



Sidelines



Volume 81 Number 45

Wednesday, December 7, 2005

An editorially independent newspaper

The Gutter

Today's Weather

Mostly Sunny
42/27Average Price of Gas
in Murfreesboro:
\$2.01

Source: www.tennesseegasprices.com

Keep the Christmas
fat awayAhh, the holidays. Time
for family, friends and
feasts.

In other words, mom's trying cook every time her "baby" walks in the kitchen, old friends are randomly popping in ready to party, and then there are those three magic words: spiked egg nog.

"It is the time of year when grandmothers show off their baking skills," said Barry Campbell, personal trainer and junior Exercise Science student.

With so many temptations, it's no wonder that most college students return five to 10 pounds heavier in the spring than they were in the fall.

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Littlejohn named Player of the Year

Senior defensive lineman Jeff Littlejohn was named Sun Belt Conference Defensive Player of the Year.



Littlejohn

SBC coaches and select media members honored junior Germayne Franklin, junior Eugene Gross, junior Willie Hall, Littlejohn, junior J.K. Sabb, senior Cleannord Saintil, junior Colby Smith and senior Quinton Staton as first and second team all-conference picks.

Sophomore Bradley Robinson and junior Clint Marks received honorable mention honors.

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New MTSU Tennis Club looking for members

One of the newest club sports on campus, the MTSU Tennis Club, is currently looking to add to its ranks.

The club is open to all MTSU students and faculty.

The club president and founder, Kristin Hodges, hopes to compete against schools such as Alabama, Kentucky, Louisville, Tennessee, Georgia, Vanderbilt, Auburn, and UT Chattanooga in the spring.

The club's Web site is www.freewebs.com/mtsutenisclub.

Practice for the semester is over, but meetings will resume in mid-January.

There will be a \$20 fee for the Spring semester.

For more information, contact Kristin Hodges at 830-8556 or kth2b@mtsu.edu.

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A Starbucks on every corner



Photo by Emily Stahl | Staff Photographer

The Starbucks in the Keathley University Center is currently the place on campus to find a barista, but beginning next semester, that will no longer be the case. The Starbucks that is currently being installed in the study/vending area of east side of the library will be the new kid on the block in January.

Campus's second Starbucks coming to Walker Library

By Jeni Harju
Staff Writer

MTSU's second Starbucks will be implanted in the east side of the James E. Walker Library and will be open by the beginning of the spring semester.

"Basically what we're doing is taking about a third of the room on the east end and converting it from a study area to a food and beverage service area," said Don Craig, Dean of the Library. "We'll be serving Starbucks coffee, sandwiches, and muffins early in the day."

The addition will provide a convenience for students who

visit the library.

Junior Justin Myers said, "I won't have to walk anywhere else to eat when I'm at the library."

Some students are worried they will lose their familiar and comfortable study area to the new design. However, only a portion of the room is being altered.

"I think a lot of people don't understand what we're doing," said Craig. "I think there are some students who think we are completely taking over the whole room and doing away with the studying, which we're not doing. I'm hopeful that once they understand that it's still going to be a study area with food and beverage available, they will like it very much."

Craig said that the majority of the room will remain a study area complete with the library's familiar study desks.

There is some positive anticipation regarding the potential prices of the coffee lounge's products.

"I'm hoping it will be cheaper than Cyber," Myers said.

ARAMARK, the campus dining service, and Starbucks will decide on the final numbers.

Craig said that he would guess that the prices of the products will be the same as the Starbucks' in the KUC.

Some students have no interest in the new Starbucks, and call for a heavier menu. Junior Mike Reed, a library employee, said, "They need to put a Taco Bell in there, not Starbucks."

In contrast, other students are excited about the coffee addition.

"I think it's awesome," said Junior Shellie Shartzer. "They have coffee in bookstores like Borders, why not the library?"

The idea to include a Starbucks in the library originated from the student government.

"A couple years ago the student government passed a resolution for us to provide coffee in the study-vending area on the first floor," said Craig.

The idea had not been implemented until now, because the campus was in a five-year contract with ARAMARK, and the plan could not go through until the contract was rebid, according to Craig.

"We think the students will be very pleased. The students are after all the ones who asked for coffee in the library, and that is the area we can do that in," said Craig.

Floor plans began last January, and the Starbucks will be ready by the time students come back this upcoming January, said Craig. ♦

Volunteers offer non-native English speakers place to improve skills

'Conversation Partners' gives foreigners a hand

By Jennifer Myers
Contributor

Like most American cities, Murfreesboro is predominately English-speaking – street signs are in English, TV shows are broadcast in English and restaurant menus are written in English.

Songs are blasted on car radios in English, and mostly English is spoken on campus. This may not seem like a big

deal to most, but according to some of the 10 percent of non-native English speakers on our campus, it can be overwhelming.

"Even though I've studied English for seven years, it is still tough understanding everything about the language," said Eduardo Oliveira, a Brazilian exchange student. "Sometimes someone will say an expression in English I haven't heard of and I'll just laugh because I have no clue what they are saying."

Another struggle Oliveira said he faces is his English speaking friends' inability to pronounce his name.

"I have everyone call me 'Ed' because it's easier for them to pronounce," Oliveira said. "But I don't get to take short cuts when I'm speaking English."

Help is available for students like Oliveira. "Conversation Partners," a group that meets on Tuesday nights at 6:30, in the social hall of the Student Presbyterian Fellowship Center, offers a place where non-native English speakers such as Oliveira can meet, eat and speak only in English with other people dealing with similar language struggles.

"Practicing speaking is, by

far, the best way to learn a new language," said Harold Bryer, the volunteer hosting the Tuesday night language sessions. Bryer is an avid volunteer for MTSU's International program and was awarded the "Volunteer of the Year" Award in 2003 by the Middle Tennessee State University and International Programs and Services Office.

"Bryer started the program on his own, and goes above and beyond what you would expect from a volunteer," said Angie Melton, associate director of international affairs.

see English, page 2

SGA candidates can remain anonymous until confirmation

Fulcher vetoes bill that would require release of hopefuls' applications

By Dana Owens
Staff Writer

A Student Government Association bill that would amend the Electoral Act was vetoed after being approved at two senate meetings.

Currently, the election commission, comprised of four members, is first selected by the election commissioner and then put before the senate for approval.

There is no specific law to require the commissioner to provide the senate with applications before they confirm the candidates.

The bill would have required the candidates' applications to be released to the senators before the confirmation meeting.

SGA President Paul Fulcher vetoed the bill, saying the senate was creating a double standard.

"[The Bill] takes away the right of executive cabinet to choose who they want," Fulcher said of the election commission candidates.

The senate had problems in receiving reliable information about the candidates from the election commissioner, said Ian Campbell, a senator who proposed the bill along with Senator Michael Jackson.

The bill was proposed after the current election commissioner, April Clark, did not require her candidate choices to obtain an application or initially present them to the senate.

Clark gave only vague descriptions of each candidate in the original confirmation hearing to select the election commissioner, Campbell said.

He said he did not know any of the candidates and decided to propose the bill when he saw the reaction of the other senators.

"Making a decision on a whim isn't responsible to our positions," Campbell said.

Fulcher said he would line item veto the bill at last Thursday's meeting because it was unclear, according to Courtney Ledford, a SGA senator who sponsored the bill.

Fulcher opposed a portion of the bill that did not specifically state the applications are to be submitted only for candidates the election commissioner

see SGA, page 2

Health a concern, poll says

Tennessee citizens thinking about TennCare, schools, legislative approval

By Dale Martin
Staff Writer

Health issues are the number one concern among Tennesseans, according to the MTSU statewide poll.

Tennesseans are also concerned about education, TennCare, and legislative approval.

