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Sidelines will be
back in three weeks.
Congratulations
graduating seniors.

INSIDE: Staff finds creative solutions to fix Tennessee's budget

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An editorially
independent
newspaper

SIDELINES

Middle Tennessee State University

MURFREESBORO,
TENNESSEE

www.mtsusidelines.com

Volume 77 No.9

Campus Briefs

MTSU's Night Out

The National Night Out celebration, sponsored by MTSU's public safety and local law enforcement agencies will be held Aug. 7.

Activities will begin at 4 to 8 p.m. in the Keathley University Center courtyard. Kids activities coordinate by the Housing and Residential life staff will consist of finger painting, child safety seat inspections, DARE stickers or pencils for kids and a puppet show.

MTSU cheerleaders and the band Crucible are among some of the entertainment scheduled for the day.

Reception for McPhee

There will be a reception for recently elected President Sidney McPhee and his wife Aug. 5 from 4-6 p.m. in the Tennessee room of the James Union Building.

MTSU's Multicultural Affairs Office and Disabled Student Services will sponsor the reception.

For more information contact Ralph Metcalf, Multicultural Affairs at 898-2987 or John Harris, Disabled Student services at 898-2783.

NASA official visits MTSU

Sam Armstrong, senior advisor in the office of the NASA administrator in Washington D.C., visited MTSU July 13 to get an orientation of the aerospace department.

He toured the aerospace's laboratories and classrooms. "You do have excellent classroom facilities. We are always on the lookout for what universities have to offer," Armstrong said.

Coliseum donated for show

MTSU's coliseum for horse shows project expected completion date is 2003 in time for the International Grand Championship Walking Horse Show.

The new 150-acre coliseum is located on West Thompson Lane across from Erma Siegel School.

The project is being built with a \$20 million gift to MTSU from Mary Miller in 1994.

Miller donated the money for a horse show coliseum and named after her late husband.

MTSU hosts Project Seed

MTSU is one of the universities that receive a grant to host an eight-week program for students participating in the Project Seed program.

The Project Seed program provides a \$1,750 grant to disadvantaged students to participate in research at different facilities.

"It is a humbling experience, but it is good exposure. It makes me want to learn more," said Sam Deputy, a Project Seed participant.

Sundquist now believes people are behind him

By Karin Miller
Associated Press Writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. - Gov. Don Sundquist has been pushing for a new tax system to fund state government for three years, occasionally feeling like a lonely patriot trying to warn of impending doom.

Now he believes Tennesseeans are behind him, and he's hoping that state lawmakers realize it and get aboard.

"I've felt like Paul Revere out there with my lantern, yelling, 'It's been a long time trying to warn people and I think we're finally getting through that way

have a problem. It's not imagined, it's real and it's going to hurt our citizens," the governor said last week.

Sundquist's veto of the \$19.6 billion state budget Thursday will give him another chance to convince legislators. They'll return to Nashville Aug. 7 to attempt to override his veto and enact the budget, which relies on no new revenue, uses up four years of the state's tobacco settlement money and makes deep cuts in state services.

They'll have to act quickly because the state has reverted to operating under the temporary budget approved by lawmakers in June. That temporary budget put in place to prevent a government shutdown when the fiscal year began July 1, has provisions that penalize colleges

for raising tuition, which they've already done, and prohibits disbursing state funds for public schools.

The largest installment of that money - some \$250 million - is supposed to be distributed on Aug. 15. It won't happen unless lawmakers take action. To complicate matters, Sen. Randy McNally, chairman of the Senate Education Committee, has an attorney general's opinion that the ban on distributing school money is unconstitutional and could land the state in court.

Sundquist said he's already begun talking with individual senators and plans to continue meeting with them in small groups in hopes of reaching a compromise soon.

"I've given every kind of pro-

posal imaginable. This year I decided not to come up with a proposal, to let them try to work it out, and that failed as well," the governor said. "So what I think we should do next is try to work something out together."

Sundquist says everything is on the table except an increase in the state's 6 percent sales tax. He said the last-minute discussions on July 12 between Sens. Robert Rochelle and David Fowler that would give Tennesseans the right to vote on an income tax plan could be a starting point.

He said he's also open to discussions on reforming TennCare, further consolidation of state departments, cutting back his \$785 million in proposed new spending, enacting a \$10-\$15 automobile tag

increase, funding only a portion of his preschool and reading initiative, and using some - but not all - of the tobacco settlement money.

