

## SGA seeks to extend library hours

### New legislation pushes for 24-hour facility use

By TODD BARNES  
News Editor

The Student Government Association presented new tentative legislation Thursday that would make the James E. Walker Library open 24 hours a day - five days a week.

Sen. Laura Bosi of the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences co-sponsored Resolution 8-11-S, a resolution to extend "library hours to 24 hours a day" Sunday through Friday afternoon.

Bosi said the library should remain open during that time to some capacity because library officials have told her that many students use the library throughout the day regardless the time.

"[Library staff] said they actually have to kick people out at midnight," Bosi said, adding that library officials statistically tracked how many students use the library during extended hours during 2010 fall finals.

The data revealed there a significant number of students who used the library past midnight.

The numbers of how many students used the library during fall finals was not available by print deadline.

Although, the Business and Aerospace Building's 24-hour computer lab is open for students, it does not have a "designated area for studying or places for groups to meet," according to Bosi's legislation.

Bosi said her committee researched how exactly the library would remain open, while following the university's guidelines of efficient energy usage within its budget.

"All four [library] floors would be open, but the computer labs on the second, third and fourth [floors] would be [off] helping to save electricity and cut down on costs," Bosi said.

Even though Bosi said she has spoken with library staff, she has not spoken with William Black, the administrative service librarian, who implements campus library policies. Bosi said she hopes to speak with

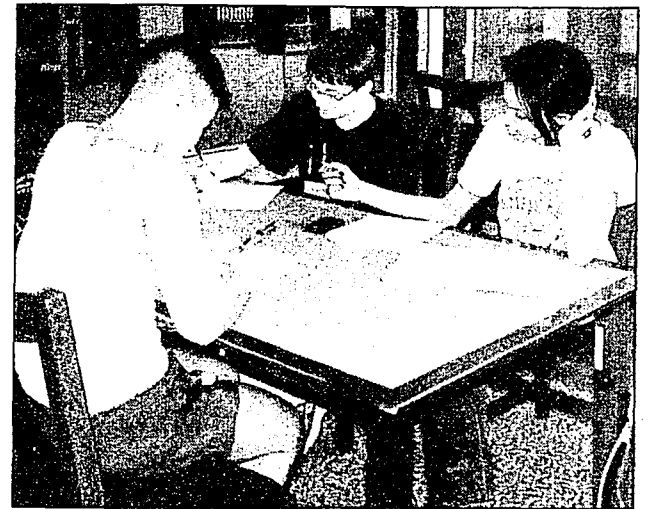


Photo by Marie Kempf, editor-in-chief  
(Left to right) Tien Nguyen and Michael Ripley, both of whom are majoring in criminal justice, and SGA Sen. KaDeadra McNealy of the College of Basic and Applied Sciences study for midterms Feb. 27 in the James E. Walker Library. Ripley said he supports the SGA proposal and wants "the library open 24 hours" a day.

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Photo by Bailey Ingram, photo editor  
Police from the MTSU Office of Public Safety stand outside of Scarlet Commons Apartments on Feb. 27, after being called to investigate a report of an assault.

## Students assaulted on campus

By AMANDA HAGGARD  
Associate News Editor

Two male students are recovering this morning from being physically assaulted Sunday on campus a few minutes before 7 p.m.

One of the unidentified male victims told police from the MTSU Office of Public Safety he was inside one of the units at Scarlett Commons Apartments when a suspect came in and struck him in the head with an unknown object.

The suspects were described as black males wearing all black clothing and full masks, and possibly were wearing hoodies, according to an MTSU Timely Warning - which is different than an Alert, however this type of warning has not been used in the past.

Officers have not determined if robbery was a motive.

"Because there were no weapons involved, I was directed to send an e-mail rather than an entire sweep of alerts," said an official with the Office of Public Safety.

Although the initial warning indicated that the two male students reported they had been physically assaulted on Alumni Drive near Greek Row, campus police initially responded to Scarlett Commons and evacuated the apartment building.

A female resident of Scarlett Commons, who wished to remain anonymous, arrived home during the evacuation.

When officers allowed students to go back to their apartments, the female student said while re-entering her apartment she heard that "someone

got jumped."

A follow-up warning notified students that the exact location of the incident was unknown, and police were looking into whether or not it occurred on MTSU Boulevard or Rutherford Boulevard.

None of the victims' injuries were severe. However, one was seen being treated outside of the apartment complex for facial wounds.

"We received a call to investigate a disturbance," Officer Joey Fabiano said. "It's an assault, but we're still getting witness statements to see exactly what went on."

The two victims reported the suspects left the scene heading south on Rutherford Boulevard in what they believed to be a black Ford Expedition. The incident remains under investigation.

## University officials to consider making evaluations public

By LIZA SATURDAY  
Staff Writer

Members of the Student Government Association passed a resolution that would make the results of end-of-semester faculty evaluations public to students online.

"The plan is to have it in place by the beginning of the next school year," said At-Large Sen. Gavin Mosley.

SGA members said the purpose of Resolution 5-11-S is to increase the accessibility of students to professor and class evaluations.

"The resolution has to be voted on again in a formal meeting then go to [Deborah] Sells, but it is not a bill until [she] accepts it," Mosley said before the senate vote.

There are already websites that offer professor reviews like the MTSU Review website, which recently joined up with Koofers.

Koofers is a Facebook driven social learning platform for American college students, and has more than 370,000 fans and over 140,000 active users, according to Koofers' fact sheet online.

However, Executive Vice President Samantha Cobb said the new method would be more reliable.

"The reviews on MTSU Review are a small sample of students and are sometimes unfair," Cobb said. "Students will always want to know what they are getting themselves into when taking a class."

Cobb said the junction of MTSU Review and Koofers had nothing to do with the pending bill, and that neither she nor any other member of the senate knew about it until after the legislation was written and passed.

Curt Curry, a senior system analyst for the Office of Information Technology's Academic Services group, said filling the evaluations out online versus paper form would not get as true of a response.

He said there have been campus studies of not getting an accurate response rate when students are given the option to go to a site and fill out an evaluation rather than being in a "controlled environment."

He said the response rate for paper evaluations is 70 percent or more, and online evaluations response rates are 10 to 20 percent.

Many said a benefit of the evaluations being available on RaiderNet is that they would be

EVALUATIONS, PAGE 3

## Volunteers 'give back' by donating blood to Red Cross

By HADIL NUMAN  
Contributing Writer

The Student Government Association hosted a blood drive in the Tennessee Room of the James Union Building on Thursday in hopes of collecting 125 pints of blood to donate to the American Red Cross.

Barbara Rack, and American Red Cross nurse helped with the event, and said she offered comfort

for donors.

"I'll take care of you," Rack said. "They call me the Red Cross mom."

Sen. Lauren Benefield in the College of Education and Behavioral Science said that there are about four or five blood drives held each school year.

"We usually reach our goal amount," Benefield said. "MTSU is really good about that."

Many students who

attended said they had given blood before, and they felt it was a good way to give back to the community.

"It makes me feel good that I'm going to help someone else," said Ashlee Puckett, a junior majoring in community and public health.

Puckett has given blood twice before. She said she heard about the blood drive through PipelineMT.

"It makes me feel like

a wonderful person [to give blood]," said Autumn Lankford, a sophomore in the College of Behavioral and Health Sciences.

Anne Ford, registration coordinator for Records and Scheduling, said she came to the blood drive when she heard on the radio that she could donate on campus.

Ford, who has donated blood before and plans to do it again, said that she does it "just to give back."

"It's a good thing that the school does," Ford said.

Jonathan Siler, a senior majoring in English, said he was a first-time blood donor. Siler also heard about the blood drive through PipelineMT.

"I felt like I should give," Siler said. "I put myself in someone else's shoes. I can't help but think that somewhere down the road, I'll be in the hospital and I'll need blood."

There are stipulations on who can give blood, and sometimes the Red Cross has to turn some potential donors away for various reasons.

Pearl Stewart, a freshman majoring in music education, said she wanted to give blood because she had in the past, but was unable because of a new tattoo.

"We saw the Red Cross truck from our dorm room window so we decided to come," Stewart said.

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### IN TODAY'S ISSUE



Donna Bath, a Subway employee, talks about her favorite part of the job - the students.

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### EXCLUSIVELY ONLINE



View our photo slideshow and read commentary about last night's 83rd Academy Awards.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

### WEATHER



MONDAY  
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# NATIONAL AP NEWS

## Illinois appeals court revives cigarette label lawsuit

EDWARDSVILLE, Ill. (AP) – A lawsuit that led to a \$10.1 billion verdict against Philip Morris before it was overturned by the Illinois Supreme Court has been revived by a lower court.

The Mount Vernon-based 5th District Appellate Court on Thursday cleared the way for the plaintiffs to argue that a favorable 2008 U.S. Supreme Court decision in an unrelated case may be applied to reinstate the questioned Madison County one.

In 2003, a judge found that Philip Morris misled customers about "light" cigarettes. The Illinois Supreme Court later overturned that, saying regulators let companies characterize or label their cigarettes as "light" and "low tar."

## Defense Department renews Tricare deal with Humana

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) – Humana will continue providing health care to military members and their families in the South.

The company announced Friday that the Department of Defense re-evaluated an earlier decision to award the contract for Tricare health coverage to UnitedHealth.

The Pentagon said the contract's potential value is \$23.5 billion over more than five years, The Courier-Journal reported.

