right) Tom Hanniger (Jensen Ackles) looks out the windshield of his jeep at the mines that his father left him.



## Contest Winner Prattles On

Patrick Rickelton takes a love of Van Morrison to multiple music projects

By JESSICA PACE  
Staff Writer

With three musical projects under his wing, Patrick Rickelton is a busy guy. As the keyboardist for Nashville bands Greenland and Noble Three, the former high school teacher still reserves time for his solo project, Prattle On, Rick.

Based on his Jan. 16 acoustic set performed at the Franklin Mercantile Deli, Rickelton fares just as well as a lone singer/songwriter and does not appear to need band mates for full instrumentation. With a tambourine under one shoe and maracas attached to the other, Rickelton performs a collection of acoustic songs from his solo album *Time for the Long Sigh*.

Rickelton perfectly blends soft vocals and subdued but upbeat melodies in a Simon and Garfunkel-meets-The Shins combination.

Rickelton performs his own songs, sometimes sung with accompaniment from wife Erin. He also performs two covers, giving a nod to his proclaimed musical

hero Van Morrison and to John Lennon with a particularly beautiful rendition of "You've Got to Hide Your Love Away."

After the set, Rickelton was affable and more than willing to sit and talk about the other bands he plays with.

There was no shortage of music in Rickelton's upbringing. Between the influence of his parents who were "somewhat trained in singing" and early interests in bands like Oasis, who would later influence his songwriting, he was usually surrounded by music in some form.

But at the age of 15, Rickelton heard the album that really struck a musical nerve: Van Morrison's *Astral Weeks*.

"I was transformed to another world," he says. "I put the CD under my mattress. There was something holy about it."

Rickelton repeatedly stresses how Morrison's music has influenced all of his musical projects in varying degrees, and how profoundly *Astral Weeks*

affected him personally as a singer/songwriter.

In college, Rickelton taught himself how to play the guitar, and afterward, he turned to teaching high school German and history. Still, his career in education did not mark the end of his musical one.

While still teaching, Rickelton was recording songs at home and putting them up on the MySpace page he created. Concerned that his students would discover it, he created the moniker Prattle On, Rick, a partial anagram of his name. He continued to work on solo material even after he helped form Greenland in January 2006.

By the autumn of 2006, Greenland had escalated to a new level after entering the YouTube Underground Contest, a competition designed for unsigned bands to submit music videos. Drummer Michael Green created a video for "The Way It Is," written by lead vocalist Tres Crow. Greenland was among the four winners selected, receiving the award for "Best Song."

After winning the award, the guys of Greenland traveled to New York where they stayed for three days and appeared on *Good Morning America* with Diane Sawyer.

"We chose 'The Way It Is' because it's our strongest song, and it's immediately catchy," Rickelton says.

Though slightly gloomy lyrically, "The Way It Is" is infectious with the same jingle-pop of Vampire Weekend and breezy melody of The Shins that generally distinguishes all of Greenland's music.

"It's so hard to describe why a song hits you," Rickelton says humbly. "Sometimes you don't even feel like you wrote it." He refers to the song "Sara," which he wrote because of a dream he had about a girl he knew.

Greenland draws influence from an array of artists across the musical spectrum, including Marvin Gaye, David Bowie and Pavement, to name a few. Interestingly enough, these



Photo by Jeni Harju, contributing photographer

Patrick Rickelton stays busy, whether he performs his one band Prattle On, Rick, like above, or together with his groups Greenland and Noble Three.



CD Review: The Urges - Psych Ward

# Irish rockers channel '60s roots

## Dubliners The Urges release their first album in America

By KATY COIL  
Features Editor

The Urges first American album, "Psych Ward", has taken a while to get across the pond, but it was worth the wait to listen to the sounds of this psychedelic garage band from Dublin, Ireland.

Produced by Wicked Cool Records, the album sounds like it was made in the 1960s during the heyday of Hendrix, Jim Morrison and The Grateful Dead.