Health issues were named the number one concern by whites, who listed it 29 percent of the time in answer to an open-ended question. An issue rarely gets mention by more than 20 percent of respondents, according to the administrators of the poll. Black respondents named education as the main problem in Tennessee, calling it the number one problem 25 percent of the time.

The disparity between the responses of black and white respondents is not unusual. In last year's poll 25 percent of blacks named education as the number one problem but only 10 percent of whites agreed.

In last year's poll, one-third of whites named health issues as the number one problem compared to only 10 percent of African Americans according to last year's poll.

Economic conditions were also an issue addressed in the poll.

Forty-two percent of Tennesseans said economic conditions throughout the state were "only fair," and 36 percent thought the conditions were "good." Only 2 percent chose "excellent," while 18 percent rated the economic conditions in Tennessee "poor."

Racial differences were seen in these results, too. Thirty-seven percent of blacks rated the conditions as poor, compared to only 14 percent of whites.

After Hurricane Katrina moved the political spotlight onto poverty, Tennesseans were asked if they thought of themselves as "haves" or "have-nots," and also were asked about poverty levels in the state in general.

Tennesseans overestimated the amount of poverty in the state, according to the poll. Respondents thought that 37 percent of citizens of the state lived in poverty, while the Census Bureau last estimated that Tennessee's poverty rate is 15 percent.

Last spring 45 percent of Tennesseans approved of the job that the state legislature was doing. This year, only 34 percent of respondents approve.

Some respondents said that news attention about

CRIME LOG

Compiled By Michaela Jackson
Campus News Editor

Thursday, December 1 - 10:28 a.m.

Corlew Hall Harassment

Victim called and reported that they have been receiving harassing phone calls at the front desk.

Thursday, December 1 - 11:41 a.m.

Keathley University Center Disorderly Conduct

Parking services requested an officer to help deal with a person causing a disturbance with a ticket writer. Student involved sent to dean for disciplinary action.

Thursday, December 1 - 1:00 p.m.

Kirksey Old Main Theft Under \$500

Officers responded to KOM to investigate an attempted theft from a professor's office. While investigating the incident, a person fitting the description of the suspect was located and found to have active warrants.

Thursday, December 1 - 1:41 p.m.

Deere Hall Unlawful Entry with No Force

Victim reported that someone had stolen money from her room.

Thursday, December 1 - 2:17 p.m.

MTSU Police Department Arrest

Richard Kohler, 28, 406 Kings Highway, was arrested for an outstanding warrant for theft of property from several MTSU professors and students.

Thursday, December 1 - 4:47 p.m.

Greenland Drive Lot B Leaving the Scene of an Accident

Victim reported that his vehicle had been struck while parked in the Greenland Drive parking lot.

Friday, December 2 - 12:53 a.m.

Sigma Nu House - Greek Row False Fire Alarm

Officers responded to a fire alarm and found an unauthorized party taking place. A pull station had been pulled, but the fire department found no sign of fire. Officers reported that alcohol was present at the unauthorized party. Party was broken up and the crowd was dispersed. There are no suspects at this time for the false fire alarm.

Friday, December 2 - 1:21 a.m.

Recreation Center Theft Under \$500

Victim reported that he had his credit card and other items stolen from an unlocked locker at the Rec Center.

Saturday, December 3 - 6:24 a.m.

Murphy Center

Consuming Alcohol Under 21 Years of Age

Patrick Mix, 20, was issued a state citation for underage consumption of alcohol.

Saturday, December 3 - 8:26 p.m.

Greenland Drive Lot A Vandalism Under \$500

Victim reported that his vehicle had been vandalized while parked in the Greenland Drive parking lot.

Saturday, December 3 - 10:13 p.m.

Greenland Drive Lot B Theft From Auto

Victim reported that his vehicle had been broken into and belongings stolen while parked in the Greenland Drive parking lot.

Saturday, December 3 - 10:21 p.m.

Faulkinberry Drive Weapon Carrying at MTSU

Daniel E. Adkins, 18, was arrested for possession of a weapon on school grounds, possession of drug paraphernalia, underage possession of alcohol and underage consumption of alcohol. Parker Warren Jones, 19, was arrested for possession of drug paraphernalia, underage possession of alcohol and underage consumption of alcohol.

Sunday, December 4 - 7:56 a.m.

Alumni Drive Vandalism Under \$500

Complainant stated that a green Cavalier was parked in the parking lot with the passenger window broken out. The owner was contacted and a report was filed. The owner reported that it did not appear that any of his belongings were stolen.

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From Poll, page 1

"Operation Tennessee Waltz," the FBI operation that resulted in corruption charges against some state and local officials, was the cause of the decrease in approval of the legislature.

Another reason for this disapproval is TennCare. A majority of Tennesseans, 56 percent, oppose Governor Phil Bredesen's plan to cut 190,000 adults from the state's medical program for the poor, disabled

or uninsured. Only 34 percent approve the cut, while 9 percent don't know and the rest did not answer the question.

The major differences in the response to TennCare can be seen from the income groups. Of people earning \$50,000 dollars a year or less, 57 percent of them expressed disapproval, compared to only 39 percent of those that earned more.

Women also expressed more

disapproval than men for the cuts, according to the poll.

Tennesseans still like the job Governor Bredesen is doing but his approval rate did drop 10 percent from last year. The majority of Tennesseans, 52 percent, still approve of the job he is doing but 25 percent disapprove. Another 21 percent said they didn't know and the rest declined to answer.

The reasons for the rating

drop are related to the TennCare cuts and "Operation Tennessee Waltz," according to the poll.

Among those who disapprove of the cuts, 40 percent gave the governor good positive marks on his job performance. The same drop can be seen with those who followed the coverage on "Operation Tennessee Waltz." The group who followed this coverage closely dropped 32 percent. ♦

From English, page 1

"The program is very helpful to students, and the energy he brings in is great, we need more like him," she said.

Bryer and others volunteer their time to non-native English speakers. The volunteers provide meals, usually donated by churches, and a cozy area for international students and non-native English speakers to relax, socialize and practice English.

"The program is really all about getting to know people and most importantly, eating," said Olivier, who attends weekly. "The eating idea is international," Olivier said. "All col-

lege students are broke and won't pass up a chance for free food, not just Americans."

Teachers attend as well to help students.

"The 'Conversation Partners' program is a great way for international students to just come and hang out; that is the main goal of the meetings," said volunteer Satwik Dasgupta, MTSU ESL 1010 teacher and non-native English speaker.

Dasgupta is from India, but began studying English in kindergarten.

"If you can pick up English, you can pick up any language," Dasgupta said.

"English really isn't too bad," Olivier said. "When I'm in the United States, I begin to think in English, but I still have trouble with some words, that's why I enjoy coming on Tuesdays."

"The problem with international students is that they don't get a chance to practice their speaking," Bryer said. "They will learn to read a language but won't know how to speak it at all. I know one student that has an English-speaking roommate that he can barely communicate with because of the language barrier; that must be pretty rough."

"I come to eat the free din-

ner," said Japanese student Atsuko Yoda. While she speaks English fairly well, she continues to attend the sessions.

Besides the "Conversation Partners" sessions, MTSU offers tutors and mentors to help non-native English speakers on campus. One resource ESL students might find useful is the 24-hour ESL center, www.eslcafe.com, which allows students to submit questions and receive answers in a discussion board over the Internet.

"With all the help out there, practice, practice, practice is the absolute best way," Bryer said. ♦

From SGA, page 1

wishes to appoint rather than all potential nominees, she said.

"Everyone should have the same knowledge," Fulcher said, adding that it would be unfair for the senate to view the applications when the candidates are appointed by the commissioner.

The bill would ensure that the senate would make

knowledgeable decisions when appointing future election commission members, Ledford said.

