

# SIDELINES

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

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MTSUSIDELINES.com

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

## Princeton Review lists MTSU No. 1 in region

By Tiffany Gibson

Assistant News Editor

The Princeton Review, an educational preparation company, has recently taken a survey of undergraduates that attend MTSU. The survey confirmed that MTSU is the No. 1 college in the Southeastern region for undergraduates in Tennessee.

The review consisted of a random selection of undergraduate students already in attendance at MTSU to rate the faculty and academic standards. After reviewing the positive feedback, the Princeton Review composed a list of the top ranked Southeastern schools in the region. By outranking Belmont and Vanderbilt, MTSU has claimed its status as successful and persistent in recruiting young minds.

"I am always cautious of rankings but the reality is that a lot of people looking at colleges pay attention to them," said President Sidney McPhee. "However it is positive feedback from our students, which means we are moving in the right direction."

In fall of 2007, MTSU had the largest enrollment of undergraduate students in the state of Tennessee by attracting 22,641 students. Many students find that the 140 diverse undergraduate degrees at MTSU are fascinating due to the flexible options available within the six different colleges.

"I was in the recording industry program here at MTSU and then I decided to go to a different school," said Hillary Capes, sophomore and elementary education major. "I came back to MTSU though because being away made me realize it's the best, especially when it comes to the different programs offered."

MTSU has also been recognized for its new campaign, "I'm One," which consists of letting students know that the MTSU administration still tries to focus on each student as an individual. Many staff members and students worked together on this campaign to create the indication that MTSU is the best choice for future students.

Cathy Lower, editor and marketing coordinator for the campaign, also believes that the campaign is about being one of the best in the Tennessee region.

"We have always had the resources of a large institution, but we remain smaller to focus on the closeness of the students," Lower said.

McPhee agrees with Lower, stating that even though the campus is growing physically, he has no plans to make the campus congested,

but increase the family bond at this university.

"We could have been the largest school if we wanted to, but instead of focusing on quantity, we focus on quality," said McPhee. "Students are our primary goal, which is why our ratio of students to faculty is 23 to 1, for better involvement

The university is also responsible for producing more teachers in the state of Tennessee. Even some producing education majors find MTSU so compelling that they come back to teach at the university.

"The quality of education I received exceeded my expectations, and since I had such a good relationship with my professors, I try to foster the same kind of relationship to my own students," said Ryan Reed, English professor at MTSU.

MTSU was first founded in 1911 and has become the oldest and largest public university in the Tennessee Board of Regents system.

Even though MTSU has the largest number of undergraduate students in state, it has just now made its impact on the Princeton Review for the first time.

With top nation programs such as aerospace, recording industry and mass communications college, it is evident that MTSU has a great deal to offer undergraduate students.

"I think MTSU attracts students for a lot of different reasons. Some of them involving the good location, price, degree programs and solid university image," said Doug Williams, executive director of marketing.

Williams said that he was flattered that MTSU was chosen number one, and perhaps more students and faculty should be excited and proud to be part of the university.

Athletics also play a huge role in MTSU's popularity, due to its recognition as a member of Division I-A, and its recent addition to the Sun Belt Conference.

"I'm from Knoxville, but decided to come to MTSU because of the good location and price compared to University of Tennessee," said Waylon Bryant, senior and sociology major. "I am proud to be part of MTSU."

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY RYAN DEBOY - PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR



### INSIDE

#### Writer's strike

The proverbial David versus Goliath battle has no end in sight.

See FEATURES, 4

#### Chavez at a crossroads

Results of recent Venezuelan elections force examination of government, poor voter turnout

See OPINIONS, 6

#### Lady Raiders lose point guard



Junior point guard Johnna Abney takes leave of absence for personal reasons; leaves Lady Raiders with eight players

See SPORTS, 7

### Local Forecast

Thursday



HI: 46  
LO: 46

Friday



HI: 44  
LO: 26

Saturday



HI: 32  
LO: 15

Sunday



HI: 33  
LO: 21

### Index

Crimes Briefs .....	3
Faces in the crowd.....	6
Comics.....	6
Sports Briefs.....	7
Birthday Card .....	8

### Community News

## Reefer raid at Raiders Ridge by TBI and MPD



By Daniel Potter

Community News Editor

Murfreesboro Police Department and the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation arrested several MTSU students last week in a major drug raid at Raiders Ridge apartments on Wenlon Drive.

Judicial Affairs expects to discipline the involved students, pending its own investigation.

The Jan. 8 raid netted "a little over 12 pounds" of marijuana, said Kyle Evans, public information officer for MPD. "It was divided up to be resold."

Five people, including three students, were arrested. "All but one was charged with felony resale," Evans said.

Samuel Kyle Forbes, freshman, undeclared, and Aivar Lang, freshman business major, were both arrested for felony possession of marijuana for resale and possession of drug paraphernalia. Forbes was also charged with maintaining a dwelling for selling narcotics and unlawful possession of a firearm.

Brandon Jennings and Timothy Stuart - neither of whom is a student - were also arrested for felony possession of marijuana for resale, as well as paraphernalia and weapons charges, the *Daily News Journal* reported.

Mika Gray, freshman, undeclared,

was charged with simple possession of marijuana.

"They had three guns on their person," including a TEC-9 semi-automatic handgun, Officer Evans said. Despite this, "they went into custody without incident."

"The officers entered the apartment and gained control of the situation quickly - the arrestees complied 100 percent," Evans said.

"With that much marijuana, along with the guns, and the fact that they had it ready to be sold," Evans said. He added that, if convicted, the suspects could face "pretty serious consequences," likely including jail time.

In addition to criminal charges, the students among the suspects are likely to face disciplinary action from MTSU Judicial Affairs, said Laura Sosh-Lightsy, assistant dean of Judicial Affairs and Mediation Services.

"We are currently investigating that incident," Sosh-Lightsy said.

Although the students did not live on campus, Judicial Affairs considers the matter serious enough to invoke its off-campus jurisdiction, because the students allegedly endangered both themselves and members of the community.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY KYLE EVANS, PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER FOR MPD  
Twelve pounds of marijuana and several firearms were found in an apartment at Raiders Ridge.

"I would be pretty confident in saying the university will take some kind of action," Sosh-Lightsy said. This could range from "written reprimand to expulsion," she said.

Judicial Affairs' investigation will include a review of police documents, as well as discussion with those involved and local law enforcement.

The bust resulted from months of investigation coordinated between the Murfreesboro Police and the TBI. "Our narcotics unit works with the TBI on a lot of cases," Evans said.

Detective John Jones spearheaded the investigation, he said.

As to the source of the marijuana, which was estimated in street value at \$20,000, "There's no telling where it came from," Evans said. "They're not cooperating."

Still, Evans was optimistic. "I think that we're sending a clear message to drug dealers and people who carry guns that kind of behavior is not going to be tolerated in Murfreesboro."

Marisa Parker, property manager at Raiders Ridge apartments, could not be reached for comment.



# Faculty positions to be filled at MTSU

Foreign languages and literature - Japanese  
Speech and Theatre, Dance Instructor  
Underrepresented Minority Dissertation Fellowship  
Underrepresented Minority Visiting Professor  
Faculty, Language-based Reading Disabilities  
Dean of the University Honors College  
Post Doctoral Research Associate  
Elementary and Special Education Faculty, Reading Literacy  
Elementary and Special Education Faculty, Special Education  
Biology Faculty, Plant Biologist (Ecologist or Systematist)  
Finance Faculty  
Faculty, Recording Industry, Production and Technology  
Sociology and Anthropology Faculty, Sociology  
Aerospace Faculty - Flight Dispatch, Tenure-track  
Aerospace Faculty - Flight Dispatch, Clinical track  
Aerospace Faculty - Maintenance management, Clinical track  
Chair - Department of Aerospace  
Use Services Librarian - Information Literacy  
Health and Human Performance Faculty, Recreation and Leisure Services  
Assistant/Associate Professor Human Sciences - Textiles, Merchandising and Design  
Speech Communication Faculty, Literacy Studies  
Department of Human Sciences, Assistant/Associate Faculty, Early Childhood Education  
School of Nursing, Open Rank, Tenure-Track  
Engineering Technology and Industrial Studies Faculty, Construction Management Technology  
Director of Mathematics and Science Education  
Engineering Technology and Industrial studies Faculty, Construction management  
Foreign Languages and literatures Faculty, Spanish  
Art Faculty, Foundations