Sundquist is meeting first with senators because the House apparently has enough votes for both a veto override and an income tax plan, while the Senate might not approve the budget over his veto and is 3-4 votes shy on any new tax plan.

"We've tried everything else. We have to do something. We just have to," the governor said.

Sundquist said Memphis is the only big city with a majority of legislators supporting an overhaul of the tax system. He called Nashville "a wasteland" of support and said Chattanooga is "not bad, but it's not good."

Governor veto's budget, higher ed. up in the air

Gillespie will be remembered



File Photo

Students wait in line in fall 1990 to register for classes using the card system. During his career, Gillespie helped move MTSU to an automated registration.

By James Evans &
Courtney Huckabay
Editor in Chief & Staff Writer

Some affectionately referred to him as "Mr. MTSU," and when people talked about him, it was like hearing about a great legend living in our time.

If nothing else, George C. Gillespie - better known as Cliff - was one of those administrators who truly cared for students, and his warm personality added a sense of humbleness to an ever-growing university.

Gillespie, 53, died at his home Thursday after an inspiring fight with cancer. He is survived by his wife by his wife Gayle, his daughter Lauren, and his sons Matthew and Michael.

Visitation was held Sunday at the Woodfin Memorial Chapel, and a funeral Mass was held Monday at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Murfreesboro. He was buried at Evergreen Cemetery.

The family has asked that in lieu of flowers donations be made to the Dr. Cliff Gillespie Scholarship Fund at MTSU.

Gillespie started his career at MTSU as a part-time employee while he was finishing his degree at the university. After his graduation - at the tender age of 21 - Gillespie took his first full-time position in the office of enrollment management, and that office



Gillespie in his early years.

remained his home for the extent of his university career.

"I had an opportunity to become involved with enrollment. I was a 21-year-old who needed a job and I tried to do it as best as I could," Gillespie said in April. "I think that's why I kept it so long."

Gillespie worked his way up the admissions ladder, filling such positions as assistant director of records, director of admissions and records, dean of admissions and records, dean of admissions, records and informational systems and associate vice president of enrollment management.

Students are probably more familiar with Gillespie as the voice heard on TRAM, the telephone-based registration system for students. Since the beginning of TRAM in the early 90s, Gillespie has served as the primary voice heard on the system.

"Anytime I needed him to record something, he was always right there with a smile on his face, always cheerful and



Gillespie in the '90s.

very willing and professional." Mary Smith, the senior systems analyst in OJI said in April. "He took his job seriously and wanted to be involved to make the TRAM system the best."

Over the years Gillespie has made quite a few memories with everyone he's worked with. He said that's what he misses most about not coming into work anymore.

Interim President R. Eugene Smith gave Gillespie the distinct honor of holding the office of Special Assistant to the President, but he only got to go in for one day. Gillespie retired in December due to the effects of an illness he suffered from since 1996.

He suffered from a rare type of cancer that affects approximately 100 people in the country, called Carcinoid cancer. Carcinoid cancer effects one's bones and chemotherapy does not help reduce the symptoms.

"Cliff is amazing," Smith said in April. "He even offered to come in after he retired to record phrases for TRAM. He just can't stay away." ♦

Regents Board gives chancellor critical review

By Duncan Mansfield
Associated Press Writer

MORRISTOWN, Tenn. - A Tennessee Board of Regents panel on Friday openly discussed Chancellor Charles Manning's perceived failings, lack of leadership and whether he was being pressured to resign.

"I didn't think we were here to fire a chancellor," Regent Arles Greene of Goodlettsville said of the meeting's tone. "I thought we were here to evaluate a chancellor."

The five-member Regents panel was created several months ago to conduct its first chancellor job appraisal. Manning took the helm of the 182,000-student college and university system 17 months ago.

Yet Greene worried the panel had become "a headhunting committee" out to get Manning, who traveled to Walters State Community College for the Regents meeting but did not attend the appraisal session.

After a two-hour discussion, the panel voted 4-1 to accept an evaluation of Manning compiled from Regents' interviews with dozens of system presidents and staff members.

The evaluation contained such remarks as "the chancellor is a highly ineffective leader," that "maybe the job is much larger and more complicated than he is able to handle" and that "the longer he stays the more he screws up."