"We want to not look like a glorified Greek organization," Ledford said, adding that SGA members are not only appointing their friends.

An adequate application process is needed to prove there are no indiscretions tak-

ing place within the association, she said.

Since the election commission oversees all SGA elections, the positions were very important posts that affect the entire student body, Campbell said.

"It brings a level of professionalism to the nomination and approval process," Campbell said.

Since the bill would be a

change to the SGA constitution, it must be passed in two senate votes. As of Nov. 29, an overwhelming majority had passed the proposed bill in both required meetings.

The bill would then require Fulcher's signature to go into effect.

The senate will revise the bill and reintroduce it next semester, Ledford said. ♦

Sunday, December 4 - 7:57 a.m. Scarlett Commons Club House Harassing/Threatening Phone Calls

Complainant advised that an unknown male subject called the desk and made a threatening remark toward him.

Sunday, December 4 - 10:40 a.m.

Nicks Hall

Simple Possession of Marijuana

Officer conducting an Adopt-a-Cop foot patrol of the dorm found a subject in possession of drug paraphernalia and a small amount of marijuana. University will handle disciplinary action.

Sunday, December 4 - 2:00 p.m.

Jones Field Lot

Theft From Auto

Officer was dispatched to a vehicle that had been broken into. Victim advised that approximately \$150 worth of property was taken, and the vehicle's window had been smashed.

Sunday, December 4 - 4:01 p.m.

Davis Science Building Lot

Theft From Auto

Victim reported that her vehicle had been broken into and belongings stolen while parked in the Davis Science Building parking lot. ♦

This guy's graduating.
We need five people to
replace him.



The Sidelines staff is holding an Open House Monday, December 12 at 6 p.m. in Mass Comm Room 269. We are looking for students with interest in becoming section editors, designers, copy editors, photographers and writers.

Random Fact: There is a 17 percent chance that there will be food there, quite possibly left behind by the former staff.



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Opinions

page 4
December 7, 2005

From the Editor

Real, true facts from a Dec. graduate

When I started college, Bill Clinton was president, Napster had all the music you could stand and no one knew Yoda was so deadly. Although I'm leaving behind good memories, great friends and an underrated McCallie buffet, I'm certainly ready.

As editor of *Sidelines*, I hear a lot of interesting things about myself. If what I'm told is true, I have a grudge against the SGA, the Greeks and Raider Republicans, despite having friends in all three. I use the paper as a personal weapon to carry out my vendettas. And I recently accused each student in a particular department of being bloodthirsty, unforgiving racists.

The lesson: don't let the man get you down. There's an old Son House song that sums it up nicely:

"No matter how you try to live, they're going to talk about you still. So don't you mind people grinnin' in your face."

In other words, keep your head up and keep moving. I hope most of my fellow December graduates will have cushy, high-paying jobs where they can apply that. For the ones applying at Starbucks after graduation, keep your head up, keep moving. For the unfortunate souls still working through school, here are a few of the real, true facts I've learned about MTSU:

Most professors are lying when they say you need the book. Do not, under any circumstances, purchase a book until you must use it to complete a homework assignment.

Academic advising is no substitute for a degree audit.

Decisions are made at the pleasure of the administration, then their favorite professors, then other professors. If no one cares and it doesn't cost money, student opinion might matter.

Nothing keeps you safe at night in the Walnut Grove like a good sword cane.

Bureaucracy is cold and unforgiving, but secretaries are lovely people who will always help you if you're courteous and polite.

There are some amazing opportunities on campus to get experience in your field, including *Sidelines*. Make the most of them, but they are most useful as a stepping stone toward an internship.

Don't worry if you're accused of sexual harassment. You'll be penalized, sure, but TBR raises will quickly erase any hit to your salary, and your wife will still be able to afford ridiculous hats. ♦

Matt Anderson is a senior journalism and political science major and can be reached at manderson614@gmail.com.

Web site shows difference between pornography, art

In a society constantly pushing the standards of acceptable content with sexual advertising and scenes from syndicated sitcoms that could easily appear in soft porn, it would seem most people would not have a problem with nudity.

Still, whispers of indecency arise when a 'side boob' shot is caught or clothing is a little too tight on a perky woman or for that matter, a perky man. The minute these indiscretions occur, Federal Communications Commission and little activist groups play the card 'pornography!'

Curious, would any classic art - like Michelangelo's David - be considered pornography by these groups? If so, how do you censor creativity and free expression?

Take the classic Pin-Up-Girls from the 40s and 50s. Yes, they were posing nude, but they were also not fornicating themselves with foreign glass objects often found in today's 'girly mags.'

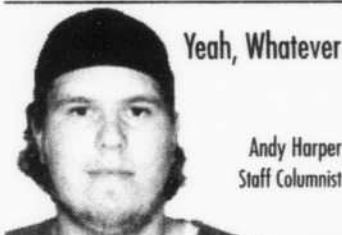
Provocative: yes; sensual: absolutely; sexy: you know it. But beyond the obvious surface physical attraction, careful attention was paid to tastefully capturing bodies.

Around the 60s, the tasteful pieces began to sink into the smut magazines society is familiar with today. However, luckily, the idea of artistic exhibition of nudity has not died out just yet.

The Suicide Girls, a new group of modern day pin-up-girls, have brought back the ways of old with an individualistic punk-rock twist.

"We consider our pin-up photographs to be art," said Suicide Girls public relations officer Lauren Suicide. "They are sensual and sexy. We do this photography because we realized that some types of girls - like pierced and tattooed ones - were not being represented in mainstream media. We are inspired by classic pin-up art and the control and respect with which the girls are depicted."

Pierced, tattooed, dyed hair, no hair; these girls are not just posing for a camera; they are representing their personal style. Lauren also mentioned that the whole point of the Suicide Girls is to give the



Yeah, Whatever

Andy Harper
Staff Columnist

models an open forum to express themselves. The Web site, suicidegirls.com does not just house pictures of the girls; it is a site where fans view the artists individual biographies that accompanies her art.

"The girls are 100 percent responsible for how the shoot comes out," Lauren said, "They choose their own themes for the photo sets, do their own hair and make-up, and approve the photographs."

These girls pour their hearts and souls into their craft and art, not in an attempt to arouse people - as is the purpose of pornography - but to create a piece of artwork.

"Our site is filled with beautiful pin-up girls; we have never considered this to be a form of pornography - it's art," Lauren said.

Intent is the difference between art and pornography. The intent of pornography is to sexually arouse.

The intent of nudity - particularly in the cases of either Michelangelo or the Suicide Girls - is the expression of creativity through an artistic domain.

However, it's likely that if fundamentalist groups and the FCC did not have nudity, they would not have something to believe in; because without a chance to stifle free expression and creativity, those poor, ridiculously prudish people would be out of work. That would just be too bad. ♦

Andy Harper is a freshman Journalism major. He can be reached at sah3u@mtsu.edu.

Nation catching on to Bush's poor leadership skills

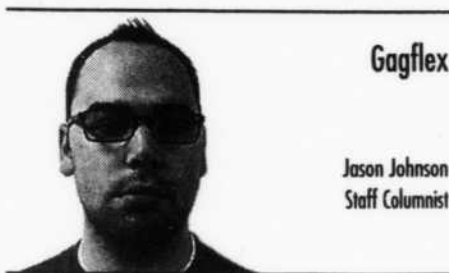
Now that the president's approval ratings have dropped to dismal levels, Democrats have finally smelled blood and are coming out of the woodwork. And the people who knew all along that George W. Bush practiced cronyism on dangerous levels, and was leading the country into war under false pretenses can only sit back and say, 'it's about time'.

John Kerry, John Edwards, Joseph Biden and Hillary Clinton all supported the war. Now, they wave the 'holier than thou' flag and act as though they were somehow tricked, like when Clinton said, "If we knew then what we know, I wouldn't have supported the war."

