

# SIDELINES

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Vol. 84 No. 9

THURSDAY  
Feb 14, 2008

MTSUSIDELINES.com

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

## Students' info compromised

No identities yet reported stolen

By Daniel Potter

Community News Editor

A hacker may have obtained the names and Social Security numbers of 1,500 MTSU students, FOX 17 News reported yesterday.

The university mailed the affected students last week informing them their information was potentially compromised.

The letter also advised them to put fraud alerts on their account to head off the possibility of identity theft. Students were able to do so online for free.

The information was stored on the computer of a professor in the School of Journalism. The school was used to send spam messages by an unknown individual, who could have accessed the students' information at the same time, *The Daily News Journal* reported.

There is currently no indication any students' identities have been used fraudulently as a result. The university is not insuring the students against identity theft unless such evidence arises.

Regardless, "I do worry about it," said Kari Meutsch, senior accounting major. Having studied here for three years,

Meutsch said she wonders how many papers are circulating on campus with her personal information.

"They should switch all the 'socials' to the M-number," she said, referring to the student-specific number recently devised to identify students as an alternative to Social Security numbers.

"It seems like they should've picked a different number apart from your Social Security number a long time ago," Meutsch said.

Justin Speakman, senior business administration major, said he's not worried because his professors don't ask students for Social Security numbers.

"I think they do a pretty good job on campus with security," Speakman said.

Still, as a precaution, "they need to implement some kind of rule" mandating proper disposal of sensitive papers, he said. "I don't know why you'd need that information still," Speakman said.

Neither Tim Brown, associate vice president of information technology, nor John Omachonu, interim dean of the College of Mass Communication, could be reached Wednesday for comment.



PHOTO BY ALEX BLACKWELDER - CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

Women Action hosts A(wear)ness fashion show.

## A(wear)ness colors raised by students

By Tiffany Gibson

Assistant News Editor

Women In Action, in association with the June Anderson Women's Center, held a fashion show to raise awareness for AIDS, heart disease, breast cancer, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and Men Against Violence Against Women.

During the showcase, 14 female models and six male models walked the runway wearing colors that represented distinct issues. The color red represented AIDS and heart disease, pink symbolized breast cancer, teal corresponded to sexual assault, purple represented domestic violence, yellow signified dating violence and white symbolized MAVAW.

"I feel it's important for others to be aware of domestic violence because I have seen it happen before," said Brandon Batts, model and sophomore undeclared major. "A man should never put his hands on a woman."

The clothing worn by the models were donated by Belk, Dillard's and Goody's of Stones River Mall.

Women In Action co-president, Gabrielle Williams, hosted the show along with Chanera Pierce.

"We wanted people to become aware of this kind of stuff because no one believes it will happen to them, but I'm hear to say yes it can," said Williams, sophomore, electronic media communications major.

Williams also stated that even though WIA, formerly known as Women 4 Women, are a feminist organization, men are invited to participate.

The seven scene changes that occurred throughout the show focused on a certain color accompanied by music and lights courtesy of MT Productions.

Several organizations, such as MTSU Student Unions and Programming, MTSU Publications and Graphics, MTSU Audio/Visual Services, MTSU Student Government Association, National African American History Month Committee, National Women's History Month Committee, and Aramark also contributed to the event.

In addition to the fashion show, statistics relating to each issue

See Runway, 3

## INSIDE

### Alumna gives MTSU \$1.25 million

Pam Wright establishes an endowed professorship in entrepreneurship.

See FEATURES, 4

### OPINIONS

What should Congress worry about other than steroid abuse by professional athletes? A lot, actually.

See OPINIONS, 6

### Middle Tennessee's Black History



In the first part of the series, *Sidelines* examines the first black athletes to compete in Blue Raider uniforms.

See SPORTS, 7

## Local Forecast

Thursday



HI: 50  
LO: 33

Friday



HI: 46  
LO: 32

Saturday



HI: 53  
LO: 36

Sunday



HI: 47  
LO: 31

## Index

Crimes Briefs .....	3
Horoscopes .....	5
Faces in the crowd .....	6
Comics .....	6
Letter to Editor .....	6

## Campus News



PHOTO BY REAN DEBOY - PHOTO EDITOR

Photos from Lauren Shaw's "Maine Women: Living on the Land" hang in the Harold Baldwin Photo Gallery in the Ned McWherter Learning Resource Center. The exhibit will remain on display until Feb. 28.



## Gallery portrays Maine women

Exhibit depicts rural women's connection to land, community

By Jaz Gray

Staff Writer

The Harold Baldwin Photo Gallery at MTSU is hosting "Maine Women: Living on the Land," an art exhibit exploring the connection that rural women have with family, community and nature.

The exhibit, which is being featured until Feb. 28 in the Ned McWherter Learning Resource Center, is the culmination of 10 years of work for photographer Lauren Shaw, who started the project in 1995 and opened in 2005.

"I got a small grant to travel [to Maine] really not knowing what I was going to do except that I really wanted to understand what it meant to feel like part of a community," Shaw said.

Shaw interviewed a medicinal herbalist, a state representative, a Native American tribal chief and other women to create dialogue and critical thought about the lessons learned through leading a simple but fulfilling life.

The photography and video accompaniment tell a captivating story. A mélange of women, one with short, gray hair, another with chocolate brown dreadlocks, one surrounded by goats, all share a respect for their surroundings and a desire to leave a legacy.

Shaw's combination of a traditional collection of still images and video results from her professional evolution over the past 30 years.

It has allowed people to understand the women in their own words, she said.

"I wanted people to start asking the question that I was asking, which was 'What does it mean to live in a [certain community]?' she said.

Shaw decided to focus on women from Maine because the people there had a culture and bond with one another that she had not seen anywhere else.

She admitted that she was not entirely sure if the exhibit would strike a chord with people who have no connection to Maine.

"[The exhibit] had an incredible response but whether it'll play in California and whether people will get it I don't know," Shaw said.

The gallery is on display until 4:30 p.m. weekdays afternoons.



Come write for *Sidelines* after that romantic dinner with your significant other turns into a few shots of penicillin. We want to know your story and we're sure you want some sort of retribution.

slnews@mtsu.edu

slstate@mtsu.edu

## Doctor of Chiropractic

### Are You Ready to Accept the Challenge?

The Logan Doctor of Chiropractic program includes extensive study in science, physiotherapy, nutrition, radiology, clinical sciences, chiropractic techniques, business training and extensive clinical rotations.

Students also have the opportunity to combine their chiropractic education with a unique Master's degree in Sports Science & Rehabilitation (MS/DC).

#### Specialties Within Chiropractic:

- ◆ Sports Rehab
- ◆ Pediatrics
- ◆ Geriatrics
- ◆ Radiology
- ◆ Acupuncture
- ◆ General Practice
- ◆ Neurology
- ◆ Orthopedics
- ◆ Research
- ◆ Personal Injury

Contact Logan University at [www.logan.edu](http://www.logan.edu) for an info packet to your future as a Doctor of Chiropractic.

**LOGAN**  
UNIVERSITY PROGRAMS  
COLLEGE OF CHIROPRACTIC  
Chestersfield (St. Louis area), Missouri



[www.logan.edu](http://www.logan.edu)

1-800-533-9210

loganadm@logan.edu



## HOUSING REAPPLICATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR FALL 2008 / SPRING 2009

The Housing and Residential Life Office is now accepting housing reapplication forms from returning students for the Fall 2008/Spring 2009 academic year. Students are encouraged to reapply for housing as early as possible, particularly if they are requesting to move to a different location on campus next year, as new assignments are made by application date.

Students requesting to remain in their same location on campus next year will be given first priority to do so as long as their reapplication and \$300 prepaid rent deposit are received by the deadline. The reapplication deadline with priority for the 2008/2009 academic year is **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2008 at 4:00 PM.**

Students need to complete a reapplication form available in the Housing and Residential Life Office, pay the \$300 prepaid rent at the business office cashier windows in the Cope Administration Building, 1st floor, and return the reapplication form stamped "paid" to the Housing and Residential Life office in the Keathley University Center, Room 300, Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Students also have the option of reapplying for housing with priority online at [www.mtsu.edu](http://www.mtsu.edu). The \$300 prepaid rent is paid by using a credit card, MasterCard or Visa, or by completing an online check. There is an additional \$18 nonrefundable service fee charged by the third party for processing the payment online.

To obtain a **HOUSING REAPPLICATION FORM**, please come by the Housing and Residential Life office during office hours, 8AM to 4:30PM, Monday through Friday, in the Keathley University Center, Room 300.