Author Jack Fishman of Morristown, the Regents vice chairman, tempered the report to say Manning arrived at a difficult time for higher education in Tennessee, that many like him personally and there is optimism "that the chancellor's performance will improve over time."

The committee gave Manning two weeks to respond

before the report is finished and sent to the full board.

"He has not seen the committee report, nor did he participate in the discussion," Walters State President Jack Campbell said on Manning's behalf. "At this time he has no comment."

Regent Keith McCord of Knoxville objected to the report, saying it failed to include stinging language from a Fishman draft in April that said Manning "is not perceived as a capable leader of the TBR System and ... does not have the confidence and trust of any key constituent group."

McCord also said Manning was shown the draft evaluation in April and told by an unnamed Regent that he had "until the end of June to resign or find another job."

Fishman and other panelists denied knowing that Regent's identity and insisted that no single Regent has authority to speak for them all.

Meantime, Fishman said he and other Regents have been encouraged by Manning's performance in recent months, particularly in his dealings with the General Assembly and in the way he conducted searches for several university presidents.

Regent Stanley Rogers said the board has a "responsibility and shared burden" for Manning's failures because the board knew it was hiring an outsider unfamiliar with the system.

Manning, 58, was chief executive officer of the University System of West Virginia for 10 years before he accepted the \$195,000-a-year job with the Regents.

He was the Regents' second choice after East Tennessee State President Paul Stanton withdrew. Manning replaced Charles Smith, who stepped down to consider running for governor in 2002. ♦

Do you think the new courtyard is a wise investment?



Last week *Sidelines Online* asked readers if they thought the new courtyard is a wise investment.

Response to this question was divided evenly.

* This poll is not scientific.

Kemba R. Drew | Staff

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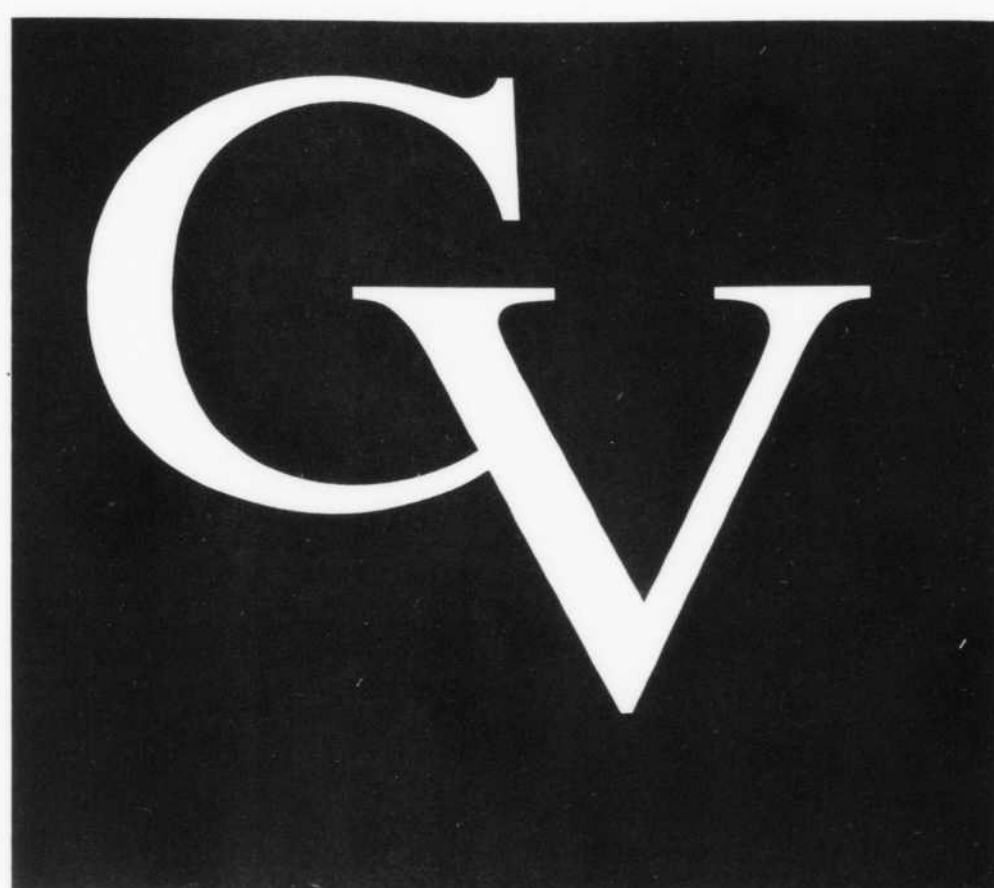
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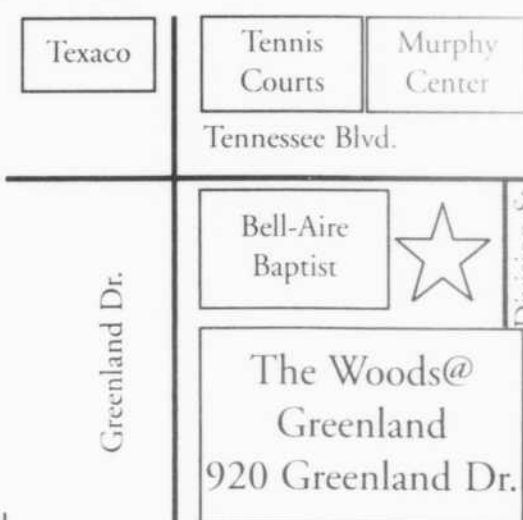
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OPINIONS