Well, that's a given. But as a senator, foresight is part of her job. She is supposed to be able to take examples from the past and compare them to possible events in the future. They talk about how they were duped by the Bush administration because the president lied about the weapons of mass destruction that Saddam Hussein supposedly had.

Here's just a bit of advice to them for future reference. Don't just take his word to be true, especially if his word is sending the country to war.

Anyone with any sense of rationality could see that they were rigging the game. The first demands that were given to Hussein were either he give up his weapon of mass destruction, or face an all out invasion. After the weapons inspectors came up with nil, and were eventually kicked out of Iraq, the Bush administration came up with more reasons why we should go to war.



Gagflex

Jason Johnson
Staff Columnist

In reality it wouldn't have mattered if everybody knew that Hussein wasn't seeking uranium in Niger, or that there wasn't a connection from Iraq to al-Qaida. The speed at which we were heading to war illustrates that we had no intention of stopping; all the speeches given beforehand were just decorations for the inevitable.

Millions of people around the world knew the administration was looking for any reason possible to invade Iraq. In early 2003, protests against going to war were happening in nearly every major city in America; all those people knew we shouldn't have gone to war. All of the protesters who marched from MTSU to Bart Gordon's office in March of 2003 knew we shouldn't have gone to war. So how is it that all those people didn't believe what Bush was saying, but the politicians who have all the political resources loyally followed the Republican herd?

One-time Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle was one of those followers. After the senate approved the Iraqi "resolution" in October of 2002, Daschle said it was important for the country to speak with one voice at that critical moment. He

also said that Hussein's threat to us wasn't imminent, but it was very real. How he came to that conclusion we will never know. When America desperately needed a strong voice of opposition to the administration, our political system became a one-party system.

The Democrats would occasionally take verbal snipes at the administration, but for the most part, they road the line closely in fear of losing what support they had. It would take a hurricane to blow this president off of his pedestal, and reveal the incompetence that many people already knew about. When FEMA director Mike Brown completely bungled the Katrina rescue operations, he opened the door to allow criticism of the Bush administration.

The best Public Relations people in the world couldn't spin him out of that mess. It's easier to take the heat off of events that happen on the other side of the world than it is to keep people from seeing what's going on in their own country.

Comedian David Cross said that Bush may go down as the worst president we've ever had. Whether he is or not, he definitely shares some characteristics with some of the worst decision makers in the history. With all the lies, cronyism and an endless and utterly pointless war, Bush has won his ticket into the hall of bad presidents. ♦

Jason Johnson is a senior journalism major and can be reached via email at jcj2n@mtsu.edu

Women owe it to predecessors to vote in elections

Elections may not seem that close, but city elections will be held in April, county primaries will be held in May with the elections to be in August. State and federal elections will be in November.

There will be a lot of activity beginning over the next few months as far as the election process is concerned, and it is important that everyone vote - especially women.

The reason it is especially important for women to vote is because women have not always been able to do so.

The 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote, was ratified in 1920. In the coming election, women will have had the right to vote for 86 years.

This did not come about lightly. Women worked for more than a century to gain this right.

The work that it took to do this means that women do not only have the right to vote, we have the responsibility to vote.



Sandi's Logic

Sandi Van Orden
Staff Columnist

We owe it to the women who worked to change the political landscape and gain the vote for women, the women who never had the opportunity to cast a vote.

Women must be informed about what is going on in politics because it is a venue to change the problems women face.

Social change is good, and it is needed, but laws must be changed for long-term growth to occur. The way to have laws changed is to elect lawmakers who will change them. For this reason, it is imperative for women to be active in the political process.

There are too many issues that affect women being

debated now for women not to actively join the conversation.

No rights are given to women. Women must fight for them. We need to visualize the way we want our lives to be in the future, and work to make these goals become reality.

This is no easy task, and if previous women's movements are any indication, they take years to accomplish. However, the first step is joining the process.

Now, the process is biased in favor of men. Out of the 435 members serving in the U.S. House of Representatives, currently 70 are women.

The U.S. Senate currently has 14 women out of the 100 senators.

In the Tennessee legislature, there are currently 17 female representatives out of 99 members, and 7 female senators out of 32 senators.

There are four female County Commission members out of 21, and the

Murfreesboro City Council has one female member on the 7-member panel.

While it would not be good to vote for anyone without knowing what that person will try to accomplish in office, there is a need to balance the gender equation when it comes to elected officials.

When issues that will affect women's lives are brought into the law-making process, the decisions should not be made by a group that is made up of a majority of men.

As the election process begins, amid the attacks of character and the horrible way campaigns are conducted, just remember it is a woman's responsibility to be a part of the electoral process.

Just keep in mind all the women who came before us, and were prevented from voting because of their gender. ♦

Sandi Van Orden is a senior journalism major, and can be reached at slu2e@mtsu.edu.

Letter to the Editor

Keep reserve parking for truly disabled

To the Editor:

As a wheelchair user, I'm very appreciative of all the accommodations that are in place for handicapped faculty and students throughout the campus of MTSU. However, I see room for improvement, and I believe that with the cooperation of all faculty and students this problem could be eliminated.

As everyone knows, there is a shortage of parking spots available on campus, and that problem is being addressed as I write this letter. Until additional parking is available, we must suffer through the university's growing pains. However, I'm amazed to see how many barely inconvenienced people embracing the concept of being disabled.

There's a real danger in today's victim culture that the definition of disability will be so expanded that it will create a sort of disability inflation. The down-fall of TennCare is an example of what can happen to a good program if pretenders take advantage.

This inflation has already affected handicapped parking across our state. How come there are less handicapped spaces available in poor weather? Since the ADA legislation was passed, an unbelievable assortment of pseudo-disabled

people - including the obese, medicated and back-pain sufferers demanding ADA protection.

To me, nothing could be more pathetic than claiming to be less able in order to gain some competitive advantage. On some level or another, all of us are disabled. We have all had experiences that have left us maimed and scarred, either physically or mentally. Maybe both, but that does not put everyone who has gotten a bad break in life on the same level of loss as those of us who have suffered permanent disability from injury, disease or at birth.

As for the pseudo-disabled, I would like to see a new rule adopted. Only those who do not want to be disabled can lay claim to being disabled. Would you be upset if someone who was color blind got an advantage in the work place over you?

In conclusion, the real disabled among us know how difficult it is to compete and prosper in our overwhelmingly able-bodied world. To see the few protections and advantages won by our advocates being claimed by those who either do not need or deserve them simply adds insults to our injuries.

Let's all work together to keep our campus the most handicapped-friendly university I have ever had the privilege of attending.

Matthew B. Wells
Freshman, College of Basic and Applied Sciences

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Living



page 5
December 7, 2005

Keep the Christmas *fat* away

Try variety of fun activities, stay away from leftovers

By Amber Sanders
Contributor

Ah, the holidays. Time for family, friends and feasts. In other words, mom's trying cook every time her "baby" walks in the kitchen, old friends are randomly popping in ready to party, and then there are those three magic words: spiked egg nog.

"It is the time of year when grandmothers around the nation show off their baking skills," said Barry Campbell, personal trainer and junior Exercise Science student.

With so many temptations, it's no wonder that most college students return five to 10 pounds heavier in the spring than they were in the fall.

So why is it so hard to fend off the sinful fare and how can such weight gain be avoided?

Freshman music education major Elizabeth Gully said she finds it harder to keep to a routine while at home in Texas. She said she "parties" more because she wants to catch up with old friends and thinks it is harder to exercise because her focus is less on being healthy and more on having fun while away from the daily grind of school. This combination, she said, doesn't contribute to a noticeable gain, but the few pounds she tends to put on over the break simply "creep up" on her.