Their sound is a mix of gritty, vintage acid rock with the infusion of the primal rock'n' roll you would hear in an underground punk club. The entire album transports you back in time and sounds

like Woodstock and CBGB combined into one.

Lead singer Jim Walters has a voice that sounds like a hybrid of Jim Morrison from the Doors, Mick Jagger of the Rolling Stones, and Ray Davies of the Kinks.

Rhythm guitarist and organist Gary Clarke helps create a sound reminiscent of The Doors while lead guitarist Glen Lee Flynn and bassists Ross McGee add to the psychedelic-punk feel.

Drummer Ken Mooney seems almost like a clever reincarnation of the legendary Keith Moon "the Loon".

The album is what could have happened if all of the greatest rockers from the

late '60s came together post-humously to put out an LP.

The first track "Jenny, Jenny" is a wild catchy song embodying the psychedelic yet punk feel of the album.

Another song, "I Gotta Wait" is a cross between surf punk and outlaw rock, perhaps the type of song Johnny Cash and Brian Wilson had gotten together to write.

The track "Salvaje" is a musical psychedelic romp with primal screaming and monkey chants that make you feel transported back into the days of acid tests and free love. In contrast, "The 13th Floor" starts at a slow dreamy pace with soft guitar, organ, and Walters crooning but gets to a faster and quicker as it goes

along.

Songs such as "You Don't Look So Good" and "So Uptight" are reminiscent of '60s drug rock that make you just want to turn the lights down, put on the strobe light, and freak out.

The album's title track, "Psych Ward," is a musical psych-out with sounds and lyrics that sound as though they vibrate, even within the confines of an iPod.

Originally, the Urges only released singles and an LP rather than a CD.

This album was only available as an expensive import until late last year and now American's can have the opportunity to enjoy this rough acid trip of a release.

The album is like many others than come out in this day in age, where one track is indistinguishable from the other.

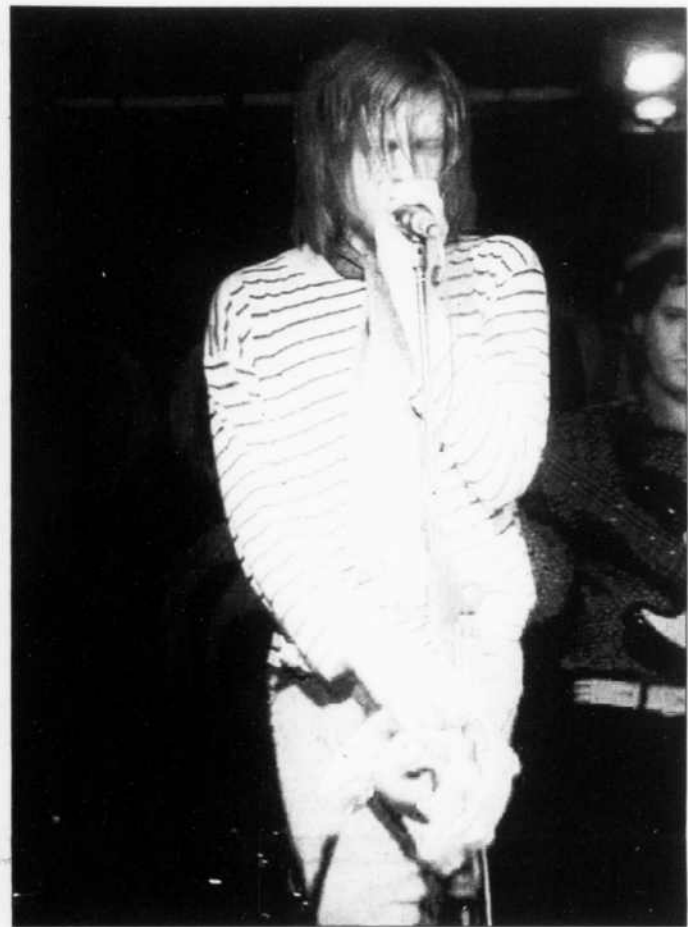
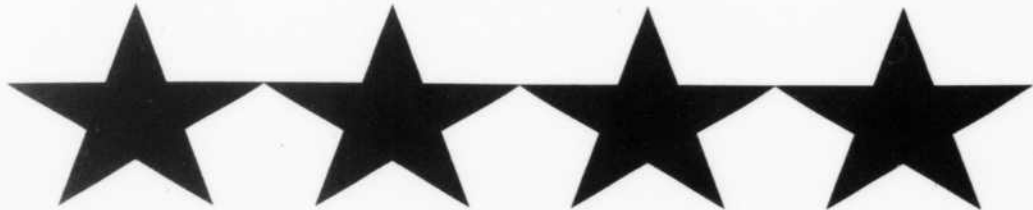
The Urges show their range on this album from furious fist-pumping rock to soft, dreamy music to trippy songs and lyrics that can turn even the most buttoned down business-