Educational Leadership Faculty, Assistant Professor  
Chemistry Faculty, Analytical  
Geosciences Faculty, GIS/Cartography  
Foreign Languages and Literature Faculty, French  
Library Faculty, Coordinator, User Services  
Music Faculty, Piano  
Mathematical Sciences Faculty, Algebra  
Foreign Languages and Literatures, Department Chair  
Management/Marketing Faculty, Management  
Psychology Faculty, Quantitative  
Political Science Faculty, Tenure-Track  
History Faculty, Ancient Mediterranean World  
Engineering Technology Industrial Studies Faculty, Clinical Track, Concrete Industry Management  
Engineering Technology Industrial Studies Faculty, Concrete Industry Management  
Health and Human Performance Faculty, Community and Public Health  
Psychology Faculty, School Counseling  
Psychology Faculty, Mental Health Counseling  
Physics and Astronomy Faculty, Tenure-Track  
English Faculty, Composition and Rhetoric (two positions)  
Art Faculty, Art Historian  
History Faculty, Albert Gore Research Center Director  
English Faculty, Folklore Studies  
Business Communication and Entrepreneurship  
Economics and Finance Department Chair  
Assistant/Associate Professor Accounting  
Management and Marketing Faculty, Marketing  
Faculty, Finance  
Library, Thesis/Dissertation Fellowship  
Journalism Faculty, Media Design  
Journalism Faculty (three positions)  
Journalism Faculty - Advertising (two positions)  
Elementary and Special Education Faculty, Literacy Studies

## Lawmakers have up to \$27 million to put toward Tennessee lottery scholarships

By Lucas L. Johnson II  
Associated Press Writer

The chief economist for the Legislature's Fiscal Review Committee told Tennessee lawmakers on Wednesday they can put as much as \$27 million toward lottery scholarships next year.

Rob Currey told the Senate Education Committee about \$17 to \$27 million in excess lottery money will be available to them.

The committee will decide on the exact amount before making a proposal to the General Assembly.

Chairwoman Jamie Woodson said the committee will consider the amount that will best benefit Tennessee's students.

"If the committee decides to go with \$27 million, I think that's something we should consider," she said.

A bill sponsored by Woodson last year to change the requirements for keeping a lottery scholarship failed at the end of the session.

Lawmakers in the House and Senate could not agree on the cost of the measure or what standards to change about the scholarships.

The main sticking point was whether to drop the cumulative grade point average needed to keep scholarships.

Under current rules, a student must be enrolled full time in college, have a GPA of at least 2.75 after their freshman year and a cumulative 3.0 GPA for subsequent years to keep the scholarship.

The House bill would lower the retention figure to 2.75, while the Senate version would lower the retention GPA to 2.75 only for community college students.

David Wright, associate executive director of policy, planning and research with the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, said Wednesday the group supports reducing the retention GPA.

"Once the students get to college, our policy should be about helping students finish with a diploma," he said.

Woodson said lawmakers from both parties have been communicating and hope to reach a resolution soon.

The state's current budget plan includes funding to increase the scholarships by \$200 to total \$4,000 a year for traditional four-year colleges and \$2,000 a year for two-year institutions.

## Help Save A Life!

Up-Til-Dawn Grand  
Finale Event Feb. 1-2  
7 p.m. till Dawn  
Recreation Center

Help us reach  
our goal of  
\$105,000!

St. Jude Children's  
Research Hospital

ALSAC • Danny Thomas, Founder

Finding cures. Saving children.

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## MTSU Evening Extended School Program

Evening Care for Children  
Kindergarten 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	*\$10.00 weekly, additional children
*\$18.00 daily, first child	*\$8.00 daily, additional children
*\$20.00 registration fee	

### Activities:

homework help	special guests and activities
art, science, music, ext. activities	qualified teachers
themed/seasonal projects	

# Classifieds

Marketplace of MTSU

### Employment

Need a job? Home City Ice needs you! Flexible scheduling; minutes from campus; up to \$14.00/hour. Apply online at homecityice.com or call (800)843-8901 ask for Jon or Derek

Evening Extended School Program Part-time Ac

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### FOR SALE

### Roommates

4 Females needed to share house w/2 car garage. \$400-\$550 plus utilities. Partially furnished. Leave msg. 219-331-1163 or 615-449-1470

### For Rent

### For lease

Female roommate needed. Huge master bedroom and bathtub, located at Campus Crossing, walking distance to campus. Two other roommates that rarely come home. Discounted rate. Call Kay @ 615-785-7502

### Opportunities

#1 Spring Break Website! 4 & 7 night trips to BahamaPartyCruise, 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 or 800-293-1445.

### SERVICES

\$40 CASH for Your Opinion and 1 1/2 hr. of your time. If you are a full-time student at MTSU and you would like to attend a focus group on Tuesday evening, February 5th in Murfreesboro, call 901-380-2803.

### 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.

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## CRIME BRIEFS

Jan 11, 1:12 a.m.

Public Intoxication  
Telecomm Building

An officer noticed a white female subject by the Telecomm building that matched the general description of the wanted charge subject from earlier in the evening.

Jan 11, 1:51 p.m.

Theft  
MTSU Campus

A suspect called and stated that her watch was taken from her desk.

Jan 12, 2:07 a.m.

Public Intoxication  
Greek Row

Kevin Gomila was arrested at Kappa Alpha for public intoxication, consumption of alcohol under the legal age of 21. The subject also resisted to stop, frisk, halt, arrest and search.

Jan 12, 2:31 a.m.

DUI

Greenland Drive

Kayla Neely was charged with her first offense of a DUI and under age consumption.

Jan 13, 10:26 p.m.

Burglary

Murphy Center

It was reported that two coke machines were broken into in the Murphy Center on the southeast side classroom level.

Jan 14, 2:02 a.m.

Drug Abuse

Rutherford Parking Lot

Joseph Collier Jr. was issued a state citation for the simple possession of marijuana.

### Crime Alert

On Dec. 15 between 4:30 p.m. and Dec. 16 at 7:30 a.m. a television set was stolen from Scarlett Commons Apartment 614. The object stolen was a 27 inch Magnavox television set and the owner is offering \$1,000 for information leading to the person or persons responsible for the object's disappearance.

On Dec. 13 between 10 p.m. and 10:48 p.m. on Thursday, a black and silver 3 foot tall refrigerator with the words "Faith Manning" written on the back as well as the floor. A reward of \$300 is being offered to anyone with information on the person or persons who apparently took the refrigerator from the porch on the south side. If the information given leads to an arrest of the person or persons responsible then a cash reward up to \$1,000 will be given.

If anyone has information on the stolen television set, refrigerator or the person responsible please contact Crime Stoppers at 893-7867 (S.T.O.P.) between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

## Tennessee increases voter registration

Associated Press

Wm. Rignall

Voter registrations are growing in Tennessee ahead of next month's presidential primary. Coordinator of Elections Brook Thompson says 24,000 new voters have registered since September. He called it a sign of healthy growth inspired in part by the 2008 presidential campaign.

Officials will be monitoring the turnout for the Feb. 5 primary during the early voting period that began Wednesday and continues through the end of January.

Thompson said there are about 6.3 million active registered voters in Tennessee. The state's population is just over 6 million.

There are 400,000 inactive voters, who will be purged from the rolls after two federal elections without casting ballots.

About 485,000 people voted in Tennessee's 2004 presidential primary.

## Community Briefs

### Keathley University Center Theater Events:

"Dan In Real Life" will be playing Jan. 14 to 18 Monday through Thursday at 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. On Friday there will only be a 7 p.m. showing. Admission is \$2 with a student ID.

The documentary "Sierra Leone's Refugee All Stars" will be playing Jan. 22 to 24 Tuesday through Thursday at 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. Admission is free.

"The Magic Of Norman Ng" is playing Jan. 25 at 7 p.m. Admission is free.

### T. Earl Hinton Music Hall of Wright Music Building Concerts:

Winter Music Education Conference will be held Jan. 18 and 19.

The MTSU Opera "The Magic Flute" will be take place on Jan. 25 and will begin at 7:30 p.m.

Information compiled by Tiffany Gibson -Assistant News Editor





# FEATURES

Where are you planning to go for spring break?

- a) As far away as possible
- b) To the bar
- c) Nowhere. I'm poor.