Humana has been the provider for Tricare's South Region for about eight years. The region includes Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee and most of Texas. Eligible military beneficiaries in the Fort

## Federal court rules in favor of Starbucks in Kraft case

NEW YORK (AP) – Starbucks Corp. is gaining ground in its effort to end its distribution partnership with Kraft Foods Inc. as a U.S. Appeals Court upholds a lower court ruling against Kraft.

The food maker began distributing Starbucks coffee to groceries and other stores more than a decade ago.

After Starbucks announced in November that it planned to end the arrangement, Kraft tried to get a federal court to prevent Starbucks from abandoning the relationship. That request was denied in January.

On Friday, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit in New York upheld that ruling and said Kraft failed to show it faces irreparable harm if Starbucks breaks away before a separate arbitration process ends.

# LOCAL AP NEWS

## Local Marine's funeral Monday

COLUMBIA (AP) – A funeral procession for a Marine from Tennessee killed in Afghanistan is set for Monday. Lance Cpl. Andrew Carpenter's funeral will be at 2 p.m. Monday at Heritage Funeral Home in Columbia.

Jim Cain, vice president of community relations for Heritage Funeral Home, told The Columbia Daily Herald the route of the procession will give the public an opportunity to show its support for the military by lining the roadside and waving flags.

Carpenter died Feb. 19, five days after suffering a gunshot wound to the neck while on patrol in Helmand province, Afghanistan.

The procession, which is expected to leave the funeral home about 3 p.m. Monday, will travel south on U.S. Highway 31 through Columbia, turn right on West 7th Street and then proceed on Trotwood Avenue toward Polk Memorial Gardens.

## Belmont officially recognizes gay student organization

NASHVILLE (AP) – Belmont University has officially recognized a gay student organization for the first time.

According to The Tennessean, Bridge Builders is dedicated to advancing a campus dialogue about Christianity and human sexuality. The group had tried twice before to gain official status on campus.

Belmont is a Christian university that had been affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention until it broke away in 2007.

Its policies toward gays drew national attention in December after soccer coach Lisa Howe left her job. Students have accused the university of firing Howe for coming out as a lesbian to her team.

Provost Thomas Burns and Bridge Builders President Robbie Maris announced the decision to recognize the student group in a joint statement on Friday.

## Construction begins on new forensic center in Memphis

MEMPHIS (AP) – Construction has begun on a forensic center that will serve areas of West Tennessee.

A state-of-the-art Shelby County Regional Forensic Center is expected to open early next year, The Commercial Appeal reports. The building is expected to cost up \$13 million and will offer more room for autopsies, death investigators and medical students.

The current forensic center is located in a former hospital built in 1925. It handled 908 autopsies from Memphis and surrounding counties last year.

Other areas of the state have updated forensic centers in recent years. A new \$5 million forensic center opened in Nashville in 2001 and East Tennessee State University's medical school spent \$6.5 million renovating its forensic center in 2007.

## Famous activists to commemorate women's history

STAFF REPORT

MTSU's Women's History Month includes many events planned throughout March under the theme "Breaking Boundaries and Breaking New Ground."

Angela Davis, a professor in the women's and gender studies department at Syracuse University is slated to speak March 22 in the Tennessee Room of the James Union Building at 5 p.m.

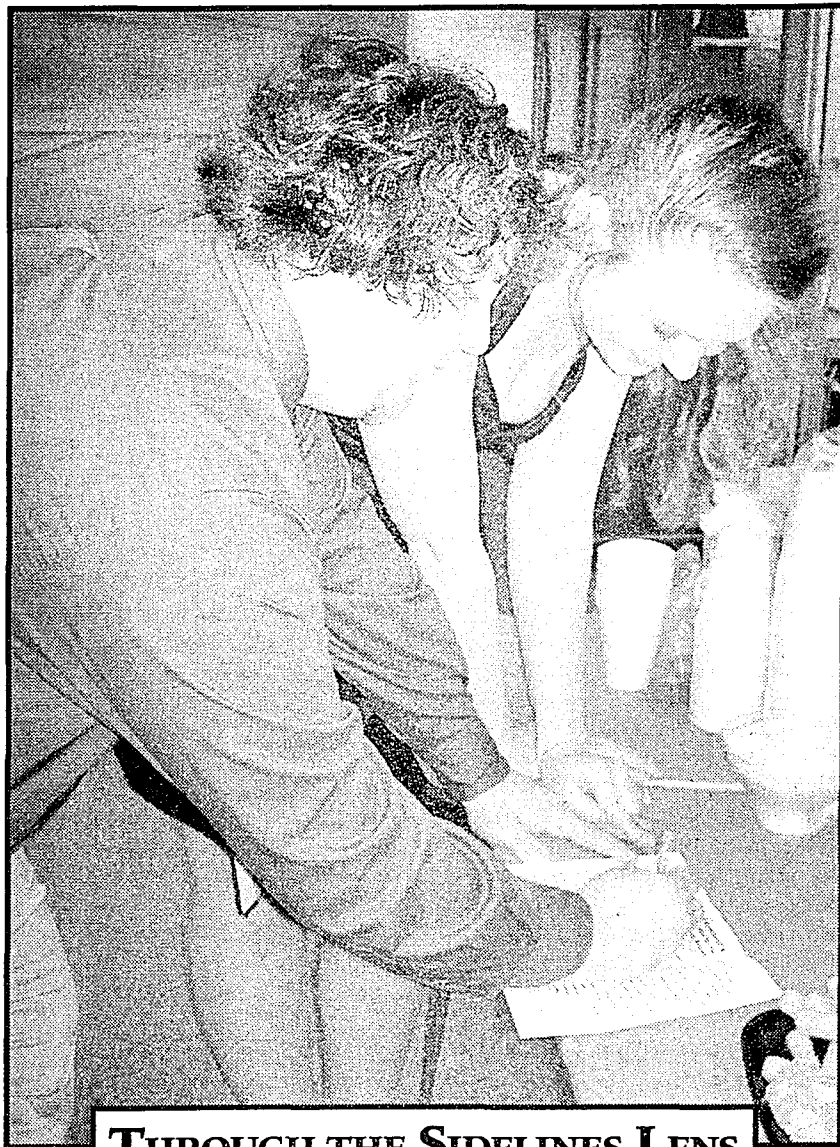
"Global Discourses in Women's and Gender Studies," is a conference slated for March 23-26 that encompasses several events on campus.

The featured individual on the 2011 National Women's History Month button is Frida Kahlo of Salma Hayek's 2002 Academy Award-winning motion picture "Frida."

Somaly Mam, a human rights activist, will give the keynote lecture, "The Road to Lost Innocence: Human Trafficking and Sex Slavery," March 25 in the Tom H. Jackson Building at 3:15 p.m.

Meghan McCain, daughter of U.S. Sen. John McCain, will kick off SpringOUT with a speech sponsored by MT Lambda and Scholars Week on April 6 in Room 221 of the Learning Resources Center at 7 p.m.

Nancy Rupprecht, a professor of history, will deliver the presentation "When Civil War is Waged by Women" on April 7 in Room 100 of the JUB at 3 p.m.



THROUGH THE SIDELINES LENS

Photo by Michael Finch, assistant editor

(From left) Brandon Pierce, a junior pre-pharmacy major, and Andrea Brock, a senior early childhood education major, fill out their Academy Awards ballots Feb. 27 to pick who they think will win an Oscar for each category. The two were among a group of students who participated in "A Red Carpet Affair," held in Felder Hall.

## Grammy Award winner to visit campus

STAFF REPORT

Grammy Award-winning musician Béla Fleck is slated to lecture and perform at the Windham Lecture Series in Liberal Arts on March 15 at 5 p.m. in the Tucker Theatre.

"A Conversation with Béla Fleck," will mark the 20th anniversary of the lecture series.

The initial Windham Lecture in 1990 featured Dan T. Carter of Emory University and Dewey W. Grantham of Vanderbilt University, who spoke on "The South and the Second Reconstruction."

Since then, the Windham Lectures, sponsored by the College of Liberal Arts, have addressed topics spanning from American music to presidential rhetoric to gambling to American foreign policy.

On Feb. 13, Fleck won his 14th Grammy Award for the "Best Contemporary World Music Album" for "Throw Down Your Heart,

Africa Sessions Part 2: Unreleased Tracks."

He has been nominated in more different categories than anyone in Grammy history: bluegrass, classical, contemporary Christian, country, gospel, jazz, pop and spoken-word.

The Student Programming Films Committee is screening "Throw Down Your Heart," Fleck's Grammy-winning documentary that catalogues his travels to Africa to learn about the origins of banjos, today at 4 p.m. in the Keathley University Center Theatre.

Fleck started playing a banjo his grandfather bought him when he was 15 years old, and within four years, he produced his first solo album, "Crossing the Tracks," at age 19.