On the other hand, senior recording industry management major Mark Logsdon said he actually finds more time during his break to exercise and uses that time to work off the extra restaurant outings with friends. He said not only does he tend to make it to the gym more often, he also has more impromptu opportunities to exercise in a fun way, like pulling his nephew on a sled in the Kentucky snow. Even though he does stay more active when not in school, he admits to overindulging and succumbing to his banana pudding weakness.

So does this eat now, work later plan actually work to win the weight battle?

Campbell actually offered a better solution for those who know they will likely overindulge.

"The trick to not putting on weight over the holidays is preparation. If you know you are going somewhere that is going to have many food options that do not fit your diet, eat a small healthy snack before going. The snack should fill you up enough to avoid over-eating on bad food items."

He also added that the options are endless when choosing ways to stay active over the holidays. If the temperature is not a big factor, anything "outdoorsy" like hiking, sledding skiing or cross-country running are good alternatives to the typical treadmill and weight routine. The break is also a time when students can get together with friends that might have had a different schedule during the semester. Games of basketball, racquetball and indoor swimming are all good options in the cold weather. Plus, there is nothing more fun than getting together with old friends for a frosty game of football.

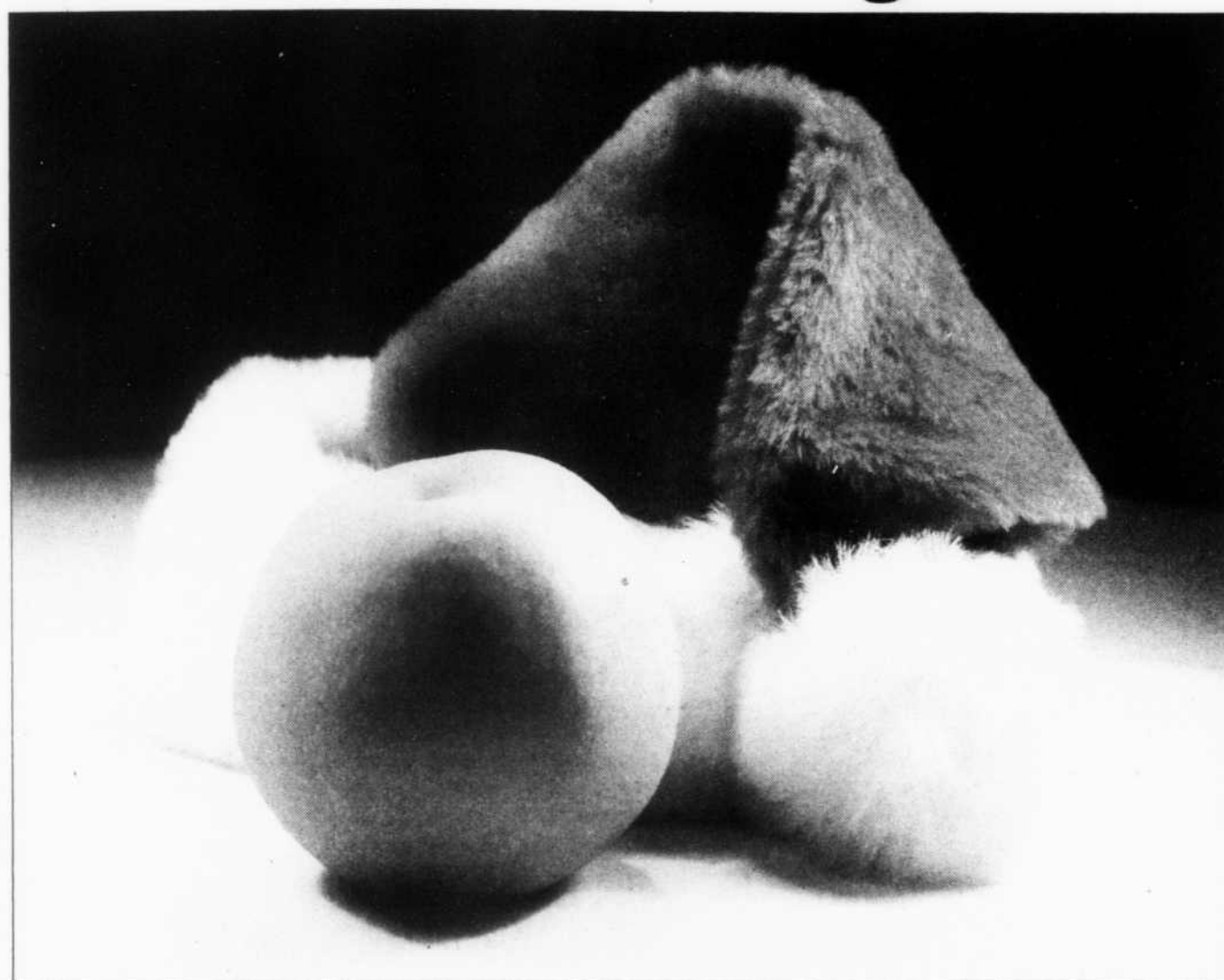


Photo provided by morguefile.com

Even though Campbell said there is no good way to "make up" for bad decisions, he said one can at least try to balance activity with his or her calorie consumption.

Some students, however, seem to have already mastered how they outsmart the unwanted weight gain.

Junior speech and theatre major Lydia Helms said she likes to have the best of both worlds. She abides by the "tablespoon rule" when faced with her family's East Tennessee cooking.

"I don't deprive myself of things I would like to eat. I just get a tablespoon or two so I can have a taste of everything I enjoy," said Helms.

Junior Business Administration student, Rick Elliott, said he keeps his focus on maintaining his already healthy lifestyle. Although he said he does tend to eat and drink more with his friends, he notes that training for triathlons and keeping fit for his modeling career ensures that his health and his waistline stay just where he wants them.

There is no great secret to staying slim when parties are plentiful, hashbrown casseroles and chess pies are enticing students to indulge, and the couch seems like a nice vacation destination

compared to libraries and classrooms. Students must remember that, just like the rest of the year, the calories out must exceed the calories in.

Campbell offered one final tip to stay in shape over the break.

"Take the free time you have and get in the gym. There should be no excuses for lack of time to workout during the break. Another big thing is leftovers, especially the sweets. Allow yourself to eat on the day they are served, but no more after." ♦

"I don't deprive myself of things I would like to eat, I just get a tablespoon or two so I can have a taste of everything I enjoy."

—Lydia Helms, Junior Theater major

'Brokeback Mountain' in theaters Friday

New film considered first 'mainstream' gay romance

By Lexie Rogers
Contributor

There's a cold Wyoming wind blowing through theaters Friday. It's one that looks to swirl its way right to the Oscars, blowing away the competition. From academy award-winning director Ang Lee comes a controversial new film about America's last frontier, homosexuality.

Dubbed the "gay cowboy" movie as it circulated throughout the international film festivals, *Brokeback Mountain* picked up the Golden Lion for best picture at the Venice International Film Festival in September and is now headed toward a theater near you.

Based on Pulitzer-winning author Annie Proulx's 1997 short-story by the same name, the film has buzzed around Hollywood for nearly a decade. It chronicles the bond between Ennis Del Mar and Jack Twist, two lonesome ranch hands wrestling with a love they shared one summer atop *Brokeback Mountain*. It is a tale of forbidden love and freedom. It is a film about the williness, as individuals and as a culture, to accept love.

The motion picture itself has been struggling for acceptance in Hollywood for nearly a decade. Gus Van Sant, independent director of such award-winning films as *Good Will Hunting* and *My Own Private Idaho* championed the film with Columbia Studios but had trouble finding actors

willing to commit to this openly gay love story.