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Wednesday, August 1, 2001

SIDELINES ♦ 3

From the staff

Staff finds creative ways to fix budget

Gov. Don Sundquist has vetoed the budget, which means that the General Assembly is going back into the trenches next week to try to fix our problems.

The legislature seems intent on passing a budget without any new revenue. *Sidelines* has come up with a few areas they can cut.

Longer holidays for the legislature

Does anyone else see the logic in paying our legislature with our tax dollars so that they can just go into session and cut our programs because we have no money. Solution: Get rid of the legislature or at least only pay them for one month's work each year.

Instead of paying them to argue for six months, we could put their salary back into the general budget.

Close down pointless operations

Shutting down Austin Peay and Tennessee Tech would allow more money to be used for other universities. Let's face it, hardly anyone goes to those schools anyway, and those who do spend their days wishing they were somewhere else.

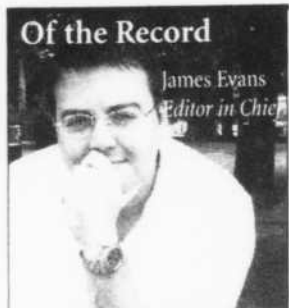
No more class attendance policies

We could end the use of all physical classrooms. Instead, professors could work from home, and all Tennessee students could enroll in the new Web-based degree program (This solution also eliminates Parking Services).

List MTSU with Bob Parks Realty

Another solution would be to lease all the nifty, high-tech buildings on campus to area businesses and convention goers. We won't need them since everything is on the Web. Considering that the average three-bedroom apartment in Murfreesboro costs \$800 per month, just think how much could be charged for the University Library.

The final days can be frightening



Five years ago, I walked into the *Sidelines* newsroom for the first time, and I was nervous and excited all at once.

You see, I had just transferred to MTSU as a commuter, and to say the least, I was a stranger in a strange land. I decided the best way to make this uni-

versity my home was to join some organization and get involved. I chose the newspaper.

I wrote my first story (which was total garbage) and fell in love with journalism the first time I saw my name in print.

To me, it was like a tangible accomplishment. I could walk around and saw to myself, "Look at that story. I did that."

I hated what I was studying, and my grades suffered for it.

I spent more time writing stories than I did studying economics. It finally occurred to me that I would be much happier if

I changed my major to journalism.

Four years and several stories after my first day in the newsroom, I was elected as editor in chief of the paper. I'm now finishing up my third term in that position.

In a little under two weeks, I'll be walking across the stage for my diploma and walking out of the newsroom for the last time. This is actually my last issue as editor of the paper.

But even with graduation looming around the corner, I can't say I'm any less nervous and excited today as I was five years

ago.

Graduation is a funny thing. In the movie *The Shawshank Redemption*, actor Morgan Freeman talks about how prisoners get "institutionalized" once they've been in jail for too long.

When they try to re-enter the world, they find themselves without hope and usually end up worse than they were.

It's the same thing for students leaving college.

Most of us have been in some time of school since at least the age of five, and now we have to go out into the world and learn a new game.