In 1981, Fleck was invited to join New Grass Revival, reuniting with an old pal, mandolinist Sam Bush, alongside Pat Flynn on guitar and John Cowan on bass, to chart new territory

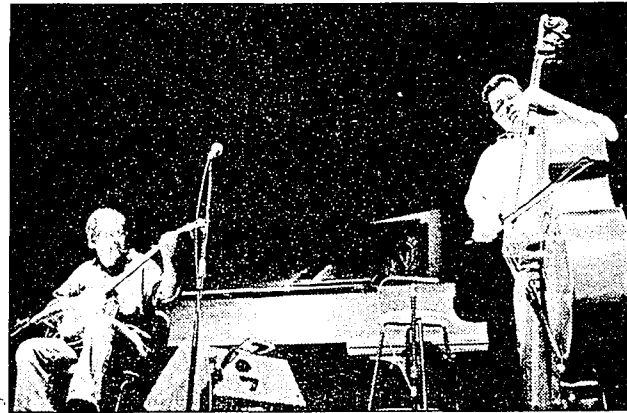


Photo courtesy of Ben Caswell, Woodstock Film Festival

Bela Fleck and Edgar Meyer perform in 2001 at the Woodstock Film Festival at Fisher Center at Bard College in New York.

with their blend of bluegrass, rock and country.

In Fleck's nine years with the group, he continued to record solo albums for Rounder Records and collaborated with Edgar Meyer, a bassist and composer from Oak Ridge, in an acoustic super group called Strength in Numbers.

Bela Fleck and the Flecktones will play June 10 at Bonnaroo Music Festival, held annually

in Manchester.

William and Westy Windham established the series through the MTSU Foundation.

William Windham was a faculty member from 1955 until 1989 and served as chairman of the department of history the last 11 years.

The late Westy Windham earned a master's degree in sociology at MTSU and was the founder of the Great American Singalong.

## LOCAL EVENTS

### ON CAMPUS

"Jesus: One Man, Two Faiths - A Dialogue between Christians and Muslims" Feb. 28, 3 p.m. University Honors College, Room 106 Tickets: FREE

"Throw Down Your Heart" - Bela Fleck documentary Feb. 28, 4 p.m. Keathley University Center Theater Tickets: FREE

MTSU Women's Chorale Feb. 28, 7:30 p.m. Wright Music Building Tickets: FREE

World Percussion Recital March 2, 7:30 p.m. Wright Music Building Tickets: FREE

Discrete Math Seminar Feb. 28, 10 a.m. Kirksey Old Main Tickets: FREE

### OFF CAMPUS

"Alfred Hitchcock's The 39 Steps: From Page to Screen to Stage" March 1, 6 p.m. Vanderbilt University, Wilson Hall Auditorium, Room 103 Tickets: FREE

3 Point Play: Lady Raiders meet-and-greet and silent auction March 1, 6:30 p.m. Murfreesboro Toot's Tickets: FREE

Darling Parade, The Nearly Deads and Snow Black Sunday March 2, 9 p.m. The Mercy Lounge

Tickets: \$5 Matt White and Brendan James March 3, 9:30 p.m. 3rd and Lindsley Tickets: \$10

The Great Barrier Reefs, Diga and Deep Fried 5 March 5, 9 p.m. Gilligan's Tickets: \$7

Rocky Votolato, Matt Pond March 5, 8 p.m. Exit/In Tickets: \$12

## CRIME BRIEFS

Feb. 22, 10:06 a.m.

Theft Jim Cummings Hall A complainant reported that his bicycle was stolen.

Feb. 22, 12:50 p.m.

Theft Fairview Building A complainant reported that his book bag was stolen outside the Dance Studio.

Feb. 22, 4:01 p.m.

Traffic Recreation Center parking lot A complainant reported that her vehicle was struck while parked outside of the Health, Wellness, and Recreation Center.

Feb. 22, 3:59 p.m.

Theft Peck Hall Complainant reported that his parking permit had been stolen.

Feb. 23, 11:19 p.m.

Traffic East Main Street James Kiddy, 20, was issued state citation for failure to obey traffic control.

Feb. 24, 11 a.m.

Theft Gore Hall A complainant reported that money had been stolen from his room.

Feb. 24, 11:26 a.m.

Traffic Bell Street lot Kimberly Randolph, 20, was issued a state citation for driving on a suspended license.

Feb. 24, 4:22 p.m.

Alarm Miller Horse Coliseum A smoke machine activated a smoke detector. The fire department cleared the building and determined the alarm activation was unintentional.

### MTSU CRIME STOPPERS 615-898-2424

A cash reward of up to \$300 is being offered for information that leads to the arrest of the person or persons who backed into a green Toyota Prius that was parked in the Fairview Building Lot and drove off Feb. 1, causing more than \$200 worth of damage.

### EVENTS POLICY

Sidelines welcomes current campus and community events submitted by all readers. Please e-mail events snews@mtsu.edu. Include the name, date, time and location of the event, as well as your name and contact information. We reserve the right to refuse events at our discretion as our space is limited.



# Astroid unlikely to hit Earth

By KELSEY WELLS  
Contributing Writer

The odds of an asteroid collision with Earth is better than winning the lottery, but is not a cause for concern, said students and an astronomy professor.

"It's not nothing," said Eric Klumpe, an astronomy professor. "But, it's not much."

The odds of winning the Tennessee Lottery Powerball jackpot is a ratio of 1-195,249,054, according to the Tennessee Lottery website.

Reports from astronomer Donald Yeomans, head of NASA's Near Earth Object Program, estimates the possibility of an asteroid collision with Earth in 2036 to be a ratio of 1:250,000.

"The [odds are] definitely something to think about," said Alex Gibson, a sophomore majoring in electronic media communication.

An asteroid has been making headlines recently for its predicted close pass of Earth. The asteroid, Apophis, is predicted to pass by the Earth in 2029 and again in 2036, according to NASA reports.

"It's a scary thought, but it's not anything I'm about to worry about," Gibson said.

NASA scientists have determined that Apophis's April 13, 2029, pass will come no closer than 18,300 miles above the Earth's surface.

Though the 2029 pass does not pose a threat to the planet, 18,300 miles is extremely close, Klumpe said.

"Anything within the orbit of the moon is very close," he said. "The moon orbits at over 200,000 miles



Graphic courtesy of NASA

above the Earth."

However, what has been causing a fuss lately is Apophis's second pass in 2036.

Russian astronomers reported Jan. 26 that a collision is possible on April 13, 2036.

"Their date is probably pretty good," Klumpe said, adding that there will be no way to predict the asteroid's 2036 orbit until it passes Earth in 2029.

When the 2029 pass occurs, Earth's gravitational field will affect

Apophis's orbit. A slight push or pull of the asteroid's movement as it passes Earth could alter its orbit significantly, Klumpe said.

Even if Apophis's orbit changes to increase the likelihood of an impact in 2036, the asteroid is not large enough to break apart Earth, Klumpe said.

Apophis, named after the ancient Egyptian god of darkness and chaos, is estimated to be 700 feet wide.

For comparison, Klumpe considered the asteroid thought to be responsible for the extinction of the dinosaurs approximately 65 million years ago. That asteroid is thought to have been more than 6 miles in diameter, he said. But, Earth survived.

"Earth couldn't be destroyed, but life could become uncomfortable," Klumpe said.

He said the Apophis collision would induce climate change and tsunami-like waves as possible effects.

If an asteroid the size of Apophis landed in an ocean, Klumpe said, it could create huge waves and bury small islands. The heat from its energy could vaporize large amounts of water.

If it were to hit on land, the ground could spread out and possibly be liquefied, changing shape and hardening to create a crater, Klumpe said.

He said the collision could produce so much debris that the sun would no longer heat the Earth to the extent that it does now.

"There are so many stories like that it's hard to take them seriously," Gibson said.



Photo by Amanda Haggard, associate news editor  
Jessica Herndon, a senior majoring in marketing, makes study guides Feb. 27 in the James E. Walker Library for three tests scheduled for this week.

## Senators advocate for university's approval

SGA  
FROM PAGE 1

him before next week's meeting. Due to health reasons, Black could not be reached for interview.

The SGA passed similar legislation, 12-09-F in fall 2009, which regarded the library becoming a 24-hour facility seven days a week. Three former senators sponsored the bill: Brandon Thomas, Drew Dunlop and Brenna McDaniel.

Although, the bill passed overwhelmingly, it was never fully implemented. The library extended its hours in response but has

yet to be a 24-hour facility.

However, SGA Vice President Samantha Cobb said that she is optimistic about students' perception of the legislation.

"This piece has been well researched, and students have been requesting this change since before I was involved in SGA," Cobb said. "I am proud that we finally can make this possible for them."

This future of this legislation will be decided by senate at an upcoming meeting.

"It's my first piece of legislation, and I think it's going actually going to help students out," Bosi said.

## Professor reviews might go from classrooms to computers via PipelineMT

EVALUATIONS  
FROM PAGE 1

available to more people.

"If it's via RaiderNet, there will be a lot more exposure," Curry said. "Whereas, probably less than a quarter know about MTSU Review, some professors may not like that."

Mosley said that doing the evaluations online would be more valid because it would be

"on the school website and be done by the students."

There are between 110,000 and 125,000 student-teacher evaluations that go through the system each semester, depending on whether it is fall or spring, Curry said.

In order to see the evaluations during the fall semester, students would be able to go to a link on RaiderNet under the class search section of PipelineMT.

Money from the student

technology fund would possibly be used if needed to make the surveys available online for students if the resolution gets final approval, according to the legislation.

The resolution showed college deans and professors read student evaluations when the university is assessing them.

"They are considered as an equal portion in a three-part equation that is used when considering a professor

for a promotion and/or for attaining tenure," according to the resolution.

It is "not meant as an attack on the faculty of MTSU, but as a more positive and accurate gauge of a professor's performance based on the opinions of his or her students," according to the legislation.