**\*\*Summer '08 Housing Applications** are also available in the Housing Office. Reserve your summer space now by completing the housing application and submitting it with the \$125.00 prepaid rent deposit. It is not too early!!

**MIDDLE  
TENNESSEE**  
STATE UNIVERSITY

For additional information or questions, please contact Housing and Residential Life during office hours at 898-2971.

## Sorority aids community



PHOTOS COURTESY OF WHITNEY PETTY

Students, faculty and others were able to "make their mark" at the Knoll by painting on a canvas. Donations were taken to help save a local high school's struggling music program.

Alpha Chi Omega and Kappa Alpha Order hosted Alpha Chi's 2nd annual Make Your Mark on Feb. 11 and 12. Alpha Chi Omega was founded as a musical fraternity in 1885 and celebrates McDowell Month, the month of February, each year as one of our national holidays. McDowell month is a holiday to celebrate our appreciation for music and the arts. In six hours over the course of two days, \$250 was raised, even after the fundraiser was cut short due to weather.

"We had a great turn out this year, and we were glad to partner with Kappa Alpha to put on this charitable event," said Kaila Packett, Alpha Chi Omega President. "Even the small things can help make a difference in music programs that are being taken away every day in high schools because of lack of funding."

### Campus Brief



The Department of Health and Human Performance hosts the 6th annual Tunnel of Love tomorrow from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Tennessee Room, James Union Building.

The Tunnel is a sexually transmitted infection education event for all faculty, staff and students. Since two-thirds of all STIs occur in 16-24 year olds, this is a great opportunity to educate our students on how to protect themselves from becoming infected. Classes are welcome to this self-guided event. Participants can move through as slowly or as quickly as they like.

### Crime Briefs

***Sidelines* was not able to print Crime Briefs in this issue due to a failure to update, at press time, Middle Tennessee State University Police Department's crime log since Feb. 3.**

**We apologize for the inconvenience.**

# Classifieds

Marketplace of MTSU

#### EMPLOYMENT

PT WORK Good pay, flex scheds, sales/svc, no exp nec--we train, all ages 18+, condition apply, 832-8448 CollegeIncome.com

Beautiful 4BR/2BA with appliances including washer/dryer. Wood floors in common area. Water included. No pets. \$895 615-758-9298.

Silver 2003 Honda Civic EX Coupe, 58,000 miles, 35 mpg, almost new. Asking \$10,900, bring all serious offers. Call Jacob at 619-602-5350 or jacoblbendersd@hotmail.com.

priced under \$120k. Call 615-480-0001

#### ROOMMATES

4 Spring Break Websites 4 & 7 night trips to Baha MaPartyCruise, PanamaCity, Acapulco, Cancun and

more. Low prices guaranteed. Group discounts for 8+. Book 20 people, get 3 free trips! Campus reps needed. [www.StudentCity.com](http://www.StudentCity.com) or 800-293-1445

#### OPPORTUNITIES

Get Paid to do Research! Undergraduate Research Scholarships and Grants. Activity Committee (H.S.A.) Proposal Deadline March 18, 2008. For more

info visit: [http://www.mtsu.edu/urc/urca\\_urc.shtml](http://www.mtsu.edu/urc/urca_urc.shtml)

BAND LOOKING FOR BASSIST, please call Kyle at 615-294-3006 or Scott at 615-509-8094.

#### SERVICES

WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHY - \$650. Julie Lampley

Photography offers wedding packages starting at \$650. Servicing the Greater Nashville Area, contact us at (615) 799-9618 or [julie.lampley@gmail.com](mailto:julie.lampley@gmail.com) and see galleries at [www.ptbas.com/galleries](http://www.ptbas.com/galleries)

#### POLICIES

*Sidelines* will be responsible only for the first incorrect insertion of any classified advertisement. No refunds will be made for partial cancellations. *Sidelines* reserves the right to refuse any advertisement it deems objectionable for any reason. Classifieds will only be accepted on a prepaid basis. Ads may be placed in the *Sidelines*

office in Mass Comm, Rm 269. For more information, call the business office at 615-898-5111. Ads are not accepted over the phone. Ads are free for students and faculty for the first two weeks.

2 BLOCKS FROM MTSU.

#### FOR LEASE

#### FOR SALE

Why rent? Own your own home! Newly renovated townhome w/ large yard and all appliances included.

Continued to next column

Continued to next column

Continued to next column

Continued to next column

Continued to next column

Continued to next column

Continued to next column

Continued to next column



# MT disabled students offered help

By Alex Mooran  
Contributing Writer

Eagar to help the members of Disabled Student Services, Jenny Crouch, the marketing and accessibility coordinator for campus recreation, is trying to "give them a voice."

Crouch said that by setting up meetings throughout the semester for DSS members, it will help campus better understand what they can do to "enhance their quality of life." While some feel that these meetings could be a good venue for helping students, others such as senior English major Nicholas Sharp, feel they were more of an annoyance.

Sharp said that he and other disabled students shouldn't be separated from other students. He said that he would rather be with everyone instead of being separated into groups with people who he doesn't know.

"I'm not a member of the quote 'blind' community, I'm part of the community as a whole" Sharp said.

When asked how DSS has helped him in the past, Sharp said, "They've given me my tests. I need extra time for tests sometimes, but I try and use [DSS] as little as possible." He said he had no interest in attending the meetings.

Crouch said that campus recreation is not sure what the members of DSS would

like to do as activities so she is setting up these meetings to find out.

"I'd like to have a way to get off campus, it seems like most activities are targeted for week days, and the weekends are when I want something to do" said senior political science major Nichol Anderson.

Crouch said that getting students off campus is an option, but that they need to know if DSS members would participate in these off campus activities before they plan them.

Another one of the purposes for the meetings, Crouch said, is to find out what could be done to make things easier and more accessible on campus.

Some students are having difficulties with disabled equipment breaking down on campus. "The handicapped button didn't work and so I told DSS but it was still not fixed over a week after the call," said Anderson. She also said that there was poor lighting around campus and the stairs were slick where the strips had worn off on the edges.

Anderson had a class scheduled in the KOM on the fourth floor a couple of semesters ago, but that the elevator only goes up three floors. She said DSS tried to change the room, but when they couldn't she ended up having to change her classes around.

To inform DSS members of this past Thursdays meeting Crouch said they had put up flyers, sent out e-mails and have put it on Pipeline to inform members of DSS of

the meetings. There were only two people attending the meetings.

Crouch said that the next meeting has not been scheduled, but that she will try and set up another one as soon as she can. Crouch also said that if DSS students do not seem to show an interest in these meetings, "they will just not move forward."

The activities are trying to set up, such as, "off campus activities and trips" could be paid for by donations or some sort of grant, she said.

"I don't think we could fund those types of trips through the school because it wouldn't be fair to the other students," Crouch said.

That last year members of DSS took a trip to Wheeling and Reeling at Long Hunter State Park in Hermitage, Tenn. The state park is fully wheel chair accessible and has fishing and paved hiking trails. The students went up for the day and the trip was paid for by other students' contributions. She also took members of DSS to see CATS the musical, and the students brought their own tickets, paid for their own food and many found their own rides she said.

Crouch also said these activities and trips are open to any student wanting to go, but they like to give members of DSS an opportunity first before opening it anybody else.

Crouch said that by giving members of DSS this opportunity they could "improve their quality of life, and that this something that every student on campus needs."



PHOTO BY YVONNE CAO - CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

Grammy Award winning artist Jeff Coffin talks to students after speaking at the Honors College Creative Artist Seminar on Monday in the Honors Amphitheater.

## MTV SPRING BREAK Panama City Beach

800-488-8828

www.sandpiperbeacon.com

FREE SPRING BREAK  
MODEL SEARCH CALENDAR \*  
\*VALID FOR FIRST 1000 RESERVATIONS.

## SUMMER JOBS

- Dude Ranches
- National Parks
- Theme Parks
- Resorts

APPLY NOW

www.summerjobs08.org

## Runway: A(wear)ness raised

Continued from page 1

were displayed on a power point presentation near the stage as the models walked the runway. Statistics such as one in four women in their lifetime will suffer from domestic violence and one in 10 males will be raped at some point during their life were displayed on the Power Point.

"We [JAWC] try to raise awareness for all of these issues throughout the year, but this was a creative way to get people's attention by incorporating in statistics with fashion," said Terry Johnson, Director of JAWC.