man into a hippie.

Even though "Psych Ward" sounds like it came out 40 years ago, the five Irishmen of the Urges have created an album that can stand the test of time.

Fans of both classic rock and new indie can appreciate the amazing range displayed on the 12 tracks of the album.

The Urges get four out of four stars for making those who doubted that good rock n' roll would ever return believe again.



Photos courtesy of the Urges and Wicked Cool Records  
Left: Urges lead singer Jim Walters performs during a sweaty show. Middle: Glen Lee Flynn performs at one of the band's shows. Right: The Urges stand against a memorial statue in a cemetery in their native Ireland.

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### PRATTLES FROM PAGE 6

influences can be picked up in Greenland's sound in tons of small and surprising ways.

"It's a process of absorption," Ricketon says of the effect that so many bands have had on Greenland, "and it's mostly a feeling that comes out in the music."

Some critics view this variation as inconsistency.

"It's singer/songwriters sharing a band," Ricketon says in his band's defense, "Our sound can be all over the place, but that's what we've worked on."

With Prattle On, Rick and Greenland still in full

swing, Ricketon branched out yet again in 2007 with fellow band mate Tres Crow to form Noble Three. They formed a project similar to Greenland but with a much more concentrated musical influence.

"Tres and I had three big influences - Simon and Garfunkel, Oasis and Sigur Ros," says Ricketon, who still gives as much attention to Prattle On, Rick and Greenland. "We just wanted to sing quieter songs that were more emotional."

But with three bands demanding his attention, particularly Greenland after the success of "The Way It Is" in the YouTube contest, something had to give. Ricketon had what he half-jokingly de-

scribes as the schedule that teachers are "terrified of having," which only heightened the appeal of pursuing music full time. Now it's been nearly eight months since he gave up teaching.

"I'm an introvert and a perfectionist," he says. "These two things make it hard to be a teacher. It took so much energy every week, for someone who needs time for themselves. And when the music got more serious, it wasn't a difficult decision."

Now Ricketon devotes energy to "wherever there is activity," and right now, it's with Greenland. Though he is no longer teaching, some of the same passion he had for it is still apparent in his approach to making music.

"When you teach language and history, you learn about the world

and get a sense of wonder about it, and you want to do things," he says, "Music does the same thing."

The unpretentiousness of his perspective on music and teaching is evident in Ricketon's personality. Apart from a few long-term musical idols with whom he would like to collaborate with ideally, Ricketon appears content to play with his band mates and live an otherwise ordinary life.

"I'd love to play with my heroes - Noel Gallagher, Van Morrison, Paul Simon," Ricketon says, "But I enjoy what I do with Greenland because they're just normal dudes like me. There's value in living a normal life and having families but still not giving up on being artistic and making something beautiful."