That game is called survival.

Even though most students have complained about the hardships of college, our lives make sense to us. We're working toward an education. But once we have it, where do we go from there?

I've seen friends leave school and end up working at a grocery store.

I'm just hoping I can find the courage and motivation to pursue what I want instead of staying in my comfort zone.

Anyway, thanks for all the good times. I'll send you a postcard when I get there.

Theater brings out abhorrent in people



What is it about a dark theater and expensive snacks that unleashes the caveman in some people?

I've known for a long time that movie theaters, on weekends, are a breeding ground for rude, thoughtless, loud pigs. Because of my enlightenment, I pledged long ago to see movies only at matinees or during the week

and never on the movie's opening night. I'm sure I'm not the only movie patron who has made that decision.

I broke my rule this weekend and payed for it dearly.

The movie: *Planet of the Apes*. The time: 9:40 p.m. Friday night. The location: Murfreesboro's Carmike Cinemas.

The place was packed - so packed we had to sit next to strangers. Lucky for us, we picked the hootin' and hollerin' section of the theater.

The terrible reality of what we had done hit me during the previews for *Zoolander*.

The couples behind us and beside us had the most

obnoxious, super-sonic laughs I'd ever heard. They used their super-human laughs at the most unfunny times, and they committed the cardinal sin of movie-going: they commented loudly on everything.

During the actual movie, it just got worse. If they weren't laughing during serious parts, they were previewing the upcoming surprise. "It's that monkey! She likes him! She's going with him!"

Occasionally they would offer advice to the cast of the movie. "You better get out of there! Here he comes! You better not!"

Of course, there were the usual cell-phone rings

(and one guy ANSWERED his! Grrrr!) and beeper beeps.

There were even two paramedics beside me who got a loud page and frantically ran out.

And - I had figured it would happen - some moron had the nerve to make a monkey noise during a serious part. And everyone else was stupid enough to laugh. I almost exploded.

That night just reaffirmed my belief that theaters are built all wrong.

In order to ensure peace and happiness among movie patrons, theaters should offer - in addition to the regular seats for those pitiful groundlings - climate controlled, sound-

proof booths with a large, plexi-glass window from which to watch the movie. In a way, it would be like sitting in a reserved box at a ball game.

You would request a booth much like you would request a table at a restaurant, since booths would range in size from two seats to ten to accommodate a couple or a large group of giggly teen-agers.

Sitting in a booth would cost more, but - at least for me - the benefits would be worth it.

I know I would go more often if I could be reassured that I wouldn't have to deal with more apes in the theater than on the screen. ♦

Letters to the Editor

To the editor:

I was reading Lindsey Turner's piece on Robert Downey Jr. being released from prison, and I was truly astounded. At first, I thought that she was being sarcastic, but as I kept reading, I realized that this mindless dribble was actually meant to be taken seriously. Turner basically states that Downey's drug habits should have kept him in jail a lot longer and that the streets of America are no longer safe now that he's free. While I don't disagree with her that Downey's actions are repulsive and that drug offenders should have stiffer penalties, I simply find it strange that the same author of "Anti-drug provision needs to go" and the same person who is trying to start a campus chapter of NORML (National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws)

could be so hypocritical as to write an article bashing the same things she supports. Turner has always defended casual drug use and has referred in a previous article to drug provisions as "dumb laws." I don't think that Turner's problem is with drug abuse itself. Her problem is with Downey, of whom she is simply not a big supporting fan. It's extremely hypocritical and arrogant of Turner to defend drug abuse by some but to attack others who do the same thing. But then again, that's a liberal for you - the rules apply to everyone except them. Turner seriously needs to make up her mind (or what she tries to pass off as her mind) on this issue and apply the same principles to everyone, not just a selected few.

Angela Viorelli

Canada: Land of snow, moose and medical marijuana.

Canadian Bacon



On Monday, July 30, 2001, Health Canada, the Canadian version of the Food and Drug Administration, issued new regulations that legalized marijuana for medicinal use.

This bill did not have the approval of the Canadian Medical Association, the cousin of our own American Medical Association, which also has spoken out

against the bill.

This new regulation is one of the most preposterous, asinine pieces of government directive that I have ever seen. It is the result of decades of socialist theory being taught in the Canadian schools. It's a ridiculous idea that people should be allowed to harm themselves.