Brokeback Mountain got its break in 2002 when Universal's specialty studio, Focus Features invited independent director Lee on board. And with Lee directing, *Brokeback Mountain* began attracting some of Hollywood's hottest young talent.

"Of all the gay-themed films I've watched, this is the first one I've seen about two men in love, told in a way that straight people can relate to."

—Damon Romine, entertainment media director for Gay and Lesbian Alliance against Defamation in a Hollywood interview

"As soon as I heard Ang was attached, I knew it would be a different type of movie that would go beyond the confines of two guys and their sexuality and towards the more difficult topic of love," Jake Gyllenhaal (*Jarhead*) said during the Toronto Film Festival press conference in September. Gyllenhaal and Australian heart-throb Heath

Ledger (*Monster's Ball*) portray the raw-hewn ranch hands struggling to embrace a love that 1960s America condemned.

"Actors want to have juicy parts," Lee said to a Hollywood reporter. "Heath is the brooding, macho, shy man whose temper holds a lot of fear. There is a lot of self-denial, guilt and twisted psychology in that character, a bit like the Hulk. Heath carries the elegiac mood, that sense of loss you read in cowboy poetry. Jake is a good counterpart. He is the braver one who comes to accept the romance."

Though best known for his Oscar-winning films such as *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* and *Sense and Sensibility*, Taiwanese Lee is also credited for introducing Asia to the gay film genre with his 1997 *The Wedding Banquet*.

Throughout all of Lee's films, he narrates from an intensely personal perspective, focusing on the emotional interactions between his characters. For *Brokeback Mountain*, Lee invited Proulx, along with Larry McMurtry (*Lonesome Dove*) and Dianna Ossana to create the script. This power-house trio of writers was able to translate the passion of the text into a film that touches gay and straight audiences alike.

"Of all the gay-themed films I've watched," Damon Romine, entertainment media director for Gay and Lesbian Alliance against Defamation, said to a Hollywood reporter. "This is the first one I've seen about two men in love, told in a way that straight people can relate to."

"Hollywood churns out endless variations on the theme of forbidden love," he added. "This is a new take on that genre, a film that has tremendous potential to reach and transform mainstream audiences."

Just as interracial love stories were taboo years ago, *Brokeback Mountain's* theme of same-sex soul mates has raised some eyebrows along the way. Yet the overwhelming critical acclaim for both the original short story and the recent film project prove the tale to be a trailblazer.

As Anne Thompson for the *Chicago-Sun Times* wrote, "*Brokeback Mountain* could be the mainstream gay romance that many people have been waiting for."

"It is ultimately a film about love of the most evocative kind—impossible, lustful, all-consuming, passionate love, born in a place of overwhelming beauty at a time of great innocence and hope," Noah Cowan, co-director of the Toronto International Film Festival said at the festival. "I challenge anyone to remain unmoved as society's mores and inexorable vagaries of the world slowly undermine this love."

Brokeback Mountain opens Friday at the Regal Green Hills 16 in Nashville. Those interested in the short-story that inspired the film, *Close Range: Wyoming Stories* may be purchased from Outloud Bookstore in Nashville. ♦

CORRECTION: The "To Cut or Not to Cut" feature story which ran in Monday's edition was written by Sarah Lavery, Staff Writer, and not Brandi Fleck, Features Editor. *Sidelines* regrets the error.

'Unplugged' album features raw emotion, catchy melodies of Alicia Keys

By Meredith Dietrich
U-Wire

(U-WIRE) MADISON, Wis. - When one thinks of Alicia Keys, one thinks of classic beauty, piano mixed with R&B soul and a creative rhythm to jam along to. Keys has won several awards since her debut album, including five Grammys by the age of 21. She recently released her second full-length album and has completed her sold-out solo tour.

Her "MTV Unplugged" has the same style and imaginative influence, with more ingenuity added to each song. "Alicia Keys Unplugged" is an upbeat, rhythmic compilation of some of her best work. Featuring artists like Mos Def and Adam Levine, the album mixes things up with covers and improvisational playing, showing just how truly talented Ms. Keys is at such a young age. Her voice is finely tuned on every track and her fingers gracefully walk over the keys of her precious piano.

On the track "How Come You Don't Call Me" she uses her audience to create the nice background beat of clap-

ping. Her voice is gorgeously deep and at the same time feminine as she sings "Always though that maybe baby our love was right / But I guess it was all wrong." Background singers make the song feel very bluesy and intense. She even invites the audience to sing along with her, which always puts an artist in the audience's good graces. She speaks cute little blurbs as the mood continues to keep the music and idea behind the song clear. The piano is jazzy with a medium tempo. As she continues to sing, her voice and emotion get more and more powerful.

The song "Diary" has fast key working and a higher pitch. It is more melodic because the notes are fast but fluidly combined together. Her voice is softer and more breathy as she sings, "I won't tell your secrets / Your secrets are safe with me." The hand drums are close to nonexistent in the background until the chorus adds a powerful backbeat that is perfectly combined with the electric guitar that starts to play, giving this track a good mix of R&B and jazz. A flute compli-

ments the higher notes of her voice and the piano. Again in this song Keys shows unbelievable control over the power of her voice.

She plays her hit song "Fallin'" as beautifully on this live album as the original version, showing no studio sound or effect is responsible for her greatness. The song opens a capella with the background singers, which is a nice touch. She then immediately begins what seems like the end of the song, a fast brushing on the

symbols with her belting out "I keep on fallin' in love with you." A violin plays low, soft notes in the background, which flow nicely with her deep voice and the high pitch of the hand drums. Keys plays deep and resonating chords on the piano, which in turn make the song resonate.

This album shows the true brilliance and versatility of Ms. Alicia Keys. She is not a product of the life, but instead a product of studio, learning and the need for self-expression. ♦



Almost Exam Horoscopes

Aries (March 21 – April 19) – You are no "clock watcher" so while you're just getting in the mood to party you should probably be going to bed so you can make it to your exam on time even if you haven't studied. Slacker.

Taurus (April 20 – May 20) – Taurians don't like to be rushed. So, that means you're most likely prepared for your finals because you like everything to be based on a strong foundation...even if it's a foundation of knowledge. Nerd.

Gemini (May 21 – June 20) – You know a little about a lot of topics and not a lot about any one topic, so basically, you're screwed. Dork.

Cancer (June 21 – July 22) – A true Cancerian will eventually find a reason to blame feeling injured on someone other than themselves. So, during finals, if you fail it's your own fault, not the professors. Whiner.

Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22) –If you're studying in a group in the upcoming days, try your best not to believe the people telling you that you don't smart – they're all lies to feed your ego because you eat it up. Don't stop studying till you, yourself, think you're done. Narcissist.

Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22) – You love feeling healthy. Some astrologers would say the rules of nutrition are your ten commandments. So, don't skip a meal during finals. Make sure you're feeling your best so you can perform your best. (Not in bed, but on the test. Slut.)

Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22) – Apparently, you only exist to be admired because you're pretty. What are you even doing in college then? Dummy.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21) – Your curious, need to be listened to and think you are never wrong. Bet your professors just hate you. Good luck arguing your way to an A. Loser.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21) – You never commit to anything so is this final a waste of your time since you'll probably only stay in this major for one more semester then switch? Wuss.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19) –You often try to hide your feelings because you don't want to be exposed. But, if you don't want to cry during that one exam you've been dreading then study harder, harder, harder. Wait, you'll do that anyways and still cry. Baby.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18) – You never reach a conclusion even though you're constantly thinking about everything. You're imagination will probably get the best of you during that essay question and you won't be able to wrap it up. Air head.

Pisces (Feb. 19 – March 20) – You won't have any problems with essay questions if it's a topic you like because you like to go on and on about things you like.