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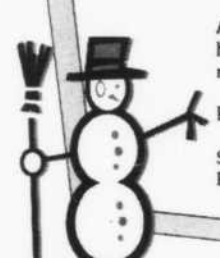
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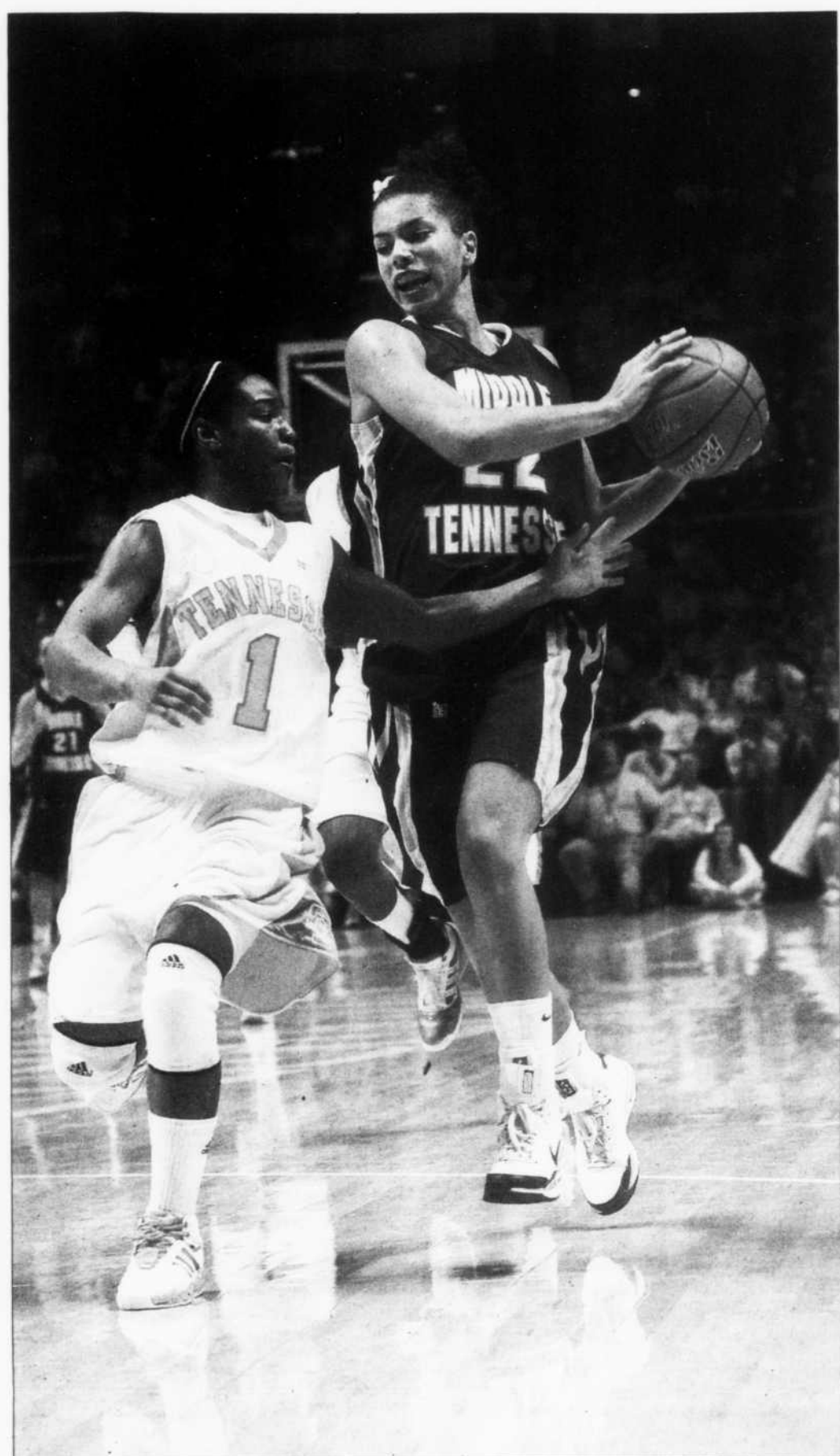


Photo by Alex Blackwelder, photography editor  
Clark defends the ball from UT point guard Briana Bass while going for a layup on a fast break. She made the layup despite Bass' attempt to steal the ball in Neyland Stadium in Knoxville.