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

## Entertainment

# Writer's Strike Rages on

By Neil McCormack  
Staff Writer

Welcome to Day 74 of the Writer's Guild of America strike. By now, you may have noticed that something strange has been happening in the entertainment world. By this time, in fact, even your Great Uncle Lou probably noticed something's up.

On Nov. 5 of last year, writers from across the entertainment industry put down their pens and picked up a picket sign. The basic issue: writers in the Writers Guild of America want compensation for certain creative works which the studios do not want to provide. The Writers Guild of America, consisting of two separate unions, the WGA East and WGA West, represents film and television writers across the country. The WGA is in negotiations with the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers, or the AMPTP. The AMPTP is the bargaining unit that represents over 350 production companies and studios.

This is truly a David versus Goliath battle. The writers are attempting to negotiate for revenue sharing from the selling and presenting of materials online and through other new media. But unlike David, the Writer's Guild won't be taking down their foe anytime soon. Multiple attempts have been made at solving the strike with both parties meeting at the negotiating table but reaching stalemates every time. More often than not, all parties seem to refuse to even restart negotiations, and there appears to be no end in sight.

The writers are riding a very thin line during this strike. So far, the entertainment industry and a good deal of the public seem to be supporting the WGA. It's the little guy versus "The Man,"

and our society generally enjoys rooting for the underdog. Refusing to go back to the negotiating table or even compromise, however, may do nothing but hurt the writers' position. With the return of late night television, much of it without writers, the WGA's predicament may be pushed into the back of the audience's minds. Tack on the continued lack of new programming on television, and the eventual effects on the film industry and public opinion may begin to sway.

Looking at the television side, nearly all of late night television completely shut down until just recently. ABC, NBC, and CBS's late night talk shows as well as Comedy Central's The Daily Show and The Colbert Report all disappeared from the airwaves for nearly two months. Countless other primetime dramas and sitcoms also felt the sting of the strike, as high profile shows like NBC's Heroes and The Office had their seasons cut abruptly short. ABC's Lost, looking to air its fourth season, may suffer a similar fate. However, only half of the scheduled 16 episodes were completed before the picket lines formed. Other shows may be delayed an entire year, pending a resolution to the WGA strike. Fans of Fox's 24 may have to wait until next fall or later to see another day in the life of Jack Bauer. Fox producers refuse to broadcast the program without a full 24 episodes completed, and will only do so if the season can run uninterrupted.

From an industry standpoint, the strike has cost Hollywood over \$500 million, and many media professionals have been caught in the crossfire and put out of a job. The media support industry, including job houses and catering

services, have taken a blow as well, with a near freeze of business. With the continued failures in negotiations and refusals to return to the table, the writers may very well fall out of favor with this large portion of the industry, as they are unemployed until the strike ends.

An interesting part of this strike has been the response by actors and directors and their respective guilds. It is not unusual to see pictures of various A-listers, television actors and a number of directors standing side-by-side the WGA and the picket lines, showing their support. What many may not realize, however, is the motivation behind this. The resolution of the WGA strike will have a direct impact on the Screen Actors Guild and the Directors Guild of America, as their contracts both run out this summer. Both the SAG and the DGA will choose their negotiating tactics for new contracts based on the current strike's outcome. The longer the WGA walkout continues, however, the less of a chance either guild could realistically go on strike, as it would nearly kill an entertainment industry that had already suffered through a lengthy and costly one. This could compromise a lot of leverage the SAG and DGA would have. As of Jan. 12, in fact, the Directors Guild began formal negotiations with the AMPTP, in hopes of reaching a new deal prior to their expiring contracts, effectively preventing another strike.

The final straw in breaking support from both guilds, however, may be this year's lackluster Golden Globes and just as potentially disappointing Academy Awards. Hollywood's two biggest ceremonies to tell themselves just how great they

are may fall by the wayside in 2008. No matter how you spin it, it's doubtful very many Golden Globe winners are doubted about having their wins announced on an NBC broadcast hosted by the folks from Access Hollywood. And you can bet that the Oscar nominees this year aren't too happy about the idea of a no pomp, packaged, news-esque awards announcement. As time continues to pass, don't be surprised if you see more actors and directors crossing the picket lines than standing on them.

The simple fact is: in the battle of image, the writers have the most to lose. Let's face it, we expect for the AMPTP to milk the writers for all they're worth. And the growing perception that the WGA is putting many people out of work for a few extra bucks can and will be a real blow to them in the public's and industry's eyes.

The most apparent question through all of this is, when will the strike end? Realistically, when it comes to a hold out, the writers simply don't have the resources to outlast the studios. The AMPTP likely realizes this, knowing that eventually the WGA will have to get back to work. This likely figures into their no-compromise negotiation tactics. The strike will end eventually, but how it will be resolved remains to be seen. In the meantime, the writers will have to continue riding that very thin line between helping themselves and hurting the industry, and the studios will continue milking the creative side of the industry for everything they can get. One thing is for certain, long after this strike ends, this battle between the creative and the financial will continue to rage.

### Understanding the strike

#### Parties involved

**AMPTP:** Association of Motion Picture and Television Producers (Bargaining unit that represents over 350 production companies and studios)

**WGA:** Writers Guild of America (Consists of two separate unions on the East and West Coast, working together to represent film and television writers from across the country)

struggle between the creative-forces and the economic-forces ensues.

#### The central issue

The WGA is attempting negotiations for revenue sharing from online content and other new media. A

**Strike began:** Nov. 5, 2007

**Estimated cost to date:** Over \$500 Million

**End in sight?** Not really.

## What's old is new again

Despite Murfreesboro's recent retail additions, some shoppers prefer one-of-a-kind pieces to mass-produced mall fashion. Vintage clothing is a perfect option for students looking for unique fashions at affordable prices. Here are some stores to check out in the Murfreesboro and Nashville area.

By Nikki Jackson  
Staff Writer

### Vintage

**Local Honey** 1207 Linden Ave, Nashville (615-297-6977)

This Linden Avenue boutique sells a mixture of vintage originals and reworked pieces. Located in an old house, the store is divided into a series of small rooms, each of which follows a different theme. One room features clothing and shoes from Nashville designers as well as affordable prints and artwork. The furniture and housewares room is worth a visit for anyone looking to fill their house or apartment with eye-catching finds. Local Honey even supports the indie music scene, offering a small selection of CDs and vinyl from local bands. At night, the store turns into a venue, with shows from many up and coming local bands.

**Savant Vintage Couture** 2302 12th Ave S, Nashville (615-385-0856)

Nashville's answer to the high-end vintage shops of New York and L.A., Savant offers hard-to-find pieces such as vintage Chanel handbags and 1940s Yves St. Laurent pumps. The upstairs houses an extensive collection of fur and menswear along with knickknacks and quirky decorative items. Shoppers searching for vintage footwear will love the selection of cowboy boots, many of which are still in perfect condition.

**Flashback** 2204 Elliston Pl # F, Nashville (615-321-5326)

It can be hard to navigate through the wall to wall racks of clothing, but serious shoppers almost always leave with at least a few vintage finds at this Nashville store. Flashback specializes in vintage clothing, shoes and accessories organized by decade. The walls are lined with art (including signed originals), lamps and other housewares priced to fit even college students' budgets. Be sure to check out the display cases located at the register: they house the owner's personal favorites, including vintage gloves, heels and evening bags.

**Sugaree's** 113 W Lytle St (615-895-5996)

Although not primarily a vintage store, Sugaree's offers the best selection of vintage clothing in the Murfreesboro area. The entire back half of the store houses unique vintage finds for men and women. On a recent visit, the racks were filled with hard to find 50s era tweed business suits, colorful knee length skirts and trendy vintage coats.

**Venus & Mars** 2830 Bransford Ave, Nashville (615-269-8357)

Located in Nashville's trendy Berry Hill neighborhood, Venus & Mars caters to the most eclectic fashionistas. The store, which is separated into three different rooms, features clothing from the 50s, 60s and 70s. Jewelry and gift items are scattered throughout, along with shoes and purses. Flamboyant dressers with a penchant for metallic seventies platform boots and shaggy faux fur coats will love the selection of kitschy items. Venus &

Mars also offers rentals which are perfect for college students when the Halloween party season rolls around.