But, if you can't laugh your way through some tough problems you may be sorely disappointed. Weirdo. ♦

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Sidelines staff writer Jonathan Hutton has confirmed that MT Athletic Director Chris Massaro has decided upon a new head coach for the Blue Raider football program. The official announcement will not be made until the new coach has had an opportunity to confer with his current employer. Look for the full story in Sidelines Online and further updates next semester.

Littlejohn named SBC Defensive Player of the Year

Staff Reports

Senior defensive lineman Jeff Littlejohn was named Sun Belt Conference Defensive Player of the Year.

SBC coaches and select media members honored junior Germayle Franklin, junior Eugene Gross, junior Willie Hall, Littlejohn, junior J.K. Sabb, senior Cleannord Saintil, junior Colby Smith and senior Quinton Staton as first and second team all-conference picks. Sophomore Bradley Robinson and junior Clint Marks received honorable mention honors.

Littlejohn and Saintil made first team, while Franklin, Gross, Hall, Sabb, Smith and Staton were voted to the second team. Eight is the most players selected to first and second teams for the Blue Raiders since 11 were selected in 2001.

Littlejohn led a Blue Raider defense to their best year in the I-A era. He finished with 34 tackles, 7.5 tackles for a loss, two sacks, an interception and a blocked field goal. However, he spent most of the year controlling the middle. The Gaffney, S.C. helped stop the run and often freed up other defensive linemen.

"This is a great honor and I am very appreciative of how the coaches and media viewed me as a player this year," Littlejohn told MT Media Relations. "But this is a team game and I could not have received this award without the support and high level play of my teammates. Our entire defense stepped it up this year and I will always remember playing with this

bunch. It was special."

Littlejohn is the first player of the year for Middle Tennessee since Dwone Hicks and Wes Counts in 2001. He is also the first defensive player of the year since Mike Caldwell in 1992.

"It all starts up front and Jeff Littlejohn was the anchor all year, along with Quinton (Staton)," Head Coach Andy McCollum told MT Media Relations. "He disrupted offenses all year long just the way Brandon Kennedy did for North Texas a few years back. Jeff is a quality person and no one deserves this honor more."

The Blue Raiders' other first team pick was Saintil. Saintil hails from Naples, Fla., and enjoyed his best year as a Blue Raider by leading the league with 66 receptions for 884 yards and three touchdowns. Saintil ended his career as a Blue Raider with an eight-catch, 133-yard effort at FIU. He leaves Middle Tennessee as the most productive two-year receiver in school history.

Franklin and Hall both were honored for the first time after enjoying a solid year of play. Both led the team in snaps played and knockdowns.

Gross, the first running back honored at Middle Tennessee since Dwone Hicks in 2002, enjoyed his best all-around season. He led the Blue Raiders in rushing for the third straight season and pacing the league in scoring with 84 points. Gross, from Statesboro, Ga., rushed for 724 yards and a career-best 13 touchdowns while also leading all conference backs with 33 receptions.

Sabb, a junior college transfer, led the Blue Raider defense with 71 tackles includ-



Littlejohn



Saintil



Photo provided by MT Media Relations

MT senior Jeff Littlejohn recently capped off a stellar collegiate career by being named the 2005 Sun Belt Conference Defensive Player of the Year. Littlejohn, a defensive tackle from Gaffney, South Carolina, tallied 34 tackles, 7.5 tackles for loss, two sacks and a blocked field goal this season.

ing a team-best 13 tackles for loss. Sabb also had two sacks, an interception, and five pass breakups.

Staton, from Chattanooga, is being honored for the second year in a row, but the on opposite side of the ball. In 2004, Staton was named to the second team as an offensive lineman and this year he was picked as a defensive lineman. He led all Blue Raider linemen and was second on the team with 53 tackles.

"This just shows you the versatility of Quinton," McCollum told MT Media Relations. "He is a warrior on the football field and has one of the best motors I have ever coached. He will have a chance at the next level."

Smith, from Franklin, Tenn., earned second team honors in 2004 as a place-kicker, was selected to the

second team this year as a punter. He enjoyed a career year averaging 42.1 yards a punt and placing a personal-best 19 punts inside the opponent's 20-yard line.

Marks and Robinson were put on the honor roll mention list and both had a chance for all-league honors. Marks led the SBC in passing efficiency and became the first quarterback in school history to throw for more than 2,000 yards in back-to-back seasons. Robinson is most likely the biggest surprise of players not being recognized. The sophomore shared the league lead with five interceptions and was second in the league in passes defended with 12. His five picks were the most by a Blue Raider since Cedric Stegall collected five in 1998. ♦

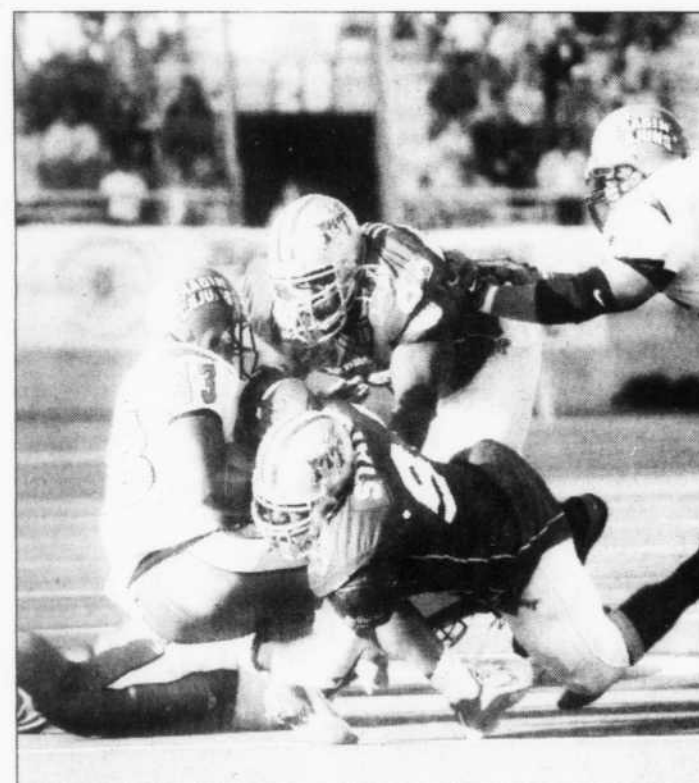


Photo provided by MT Media Relations

MT's Jeff Littlejohn (92) finished his Blue Raider career with 95 total tackles, 13 tackles for loss and three sacks.



Sports Briefs

News from around Middle Tennessee



Briefs courtesy of MT Media Relations

Givens named SBC Player of the Week

Middle Tennessee women's basketball player Chrissy Givens has been named Sun Belt Player of the Week. It is the first time in her career she has been awarded this honor.

The 5-9 junior guard from Monroe, Louisiana scored 20 or more points in all three games for the Blue Raiders last week. She averaged 24.7 points per game, hit 27-of-58 from the field for 45.6 percent and also averaged 6.7 rebounds per game.

Against No. 17 Georgia she tallied a game-high-tying 24 points and was 10-of-22 from the field and added nine rebounds. In the Blue Raiders second road trip of the season, at South Dakota State, Givens helped Middle Tennessee avenge a loss to the Jackrabbits from last season by scoring a game-high 27 points. Givens was 10-of-18 from the field, 6-of-8 from the free throw line, had five assists and four steals.

After scoring just seven points in the first half, against North Dakota State, Givens exploded in the second half, scoring 16 points for a total of 23 against the Bison. She also had seven assists and seven rebounds against the Bison.

The Blue Raiders return home on Thursday to host Georgia State at 7 p.m. Middle Tennessee has had impressive numbers for its first four home games in regards to attendance 2,374 and hopes that trend continues when the team hosts the Panthers on Thursday.