Photo by Alex Blackwelder, photography editor  
Clark high fives junior forward Brandi Brown on the bench after checking out of the game.



Photo by Alex Blackwelder, photography editor  
Clark walks to the locker room before the UALR game in the Murphy Center. "In the locker room, I have to laugh and not be so serious because then I'll think too much," Clark says.

## Athlete striving for greatness

### PROFILE FROM PAGE 1

over to broadcasting.

"When I was at Belmont, I was taking a sports reporting class, and I was writing stories from our games when I was hurt," Clark says. "That's just something that I find interesting, because you get to capture the athletes' emotions before and after."

Before making the switch to basketball, Clark says that she played volleyball and followed in her sister's footsteps in running track.

"Those were my first two

loves," Clark explains. "I loved playing volleyball and running track in my freshman year of high school."

After moving to Tennessee in her sophomore year of high school, Clark says that basketball was so demanding that she didn't have time to continue playing volleyball and running track. However, it was at this time that she says she really began to develop a love and passion for the game through Mount Juliet High School Head Coach Chris Fryer.

"I learned how to use my left hand my freshman year, but he really developed my

left-hand shot," Clark says. "He taught me basic post moves, like how to pivot and how to move."

While adapting to Fryer's coaching methods, Clark says she really found herself believing she could play at a Division I level basketball team. Encouraging her, she says that Fryer put confidence in her to work harder during the season to make up for lost time.

"[He] made me think that maybe I can go and really do something with this [basketball]."

Belmont drafted Clark and pursued her talent even

after she became injured. Clark says that originally she wanted to go to Vanderbilt with her friend and now Vanderbilt junior guard Jessica Mooney. During this time, Clark says that she wanted to be a pediatrician.

"Belmont was consistent in contacting me and sending me letters, and that really meant a lot to me," Clark says. "I didn't want to take a risk in my senior year and end up having nowhere to go."

Clark spent her time at Belmont well, considering she helped lead the team to their first NCAA Tour-

namment appearance in 2007. She also scored 1,000 points in 52 games, making her the fastest athlete at Belmont to do so.

In 2007-08, Clark sat on the sidelines of the MT bench due to transfer rules. Clark says she had played Head Coach Rick Insell before and decided to come to MT because of the program he is building.

"The type of mentality and skill set that he teaches, and his passion for the game provides girls the opportunity to reach the next level," Clark says. "[Sitting on the sidelines] was hard, because

I wasn't injured and knew I could be out there.

"I took it as an opportunity to see the game from a different aspect."

When it comes to the experience of playing at MT, Clark says that the schedule is more grueling, considering Insell schedules games against Courtney and Ashley Paris from the University of Oklahoma, LSU and UT.