**Goodwill Visit** [goodwillmidten.org/locator](http://goodwillmidten.org/locator) to find the store nearest you

It may take some digging, but Goodwill's bargain prices are worth the extra effort. Once you get past the racks of sweatshirts and bad eighties jeans, don't be surprised to find stylish pieces, such as vintage leather boots, for as little as \$4. Goodwill is the place to go if you're in the market for a campy T-shirt or vintage blazer.

### Consignment

**Plato's Closet** 429 N Thompson Avenue (615-896-8511)

The recently opened Murfreesboro location is the place to go for college students looking to clean out their closets and find some new clothing at prices well below what you'd find at the mall. Shoppers can sell their old clothing to Plato's as long as it still fits current styles, or they can trade in clothing. It's not uncommon to find brand new pieces with the tags still attached. Plato's also has locations in Franklin and Antioch.

**Phase II** 1218 NW Broad S (615-895-6821)

Much like Plato's, Phase II offers many of the same fashions you could find at the local mall, only at a much deeper discount. Look for jeans from popular brands like Lucky, American Eagle, and Abercrombie and Fitch. Formal items, such as prom dresses, shoes and accessories are also available. The store also sells a selection of brand new clothing.





# Spring break 2008

...start planning

## Bahama Beaches

By Blake Broshears  
Contributing Writer

**P**ummeling waves, striking sunsets and conch all are found at Rock Sound, Eleuthera. The Bahamas are beautiful, and once you've been there, you'll agree. The water, though salty, is unforgettable. It's warm, clear and inviting.

Rock Sound is almost an hour south of Governor's Harbor. It's the largest township on the island and has the largest shopping center on the island. The town has medical facilities, gas stations, pharmacy, marina, restaurants and Rock Sound Hardware. Many beaches dot the island, and there's a Robert Trent Jones golf course down south at Cotton Bay. An airplane travels throughout the island.

One of the best places to eat is Ms. Rose's, located down Ocean Hole Road. The restaurant is owned and operated by Ms. Rose. It offers marvelous views of the Atlantic Ocean and serves real Bahamian seafood. You can enjoy conch chowder, conch fritters, fried groupers and other Bahamian dishes. Eating there at night, you'll hear the crabs crawling.

Ms. Rose also owns a series of cottages on Ocean Hole Road. The colorful cottages have one or two bedrooms and one or two bathrooms. Rent starts at around \$100 per night. Her cottages are on a private beach and provide a great location for large groups and families looking for a quiet place to stay.

Another place to stay is the Kerr House. It was built in the 1940s and is secluded with 2.5 acres of lush gardens. The property has gated stone walls and trees. You'll see miles of white sand beaches when waking up in the morning. This three-bedroom, two-bath is an excellent place to stay for fishing and diving.

If you're looking for an Italian-owned country club, the Venta Club is for you. It's possible you'll never leave the hotel grounds whose 20 acres will keep you occupied. You can relax by the pool or go to the white sand beach. The staff facilitates sports and other activities. There's live entertainment at night. Venta Club provides a minibar, television, tennis, dining and air conditioning.

Traveling to the south side of Rock Sound, you'll come to the Ocean Hole, island saltwater lake which has caves under the Caribbean. You can swim here and feed the fish, but don't fish for them.

When traveling to Rock Sound, it would be smart to pre-arrange a car rental. You can get discounts if you rent for more than a week or during the slow season of May to December. There are no agencies like Hertz, Budget and National. The only renting available is from the locals.

Finally, if you want to play a few holes, go south to Cotton Bay. It's on the tip of the island where there is a lighthouse at Eleuthera Point. Scuba diving is available at Cape Eleuthera.

If shopping is what you're looking for, Rock Sound is the place to go. Various small stores, bakeries and restaurants await.

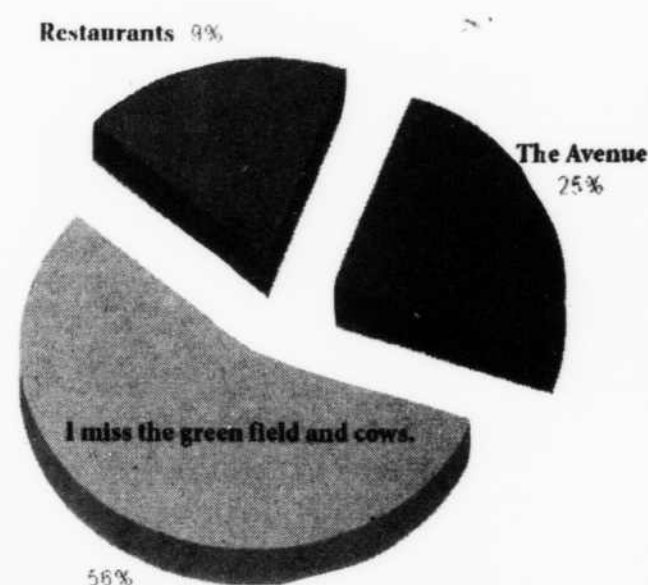
The neighboring town of Tarpum Bay offers affordable vacationing with a waterfront village, great fishing and inexpensive guest houses. This tiny settlement features pastel-washed, gingerbread-trimmed houses where many artists live. Hilton's Haven Motel is a favorite rest stop with an average price of \$63 a night. Another option is Ethel's Cottages. This 18-room cottage's average price is \$52 a night.

Quiet family exploring, deserted beaches, island music, island cooking and smiling people await you in Rock Sound, Eleuthera.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MORGUEFILE.COM

What's your favorite addition to Murfreesboro?

Responses to last issue's question (as of Jan. 16)



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# 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:

## War on drugs exacts costly toll for taxpayers

Oh, pot. Mary Jane. Marijuana. It has so many names, so many fans and creates so many problems.

On Jan. 8, three students and two others were busted and found with over 12 pounds of marijuana. Wonder what they were doing with all of that.

Would America be better off if marijuana were legal? It would certainly cut down on a lot of crime. It did with alcohol. The most infamous gangsters and mafias rose to power during Prohibition. Once Prohibition was repealed, bootlegging and related crimes decreased.

With the use of pot in an anti-pot country comes a hazard—drug dealers. Even if the drugs are only marijuana, drug dealers still tend to obtain weapons illegally, as a form of protection. In fact, in the Raiders Ridge case, it is interesting how more attention was devoted to the pot than to the firearms seized. Guns are much more dangerous than weed. If you leave 12 pounds of pot alone with an infant, nothing too terrible can take place. But if you leave a kid alone with a loaded firearm...

Not to say that marijuana should be legal for all to use, but one thing's for certain: it should be used for medicinal purposes. People in pain should not have to suffer. People in pain should have the option to partake in a pain reliever that is less addictive than morphine or oxycontin, for instance. How often has it been reported that someone has overdosed solely on marijuana?

Whether or not pot is legal, there will always be those stoners who braid hemp while watching South Park. Maybe they should go to prison, but it's safe to say we're losing the War on Drugs.

Not only that, we're making it damned near impossible for people convicted, even on petty drug charges, to pick up the pieces of their lives. If they decide to go back to school in an attempt to make something of themselves, they are not allowed to receive financial aid. Why not allow financial aid on a probation contract, which allows the school/government to perform random drug tests on the parties involved?

With a criminal record, even someone in narcotic recovery, clean and sober, has a difficult time finding a job. Why burn a Scarlet Letter onto someone for the rest of their days because they got busted at 18 with pot?

## Faces in the Crowd

*How do you feel about drug possession on campus? Do you feel like it is affecting the community? What are your feelings about the bust?*



Gang

"It's personal business. Everyone knows it's a risk. Whether it is right or wrong. I feel bad for the people who got busted."

-Ty Gang, senior political science



Barsky

"I am not really concerned about drug possession, but I am concerned about gun possession. What happened at Virginia Tech could happen anywhere."

-Jamie Barsky, sophomore RIM



Hardy

"No, not really. People are going to do what they want to. Only way it will affect the community is if the community will let it."

-Greg Hardy, freshman business administration



Harkness

"If this stuff is true, then it is affecting the community. I think when I hear stories like this, it makes me uncomfortable walking around campus."

-Kim Harkness, junior RIM

-Information compiled by Johnathon Schleicher



"And Friends"

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

Frank Hasenmueller

## Venezuela at a crossroads

For nearly a decade, Venezuela's "Bolivarian Revolution," along with its charismatic leader Hugo Chavez, has been stirring controversy and attracting constant news coverage. This was especially the case recently, due to last month's referendum on 69 proposed constitutional amendments. The referendum was narrowly defeated, with 50.70% voting "NO" and 49.29% voting "YES," being the first electoral defeat for Chavez in his nine years of office.