Johnson also stressed that people always have access to information all of the issues presented in the show at the JAWC.

While some of the models were members of WIA and The Models of Savoir Faire, many volunteered to help with this event.

"I was looking to participate in an organization that represented women and raised awareness about all of the colors," said Tamekia Hatter, volunteer and freshman English major.

Agreeing with Hatter, Ricketta Johnson, freshman and nursing major, said she chose to participate because she wanted to raise awareness specifically about breast cancer because her mother was diagnosed with the disease.

Along with volunteers, sorority Zeta Tau Alpha, also was present at the show, passing out breast cancer awareness ribbons and

informational prevention cards.

Near the end of the show, the models put on a special presentation to stress the overall importance of the topics. Both the female and male models took the stage separately during these presentations to emphasize certain issues addressing both of their genders.

After the models presentations, pictures of tragedies were recognized on Power Point to emphasize the danger and tragedies behind all of the issues highlighted throughout the show. A variety of victims were portrayed, including a little girl under the age of 13 who was sexually assaulted by her mother's boyfriend and ultimately killed by him.

In contrast, success stories such as Kylie Minogue's battle with breast cancer and how she is currently in remission were also acknowledged in the presentation.

Allison Lay, co-president for Women In Action, hopes to make this event a tradition to educate people on the dangers and risks that can come from all of these issues. Eventually, Lay also hopes for the runway project to spread to various colleges including Vanderbilt University.

"I think people will walk away from tonight affected by the statistics because every statistic has a face," said Lay, junior communications major.

GETS THE ADRENALINE GOING.  
YOURS AND WHOEVER READS ABOUT  
IT ON YOUR RESUME.



The Army ROTC Leader's Training Course is a paid 4-week summer experience that marks the beginning of your career as an Officer, a leader of the U.S. Army.

ENROLL IN ARMY ROTC  
BECOME AN ARMY OFFICER



For more information, contact Major Giles at 898-2470 or cgiles@mtsu.edu  
or visit [www.mtsu.edu/arotc1/](http://www.mtsu.edu/arotc1/)

## MTSU Evening Extended School Program

Evening Care for Children

Kindergarden through 8th grade

923 E. Lytle Street

(behind Bell Street parking lot)

(615)904-8220

www.mtsu.edu/eesp Monday-Thursday 3:00-9:30

### Fees:

\$34.00 weekly, first child  
\$18.00 daily, first child  
\$20.00 registration fee

\$10.00 weekly,  
additional children  
\$8.00 daily,  
additional children

### Activities:

homework help  
art, science, music, ect. activities  
themed/seasonal projects

special guests and activities  
qualified teachers

Have you ever used

## ECSTASY or MARIJUANA or OTHER RECREATIONAL DRUGS?

If you are between the ages of 18-35, you may qualify for research study examines the effects of prior drug use on brain functioning.

If you qualify, you will receive a brief medical and psychiatric evaluation. In addition, you will have a serious MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) tests.

Participants will be compensated up to \$150.00 for their time and effort.

This study is sponsored by National Institutes of Health. Study conducted by Dr. Ronald Cowan.

For more information, call Vanderbilt at  
615-936-1013



Vanderbilt Medical Center



# FEATURES

How are you faring with the possible identity theft?

- a) I'm sure my identity is safe and sound.
- b) My credit is screwed.
- c) My identity isn't worth stealing.

Go to [mtsusidelines.com](http://mtsusidelines.com) to answer

## She can take you places

MTSU alumna turns love of travel into lucrative business, donates \$1.25 million to school

By Meredith Puleo

Contributing Writer

Purple blazer, pencil skirt, black heels, hot pink manicure and a perfect smile.

It's not the appearance of someone on Hollywood's red carpet, but it's seemingly close to it, thanks to the style of MTSU alumna Pam Wright, president and chief executive officer of Wright Travel Agency.

With a stylish presence, this native Tennessean could easily aspire to international domination over the travel business. Instead, she said, she's content to simply take in a movie with her husband.

Don't be fooled, though, because a quiet outing is a much slower pace than what Wright has been accustomed to. Twenty-seven years after starting her company, Wright Travel is reportedly the No. 1 travel agency in the state of Tennessee, with 18 branches operating in Alabama, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Maryland, North Carolina, Tennessee and Utah, according to information on [www.wrighttravel.net](http://www.wrighttravel.net).

Founded in 1981, Wright Travel offers its customers such luxuries as hotel discounts on more than 20,000 properties in 1,800-plus cities and 142 countries. And the company does so, Wright said, with an estimated success rate that's reflected in its client-retention rate, a rate that's better than 90 percent.

After nearly three decades in the travel business, one might wonder which locations Wright deems as her personal favorite travel destinations. Without missing a beat, Wright said she and her husband especially enjoy visits to Puerto Vallarta, Mexico or "anywhere in Europe or South America."

Headquartered in Nashville, Wright Travel has accrued noteworthy successes and achievements, but in the next five years Wright said she hopes to carry out "a continuation of the company's success and to keep providing a service to the community."

During a recent visit to Wright's business home, which is located just outside the trendy Hillsboro Village on 21st Avenue, one quickly notices shiny gold letters above the receptionist's desk that highlight the "Wright Travel" agency's name. Here, the pace of the day starts early. In fact, at 9 a.m. on this particular visit the receptionist was speaking on the phone with two people simultaneously, and phones were still ringing.

Impeccably dressed, Wright emerged from a conference room carrying a hefty stack of mail and declared, "This is all from yesterday," as she began putting the mail in appropriate baskets.

Although Wright

Travel is certified as a \$100 million-plus Women's Business Enterprise agency, no daily task—including sorting mail—is too menial for its successful founder. Moreover, the prestigious WBE designation, according to the Women's Business Enterprises National Council, is one of the most widely recognized and respected certifications in the nation. To attain this certification, a business must go through a rigorous process that confirms that the business is owned, operated and controlled by a woman or women.

It goes without mention, then, that while being a strong woman in the business world is great, being certified as a \$100 million-plus company is fabulous. But what Wright strives for in the future is simple.

"I hope to keep providing for the community, my employees and my family," said Wright, who then quickly added with a grin, "And keep growing at a reasonable rate."

Interestingly, although Wright has made her name, money and mark within the travel industry, she began her college career at MTSU as a psychology major. She said she soon discovered, though, after some trial and error, that her passion was travel.

"I put everything I earned into the business," explained the Lebanon native, who started off small and went from there. "I was very involved in the community doing volunteer work," she added, "(And) with this, I built credibility and integrity."

Because of her tremendous success, Wright recently was able to donate \$1.25 million to the university's Jennings A. Jones College of Business to establish an endowed professorship in entrepreneurship.

"That felt great, being able to donate money toward the program," she said, with a big smile.

"Paid over a five-year period, the pledge will provide money for the endowed chair and allow university officials to begin a search for the new position and also begin chair activities."

"An endowed chair typically represents the best in their field," said Joe Bales, vice president for development and university relations, in a recent press release. "Pam has helped us establish the first chair of this type, and we are eternally grateful to her."

A 1973 MTSU graduate with a bachelor's degree, Wright has said, "I wanted not only to be just an alumna, but a business connection to this community. The university has been fabulous in allowing me the opportunity to participate and contribute through board and committee involvement."

Jim Burton, dean of business college, said he is hopeful Wright's pledge will result in a new role within the college for someone who is "an outstanding teacher, researcher and publisher ... (who) will provide leadership in entrepreneurship and continue to build that program on the basis of what our excellent faculty is already doing."



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY PAM WRIGHT

Pam Wright and her husband Mark pose for a picture in Rome. Wright has donated \$1.25 million to the university for an endowed professorship in entrepreneurship.

For Wright, deciding to donate big bucks to her alma mater was an easy decision, but naming just one woman who has inspired her causes the still-humble entrepreneur to pause.

"Oh, that's a tough one," she said. However, in the end, she needed to look only as far as her older sister, saying "She has great management skills as the director of a nonprofit organization in Texas." Wright also mentioned the closeness she has to her 86-year-old mother, who still resides in Lebanon, and says that such roots keep the entrepreneur close to home.

"When I opened [Wright Travel], it was not my intention to expand it to other states," Wright said in one recent interview. "That came as a

result of continued success, and frankly, hard work, commitment and passion for what I do. And maybe the ability to believe that no one told me I couldn't do it."