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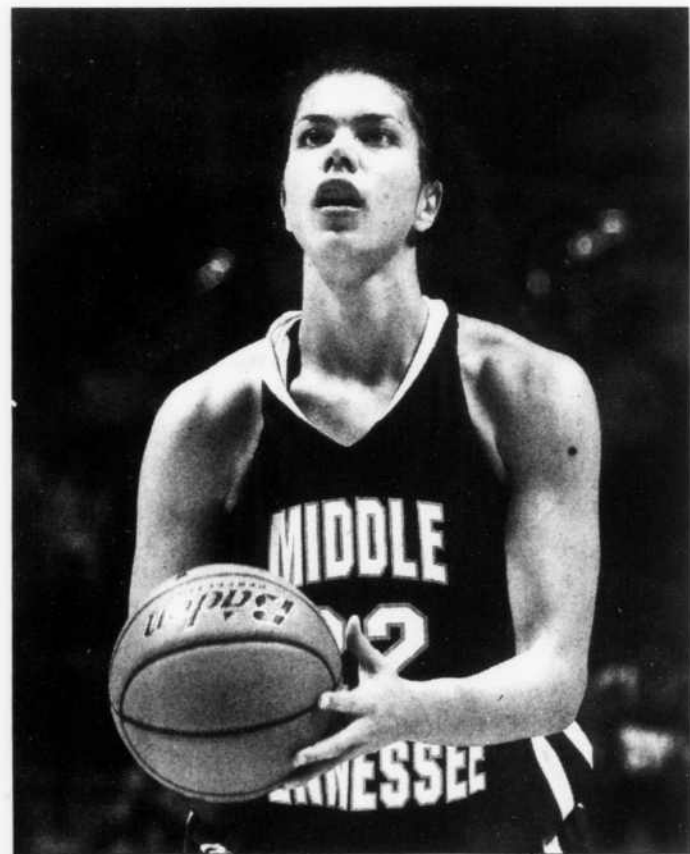


Photo by Alex Blackwelder, photography editor  
Clark concentrates before shooting a free throw against UT.



Photo by Alex Blackwelder, photography editor  
Chelsia Lymon (left) and Clark chat while being prepped by trainer in the training room before the UALR game.



# Men's basketball prepares to host Sun Belt test

By ZACH REVES  
Assistant Sports Editor

The Blue Raider men's basketball team is looking for an all-important Sun Belt Conference win tonight as they host Louisiana-Lafayette for the start of a two-game home set.

Lately, the men's team has hit a rough patch of games. They have dropped three of the last four contests with all three losses coming on the road against Sun Belt opponents. In their last

outing, the Blue Raiders fell short in a disappointing loss at New Orleans, 65-69. Head coach Kermit Davis and the team will look to reverse their current fortunes with tonight's game in the friendly confines of the Murphy Center.

To earn that elusive conference win, MT will look to rely on the veteran leaders of the team. Junior forward Desmond Yates has started all 20 games this season and averages a team-high 18.7 points per game. Senior

guard Kevin Kanaskie will man the point with his team-leading 4.4 assists per game.

The Blue Raiders are currently tied for third place in the Sun Belt Conference with a record of 6-3. Conference-leading Western Kentucky is a full game ahead of MT with 10 games remaining for the season.

Tonight's opponent, Louisiana-Lafayette, sport a 4-4 record in the conference and a 7-12 record overall. They are coming off a buzzer-beating 2-point up-

set over South Alabama at home last Saturday night.

However, the Cajuns will have to travel and they have had little success on the road as their 1-7 away record shows. The men of MT will try to get a new win streak started against Louisiana-Lafayette tonight at 7 p.m. inside the Murphy Center. The Blue Raiders will follow tonight's performance with a Mardi Gras-themed home game against Louisiana-Monroe on Saturday.



Photo by Jay Bailey, staff photographer  
Center Theryn Hudson backs down a defender against UT.

## Sporting like a peacock: Super Bowl media fumbles away ball

Nothing says football world champions like a cross-dressing Telemundo reporter handing football players chocolate candy in Tampa Bay during an interview session.

It's those kinds of oddities that signal to me that the Super Bowl is just around the corner (this Sunday as a matter of fact, but you already knew that). It's also those same oddities that make me ashamed and embarrassed of how the NFL and the media promote America's single greatest sporting event.

Year after year, I am forced to watch all the festivities and fireworks surrounding the Super Bowl and the same thing happens every year: the game gets lost in the crowd. The actual long-standing tradition of men giving each other concussions for 60 minutes gets dressed up like a golden retriever



**Mr. Irrelevant**  
Zach Reves

wearing a tutu. It's a perfectly good and loyal dog, but you had to go and put a tutu on it and turn it into a sideshow.