According to Chavez and his supporters, the constitutional overhaul was necessary to deepen Venezuela's "socialist" revolution. If passed, the changes to the country's constitution would certainly have been profound. Among the most prominent features of the reform were provisions such as a 6-hour workday, a voting age lowered from 18 to 16, a larger role for community councils in the government, and mechanisms for an increased governmental role in developing the country.

However, the only proposal most readers probably heard about was the article abolishing presidential term limits. Despite most of the reform package consisting of articles aimed at facilitating economic development, Western media outlets and the Venezuelan opposition reduced the entire amendment package to an attempt by Chavez to become dictator for life.

Quite simply, this assertion is based on an entirely false appraisal of the situation. Chavez would still have to face voters at the end of each term in multi-party elections. It is relevant to note that every electoral contest under Chavez has been near-universally certified by observers as free, fair, and transparent.

Although Chavez continues to remain quite popular, with an approval rating of around 60%, the constitutional reforms did indeed fail to pass. Why is this?



Pravda

By Michael Cannon  
Staff Columnist

The answer probably involves numerous variables, but it seems that voter abstention was the decisive one. Chavez lost 2.8 million votes when compared to the 2006 presidential election. However, the opposition only gained 100,000 votes during the recent referendum. Most of Chavez's supporters simply did not vote, resulting in a 44% abstention rate, which is unusually high for Venezuela. In other words, the referendum was not really won by the opposition, but rather botched by the "YES" campaign.

Although some observers are interpreting the results as the people's desire for Venezuela's revolution to "slow down", the opposite is almost certainly the case. The recent apathy within Chavez's Bolivarian movement has more to do with the government's lack of speed in implementing changes. This revolutionary process has been ongoing for nearly ten years and although it has produced many benefits for the country's poor majority, it is has not done nearly enough. Despite important reforms, the Chavez government has yet to attack the root of Venezuela's poverty and underdevelopment: the capitalist economy and the wealthy oligarchy that controls it.

Working people in Venezuela have become more highly radicalized and directly involved in the running of their

country than at any other point in their history. As such, they want to see Chavez's government translate its revolutionary rhetoric into concrete action. They are quite simply growing bored with elections and fiery speeches.

Secondly, there are many bureaucrats within the Bolivarian movement itself who believe the revolution has gone far enough and wish to contain it within the bounds of capitalism. This was unfortunately reflected during the campaign for the "YES" vote. Supposedly pro-Chavez organizers ran a campaign that almost completely lacked any explanation of the importance and meaning of the reforms. The campaign essentially asked for support based on "love" for Chavez. Basically, people did not know what exactly was being voted on.

The amendments should have also been split up into smaller blocks, to increase the chance of passing the most important ones. The term limit article should have been saved for near the end of Chavez's term.

Despite the electoral loss, most of the proposed reforms can still be legally passed through the country's National Assembly as bills, where Chavez's party holds an overwhelming majority.

Although Chavez's proposal of the amendments failed, the constitution allows for citizens to propose the reforms again if 5% of voters sign on.

The referendum loss will likely prove to be only an ephemeral setback for the revolution. The founding congress of the United Socialist Party of Venezuela begins this month and aims to consolidate the revolution's supporters into one party. Perhaps this new party will possess the vigor needed to carry the revolution through successfully.

Michael Cannon is a sophomore sociology and philosophy major and can be reached at [mrc3g@mtsu.edu](mailto:mrc3g@mtsu.edu).

## Inform yourself, find your voice, and vote

As we all know, 2008 is a big year for politics. Presidential hopefuls beg for votes, promising health care here, tax cuts there, and "change" everywhere.

While "change" is a buzzword being tossed around with the upcoming election, it is important for every citizen to ask themselves which types of change they would like their government to handle – and vote accordingly.

Key issues such as abortion, welfare, immigration and the like dominate debates and interviews, and it can be very easy to be swayed by candidates based on their well-rehearsed answers to questions they are asked every day.

Because we are at a university, it is obvious that many students here are voting for the first time, and it is an important rite of passage for each and every one of us. As voters, it is up to us to do the digging and find out more about candidates. They certainly will not tell



Grammar Gal takes you to school in the car of pain

By Jessica Laven  
Staff Writer

\*Editor's note: We are rerunning this column due to the printing error in our last issue. Sorry for the inconvenience.

you their weaknesses, and any vulnerabilities pointed out by other candidates are bound to be rife with slant.

Media outlets are not much better, as CNN and FOX make abundantly clear. Perhaps the worst way to formulate an opinion, though, is by basing it on the feelings of your family and friends. Listening to Grandpa's take on Obama or Mom's distrust of McCain is unbelievably persuasive, not because of your true agreement with it, but because of the trust you give to those closest to you.

In other words, do your homework. When you don't vote at all, you lack a voice, of course, but when you vote for a candidate without informing

yourself about them fully, you do a disservice as well.

The fact is that every hopeful has strengths and weaknesses, and those should be carefully weighed before giving your endorsement – and vote – to one candidate over another. While key issues are indeed important, it is also necessary for students to look at how each candidate feels about education and university spending, as well their positions on things such as health benefits for college students. It's also a good idea to look at each candidate's platform and decide which issues are most important to you. An excellent resource to give you a basic idea of platforms and stances can be found at <http://minnesota>

[publicradio.org/](http://publicradio.org/), under "Select a Candidate."

"Change" is much needed, but should also be directed. We need to stop accepting or dismissing things because we have labeled ourselves "democrat," "republican," "libertarian," et cetera, and start voting for people based on what they plan to do in office. It's easy for any candidate to throw a political affiliation in front of their name and go to the races; to truly have "change," though, we need to change; holding candidates accountable to the promises they make during their political run, for instance. Making sure that politicians are representatives of the people, instead of panderers to corporations. Replacing nepotism with fair and equal representation. With these things, "change" will be more than a buzzword. It will be an expectation.

Jessica Laven is in the graduate education program and can be reached at [jcl2w@mtsu.edu](mailto:jcl2w@mtsu.edu).

# 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  
[sl4ads@mtsu.edu](mailto:sl4ads@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

MBB vs. New Orleans Saturday 6:05 p.m. WGNS 1450-AM, ESPN Regional  
WBB vs. New Orleans Sunday 2:00 p.m. 89.5 WMOT

## NBA acts more like WWE, too staged

*I am Sportacus*

By J. Owen Shipley  
Staff Columnist

On Dec. 19, 2007 the NBA made a mistake. This is nothing new. A day without an NBA blunder is as common as an ocean without water. What is new is that on Jan. 12, 2008, they actually admitted it.

During a seemingly unimportant game between the Miami Heat and Atlanta Hawks, Shaquille O'Neal was fouled out with 52.9 seconds remaining. I say "was" fouled out because, for once, the big guy didn't earn the early trip to the bench.

That foul, with less than a minute remaining in the very close game, was actually only O'Neal's fifth. In case a red flag just went off in your head, yes the NBA still requires six personal fouls before a player is disqualified from play. The penalty that put him out of the game was actually a foul called on Udonis Haslem from two minutes which was erroneously attributed to O'Neal by the Hawks stat crew, the big man was forced out of the game at a crucial moment.

Who is in charge of how many fouls a player has? The home team's stat crew. Trust me, I know, that's another column for another day.

And now the NBA, the same league that called an off-season referee scandal an isolated incident just before admitting that nearly every single NBA ref had gambled in one way or another, is actually doing the right thing. Unfortunately, it's too little too late.

The Miami Heat, who now have a winning percentage lower than the French military, seem to have been given a second chance. A 52.9 second do-over, to be exact. Their record of 7-16, at the time, was fixable but the losing streak that started with a post-Atlanta press conference has been staggering.

The do-over will take place before tip off of the next scheduled game between the two teams in mid-March in Atlanta. And it will be pointless.

When this story first came to light, I was joyed. I thought of all the possibilities for a great "Do Over" column. Just think of all the moments in history that could use a mulligan. For example:

-The people who voted for Nader because they knew Gore would beat Bush and then spent the next seven years complaining when their votes ensured he didn't.

-Jude Law's entire acting career.

-And, of course, if do-overs were a line of credit, Michael Vick could max out a platinum card.