With Women's History Month approaching in March, a person as determined and talented as Wright herself is one who might immediately come to the forefront as being worthy of admiration. Although modest about her accomplishments, she exemplified the image of a successful woman while still maintaining a style and grace that any female entrepreneur would deem worthy of emulating.

"I am a very lucky person," Wright has said. "After 26 years, I still love doing what I do."

## Movie Review

### Yes, 'There Will Be Blood' ★★★★★ (out of five)

By Dale Maxfield

Contributing Writer

Paul Thomas Anderson's new and best movie, "There Will Be Blood," explores the darkest of human hearts. It tells the story of a man searching for the American dream of wealth. It tells the story of corruption and greed in man's heart. It tells the story of the constant struggles between capitalism and religion, if you chose to interpret it that way. More importantly, it shows us what we have the potential to be.

The film opens up with Daniel Plainview (Daniel Day-Lewis), a small time oil man, making his first well. We then see his rise in the oil industry at the turn of the twentieth century. While buying up land and drilling a new well with "an ocean of oil" underneath it, Plainview manipulates and/or destroys anything that gets in his way. After this movie, you will walk out of the theater feeling rotten, grim, and highly satisfied.

The most talked about aspect of the movie is Daniel Day-Lewis's performance, and, well, it is completely understandable. He gives the performance of his career in this film, and probably the best performance of the decade. Plainview is pure evil on every level, and that is not an easy character to play. Day-Lewis nailed the performance and removed even the slightest hope that his character had any good left in his soul. A lot can be said about the character just by the way he looks at people with hatred. When you see this movie, watch Plainview's eyes.

Other aspects of the film stand out as well, yet they often get shadowed by Day-Lewis's bold performance. Paul Dano gives a wonderful performance as Eli Sunday, a miracle healer. Jonny Greenwood, guitarist for Radiohead, scored the film; it is not the work of your average rock guitarist. It is the work of a prodigy. The music's dissonance gives the perfect feeling of disorientation and depression at exactly the right moments. Anderson's direction is, as always, top of the line. His use of location and his interesting camera shots reel the audience in.

Several critics seem to mark the ending as "controversial." I do not see why. It is the only suitable ending for a movie of this color. Do not pay any attention to those who say the ending is bad. In fact, it is the most powerful scene of the film.

"There Will Be Blood" is a lot to take in with just one viewing. More and more gets revealed with multiple viewings, but the general essence of the film can be captured with one viewing. It is because of this that I do not think the movie will win best picture, director, or adapted screenplay at the Oscars. However, with a total of eight nominations, I'm sure that it will walk away with best actor and probably another statue or two.

Plainview said, "I look at people, and I see nothing worth liking." Go watch this movie, and everything about it will be worth liking.

And yes, there will be blood.

Regal Cinemas Green Hills  
3815 Green Hills Village Drive, Nashville  
12:30 p.m. | 3:55 p.m. | 8:05 p.m.

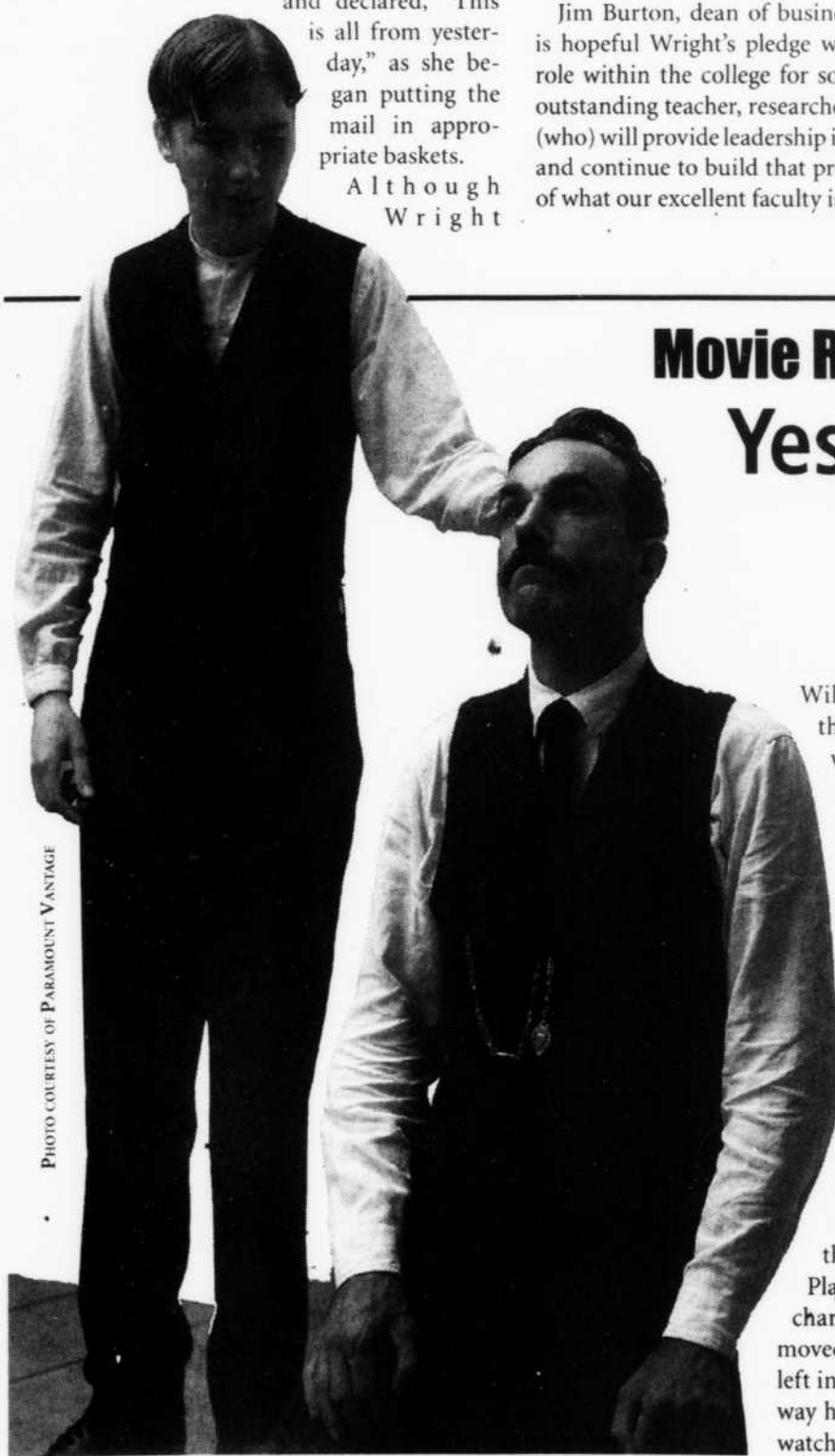


PHOTO COURTESY OF PARAMOUNT VANTAGE



## all that glitters

By Lauren Price

Contributing Writer

Vintage. The word conjures visions of strong silhouettes, skirts or pants in bold, bright prints and timeless shift dresses worn over billowing silk blouses, fastened by buttons made of shell or pearl.

Then, of course, there's another image of vintage. A dark, musty store lined with cardboard boxes scattered about the dirty floor. Old ladies digging around the deep bottom of boxes as the cloth-casualties are flung to the side.

While the first is a picturesque image of the vintage shopping experience, either scenario can prove profitable in capturing that elusive, perfect piece. When your eyes land upon it, you immediately know it's special, and you thank your lucky stars that you wandered into that store that day. Envision yourself as a well-dressed treasure hunter, if you will.

I love vintage shopping, just for the thrill of the hunt. Never knowing what each store, each box or each rack will contain. I have found that the best pieces only reveal themselves when one least suspects it.

So where's one to look for the perfect retro bauble? Anywhere and everywhere. I have found equally amazing pieces in thrift stores and in pricey specialty boutiques. The key is to know the rules for vintage shopping.

Rule No. 1: Assess the store. Is it a boutique? Are the racks and sections labeled, or is it a free-for-all? Look over each section carefully, even if you think there won't be any winners. I once found a '70s strappy, floral sundress that still had the Macy's tag on. It was carelessly pushed into the back of a rack in a teen consignment store. Did I mention it was only \$7? Trust me, exercise patience and look through the whole store.

Rule No. 2: Assess the piece. So, you looked over the entire store, and you found the perfect piece. Now comes the tricky part where even more patience is required. Carefully examine the entire piece. Are there any stains? Does the zipper work? Are there any holes in the fabric? Examine the seams—are any pulling apart? Check the buttons and the clasps, too.