Let's go through the horrendous examples of sports being stupid. First, there's the general media who are throwing out feature story after feature story about any angle of the game they can find to get people to read something. Some of these stories have merit like interviews with players, but do we really need to know that so-and-so's cousin

used to be the ball boy for the Steelers and now washes the Cardinals towels and other unmentionables?

Half of this kind of journalism belongs at the checkout line of a grocery store right next to the story "Bat-boy found in cave, mother claims love affair with Dracula."

Next comes Media Day and the aforementioned Telemundo reporter doing his best Dennis Rodman impersonation. In a perfect world, Media Day is a session where all the players for each of the Super Bowl teams get to be interviewed by various personalities of the media so that we learn more about them. However, you and I both know that this world isn't perfect (or else I'd be incredibly good-looking) and thus the oddities are let loose.

Random outlets of the media are allowed into Media Day even if they have

nothing to do with football. I saw a reporter from the Golf Channel there. I seriously hope he was just lost.

Access Hollywood was there, but I have no clue what part of Hollywood they were accessing in Tampa Bay.

And of course, Telemundo made their semi-masculine blonde-wig, boa-wearing, chocolatey presence felt. No one knows the point of his display other than the fact that he was claiming to be the "Football Fairy God-mother." As weird as that was, it has nothing on what they've done in the past, including a man in a bridal gown proposing to Tom Brady. Brady politely declined the fair maiden. In this year's circus, the question of the day went to a late-night show when it asked, "Would you rather play with a pink ball?" Now, I have finally seen the wisdom of what makes

money in this business.

Next, we have the commercials. They exist only for shock factor. Slap-stick comedy, flatulency and Justin Timberlake assault and insult our senses annually. But I drew the line after hearing a friend of mine utter these words, "Oh, game's back on, time for a bathroom break."


People are more interested in a 30-second chuckle than an event that pits the two best teams in the league against each other for a place in the history books. That's like going to a party just to eat the snacks and run. They're free. They're good. But they're not the whole picture. Don't be a pig; respect the party and respect the game.

What I am getting at here is the idea that even if you aren't a sports fan, please sit down and tune out the glitter, the perfume and the strobe lights for a little bit.


The Super Bowl has hosted some of the greatest games ever played and it really should demand more of your attention.

This sport has been around for a long time and has succeeded without this whole circus atmosphere for years. Try to enjoy the game for what it is: a game. Cheer for the sport and not the madness around it. Cheer for the teams playing their hearts out for your entertainment (yes, I know the Titans aren't in it, but that is not as depressing as a Greek tragedy as some of you would have me believe).

In the end, it's just a game. Enjoy all the festivities around it if you want, but don't ignore the thing that makes it all go round. It's one of the greatest events America has to offer the world and it's about time we started treating it that way.



# Mardi Gras Night



## Raider Basketball vs. Louisiana-Monroe

**Saturday, Jan. 31 • Murphy Center**  
**Women 5:00 p.m., Men 7:00 p.m.**

**Beads! Candy! King Cakes!**

**Students—come in Mardi Gras costume  
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**One lucky student will win a 2009 KYMCO Scooter\*!**

**Students in costume can also win a \$100 gift certificate**

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**You must be present at the men's game to win.**

**MTSU Students FREE with I.D.**

**For more information, contact Blue Raider Marketing at  
615-898-5322 or visit GoBlueRaiders.com**

\*retail value \$3299





# 28th ranked Lady Raiders dominate

## STAFF REPORT

With a 0-8 Sun Belt record for Louisiana-Lafayette, there was not much hope going into the Murphy Center on Wednesday.

The Lady Raiders easily maintain their perfect conference record with an outstanding performance for a final score of 85-57.

With accolade-earning performances by almost all starters on the team, the Lady Raiders led the charge down the court as soon as tipoff had passed.

MT lit up the stat sheets, with an unprecedented three steals taken in the first two minutes of the game-two by junior forward Alysha Clark and one

by junior upstart guard Brandi Brown.