But there is a lot more to say about this matter than sarcastically applying what-if scenarios to huge mistakes. Charlie Weis, Darko Milicic, and Ryan Leaf will have to wait. This is a real story with real ramifications.

The NBA is once again garnering accusations of game fixing. No, this isn't as bad as the Goodfellas referee scandal or as well-known as the Patrick Ewing draft lottery conspiracy, but it remains a serious situation.

A situation that poses two important questions:

Atlanta is now 15-16 pending the results of those final 52 seconds. If they lose the do over, could it knock them out of the playoffs? Is it fair if they do? If Miami hadn't lost in such a controversial and demoralizing way, would they have started a 1-11 free fall?

The problem is, there is no way of knowing but it seems likely.

Just as there is no way of knowing if the hypocritical suspensions of Amare Stoudamire and Boris Diaw during the Western Conference semifinals altered the results of the 2007 post season.

There is no way of knowing a lot of things about the NBA and that is starting to wear down the fans who just want to see a good game and know that its result is final and valid. The league may be getting better at apologizing and admitting their mistakes, but the problem isn't their damage control. The problem with the NBA is all the damage. If they can't find a way to better ensure quality control, the NBA may soon be less believable than the WWE.

For a kid who grew up in the Magic-Bird era, this is a tragic situation. All I ask is that David Stern make a decision. Either fix the league or add ropes and force Chicago to sign the Undertaker as their new center.

J. Owen Shipley is a senior English major. He can be reached at iamspartacus@gmail.com

## Abney leaves Lady Raiders

*Departure leaves team with eight players able to dress against Troy*

By Richard Lowe  
Sports Editor

Middle Tennessee announced Wednesday that junior point guard Johnna Abney has taken an indefinite leave of absence effective immediately from the Blue Raider basketball team to deal with personal issues. The two-year letterman from Mt. Vernon, KY started 15 games this season for the team and has started all but four in her career.

Head coach Rick Insell released a statement. "Johnna is a big part of our team, but it's very important she take this time to sort through some personal issues," Insell said. "We want to help Johnna in any way possible and this is what's best for her right now. We also want to leave the door open for her to return if she chooses in the future. Our young team is resilient and I have no doubt that others will play well to cover her loss."

Abney is averaging 4.8 points and 1.7 assists this season for the Blue Raiders. Filling her void will be sophomore Chelsia Lymon, who started Monday night against Arkansas State, who defeated them 70-68. With sophomore Brandi Brown still recovering from a broken hand, the team will only have eight players available to play for tonight's game against the University of Troy.

"Going with eight players is the way it is," Lymon told the Murfreesboro Daily News Journal. "It will either make us or break us, but I think it will make us because we've got a lot of heart on this team."

Added Lymon: "It hurts. She's more than a teammate to me; she's my friend. We talk about basketball and things off the court. She has to do what's best for her, and I don't love her any less. ... This isn't something we expected, but you have to step up on the court. It's a negative, but

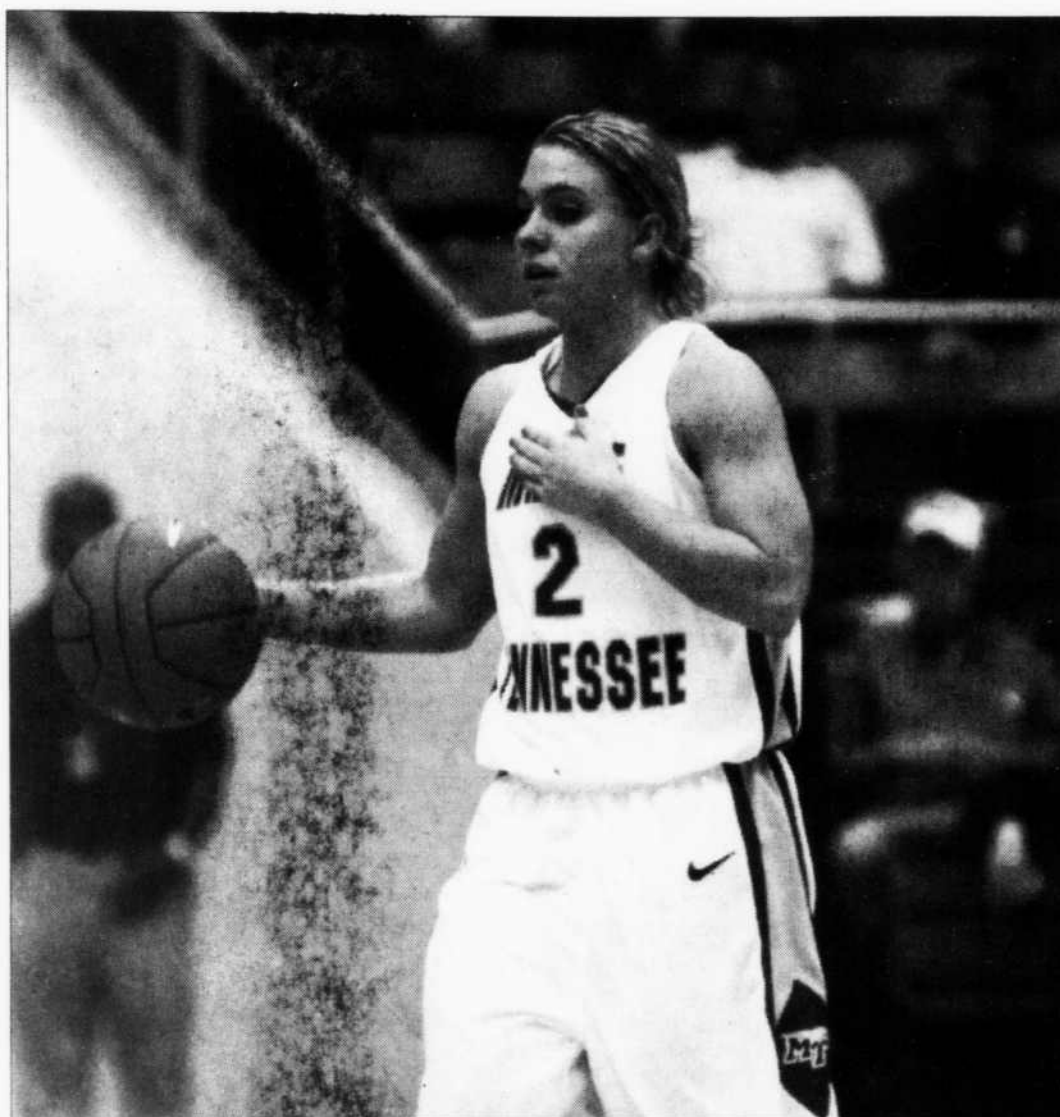


PHOTO BY JUSTIN KEONIN - STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Junior Johnna Abney started all but four games in her career at Middle Tennessee.

something positive has to come out of it."

Last season, Abney started all but two of the team's 34 games, averaging 5.5 points, 1.0 rebounds and 1.3 assists per game. She ranked second on the club and seventh in the Sun Belt with 58 made 3-pointers. She also ranked third in the SBC in 3-point FG percentage (.403).

As a freshman, Abney started all but one of the team's 31 games, leading the squad in 3-pointers made with 66, which ranks sixth in the single-season record books. She averaged 7.6 points, and 1.7 rebounds per contest. She also ranked

second in the Sun Belt in 3-point FG percentage (.407) and third in 3-pointers made. She hit at least one 3-pointer in 27 of 31 games.

The next time the Blue Raiders will be in action is tonight in a game against Troy. Game time is 7:00 p.m. The Lady Raiders return home Sunday for a game against the University of New Orleans. Game time is 2:00 p.m. Both games can be heard on 89.5 FM WMOT with Dick Palmer handling the pay-by-play.