Cobb said the thought behind it is designed to provide a "more fair [analysis] because it will reflect the entire classes opinion,"

not just those who favor or dislike a certain professor.

Professors will have the option to take a self-evaluation to rate their own overall performance that will be included in the results, but "until the legislation moves forward up the chain, we will not receive faculty feedback," Cobb said.

"This will require cooperation with several departments, but hopefully it will work out," Cobb said.



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# FEATURES

## Served with a side of smiles

### One Subway employee perks up students' day

By MEGAN LEPPA  
Contributing Writer

Donna Bath, 41, may claim that she's an old lady who gets up with the chickens, but she doesn't look like it.

Anyone who has eaten at MTSU's Cyber Café would recognize her.

She has short black hair tucked up under a Subway cap, an ear-to-ear smile, and a Southern accent, soft and sweet as a kindergarten teacher at nap time.

Then, of course, there's her nametag: "DONNA" surrounded by the thick black outline of a candy wrapper. She is unmistakable.

But today, Donna is not the woman behind the glass barricade shielding deli meats from germs. She is more relaxed. She is at ease in her Saturday morning uniform: honey colored button down shirt, jeans, black loafers and a brown crocodile-print purse.

"You're gonna see a side of me this morning you ain't never seen," Donna says as she leans back in her chair while gesturing towards her smoky black hair. "I'm gonna let my hair down, I don't have my hat on - you ain't seen nothing yet!"

Donna is a Murfreesboro native who attended Bellwood Christian Academy from kindergarten through the 12th grade. Now, after "spreading her wings," as Donna says, by working odd jobs ranging from daycares, to factory jobs, to housekeeping at a local motel, she has been at Subway in MTSU's Cyber

Café for five years.

She works a full-time schedule helping prepare for the morning shift and staying through the lunch rush.

Donna's work days begin early, typically being awakened by her cat, Cleo, that just can't seem to go outside enough times in the mornings. Cleo's outside endeavors now take even more time as she has recently suffered leg injuries from a drive-by BB gun shooting.

Donna's youngest son attempted to repair the injury with a makeshift wheelchair for the cat made out of K'NEX and his own brand of 16-year-old ingenuity, but only time has managed to repair the damage. After the "Queen of Denial," as Donna refers to Cleo, has been satisfied with milling about, Donna heads in to work.

"I get [to Subway] early, usually around 6 a.m. I help people unload the trucks, which is why I'm so buff," Donna says with a robust laugh while flexing her arms as if she was an American Gladiator.

Undoubtedly, students that have gone through the Subway line know who Donna is, perhaps not by name, but because of her distinctive and undeniably sunny disposition.

Even in the short amount of time between ordering a sub and the process of piling on meat, cheese, vegetables and sauces, she tries to get to know the students as people.

"All my kids are my favorite," Donna says. "You get new faces that come in, and I try to get to know them."

Donna enjoys getting to know each person that comes through the line.

"I may not know their names, but I know their faces and normally know what they order," she says.

Hearing how Donna talks to each student in line shows that it is not



Photo by Bailey Ingram, photo editor

Donna Bath, 41, smiles at customers Feb. 23 in the Cyber Café. After five years, she says her favorite part of the job is the students she serves.

just their order that she knows, but her maternal nature pouring out as she pours out Southwestern Chipotle sauce.

"How was your shift at Cracker Barrel?" she asks the student getting their usual Italian B.M.T.

"You excited about graduating in May?" she asks to another as she puts a handful of lettuce on a tuna sub.

Donna just can't help being a pseudo-mother to the students in line.

"Because of me bein' a mother of five kids, I'm more maternal with the kids that come in," she says. "I will get on to people sometimes, pull them aside and ask, 'Where's your coat? Why aren't you wearing gloves?'"

She has learned a lot about students and their lives over the years. Donna listens in on the whisperings and conversations of students as they wait in the line and, sometimes, manages to resist the urge to put in her two cents regarding the

latest and juiciest gossip.

"I could write a very, very thick book that would probably put Jackie Collins out of business," she says with a mischievous smirk. "I just kinda want to chime in."

Even after years of thousands of students shuffling in and out of the Cyber Café, she still hasn't gotten used to some of the crazy orders.

"Turkey, tuna and barbecue sauce," she says with the same look as a toddler when given Brussels sprouts instead of ice cream. "That's the most unusual thing somebody ordered. When she first ordered it, I just had to ask her if she was pregnant."

After a long day of work, Donna just wants to go home and crash. Her evening usually begins with kicking off her shoes, removing her Subway cap, and, of course, checking her Facebook page.

"Yes, I do Facebook," she says with a well-prepared reactionary tone. "I like to

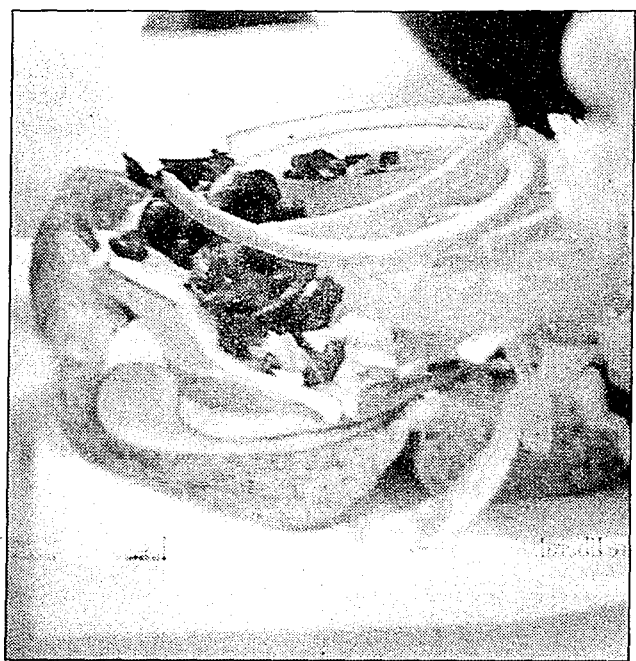


Photo by Bailey Ingram, photo editor

Donna Bath prepares a fresh Subway sandwich at Cyber Café while asking how her customers' days are going.

keep up. Don't hate! Keep it real!"

Nobody could hate Donna - not with her smile - and especially when she won't let you leave before offering you a dozen cookies for your drive home.

"I just enjoy what I do,"

she says with a small sigh before continuing with a whispery tone as if she was revealing her deepest, darkest secret. "I like where I'm at. If they told me I had to go to another place, I wouldn't. I'd quit if they were makin' me."

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## Students give back to Murfreesboro

By ALEXIS METKO  
Contributing Writer

Springtime brings warmer weather, beautiful scenery and a fresh start to Murfreesboro. Yard sales, spring cleaning and service projects bring residents together.

Hundreds of students can be seen helping the Murfreesboro community during MTSU's Make A Difference Week presented by the Student Government Association. This week of service is a way for MTSU students to thank the community for their support.

Make A Difference Week will take place during the week of March 28 through April 2, on campus and in the surrounding community. Main activities include a Campus Beautification Day, the United Way's Day of Action on March 31 and April 1 and The Big Event on April 2.

The Campus Beautification Day is dedicated to cleaning up MTSU's campus. Students can participate and take pride in the university.

This year, students also have the opportunity to volunteer with the United Way during the

"Day of Action" in Rutherford County. This is the part of a nationwide campaign that helps communities and organizations in need.

In May 2010, Rutherford and Cannon County branches of the United Way teamed up to help the cause. WGNS Talk Radio shared the results of the May 2010 Day of Action.

Last year, more than 250 volunteers participated in community service projects for 20 local agencies and schools at 25 sites in Middle Tennessee, according to WGNS.

The Day of Action included "such service projects as landscaping, painting and delivering meals to

those in need. The United Way coordinates the Day of Action to offer the opportunity to further develop relationships and witness first-hand the needs involved with those agencies and schools."

Since 2007, SGA has hosted The Big Event for MTSU students. The Big Event is a day of service that allows students to help Murfreesboro citizens and give back to the community.



Photo by Alexis Metko, contributing photographer  
MTSU students lend a helping hand in 2009, by cleaning up campus and local houses.

Erika Maclin, a junior in the College of Basic and Applied Sciences and the philanthropic coordinator for SGA, is planning this year's Make A Difference Week.

"The Big Event is a one-day service project where MTSU students will come together and be dispersed to different projects requested by people in the Murfreesboro community," Maclin explains.

Many of the volunteers for Make A Difference Week come from Greek Life and other student organizations, but any student or community member can volunteer during the week.

Alex Remar, a sophomore in the

College of Basic and Applied Sciences and Zeta Tau Alpha Sorority's Panhellenic Council delegate, recalls her experience with Make A Difference Week last spring.

"There were hundreds of student volunteers that worked on various projects," Remar says. "Our group helped an elderly woman take care of her yard work, and she was very appreciative. It was amazing to see the transformation of her yard in the few hours we were there."

While SGA helps with many philanthropic events for various charities, Make A Difference Week is unique because it helps MTSU and its surrounding community.

"Working The Big Event last year was great," Remar recalls. "We could see an immediate change in the community because of our hard work."

Projects all over Murfreesboro are completed during The Big Event. Hundreds of students and Murfreesboro volunteers come together to make people's lives a little easier.

Make A Difference Week is still a new event on campus, but it has some lasting influence. The week is full of ways to help others and raise support for the community.