Rule No. 3: Think about cleaning the piece. More than likely, if it is a true vintage find, and that means it's at least 10 to 15 years old, it's going to smell musty. Don't wash it in the washing machine. Depending on how it's been stored, some pieces are more fragile than others. You can wash it by hand using a gentle detergent, or if necessary, have it dry cleaned. Remember, though, these pieces have seams that are delicate, so every time they are washed they become more fragile. Handle with care.

Rule No. 4: Forget the size. I cannot stress this enough. Sizes from bygone eras are drastically different than today's standards. Look through the store's entire selection. If you love a piece, try it on, even if it's five sizes bigger than you normally wear. You don't have anything to lose, but something fabulous to gain.

Rule No. 5: Look at the price. The quality of the garment will greatly impact what you should be willing to pay. If any work needs to be put into the piece before it can be worn, consider that before you make your purchase. As a side note, a special piece does not have to be expensive. I have found many beautiful, one-of-a-kind pieces for less than \$10. Last week, I bought a blouse for 35 cents, so don't spend more just because it's vintage unless it's truly worth it to you.

Rule No. 6: Consider the possibilities. If you find a piece that you love, you love the price, and you can't image your life without it, and the only thing that would make it even more perfect is if it was shorter or sleeveless or scoop necked, consider getting it altered. A quality tailor is easily accessible and generally inexpensive.

Vintage clothing is a great way to make a statement by wearing special and unique pieces. Try to avoid the treacherous "costume zone" by pairing new and trendy items with your vintage finds.

Remember—fabulous vintage pieces are all around. Walk into a store that you might otherwise pass by. Don't fret if you don't find anything on the first trip. Visit often. The store will look completely different each time you go.

Lauren Price is a junior, mass communication major and can be reached at lap2z@mtsu.edu.

## Nearly Horoscopes

### Aries

March 21 - April 19

Lately, it seems kind of like every time you open your mouth, something gross and terrible happens.

But don't worry, it's just a little thing called "indigestion."

### Taurus

April 20 - May 20

Mars will be aligning with Neptune this week, meaning that your career will change dramatically.

You will go from being a "gas-station attendant" to a "former gas-station attendant."

### Gemini

May 21 - June 21

After you and your fellas go bar-hopping on Valentine's Day, consider sending the mug shots to your mom. She'll think they're precious.

### Cancer

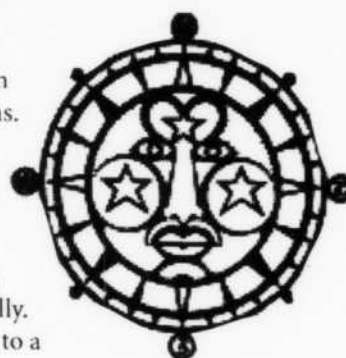
June 22 - July 22

Sure, sure, we know it's "Single's Awareness Day" and not "Valentine's Day." Yay for creating a euphemism for sad and alone!

### Leo

July 23 - Aug. 22

That's so adorable that your mom gives you a little Valentine on Feb. 14 because she "loves you." I mean, that's really, really adorable.



### Virgo

Aug. 23 - Sept. 22

Does it still itch? You better have it looked at.

### Libra

Sept. 23 - Oct. 23

Haven't settled on a Valentine's Day gift? Consider chlamydia, the gift that keeps on giving.

### Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 21

Romantic movies were made to give hope to romantically-hopeless people like you.

### Sagittarius

Nov. 22 - Dec. 21

Valentine's Day is why you shouldn't use steroids. They'll be the size of raisins, seriously. Don't embarrass yourself.

### Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 19

Boone's Farm and Taco Bell does not a romantic dinner make.

### Aquarius

Jan. 20 - Feb. 18

She's just not that into your stubble. Really, it hurts.

### Pisces

Feb. 19 - March 20

You know how that creepy Uncle Ed of yours always gives you a box of chocolates on Feb. 14 addressed to "my little Valentine?" Ew.

## Graduate COUNSELING Programs

### MASTER OF SCIENCE IN PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING

A 61-hour curriculum designed to meet the academic requirements for licensure as a Professional Counselor with Mental Health Service Provider designation (LPC/MHSP).

### MASTER OF SCIENCE IN PSYCHOLOGY

Students choose from a variety of electives in this 36-hour program designed for graduate students who desire to enhance their career opportunities in fields such as education, ministry, social work, health care and business.

### CERTIFICATE OF GRADUATE STUDY IN COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGY

This 15-hour certificate program provides graduate-level training for individuals who could benefit from training in counseling to strengthen them in their non-counseling professions.



Opening Doors ... Changing Lives.

COUNSELING.LIPSCOMB.EDU • 615.966.5906



### ATTENTION

## ADVANCED UNDERGRADUATE & GRADUATE CREATIVE WRITING STUDENTS

Release your creativity this summer at the

## Fiction Writing Workshop

Learn from Dr. Lee Martin,

finalist for the 2006 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction.

Earn 3 credit hours at WKU in Bowling Green, KY

July 7th -25th, Monday - Friday

REGISTRATION BEGINS MARCH 22, 2008

[www.wku.edu/summer/writing](http://www.wku.edu/summer/writing)



## We need YOUR Help!!

Special Census Underway!

Watch for a simple form to arrive in the mail.

The City of Murfreesboro is conducting a special census to determine how much its population has grown since the last special census in 2005.

Off-campus students will receive a simple form in the mail requires only an address and listing of persons living at that address.

Full-time students who reside in Murfreesboro count as city residents.



That means you will count in the fight to keep more of your sales tax dollars working for you.

Please fill out the simple form you receive in the mail or we will take your information over the phone 615.849.2021 or on the city's web site at [www.murfreesboro.tn.gov](http://www.murfreesboro.tn.gov).

Help us keep your streets paved and your trash packed up!

Help us keep more of those sales tax dollars at home!



# OPINIONS

## Letters Policy:

*Sidelines* welcomes letters to the editor from all readers. Please e-mail letters to [slopinio@mtsu.edu](mailto:slopinio@mtsu.edu), and include your name and a phone number for verification. *Sidelines* will not publish anonymous letters. We reserve the right to edit for grammar, length and content.

*Sidelines* is the editorially independent, non-profit student-produced newspaper of Middle Tennessee State University. *Sidelines* publishes Monday and Thursday during the fall and spring semesters and Wednesday during June and July. The opinions expressed herein are those of the individual writers and not necessarily *Sidelines* or MTSU.

From the Editorial Board:

## Numbers not socially secure

It is disconcerting when college students get letters in the mail that, in cold personal-speak lingo, tell them that the core of their financial and personal identity has been hacked and could possibly be jacked and used for dubious purposes.

That's exactly what happened to 1,500 students this week at MTSU.

Social Security numbers are now more valuable than all the gold in Fort Knox because busting into Knox requires a lot of explosives and cojones the size of Texas.

Busting into someone's financial accounts now only requires a keen ear and the ability to use a computer or phone, or a convenient idiot with a loud voice and no common sense.

MTSU forces us to give up those precious nine digits to do anything on this campus. Of course, they are trying to remedy that by giving us M-numbers on our student ID's that can be used to access a slew of personal information related to the university.

Yet in a complete disregard at this privacy attempt, we have all had professors who use our SSNs to post grades. In the halls. Where everyone can see them, alongside the fact that we made a terrible grade on our Spanish final.

Consider how these professors would feel if we posted their credit card numbers on the reviews we give them online with how much of a pain their class was.

The M-numbers are a good idea in theory, but if someone has mad computer skills, they'll still be able to figure out your Social Security number and with that, everything about you. This includes how many dollars you have accrued working at Taco Bell and if said funds could buy them a sweet new compact disc player, chicken pox vaccine, or whatever the kids these days are buying.

We all appreciate those commercials about identity theft where some old geezer has the voice of a twenty-something "chippie." They don't only serve as entertainment, their sage counsel encourages people to be more careful when they throw their Social Security numbers around.

We entrust not only our fertile minds to the capable hands of our instructors, but our personal information as well. They can access how much money we have dished out, what grades we are making, and even how much our parents make yearly.

Discretion is the better part of valor, no?

## Faces in the Crowd

*What is your reaction to the news that 1,500 student Social Security numbers have potentially been compromised?*



Haskins

"It doesn't really surprise me. We can't be sure of everything so we have to be really safe."

-Renee Haskins, sophomore nursing



Cothorn

"That's crap and I'm scared. Hopefully, I'm not affected."