Belmont tickets available

Tickets for Saturday's men's basketball game at Belmont are available at the Middle Tennessee Ticket Office. All tickets are \$8 for the 7 p.m. contest at the Curb Event Center. Fans may call the ticket office at 615/898-2103 or 1-888-YES-MTSU.

Tickets are available until Thursday morning. The Alumni Office will be holding a gathering for Davidson County alumni from 5-6:30 p.m. at Sam's Sports Bar & Grille at 1803 21st Ave. South prior to the game. Complimentary appetizers will be served. The Davidson County Alumni Chapter will be collecting non-perishable food items for the Second Harvest Food Bank as well. Those who plan on attending the Alumni Event are encouraged to RSVP by Thursday morning by calling Patience Long in the alumni office at 615/898-2922 or logging on to mtalumni.com.

Baseball winter camp dates set

Middle Tennessee has set December 29-30 for a Winter Baseball Camp at the Stephen B. Smith Indoor Training Facility on the Blue Raider campus. Head coach Steve Peterson, as well as the rest of the Blue Raider coaching staff and several current players, will host a hitting camp on December 29 and a pitcher/catcher camp on December 30. Both camps are for Ages 8 - High School Senior and will run from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Camp registration begins each day at 8 a.m. at the Stephen B. Smith Clubhouse. Catchers must bring their own gear to the pitcher/catcher camp. Cost is \$100 per camp and includes lunch. Players will be grouped by ages and the camps are limited to the first 75 who complete a registration form. Registration forms may be found at GoBlueRaiders.com on the baseball page or by calling 615/898-2961.

Blue Raider Christmas camp set

Kernin Davis and the men's basketball program will be holding a one-day Christmas Camp at Murphy Center on Friday, December 23. Camp registration begins at 8 a.m. with the

camp running from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Lunch will be provided and the cost is \$69 per camper. Parents, finish your Christmas shopping while the kids play with the Blue Raiders. For more information or a camp brochure, please call 615/898-5228.

Groundhog Day Luncheon date set

The annual Groundhog Day luncheon has been set for Thursday, February 2, at 11:30 a.m., in the Tennessee Room of the James Union Building on the Middle Tennessee campus. The event is sponsored by the Blue Raider baseball team and the BRAA and is a kickoff for the 2006 season. The meal includes ham hocks, white beans, tomato salad, green onions, corn bread, chocolate cake and ice cream. All tickets bought in advance are \$15, and all tickets purchased the day of the event are \$20. Reservations may be made for the Groundhog Day Luncheon by calling the BRAA office at 615/898-2210 or the Middle Tennessee Ticket Office at 615/898-2103 or 1-888-YES-MTSU. The last day to reserve a seat for the luncheon is Friday, January 27.

Baseball team camp dates set

The Blue Raider baseball program will host its second annual Team Camp, July 10-13, at Reese Smith Field. The camp includes five games plus instruction, as well as a pro-style workout with area scouts on the first evening. Team coaches and players receive instruction each afternoon from Middle Tennessee coaches, current and former players, as well as area high school and college coaches and scouts, each afternoon as part of the session. Registration forms may be found at GoBlueRaiders.com on the baseball page or by calling Associate Head Coach Jim McGuire at 615/898-2961.

Top five reasons to see an MT basketball game this year

Sports Commentary



Jon Leffew
Assistant Sports Editor

With finals rapidly approaching and the semester winding down, many students are anxiously awaiting a month of freedom from classes.

Since the majority of students make their way home for the holidays, the Middle Tennessee basketball programs' respective attendance numbers will likely go down.

However, for those of you who decide to stick around Murfreesboro or happen to live within a manageable driving distance, there are many reasons to attend one or all of the MT basketball games over the break.

So, when you get tired of the family or run out of things to do, here are the top 5 reasons, in no particular order, to attend a Blue Raider, or Lady Raider, basketball game this year.

1. They're good.

Unlike this school's pathetic football program, both the men's and women's basketball programs have enjoyed recent success.

The Lady Raiders have been to the NCAA Tournament's Sweet 16 during the past two seasons, and Kermit Davis' men's team has won more than 50 games in the last three seasons.

2. Senior leadership.

Both the men's and women's teams have at least one senior that is vital to the team's success and fun to watch.

Tia Stovall, a forward from

Franklin County High School, leads Rick Insell's Lady Raiders.

Stovall reached the 1,000 point plateau for her career last season, and she has been named to the Sun Belt Conference's All-Tournament team for the past three years.

For the men, Fats Cuyler and Marcus Morrison provide leadership and excitement.

Cuyler, a 6-foot guard, has led the Blue Raiders in scoring this season with a 14.4 points per game average.

Though Morrison's averages are down this season, he recently led the Blue Raiders' second half comeback at Portland State.

3. Freshman potential

Both Davis and Insell also have some young guns that will be lighting up Murphy Center for years to come.

Davis has seven (or 6?) rookies on the roster, since redshirt freshman Brian Lake saw some valuable playing time last season before going down with an injury.

Lake, Tim Blue and Kevin Kanaskie have all seen significant playing time for the Blue Raiders this season, and all average more than five points per contest.

Blue is also second on the team in rebounds per game, with 4.6.

On the women's side, the Lady Raiders have three freshmen on the roster, and two of them average more than 20 minutes per game.

LaCondra Mason leads the team in three-point percentage and blocks, while Johnna Abney has started all seven games and is second on the team in assists.

4. Scorers

Prior to this season, many

wondered where Davis and Insell both would get the majority of their points, since both lost their leading scorers from last year.

However, Chrissy Givens, a returning starter who has played many valuable minutes as a Lady Raider, answered the call.

Givens has emerged as a jack of all trades, leading the Lady Raiders in points, assists, steals and rebounds.

For the Blue Raiders, junior college transfer Adam Vogelsberg has emerged as a threat to score at any time.

Vogelsberg, who is second to Cuyler in points per game with 13.8, possesses a silky smooth shot that has helped him lead the team in free throw percentage (88 percent) and shoot a scorching 42 percent from beyond the three point line.

5. Intense SBC competition

Sure, the SBC isn't anything compared to the Atlantic Coast Conference or the Big East Conference when it comes to basketball.

Sure, the Memphis Tigers and the University of Tennessee Lady Vols have teams that are, in all actuality, better than the teams here at MT.

However, night in and night out, SBC teams play in very close games full of action-packed excitement for all fans.

Both teams were picked to finish third in the east division of the conference during the preseason by the conference's coaches (the men were behind Western Kentucky and Florida International, while the women were selected behind Western Kentucky and Arkansas State).

Each game the men have played against Western Kentucky during the last three

seasons has been a classic, and this year's home game against the Hilltoppers, which is sure to be another barnburner, will be Feb. 23.

In addition to this, the Sun Belt Conference championships for both teams will be held at Murphy Center on March 2-7,

2006.

Hopefully, somewhere in all this mess, you've found a reason to attend an MT basketball game this year.

If not, hopefully you'll at least find solace in the fact that these athletic contests are free to you, with your thousands of dollars

of tuition.

So, unless you really enjoy getting ripped off or don't want to experience all this great university has to offer, stop by Murphy Center this winter...I guarantee you'll enjoy it. ♦

HOUSING REAPPLICATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR FALL 2006 / SPRING 2007

The Housing and Residential Life Office is now accepting housing reapplication forms from returning students for the Fall 2006/Spring 2007 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 \$200 prepaid rent deposit are received by the deadline. The reapplication deadline with priority for the 2006/2007 academic year is **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2006 at 4:00 PM.**

Students need to complete a reapplication form available in the Housing and Residential Life Office, pay the \$200 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/~housing. The \$200 prepaid rent is paid by using a credit card, MasterCard or Visa, or by completing an online check. There is an additional \$10 nonrefundable service fee charged 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.

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

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