Even as the first half expired, the Lady Raiders had already shot for 50 points, compared to Louisiana-Lafayette's measly 26. The Lady Cajuns fought again and again for a chance at victory, and came out of the locker room revitalized for the second half.

It was all in vain, however, as fouls and turnovers again plagued the Lady Cajuns before the clock had even started. An excellent jumper by Brown put MT at 52 as substitutions labeled UL-L desperate, even 20 seconds into the second half.

Brown was the leading

scorer in the game, leaving the Lady Cajuns in the dust after an impressive 20 points, along with another eight assists.

Alysha Clark went for yet another double-double in the game, and supporting her team with 15 points and another 15 assists.

The Lady Raiders went into the game having earned a placement at 28 in the Coaches Poll this past week. They can only continue to climb up the ranks if their performance tonight is any indication.

The Ladies will stay at home for a Mardi Gras-themed Alumni night this Saturday, playing host to Louisiana-Monroe. The game will start at 5:00 p.m.



Photo by Jay Bailey, staff photographer

Dana Garrett goes one-on-one with Arkansas State guard Shania Hurst at the Murphy Center on Jan. 21

## Making a Political Play

### New president Barack-ing boat in sports universe

In addition to the many town hall meetings, press conferences and campaign promises, Barack Obama also managed to lend his increasingly powerful hand to one of the most confusing and all-inclusive areas in the modern United States: athletics.

The Unbiased American might ask themselves, "Are there no more impending issues to the new president? Is not the economy the priority? Have we nothing better to do with our government than devote even more time and money to sports?"

That unbiased American might be right, but probably not.

Before Obama was guaranteed his right to an inauguration day, he appeared on ESPN's Monday Night Football alongside then-opponent John McCain. Both were interviewed by ESPN's Chris Berman, and both offered their opinion of what was wrong in college football. However, in keeping with his dogmatic mantra of change, it was Obama who caught the nation's attention.

After Berman's attempt at some politically infused questions, he finally prompted Obama to give the one thing he would change in sports.

"I think it is about time we had playoffs in college football," Obama excitedly stated. "I'm fed up with these computer rankings and this and that and the other. Get eight teams, the top eight teams right at the end, you got a playoff. Decide on a national champion."

However, football is not all Obama may affect. The ongoing Roger Clemens investigation also has play in the new administration.

As of Jan. 22, ex-Clemens attorney Lanny Breuer will do an about-face to head the Department of Justice's investigation of Clemens. Clemens, a one-time pitching extraordinaire who won an unprecedented seven Cy Young awards, allegedly committed perjury when asked about his steroid usage under oath last year.

The Clemens case had not come to a definitive end by the conclusion of the Bush administration, and so now it is up to Obama and his attorney general Eric Holder to fully conclude the case in a fashion that is both politically and fanatically-infused.



The 5th Down

Chris Welch

A seemingly endless barrage of parallels to Tiger Woods have also been drawn. Both are mixed-race, uber-talented ideologists. Both started out trying to make headway in a field that was predominantly, if not exclusively, controlled by aging white males. Now, it's looking like both are succeeding.

But who will say what the ultimate outcome of Obama's presidency will be on the sporting world?

For starters, if he really can perform miracles and successfully improve the economy, then more Americans will be able to afford their season ticket seats or that extra jersey for the kids. This in turn will make more revenue for the individual teams and sports, which should result in greater productivity from the teams or sports.

Obama also stands to strengthen league and player unions across the board. With a less-than-sympathetic Bush administration, the Obama camp seem to be more keen on hearing the arguments of disheveled and under-appreciated players.

In another economically-aimed policy, the president plans to produce major tax increases for players and owners alike in an aim to spread the wealth more equally.

Obama is also planning to make a bid for his hometown for the 2016 Olympics. This October, the president will be traveling to Copenhagen, Denmark to try and convince the rest of the world why the Windy City should play host to more than some 200 countries from all corners of the globe. His love of sports will no doubt have as much play in his argument as his innate patriotism.

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