## Blue Raiders continue win streak

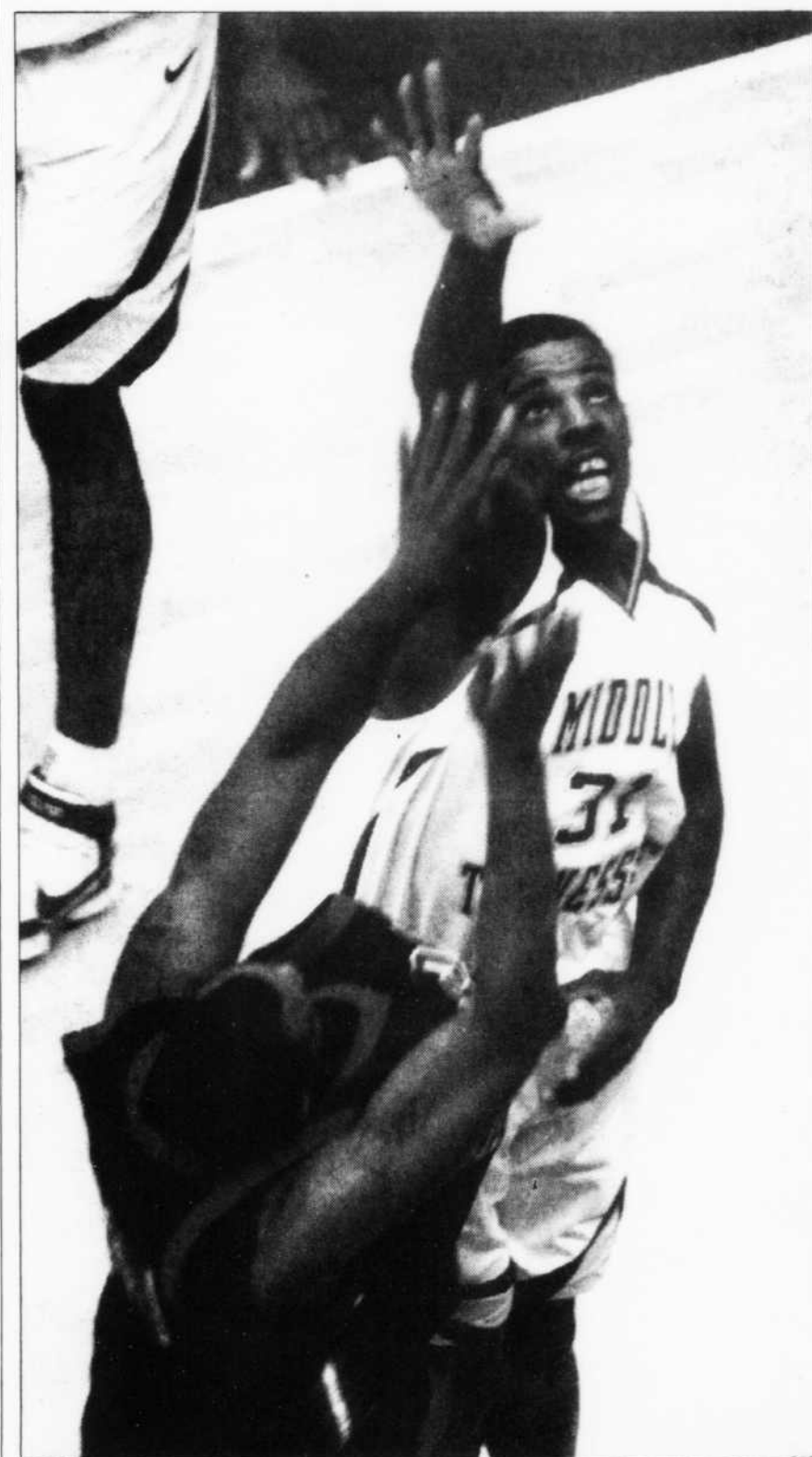


PHOTO BY RYAN DEBOY - PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Redshirt sophomore Desmond Yates scored a career-high 24 points last night.

*Sophomore Yates achieves a career-high 24 points, 6 rebounds*

By Chris Martin

Assistant Sports Editor

Junior guard Kevin Kanaskie saved the day for Middle Tennessee when he hit two free throws with 4.4 seconds to go in the Blue Raiders 65-64 victory over the Troy Trojans giving MT its third straight Sun Belt Conference win and first conference road victory.

Kanaskie was fouled while driving to the basket as the Blue Raiders tried to put together a buzzer-beating scoring drive while trailing 64-63. His first free throw wobbled around before dropping in, but he swished his second one to give MT (7-9, 4-2 SBC) the 65-64 advantage.

Nigel Johnson had an opportunity to seal the victory earlier for the Blue Raiders when he was fouled following O'Darien Bassett's missed free throw with less than 20 seconds to play. However, Johnson missed the front end of the one-and-one and then fouled Bassett when he rebounded Johnson's missed shot. Bassett proceeded to make both foul shots.

Redshirt sophomore Desmond Yates led the Blue Raiders in scoring, putting up a career-high 24 points to go along with his six rebounds. Yates was hot out of the gate scoring 12 points in the first 10 minutes.

Not to be outdone by Yates, redshirt junior Demetrius Green also had 12 points in the first half and finished with 14 points and nine rebounds. Green also forced three charging fouls and pulled down six rebounds heading into halftime.

MT headed into the half with a 39-34 advantage after falling behind 4-0 at the start of the contest. However, the Blue Raiders would not hold onto the lead for long.

Leading scorer Bassett had 12 points for Troy (8-9, 1-5 SBC) heading into. Bassett was proficient in hitting the three-pointer hitting four of five long-range shots en route to scoring 24 points.

The Trojans got some help off the bench from forward Joseph Acker who had seven points in the first half. Acker, who had 12 points overall, had started every game coming into the contest, but was replaced in the starting lineup by center Tom Jervis.

MT headed into the half with a 39-34 advantage after falling behind 4-0 at the start of the contest. However, the Blue Raiders would not hold onto the lead for long.

The Trojans came right at the Blue Raiders at the beginning of the second half, quickly taking away the MT lead scoring five quick points to make it 40-39 in Troy's favor.

The Blue Raiders will head back to Murfreesboro on Saturday to take on the New Orleans Privateers. The Privateers feature pre-season SBC player-of-the-year Bo McCalebb. McCalebb leads the SBC in scoring with 21.9 points per game.

Game time is 6 p.m.



# NCAA Convention concludes in Nashville

By Chris Martin  
Assistant Sports Editor

The NCAA is going to make some changes following the conclusion of its Board of Directors meetings that took place Jan. 10-14 in Nashville, Tenn.

The most intriguing topic discussed at the meetings was a playoff proposal from University of Georgia President Michael F. Adams. Adams proposed an eight-team playoff model that would have some of the games played at the traditional bowl sites. Adams' plan would have some preliminary games played at the Sugar, Orange, Fiesta and Rose bowls.

"I think there's enough concern out there not just among the institutional presidents but among the student-athletes, among the fans, among people trying to pay for this, among networks," Adams said. "There are broad issues that need to be looked at."

A playoff in college football has been desired by fans for many years. However, university presidents have stood strong in their opposition, since the current bowl system is a lucrative affair for schools.

While Adams' proposition received a lot of news coverage, it did not go to a vote. Instead, it was assigned to be reviewed by a yet-unformed committee. When the committee is named, it will review the playoff, as well as the commercialization of student athletes.

Another hot topic at the meetings was the scholarship status of athletes that are pregnant, injured or have a medical condition. The Division I management council voted 46-5 to approve legislation that would prevent schools from cancelling or reducing an athlete's scholarship if the athlete is dealing with pregnancy, eating disorders, drug addiction and depression among other medical conditions.

The issue came to the forefront after an ESPN report found that in recent years, seven Clemson athletes had abortions out of fear of losing their scholarships.

"The intention of the proposal is not to take away any of the institutional authority with regard to their own policies and procedures," said Jackie Campbell, management council chairman. "Pregnancy is the one people publicize a lot. You saw a lot about that," Campbell said. "There are a lot of other things that go on. Students have issues across the board that they have to deal with."

After being approved by the management council the proposal was handed down to the board of directors, who then made the legislation an official rule. The new rule will take effect Aug. 1.

The board also upheld its ban on text messaging recruits. In an overwhelming decision, the previous legislation that prevents coaches from text messaging unsigned athletes was sustained. Coaches can, however, text message recruits once they sign their national letter of intent.

Another issue discussed at the meetings was the possible creation of a fourth division in college athletics. Currently, there are three divisions: Divisions I, II and III. However, Division III has grown to include 420 institutions, with that number sure to grow. There were no votes taken on the subject, but discussion centered around the possible creation of another division, or creating a subdivision of Division III.

A pilot program was approved that would allow Canadian schools to enter Division II.

In a 258-9 vote, the Executive Committee approved the decision to allow Canadian schools to become full members of Division II by as early as 2011.

## SPORTS BRIEFS

### Peck, Clark honored by Collegiate Volleyball Update

Sophomore Leslie Clark has been named Honorable Mention Setter of the Year by Collegiate Volleyball Update, as announced on Wednesday.