Cleaning up campus, volunteering with The United Way and serving others in the community are just a few of the events during Make A Difference Week. Events are being added soon with more details to come closer to the event. Past events have included an Earth Day festival and an AIDS awareness campaign.

"I think The Big Event will continue to thrive," Remar explains. "In just three hours my group landscaped an entire yard for a woman in her 70s. That was a great feeling."

Letters Policy

Sidelines welcomes letters to the editor from all readers. Please e-mail letters to slopinions@mtsu.edu and include your name and phone number for verification. Sidelines will not publish anonymous letters. We reserve the right to edit grammar, length and content.

# OPINIONS

Sidelines is the editorially independent, student-produced newspaper affiliated with Middle Tennessee State University and the College of Mass Communication. Sidelines publishes Monday and Thursday during the fall and spring semesters and online during June and July. The opinions expressed herein are those of individual writers and not necessarily Sidelines or the university.

## Scholarship for white men questionable

White men, rejoice! You now have a scholarship available just for you! A Texas nonprofit group has recently extended a "helping hand" to white men, who they claim are under-supported in higher education.

The nonprofit, called Majority Association for Equality, is offering five \$500 scholarships exclusively to white men.

Is this really equality? Are whitemen, when compared to their minority counterparts, really hurting to obtain a higher education?

The founders of this

scholarship cite the growth in the non-white population in their area, saying this scholarship is justified to "level the playing field."

But that's what minority scholarships are intended to do. Creating scholarships solely available to white men nullifies the hard work that has been done to give students of color equal access.

Even if the percentage of racial minorities in this area of Texas has increased in recent years, how many of those non-whites are actually

able to obtain a college education or are subjected to bigoted legislation that is an attempt to dehumanize people of color?

Taking history into account, when comparing a white man and a man of color who are both straight, middle-class and able-bodied, the white man is going to have more access to a college education than the man of color.

A slight increase in the percentage of people of color living in this area of Texas does not negate



**Brandon Thomas**  
Opinions Editor

hundreds of years of oppression. This "helping hand" is unnecessary.

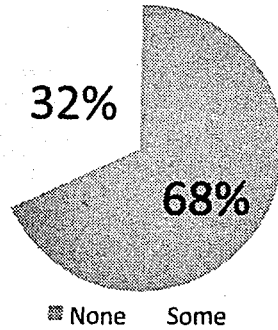
Brandon Thomas is a junior majoring in political science. He can be reached at muckrakerthomas@gmail.com.



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## DO YOU PLAN TO VOTE IN THE SGA ELECTIONS?

BASED ON VOTES FROM MTSUSIDELINES.COM. RESULTS: HOW MUCH IMPACT DO YOU BELIEVE SGA HAS ON CAMPUS OPERATIONS?



## ONLINE CHATTER

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### Online Poll

"The [Student Government Association] has little to no influence, just like the students. We voted down a parking garage, and guess what, they are building it anyway. We voted in not to discriminate against sexual preference, and it got approved, but it changed nothing. To the Tennessee Board of Regents and [the university] its just words." - Diane Melton

### "Aramark defends meal plan"

"Fantastic, it's good to see that corruption infects government organizations of all types, including the Student Government Association." - Marc Dublin Cox

### "Aramark defends meal plan"

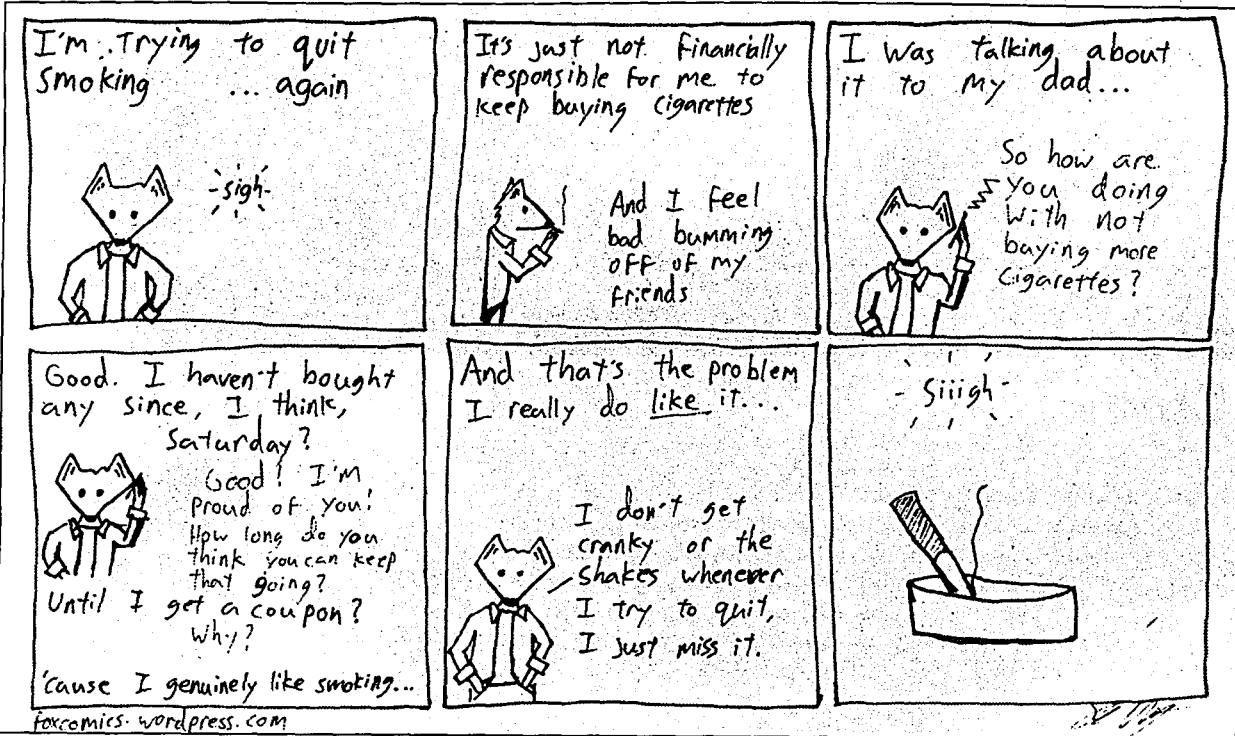
"What a joke. Aramark gives [President Brandon] Batts free meals!! I thought it was funny when he said he didn't know about the "benefits," but he gladly accepts them and does not question them. What a crock, and they wonder why no one cares or gets involved with the [Student Government Association] - just another prime reason. Thank God I graduate in May." - Anonymous

### "Progressives join forces"

"Way to go! It is time for Tennessee to embrace the enlightenment, and to see that it is better to work with facts and civil discourse than to preach ideology and partisan banter." - Anonymous

### Mention

"@MTSUSidelines is to @MTSUSGA as FOXNews is to Democrats" - Zack Barnes



## Activism crucial to campus

As someone who has trained thousands of university students nationwide, I often bust a popular myth: All college students are liberal.

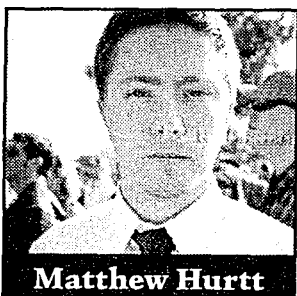
In my professional interaction - organizing conservative and libertarian students on campuses across the country - I can honestly tell you that most university students are apathetic to their surroundings, political or otherwise. This has never been more evident than with the upcoming Student Government Association elections.

Low voter turnout for the few candidates who managed to file paperwork to run is not uncommon, but it is unfortunate.

The students who do make the most noise on campus tend to be left-of-center. There always seems to be some quail leftist students have with the status quo, either on campus or off.

But, I contend that in these economic times, more students should look to free market solutions to combat high unemployment and provide economic opportunities. For many of you, graduation is only a few months away. You enter an uncertain job market with fewer opportunities than those students who graduated before you. It's a reality you must face.

Rather than delve headfirst into political philosophy in this column, I



**Matthew Hurtt**  
Guest Columnist

ask that you reach out to two groups in particular for outside-the-classroom education: Young Americans for Liberty and Students for Liberty. Both groups provide an array of free market solutions for our nation's economic problems.

Additionally, these groups approach social issues from a different stance than most mainstream Republicans. With philosophical backing from the CATO Institute and Heritage Foundation, among others, these groups can provide a strong foundation for your understanding of the free market. Pick up a Reason magazine while you're at it.

Young Americans for Liberty tends to be more action-oriented, while Students for Liberty takes a more philosophical approach to on-campus involvement. Seek out these groups. I believe YAL is

still active at MTSU. Once you've joined, pick up books like "The Law" by Frederic Bastiat, "The Road to Serfdom" by F. A. Hayek, and "Economics in One Lesson" by Henry Hazlitt. These will provide you with a free market understanding of our economy.

I would also encourage you to read columns or books by top economists like Thomas Sowell and others. The solutions to our problems do not lie in a bigger government. As Ronald Reagan said, "As government expands, liberty contracts."

Look around you. The status quo is apathy, and the results are expansive government and less freedom.

Get involved on campus and make a real difference. Change the way SGA operates. When I served in the senate, it was filled with title seeking ladder climbers with little interest in improving campus, but rather more interest in padding resumes.

I want to leave you with wise words from Samuel Adams: "It does not require a majority to prevail, but rather an irate, tireless minority, keen to set brushfires in people's minds."