-Andrea Cothorn, senior photography



Reese

"It's very unsafe. There should be more precautions."

-DeAndre Reese, sophomore computer engineering



Perryman

"It really hits home because it's people we could know, as opposed to someone from another state. It really hurts to know that [administration] is being so quiet about it."

-Scott Perryman, freshman aerospace



"And Friends"

[frankhasenmueller@gmail.com](mailto:frankhasenmueller@gmail.com)

Frank Hasenmueller

## Congress drops the ball

*Taxpayer dollars should be spent on issues that actually have an effect on the American people, not on MLB steroid scandal*

Congress is usually kind of cute. It's like watching a third-grade class giving a pageant about the founding fathers, or high school mock trial. You watch them bluster and stammer, and craft unreasonably long and complicated sentences. You see them spin very simple questions, such as "are you telling the truth?" into long speeches.

They didn't disappoint this week.

C-SPAN and ESPN viewers were treated to live, uncut, horribly awkward footage of the steroid hearings. They saw Roger Clemens and Brian McNamee accuse each other of lying. It was reminiscent of "I know you are but what am I?"

Let's put this in perspective. These are paid representatives of real, actual citizens. They actually convened a committee to investigate whether or not Roger Clemens was injected with steroids, as accused by his former trainer.

Never mind the war, the trillion-dollar debt, the 9/11 trials, the impending election, our polluted environment, voter fraud, impending recession, or any other issue. We just can't have juiced-up Neanderthals in major league baseball.

Does this bother anyone else?

To further put this in perspective, the following is a list of pertinent issues to the United States of America. Remember, these are the issues which members of Congress are paid to understand and mitigate:

- The porous Mexican border
- The porous Canadian border
- Impending economic recession
- Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan
- The real location of Osama bin Laden
- The approaching election, with electronic voting machines and no paper trail
- "No Child Left Behind" and all the chil-

- dren it has left behind
- Waterboarding and other illegal torture
- Guantanamo Bay
- Warrantless wiretapping
- Death penalty inequality
- Misuse of National Security Letters
- Skyrocketing prescription drug costs
- Medical tourism
- Decaying national infrastructure
- Welfare reform
- Net neutrality
- Cost and quality of higher education
- The Social Security meltdown
- The \$9 trillion gross national debt
- Borrowing money from China to fund deficit and war
- Refunding money in a "stimulus" plan, so that people buy more Chinese products
- The subprime mortgage crisis and resulting ripple effect on the economy
- Addiction to foreign oil
- Deflation of the dollar against foreign currencies
- The rumored government liquidation of gold bullion from Fort Knox

### The Pen is Mightier

By Evan Barker  
Staff Columnist

- Decaying diplomatic relations with the rest of the civilized world

You get the idea. The point is that there is no point. With all of these other pressing issues, why are paid civil servants wasting their time refereeing a "he said, she said" pissing match between a baseball trainer and a player? These are grown men paid millions of dollars to play a boy's game, yet the full weight of the government of the United States of America is bent on finding the 'truth,' whatever that means.

Sadly, there is a historical precedent for this kind of tomfoolery. In the late 1950s, several TV quiz shows were rigged in the first highly publicized peccadillo in the history of television. The issue at hand was that people expected TV to tell the truth, and when it didn't, President Eisenhower himself became involved.

This is an egregious waste of our time. For the better part of a day, citizens expecting productivity from their government were distracted from the 'War on Terror,' and the 'War on Drugs,' in favor of the 'War on Human Growth Hormone,' waged by a group of overpaid attention whores.

The take-home lesson? Don't believe anything you see on TV, and if a hulking knuckle-dragger with raisin-sized testicles tells you he's never taken steroids, don't believe him, either.

The reason our useless government engages in this utterly superfluous time-wasting is to distract us from their blatant incompetence and their missteps of the past few years.

Then again, they are kind of cute.

Evan Barker is a senior viola performance major and can be reached at [ehb2d@mtsu.edu](mailto:ehb2d@mtsu.edu).

## Letters to the Editor

### Professor weighs in on excess absenteeism of students, advocates 'biting the bullet'

Regarding your recent editorial on absences: Do understand that at MTSU there is a serious absenteeism problem, even a cult and culture of absenteeism. That is wrong; if nothing else, taxpayers are not subsidizing you to blow things off.

Let us be honest here: we know most "excuses" are bogus or lies. You know that, too. We also know that absenteeism and failure go hand-in-hand (50 percent attrition rate here at MTSU; about half of all freshmen lose their Hope Scholarship the first year).

Absenteeism does affect quality. What to do--stand by and watch the train wreck? Hardly. So we create absenteeism policies (do note that according to university regulations you are not allowed to be absent at all, and yes, you are responsible for all work regardless of excuse). These are designed to help keep students in class but also deal with some real world issues.

So first, do not misuse or abuse the "free" days you have in your absenteeism policy; save them for real reasons. And do not complain about whatever policy you face--it is a free gift to you from kindly professors. In five years of BA work I missed one class; in 10 years of MA and Ph.D. work I missed one class (and I was working full-time as well for all three degrees). I never missed a paper deadline, either. I have been teaching since 1981, and have missed no days for illness or injury. So, in most cases, just suck it up and get to class. Get a flu shot. Lay off the alcohol and drugs. And the real world? I used to work for a living before there

were sick days. If you were absent you lost 40 bucks. I worked in a factory where if you were absent thrice in a 30-day period you were fired. Oh yes, in all sorts of real world places absences are not tolerated or expected: sports, war, entertainment, business. I just heard of a flu-ridden manager called in on his day off as the bigwigs were there--so again just suck it up.

So, yes, do please be adults about this, and none of this carping. And for God's sake, do not have your mommy call me. I do not do parents.

Louie Haas, professor of history and director of graduate studies

### Rec Center parking lot needs to be fixed; excessive potholes harmful to vehicles

MTSU needs to fix the gravel parking lot at the Rec Center. I have driven that parking lot two times a week to deliver the paper and it is getting worse and worse. You have to go less than five miles per hour so that all those dips will not mess up your car.

You would think with all the money we are spending to build these new buildings, MTSU would have enough money to fill up the holes in the parking lot. I hope that when the rec center is done with remodeling that the parking lot will get some help, too.

Zachary Barnes, sophomore education and behavioral science

## SIDELINES

Middle Tennessee State University  
1301 East Main Street P.O. Box 8  
Murfreesboro, TN 37132  
Editorial: (615) 904-8357 Advertising:  
(615) 898-2533 Fax: (615) 904-8193  
[www.mtsusidelines.com](http://www.mtsusidelines.com)

Editor in Chief  
Andy Harper\*  
[sleditor@mtsu.edu](mailto:sleditor@mtsu.edu)

Features  
Sarah Lavery  
[slfeatur@mtsu.edu](mailto:slfeatur@mtsu.edu)

Photography  
Ryan DeBooy  
[slphoto@mtsu.edu](mailto:slphoto@mtsu.edu)

Managing Editor  
Mary Rose Fox\*  
[sidelinesmanager@gmail.com](mailto:sidelinesmanager@gmail.com)

Sports  
Richard Lowe  
[slsports@mtsu.edu](mailto:slsports@mtsu.edu)

Production  
Amy Jones  
[slads@mtsu.edu](mailto:slads@mtsu.edu)

Campus News  
Christin Pepple\*  
[slnews@mtsu.edu](mailto:slnews@mtsu.edu)

Assist. News  
Tiffany Gibson  
[slcopy@mtsu.edu](mailto:slcopy@mtsu.edu)

Online  
Bryan Law  
[slonline@mtsu.edu](mailto:slonline@mtsu.edu)

Comm. News  
Dan Potter\*  
[slstate@mtsu.edu](mailto:slstate@mtsu.edu)

Assist. Features  
Katey Coil  
[slflash@mtsu.edu](mailto:slflash@mtsu.edu)

Adviser  
Steven Chappell  
[schappel@mtsu.edu](mailto:schappel@mtsu.edu)

Opinions  
Jessica Laven\*  
[slopinio@mtsu.edu](mailto:slopinio@mtsu.edu)

Assist. Sports  
Chris Martin  
[slsports@mtsu.edu](mailto:slsports@mtsu.edu)

Advertising  
Jeri Lamb  
[jlamb@mtsu.edu](mailto:jlamb@mtsu.edu)

\*denotes member of editorial board

Business  
Eveon Corl  
[ecorl@mtsu.edu](mailto:ecorl@mtsu.edu)



# SPORTS

Basketball doubleheader vs. USA Tonight 5:30 p.m.