The Olathe, Kan., native is one of four who received the honor with Stanford's Bryn Kehoe named CVU Setter of the Year. Others who received honorable mentions were Michelle Moriarty (Texas), Angie McGinnis (Florida) and Wioleta Leszczynska (St. John's).

Clark led the Blue Raiders in assists during the 2007 season with 1,662 as she averaged 13.74 assists per game.

Head coach Matt Peck also received recognition from CVU as he was named Honorable Mention Coach of the Year. Peck led the Blue Raiders to an impressive 35-3 record and to the NCAA Sweet 16 for the first time in school history.

Peck is one of four coaches to receive the honor with Oregon head coach Jim Moore being named CVU Coach of the Year. Joanne Persico-Smith (St. John's), Jolene Jordan Hoover (Clemson) and Tim Horsman (Dayton) also received honorable mention awards.

### Sangau, Nambawa Earn SBC Athletes of the Week

Zamzam Sangau and Sarah Nambawa swept the Sun Belt Women's Track and Field Athletes of the Week after their performances at last weekend's Kentucky Invitational in Lexington, Ky.

Nambawa was voted the SBC Field Athlete of the Week. The Kampala, Uganda, native won the triple jump with an NCAA provisional mark and finished second in both the long jump and 400 meters at the Middle Tennessee Christmas Invitational in December. She followed that by winning the triple jump again, improving her NCAA provisional mark, and placing seventh in both the long jump and 400 meters at the Kentucky Invitational over the weekend. She owns the best long and triple jump marks in the Sun Belt and ranks second in the 400 meters.

Sangau won the mile run and the 3000 meters at the Middle Tennessee Christmas Invitational in December and finished in the Top 15 in both the mile run and 800 meters at the Kentucky Invitational over the weekend. Sangau owns the second best mark in the Sun Belt in the mile run and the third fastest time in the 3000 meters.

Middle Tennessee hosts the Blue Raider Invitational this Saturday at Murphy Center. Field events begin at 9 a.m. and running events start at 1 p.m.

### Boyd ruled eligible by NCAA

Middle Tennessee freshman guard Antwaun Boyd has been cleared by the NCAA Clearinghouse and declared eligible, Blue Raider Head Coach Kermit Davis has announced.

Boyd (6-2, 190), a heralded member of Middle Tennessee's 2007 signing class, will take a redshirt season in 2007-08. He was enrolled at Middle Tennessee as a part-time student in the fall but could not participate in team activities. He was granted partial eligibility by the NCAA following the fall semester and was able to begin practicing with the team while his case was being appealed by Middle Tennessee.

Although Davis' initial plan was to play Boyd once he became eligible, the Blue Raider coach said the delay in the process prompted a change of heart due to the number of guaranteed remaining games on the schedule.

"Antwaun enrolled as a part-time student and he had to bring his SAT score up in order to become eligible," Davis said. "He worked hard to reach the necessary SAT score. If he was declared eligible at the end of the fall semester we would have definitely played him because you were talking 22-to-24 guaranteed games and that's more like a season."

"Could he help us right now? There's no question he could but we are guaranteed 14 games right now, and hopefully more, so I believe it is in his best interest for his career to redshirt now, dive into his academics, and continue to progress as a player in practice."

He was ranked as one of the Top 10 players in Indiana by numerous rankings and recruiting services after a stellar career at Anderson High School in Anderson, Ind. He was selected to play in the Hoosiers Reunion All-Star Classic and was a McDonald's All-American nominee.

Boyd led Anderson to a 24-2 record and a No. 3 state ranking as a junior, when he averaged 17 points, seven rebounds and four assists, and he averaged 20 points, eight rebounds and three assists as a senior.

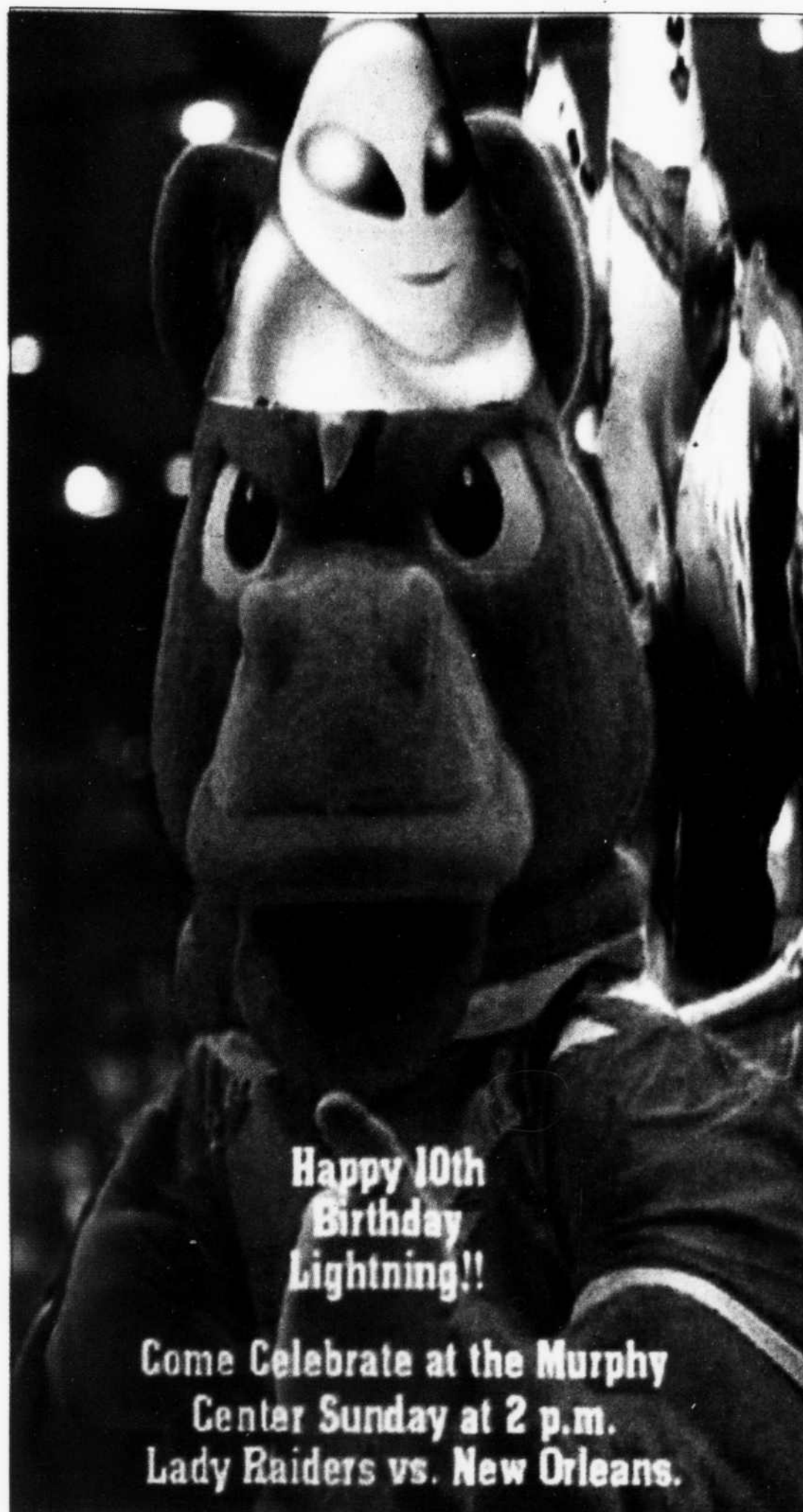
### Williams to forego senior season

Middle Tennessee junior wide receiver Bobby Williams will be transferring to another school as announced Monday by Head Coach Rick Stockstill. Williams (6-3, 204) will have two years remaining to play one season.

"When I first arrived on campus Bobby was missing class, missing workouts, and on the verge of serious academic problems," said Stockstill. "After suspending him from the team and telling him what I expected out of players at Middle Tennessee he was given a second chance which basically saved his career."

"Over the last two years he has done everything we have asked and now he wants to forego his final year to transfer so he can catch more passes and be the focal point of the offense."

The Jacksonville, Fla., native finished his three-year Blue Raider career with 76 receptions for 864 yards and five touchdowns. Williams played in all 36 games of his career and led the team in receptions with 36 in 2006.



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