Matthew Hurtt is a 2009 alumnus and holds a bachelor's degree in history and political science. He works in Washington, D.C., and can be reached at Matt.Hurtt@gmail.com.

## Students should boycott elections

Every year, when student government elections come around, you tend to hear a lot of apathy.

I've noticed that apathy over the Student Government Association elections is one of the things that the student body has most in common.

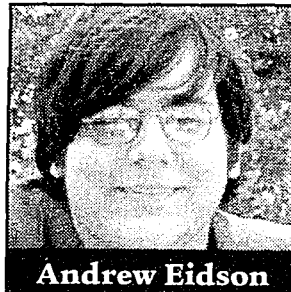
Because of this, I've decided to actively boycott the SGA elections. I've been looking for some school spirit, and I think I found it.

Not voting in the SGA elections is something that many students already do. Until now, it's been something we've done alone. Why not do it together? Why not come together as a campus, unite and not vote?

Especially this semester with a number of positions running unopposed, what would be the point of voting anyways?

Last week, I had a conversation with Eric Bisby. You may be familiar with him as the person who went before the SGA in an attempt to abolish it. I was disgusted at how the members treated him and was determined to try to continue what he started.

I do not believe that the SGA should be completely abolished. Instead, the pragmatic part of me wants it to be restructured or have some sort of radical change.



**Andrew Eidson**  
Columnist

However, due to the nature of the SGA, and recent events, I do not believe this is possible.

I've been to a grand total of one SGA meeting, but all I noticed was people checking clocks and arguing over poorly written legislation. It was painful to watch.

There are two ways I believe change can occur: We can promote the SGA and vote in the best and brightest in hopes they will build a better tomorrow. Or we can totally ignore the SGA until the administration has no choice but to restructure it, abolish it or re-purpose it.

This is one of those times that I firmly believe we can achieve action through inaction.

Andrew Eidson is a junior majoring in public relations and can be reached at Andrew@blackflowermusic.com.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Feb. 21 edition of Sidelines, "Disbandment Denied," featured a report on legislation to dissolve the Student Government Association. This bill was presented along with a student petition by pre-law major Eric Bisby and fellow petitioners.

Bisby made what many may find to be a strong case against certain SGA membership perks and the potentially wasted funding of low GPAs, although there is apparently some confusion in the College of Basic and Applied Sciences as to why higher GPAs might be favorable.

Executive Vice President Samantha Cobb was particularly caustic in her response, belittling the petitioners as a

"spectacle" after applauding their show of initiative earlier in the report. She and others criticized Bisby's alleged lack of "research" and "facts." Ironically, the story concluded with Cobb's suspicious observation of Bisby's departure before the end of the SGA meeting, a clear suggestion of a lack of sincerity, and therefore credibility, on his part.

Did it occur to anyone there that Bisby may have been due at a class or had another school commitment, maybe even the last team practice before the regional mock trial tournaments? Is it possible that SGA membership truly is assumed to be a priority to the exclusion of anything sharing its field, including a viable GPA? Did Cobb ask any such

easily answered questions, do any of that "research" or hunt any of those "facts" so prized by SGA members? Or do they possibly get a pass on those rules, too?

Regardless, the remarks displayed hypocrisy at best and possibly slander at worst. It was obviously nothing more than a petty attempt to personally discredit a student and constituent, by failing to give fair and objective consideration to the issues he raised.

Kristin M. Johnson is a junior majoring in political science and communications studies. She can be reached at kmj3a@mtmail.mtsu.edu.

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# SPORTS

## Freshman phenom rises to new heights

By ALEX HUBBARD  
Staff Writer

The Lady Raiders emerged this basketball season as something of a surprise. The East Division regular-season champions were not picked to compete for the division title or to be a favorite in the upcoming Sun Belt tournament.

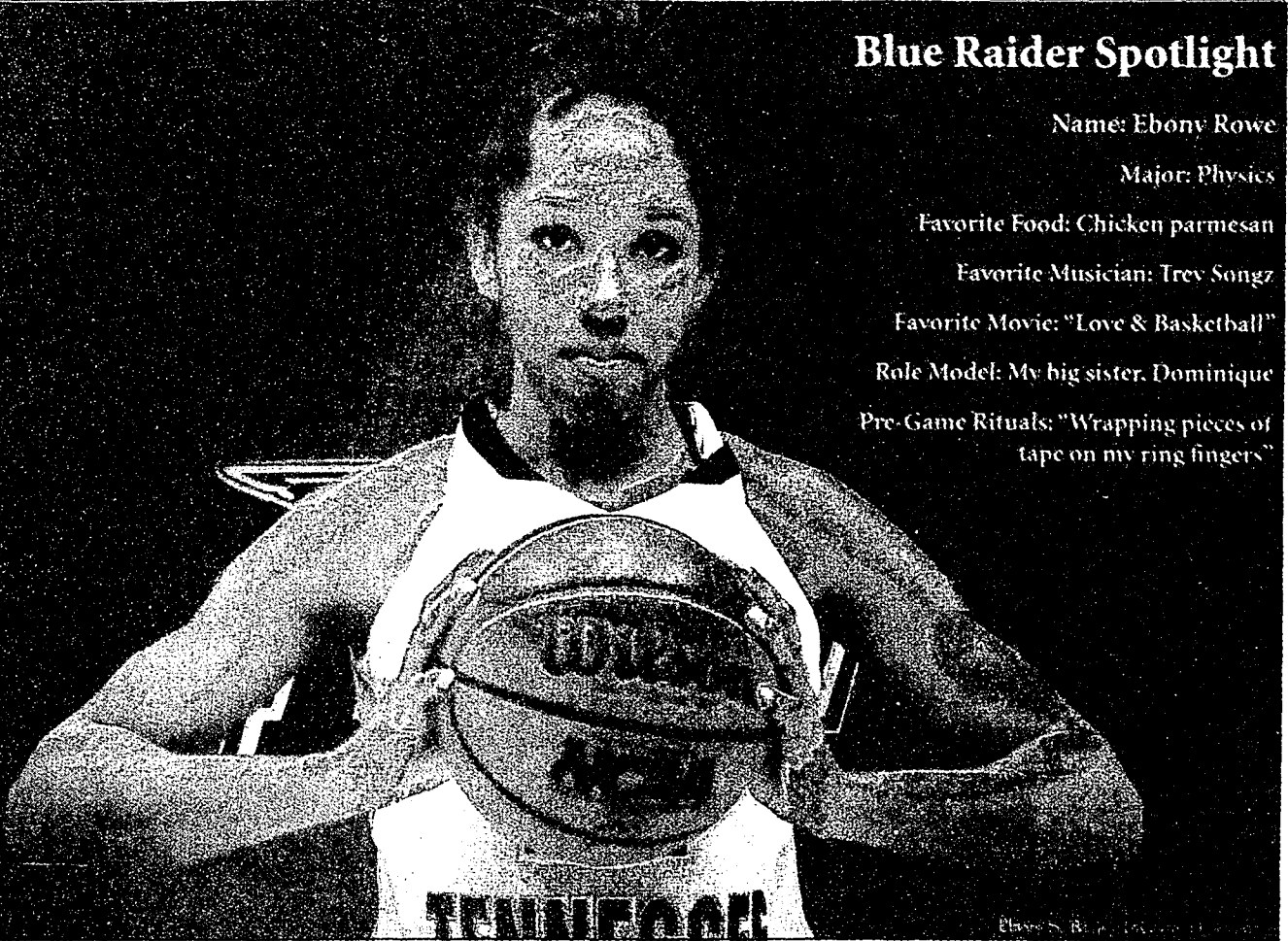
With a record of 22-6 (13-2 Sun Belt) the doubters have been proven wrong.

Central to MT's crisp success has been the play of freshman forward Ebony Rowe. Her on-court intensity, physical style and dominating presence inside has earned her respect from teammates and opponents alike, while continuing the legacy of fierce post-players in the mold of Alysha Clark.

The Kentucky native, who hails from Lexington, is averaging 17.4 points and 10.1 rebounds per game. Her double average leads the team in points and rebounds per game, an impressive accomplishment for any freshman, but even more remarkable on a team coached by Rick Insell, who is not known to hand out big minutes to freshman without good cause.

On a young team with just one playing senior, Rowe may have figured her greatest memories were ahead of her. Instead, she finds herself playing a pivotal role at the most pivotal time of year on a team that has decided the future is now.

Rowe recently sat down with *Sidelines* to discuss this season, the upcoming tournament and life as a college freshman.



### Blue Raider Spotlight

Name: Ebony Rowe

Major: Physics

Favorite Food: Chicken parmesan

Favorite Musician: Trev Songz

Favorite Movie: "Love & Basketball"

Role Model: My big sister, Dominique

Pre-Game Rituals: "Wrapping pieces of tape on my ring fingers"

### One-on-one with Ebony Rowe

SL: There were many doubts from outside observers about this year's team. You were not picked to win the division. Was that any motivation, or has this team simply performed at its natural talent level?

ER: I feel like it's always motivation when others don't believe in you. Honestly, I think as a team we tried our best to block out outside distractions and focus on our team and getting better.

SL: Has following in the footsteps of someone like Alysha Clark helped or hurt you as a player, or has it had any effect at all?

ER: It's done nothing but help. Alysha Clark was a great player at MTSU, and she's someone I really look up to. She's even gone out of her way to talk to me and give me pointers to improve my game this year.