Murphy Center

MBB vs. WKU Sat. 3 p.m. Murphy Center

WBB vs. WKU Sun. 2 p.m. Murphy Center

## Taking a look at new Blue Raiders



*Outside the Pocket*

By Chris Martin

Assistant Sports Editor

On Wednesday, Middle Tennessee hosted an event where fans could come meet with the coaches and watch highlights of the newest editions to the Blue Raider football program.

The "Recruiting Roundup" took place in the Kennan Sports Hall of Fame building and was a neat little affair. For \$20, fans could grab some grub, watch video highlights of each new signee and sit down with the coaches and ask them questions.

It was nice to get a preview of the incoming recruits, but it is easy to watch these videos, check out their height and weight, and then immediately hand out 24 Heisman trophies. However, there are some players that should be able to contribute right off the bat.

If the coaching staff has its way, Blue Raider fans will not see either of the quarterbacks brought in. With Dwight Dasher entrenched as the starter and Joe Craddock likely to get some playing time, the only way Sancho McDonald and Brent Burnette are going to see the field is if Craddock and Dasher are unable to play.

The unfortunate part is that both Craddock and Dasher sustained injuries last season, but hopefully McDonald and Burnette will be carrying clipboards this season.

As for the running backs, again both backs will probably see little to no time this season. Phillip Tanner should begin the year as the starter with Marquise Branton, Desmond Gee and Jacob Longoria in the back-up role. Fans should look out for Jawan Carson in the future though. The Newark, NJ product can flat-out run. All of his highlights showed him buzzing right by defenders.

One position that has needed an upgrade for the past two seasons has been wide receiver. It definitely got the needed upgrade with this class. Receivers coach Justin Watts said that four-star prospect Anthony Jones should get some immediate playing time. In fact, Jones could be a starter from day one.

This is a good thing since Jonathan Grigsby and last season's leading receiver Taron Henry have exhausted their eligibility and junior Bobby Williams decided to leave the team. Also, the recent dismissal of Walter Dozier leaves the Blue Raiders even more short-handed at wideout.

Another receiver, Malcolm Beyah, could see some snaps early. Beyah and Carson both stood out in their highlight videos, especially when it came to their speed.

On the offensive line, there

## MIDDLE TENNESSEE'S BLACK HISTORY



PHOTO COURTESY OF KENNAN SPORTS HALL OF FAME

Robert Mallard (pictured back row, second from left) was MT's first black athlete. The Holloway High School graduate competed in the 100-yard dash and 440 relay.

## Track and field team sets tone at MT

By Dwayne Douglas

Staff Writer

At the end of 1964, many colleges in the South had already started to integrate. African Americans were not only attending these colleges, but were competing in athletics as well.

However, Middle Tennessee State College was a school that had not made that transition within its athletics department. If not the last, MT was one of the final schools in the OVC to have an African American representing the school in athletic competition.

During the spring of 1965, MT finally joined the other schools, as Robert Mallard became MT's first African American athlete. He was a local talent from Holloway High School. At MT, Mallard was a member of the track team who competed in the 100-yard dash and the 440 relay.

Mallard's stay at the university was a short one. He returned in the fall, but left during the semester for the Army.

Jerome Singleton, the next African American to attend MT, became the first African American to receive a sports scholarship from the university.

Dean Hayes, the school's newly hired track coach, recruited Singleton to MT. Hayes was

from Chicago, and he knew of Singleton, who competed at a nearby school.

Coming from the North, Singleton was not aware of the conditions the south was still facing with racial issues. "I was oblivious to it all," Singleton said. He visited the school and said, "I saw blacks, but it didn't register to me that they were just janitors."

"Hayes presented it [the opportunity to attend MT] as I'm giving you a scholarship for college," Singleton said. He now admits that if it was presented any other way, he is not sure he would have come. Hayes knows the recruitment of Singleton is history, but he wasn't viewing it that way when he offered Singleton the scholarship. "I wanted to make a team and he wanted to go to school," Hayes said.

After arriving at MT, Singleton obviously ran into a few encounters that he didn't have to worry about in Chicago. "One individual spit in my sandwich while I was away. But even that was not all that bad," says Singleton. He did not eat the sandwich as one of his white friends advised him of what happened.

Although there were some bad times, Singleton

See History, 3

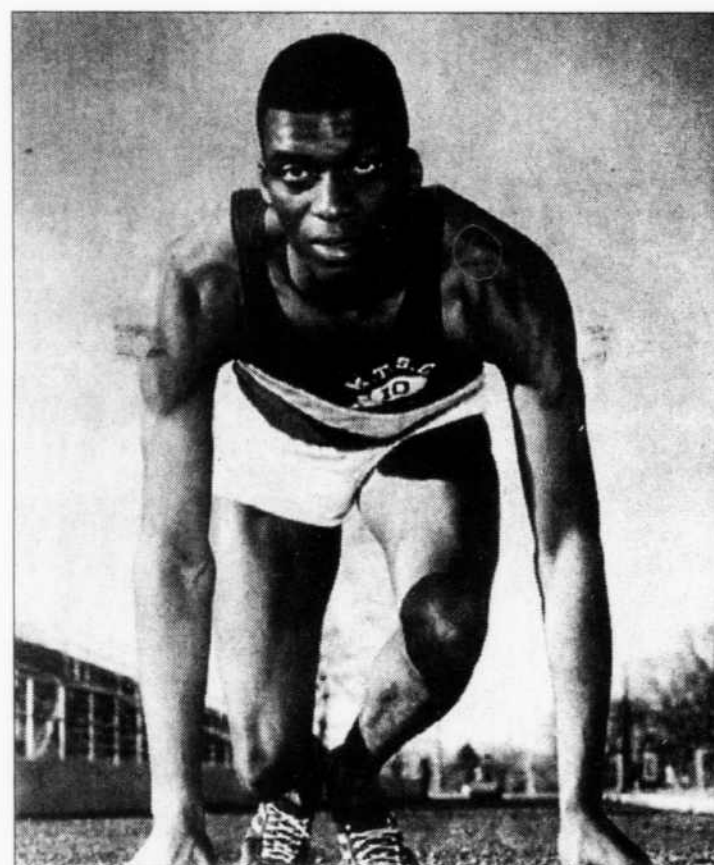


PHOTO COURTESY OF KENNAN SPORTS HALL OF FAME

Jerome Singleton was MT's first black athlete on scholarship.

## Davis wants more students

By Chris Martin

Assistant Sports Editor

When watching Middle Tennessee's men basketball team play at the Murphy Center, there is one glaring eyesore at every game.

It is not the play of the team, the condition of the arena or any other aesthetic anomaly. It is the complete lack of students in the stands.

Most of the time, the student section is mostly populated by the band. People at MT aren't the only ones noticing the dearth of college kids in the Murphy Center—other schools are noticing too.

"Some remarks have been made that our students don't get involved in games," said MT head coach Kermit Davis after Tuesday's practice. "That's why our arena's not very loud."

This is a very unfortunate fact. Davis doesn't want to appear as though he's attacking students, but he is challenging them to beef up the home game attendance.

"When our students come, they're good, they know how to act," Davis said. "We need them to come in a big way."

It seems almost inconceivable the lack of student support at MT, especially when one con-

siders the size of the university.

"We've got the most students of any university in the Sun Belt," Davis said. "We need to get our students to come."

Davis has been able to boost attendance since he was hired as head coach. During Davis's tenure, home game attendance has increased 68 percent. However, the student section continues to appear noticeably empty. He has not grown complacent with his recent success when it comes to filling seats.

"When we first got here, you could shoot cannons off, nobody came to games," Davis said. "Right now home games are averaging over 4,000 [in attendance]. It would just be nice for those games to have a legitimate 7,000 people to come to those games."

It is easy to understand some of the reasons students don't want to attend games. For one, the Blue Raiders don't boast the tradition of a school like Western Kentucky.

"We're young in tradition," Davis said. "Men's basketball hasn't gone to the NCAA tournament in 20 years."

Also, the Blue Raiders have had an up-and-down season, but they have come on strong recently. MT is 7-3 over its last 10 games and the team has been impressive on the home court.

However, an 11-12 record is not the most visually pleasing.

"We need to win more, but we've been a good home team," Davis said. "We're 5-1 in the league at home. Our only loss was an overtime loss."

One cannot underestimate the impact students have on a game. Students fill the arena with noise and offer an energy that is not usually seen from other fans. The noise fans generate can sway the momentum of a game and provide a psychological burst for the home team.