SL: Insell is known for preferring to give on-court playing time to more experienced players. Did you expect to play such a major part in this season and so quickly?

ER: I never could have expected things to turn out how they have, but I did expect our team to have success this year. From day one, coach has made it clear that we

can't play like freshmen and sophomores, and I really think my teammates and I have tried our best to step up our game and meet that challenge.

SL: You have been tested as a team in conference play, both in games that you won and lost. How prepared do you think the team is now for the Sun Belt tournament and beyond?

ER: I think as a team we are very well prepared for the post-season play. We've taken pride in using every game as a lesson, learning the dos and don'ts of the game along the way. Coach has been stressing our mental toughness in the post season, and I think the team is ready to make a run.

SL: Will you personally approach the tournament differently than you might a regular-season contest early in the season?

ER: Of course I know that there is more on the line in post season, but honestly no. At the end of the day, I just plan on going into each game ready to play hard and give it my all.

SL: Who was the basketball player, male or female, who influenced you the most growing up?

ER: A lot of people don't know this, but my sister played basketball through high school and just decided not to play in college. She has influenced me the most not only by pushing me on the court but [also] by being an amazing role model and my best friend off of the court.

SL: How big of a challenge has it been to make the transition from a student-athlete in high school to being a student-athlete in college?

ER: I can't lie. It hasn't been easy. Being a student-athlete in college is a full-time job between balancing difficult schoolwork and a challenging basketball schedule. Fortunately, I've been surrounded with amazing support that has made the transition not so difficult.

SL: What do you enjoy doing off the court and away from the classroom?

ER: I love to shop. If you don't find me at the mall, I'm probably at the movies with a group of friends or family.

SL: What are you most proud of in your freshman season?

ER: I'm most proud of the success we've had as a team this year. We've proven so many people wrong, and it really makes me proud to say I'm a Lady Raider.

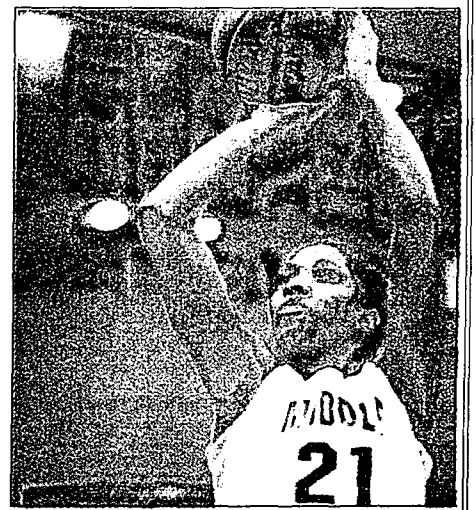


Photo by Bailey Ingram, photo editor  
Freshman Ebony Rowe (21) practices a jump shot Feb. 27 in the Murphy Center.

SL: Have any of your friends or family back home been able to make it to any of your games either at home or on the road?

ER: I've had so many people from back home come to see me play. My best friend goes to Western Kentucky [University] and she comes to every home game wearing an "Ebony is my best friend" T-shirt. My parents and sister come to most home games, and even a few away games. On top of that, my extended family and friends have made it to a few as well.



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## Track positioned well for conference championships

### MT captures three titles on first day

Staff Report

With the first day of competition complete at the indoor track Sun Belt Conference championships, MT looks to be in position to finish strong following tomorrow's session.

The Blue Raiders captured three individual crowns on Sunday with the women taking two in field events and junior Justus David representing the men's squad on the podium.

Sophomore Ann Dudley and senior Kortney Thurman each won their respective events.

Dudley led a one-two finish for MT in the high jump as she was followed by teammate Cherice Robertson in the standings.

Thurman, meanwhile, captured the long jump with a final mark of 6.19 meters. Three other Blue Raiders finished in the top eight, as Kiara Henry, Nyeisha Wright and Rosina Amenebende finished fourth, fifth and eighth, respectively.

David won his crown in the 3000-meter run via a final time of 8:26.68.

Following a successful showing in preliminary action, the men are in position to make sure it's not their only title of the meet.

They hold the first or second fastest time in every final set to be held tomorrow.

Kenneth Gilstrap (55-meter dash), Noah Akwu (400 meters) and Festus Chemoi (800 meters) each hold the fastest time in their respective events after Sunday's prelims.

Akwu and Chemoi also have the second fastest times in the 200 and mile, respectively.

Not to mention, senior Josh Butler is as close to a shoe-in for the title as one can be in the triple jump. His season-best mark is nearly a foot longer than his closest competitor.

Henry will lead the women's sprinters in finals action as she qualified in both the 55-meter dash and the 200.



## Focus shifts for men's basketball



**Richard Lowe**  
**The Lowe Down**

Every college basketball team in America is looking for some momentum this time of year. The conference tournaments are a week away, and each team is looking for that extra motivation to kick-start their postseason run. The Blue Raiders couldn't have asked for a better way to end their season than by soundly defeating their biggest rival Saturday night.

There was once a time where Middle's 57-39 victory over Western Kentucky University would seem unheard of.

That time was two years ago. It was a miserable time to be a Blue Raider fan in this rivalry. When I was an undergraduate student from 2004 until 2009, MT beat Western only three times in 13 tries.

Western leads Middle with an overall record of 91-34. Damn.

Since last season, however, the momentum has shifted towards the Blue Raiders - with the good guys winning the last four matchups between the two teams. MTSU's head basketball coach Kermit Davis expressed the magnitude of the win.

"When I got this job nine years ago, Western had set the bar for nearly all of mid-major college basketball," Davis said. "They've been very good in our league for a while. They are supposed to be our archrival ... It just speaks highly for the players because they understand the rivalry game. It means a lot to them and it mean a lot to our fans. I'm really proud of them for doing that."

The last time the Blue Raiders defeated the Hilltoppers four times in four tries was in the Roaring '20s. The economy was high in the country and Prohibition was alive and well. MT defeated Western six times before the streak was halted in the 1930-1931 season.

You remember the 1930s right? The stock market crashed, driving many Americans to drink. I'm sure many Blue Raider fans were right on the bandwagon, too. From 1932 until 1955, Middle couldn't come up with one victory over Western. That would be just cause for a fan base to take a few shots.

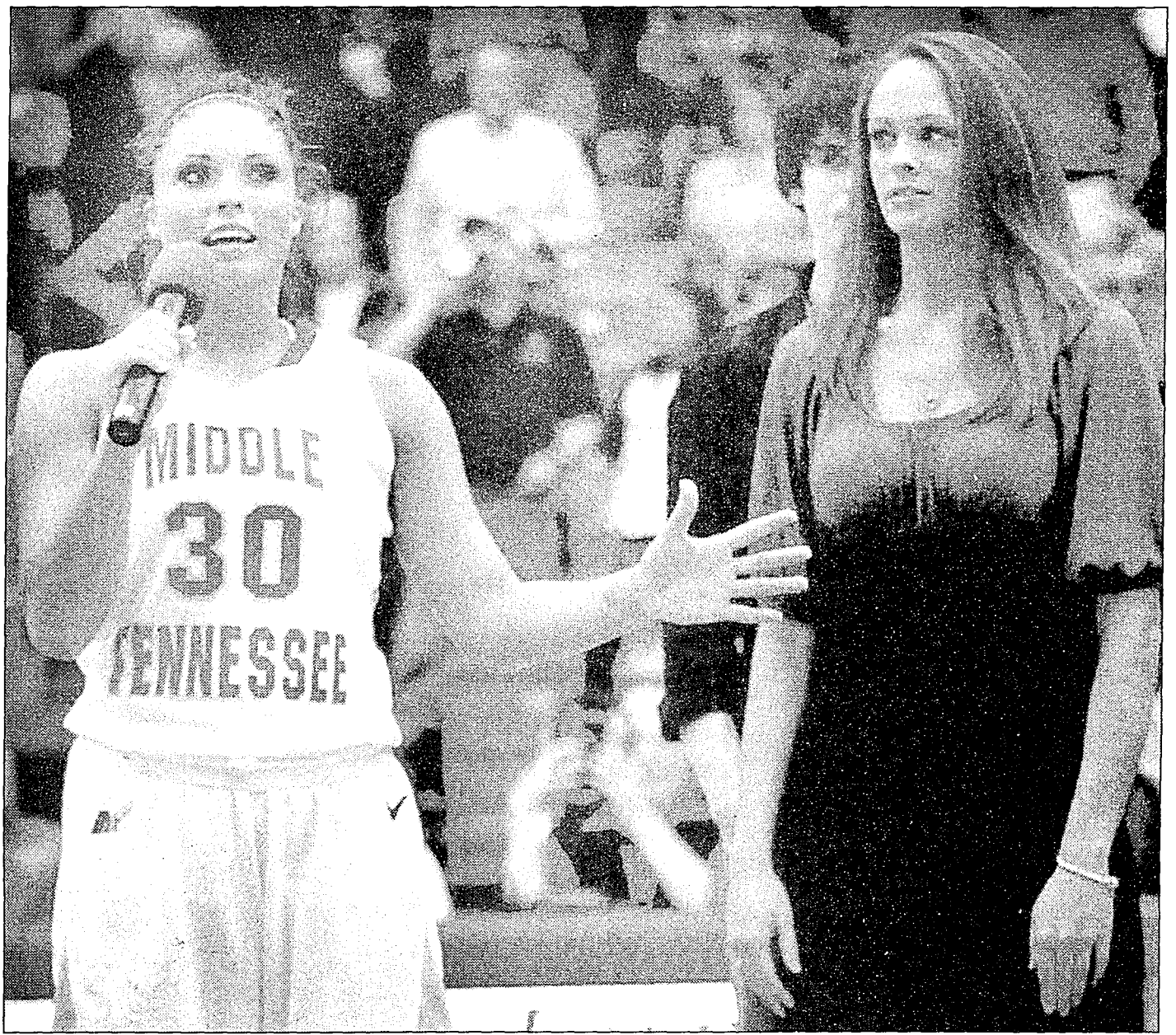
Now as much as we'd all love to celebrate our recent domination over the Hilltoppers, the focus must now move on to the Sun Belt Conference basketball tournament. The Blue Raiders finished the season in second place in the East Division, earning themselves a bye in the first round.