"I'm at football games, and I know when students come to football games it's a huge difference," Davis said.

There will be a good opportunity for students to show their support for the Blue Raiders and see some great basketball. The next two home games are against the top two teams in the Sun Belt and Thursday's game will feature Mardi Gras festivities.

"For them to come on Thursday and Saturday and illustrate to South Alabama and illustrate to Western Kentucky that Western Kentucky is not the only basketball school in our league [would be huge]," Davis said. "When we have beat Western Kentucky here, our student body is the best student body in the Sun Belt, without question."

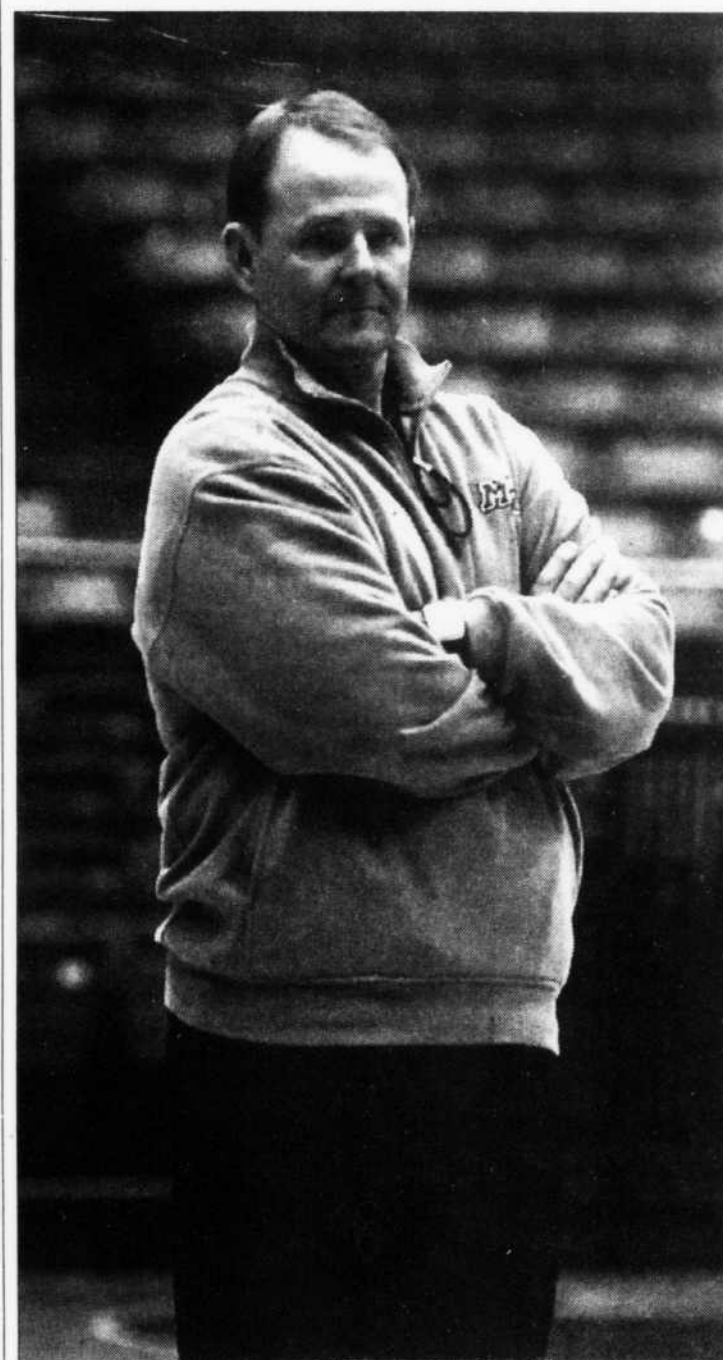


PHOTO BY BRADLEY LAMBERT - MT MEDIA RELATIONS

Coach Kermit Davis' team practices for the week ahead.

See RAIDERS, 8



**RAIDERS: MT lands top class**

Continued from page 7

are only two prospects, Alex Stuart and Brandon McLeroy, that could step into the rotation. Travis Lilienthal and Roger Govan are just too small right now and Baylor-transfer Jeremy Michel has to sit out a year. It is difficult to make an assessment when it comes to offensive linemen, since in their highlights they are pushing around high school kids that probably weigh at least fifty pounds less than them.

Stuart and McLeroy may get to play since offensive line depth was a serious concern this past season. To further compound things on the line, MT lost two starters on the offensive line, Brandon Nix and Franklin Dunbar, Nix to graduation and Dunbar to professional football.

Even though MT head coach Rick Stockstill and his staff put together the top recruiting class in the Sun Belt Conference, one area they could have done better in is defensive end. The lone end, Phillip Tinsley is fast off the edge, but will be a long-shot to get any playing time in the upcoming year. In fact, since MT still has some remaining scholarships, defensive coordinator Manny Diaz and Watts said they will look to land another end as well as another receiver.

Luckily for the Blue Raiders, they have plenty of depth at defensive tackle. The problem with that last season was that depth was decimated by injuries. Junior college-transfer Immanuel Chu looks as though he could fit into the interior rotation, but may be buried on the depth chart since starters Trevor Jenkins and Wes Hofacker are returning and only one tackle, Derek Mason, will not be returning.

As far as the linebackers go, they too were difficult to judge. The most experienced of the group, Jamari Lattimore, played defensive end in junior college, so it will be interesting to see how he transitions. The three high school players have some beefing up to do, but the Blue Raiders tend to play with smaller linebackers. Diaz did say that they may be able to get some playing time since MT does not run with a beefed up group of linebackers anyways.

Of the six three-star or better prospects the Blue Raiders signed, two, Marcus Udell and Hakeem Johnson, play in the secondary (that number could climb to three if the coaches decide Beyah is better-suited on defense). Interestingly, two-star player Denzell Guerra had the most impressive highlights, so it should be interesting to see how he plays. MT will have to shore up the defensive backs after suffering heavy graduation losses.

The Blue Raiders will be without Bradley Robinson, Damon Nickson, Dana Stewart and Roy Polite. The emergence of freshmen Jeremy Kellem and Rod Issac was a revelation last season, and the fact that Kellem got to start and Issac played more snaps later in the season should be encouraging to the new members of the secondary.

In all, this recruiting class looks impressive if not slightly incomplete, but you can't get everything you want. Stockstill and his staff have definitely done well recruiting after having two ordinary classes.

It's an exciting time to be a Blue Raider fan, well it will be in a couple of seasons.

Chris Martin is a junior, journalism major and can be reached at cgm2m@mtsu.edu.

**HISTORY: Hayes**

Continued from page 7

mainly speaks about the positive memories at MT.

Hayes made life easier on his players by calling motels in advance to see if it was OK to stay there with black players. He said he didn't want to put his players in any rough situations.

Singleton credits Hayes for making his transition effortless. Ironically, Hayes credits Singleton's transition to Robert Scales,

an African American who Hayes believes laid the groundwork for integration to occur in the city.

"Scales success and good in the city helped blacks transition at MT," says Hayes.

Another reason the transition was effortless was because of the talent that Singleton brought to the team.

"It was easier to break barriers when you had good athletes who can get it done. Singleton was good and smooth. Kids wanted to run with him. They saw he could make them better," Hayes said.

Mallard and Singleton helped open doors

for many African Americans to compete at MT. Today's athletes don't have to experience situations like those who attended the university in the late 60s and early 70s. Nevertheless, it is important for them to understand the sacrifices and contributions that others made so they can compete and receive an education.

After leaving MT, Singleton said that life has been good.

"I feel I was prepared for anything life had to offer me. I can only contribute that to MTSU and Dean Hayes," Singleton said.

**Thanks to our Sponsors!**  
Student Programming, MT.  
Dining, Beat the Bookstore,  
Textbook Brokers, Preferred  
Entertainment, MT. Parents As-  
sociation, Campus Rec., Papa  
Johns, Bob Parks Realty, Side-  
lines, and Coca-Cola

**Up-Til-Dawn**

**\$71,000 Raised for St.  
Jude Hospital**



**GRAND OPENING**  
**SATURDAY FEB. 16 9:00AM**

**PLATO'S**  
CLOSET®

**MURFREESBORO**

**BUY & SELL NAME BRAND CLOTHING**

**WWW.PLATOSCLOSETMURFREESBORO.COM**

**(615) 896-8511**

**429 N. THOMPSON LANE**