That's a start. Davis acknowledges that the approach toward the tournament can change depending on how the regular season ends for a team.

"Coaches can spin it any way they want to," Davis said. "If you're playing great, it's just a continuation of the season. If you're coming off some disappointing loss, it's the start of a new season."

Many fans are still waiting on the Blue Raiders to return to the NCAA Tournament. MT has not been to the "Big Dance" since 1989 - too long of a wait for some message board visitors and fans inside of the Murphy Center. While the grumblings may continue among those fans, Davis says his team is focused on the task at hand.

"Nobody puts anymore pressure on winning a tournament on me than me," Davis said. "We've been in two [conference tournament] finals. We've been in three or four semifinals. We haven't gotten it done. That's our goal - to win the conference tournament. That was our ultimate goal at start the season and hopefully we'll get there this year."



Photos by Erica Springer, staff photographer  
Seniors Anne Marie Lanning (30) and Emily Queen (right) address the crowd during their final regular season game against Western Kentucky University on Feb. 27 at the Murphy Center.

## Lanning shines on Senior Night

By WILL TRUSLER  
Sports Editor

Senior guard Anne Marie Lanning thanked her hometown fans for all their support for the past her four years, following her senior ceremony. But, it was fans who were thankful that Lanning came ready to play in her final game at the Murphy Center as her game-high 23 points helped MT escape with a 64-56 win over rival Western Kentucky University on Saturday night.

The Murfreesboro native used clutch



Photo by Erica Springer, staff photographer  
Sophomore forward Icelyn Elie (13) attacks the rim Feb. 27 in the Murphy Center.

free throws and solid floor leadership to help seal the deal for the Lady Raiders. Lanning connected on 11 of her 13 free throws and also added three assists and three steals in playing the entire 40 minutes for MT.

"I wanted the ball in her hands," head coach Rick Insell said. "She's a winner and has been a winner all her life."

Lanning was joined on Senior Night by her classmate, Emily Queen. Queen was a preseason All-SBC second team honoree but was forced to stop playing following a series of injuries.

"I felt like her coming in with these young people, with her toughness and basketball IQ, it would have made us that much better as a team," Insell said of Queen.

Queen has since been a fixture on the MT bench this year, helping her teammates with vocal instruction and positive energy. She was among many of her teammates in helping cheer the players on the floor onto victory in her final appearance in the Murphy Center on Sunday.

MT led by as many as 11 points late in the second half but WKU refused to go down without a fight.

"We like to keep it interesting," Lanning said jokingly after the game.

A lay-up by senior guard Amy McNear cut MT's lead to four with only 3:43 remaining, but Lanning's fellow upperclassmen Tina Stewart responded with a three-point dagger to shift the momentum back to MT.

"That was huge," Lanning said of Stewart's shot. "That was one of the biggest momentum changers in the game. I was just very proud of her."

Insell acknowledged MT's struggle to close the game and praised the Hilltoppers effort in their comeback.

"It wasn't pretty, but we'll take it," Insell said. "They played hard and just wouldn't quit."

As was the case in many games this season, MT just found a way to win.

The Lady Raiders took control of the game early in large part thanks to the solid inside play of freshman forward Ebony Rowe.

Rowe had 12 points and five rebounds in the first half and finished with her 15th double-double of the season totaling 16 points and 13 rebounds.

The Lexington, Ky., native also added

two more freshman records in defeating her home state school.

Rowe broke the freshman standards for points and field goals in a season with 502 and 196, respectively. Rowe already owns the rebounding and free throw attempts records.

Sophomore post Icelyn Elie just missed a double-double of her own as she had 14 points and nine rebounds.

"When Ice comes to play, we usually win," Insell said. "Today she got 14 points and nine rebounds, and we'll take that."

MT finishes the season with a 23-6 overall record and a conference record of 14-2, good enough for the Eastern Division regular season title. They could capture the overall Sun Belt regular season title outright should UALR fall to North Texas on Tuesday.

The team will now have two days off before returning to practice to prepare for the upcoming Sun Belt Conference tournament.

"Being able to rest our bodies is going to be really important," Lanning said.

Insell knows his young team is now battle-tested, but the do-or-die atmosphere may prove tough for some of his first year players.

"Some of the other teams have an experienced team, so that gives them an advantage in the tournament," Insell said. "What we've got to do is just play harder than everybody."

Lanning agreed with her coach. "It's anybody's game now," she said. "It's just going to come down to a battle. We've got to go out there and believe we can bring back a championship."

Lanning was part of the past two tournament championship teams but will have to continue to lead an underclassmen-laden squad if she hopes to reach the podium again.

MT will have a first-round bye and will face the winner of Arkansas State and Florida Atlantic University on March 6.

They defeated Florida Atlantic handily in both of their meetings this season, winning by 31 and 32 points, respectively. However, MT only beat Arkansas State by five points in their lone meeting.

With the tournament being hosted in Hot Springs, Ark., the Red Wolves could be a dangerous second-round matchup.

Sunday's game will tipoff at noon at Summit Arena.

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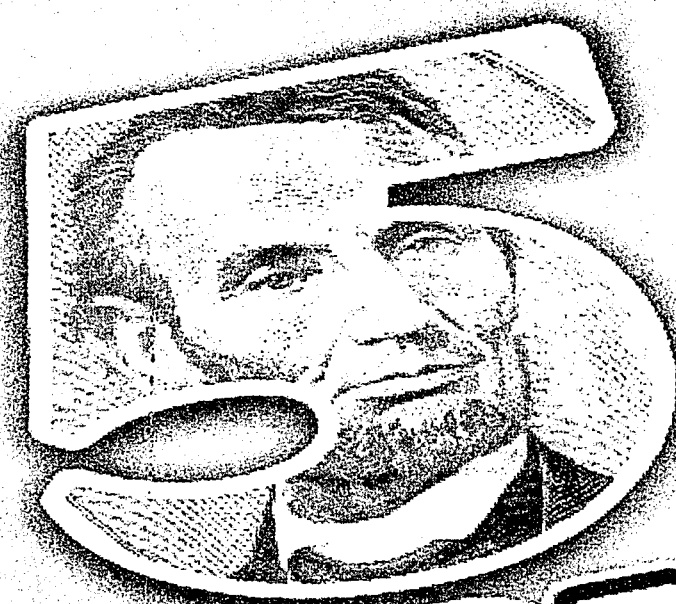
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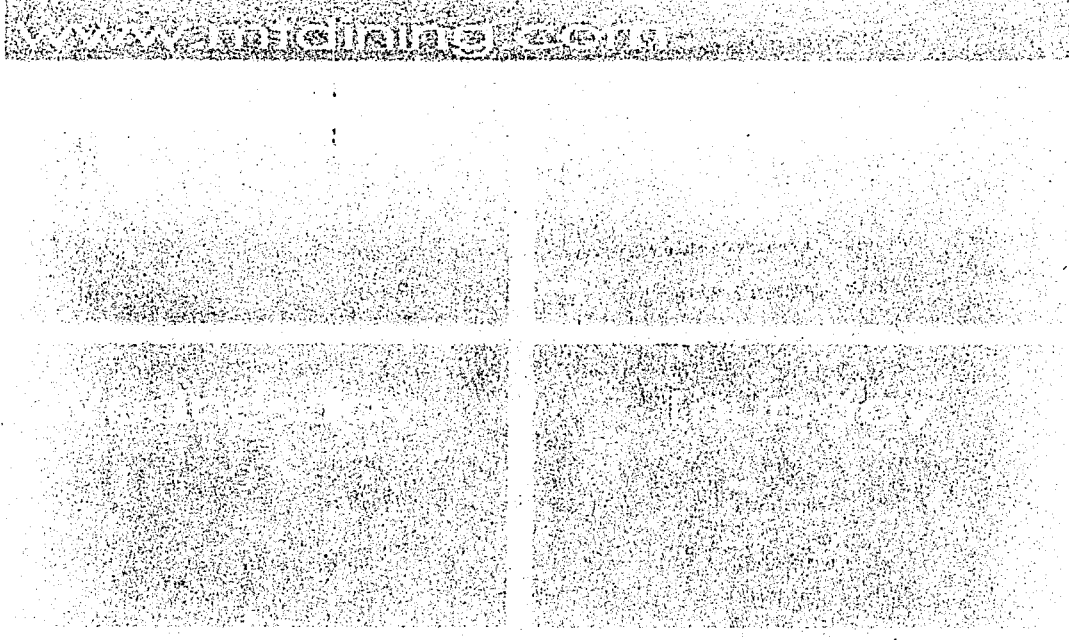
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