This regulation is akin to repealing the law that car riders must wear seat belts.

To be fair, I must point out that this bill provides marijuana only to patients suffering from chronic, painful illnesses, such as arthritis and epilepsy, who also have written doctor's permission.

While I understand the pain that many of these patients experience on a

daily basis (my mom has had near-crippling arthritis since 1987), legalizing a harmful drug to temporarily ease their suffering is no solution to the problem.

In a Canadian Broadcasting Corporation interview Monday, many Canadian doctors stated that they feared "that some may try to obtain the drug simply for recreational use." Of course they will!

This is the gateway that pot smokers throughout North America desperately needed to begin a push for full legalization of marijuana.

Kudos to Dr. Brian Knight, a pain specialist at the University of Alberta Pain Clinic who surmised that some advocates of these regulations were merely supporting it to

eventually use it as a "backdoor mechanism" for total legalization.

It's too bad that not enough people in Health Canada listened to him.

Legalizing marijuana for any purpose is wrong, because it harms the user.

I have heard from my own friends the argument that cigarettes and alcohol also harm the individual; they're legal, so why shouldn't pot be legal?

The answer should be obvious. Two wrongs don't make a right. Just because our government has made it legal to kill yourself one way does not mean it is entitled to give you options of how to legally destroy your brain, lungs and heart.

Make no mistake about it: users of cigarettes or

marijuana are much more likely to have heart attacks by the time they reach the age of 30.

Fools who use both are doubly more at risk. Add binge drinking into the mix, and medical professionals are astounded if the individual can reach the age of 40.

It doesn't pay to use illegal drugs.

There are better uses of time, money and energy. Build model cars. Start a computer-repair company. Clean your room. Any of those would make your mother proud. And if you won't stop smoking pot, at least go do it in Canada.

Those new regulations make it clear that behavior is acceptable up there. ♦

Suburban life breeds discontent

By Ariana Brookes

Daily Bruin
(U. California-Los Angeles)

LOS ANGELES - It's the middle of the summer, a time to be happy and free from the toils of UCLA life. So how come I can't wait to go back to school?

Like many students, summer finds me out in the suburbs much of the time. And not surprisingly, when I spend too much time in the outer limits, my mind starts to race with furious comparisons to the city.

In honor of the giant step backward that many of us must make when the

summer rolls around, I present a list of why I hate the suburbs:

MTV as real life

If you have ever ventured into a suburban shopping mall, you know what I'm talking about. It's as though you're living inside the TV screen, and the only channel you can get is MTV.

The entire youth population has turned into one giant pop star. Apparently, when a suburbanite reaches the age of 13, they are handed a form forcing them to choose which pop star they will dress like for

the next seven years. Options include Kid Rock, Eminem, Britney Spears, Destiny's Child and a few others whose personal style have come to dictate what is and is not "cool."

Mass-produced housing

The only skill necessary for becoming an architect in the suburbs is the ability to wield a cookie cutter. Every house looks exactly the same. Most missing children in the suburbs are found not to have been kidnapped; they just became lost trying to find their house.

Due to existing rules in

many areas which keep home owners from painting the exterior of their houses certain colors, the only distinguishing factor available is your car. And, truth be told, there isn't much originality in that department either. SUVs have spread through the suburbs like a bad disease.

Smoking a federal crime

If I've learned anything, I've learned this: never run out of cigarettes at three in the morning if you live in the suburbs.

While in Los Angeles you can pretty much walk a block in any direction

and find a cigarette vendor, finding cigarettes in the suburbs is like searching for the Holy Grail. It's near impossible.

I discovered this while walking over a mile trying to find a grocery store. Forget about 7-Elevens ... they don't exist.

Even if you manage to find cigarettes in the suburbs, smoking is no pleasurable experience. You get stares that would make James Dean turn over in his grave.

You'd swear you killed children or something every time you discretely take a puff. ♦

SIDELINES

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

INTERESTS

4♦ SIDELINES

Wednesday, August 1, 2001

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Convicted with soul

Alishewa artist Craig, bares all with hip hop/gospel album



By Shawn Whitsell
Features Editor

It all started back in the 8th grade, when young Craig Watkins would hang out with his older brother at a local teen hot spot. It was there that he caught the attention of older teenagers with his dance moves.

A little later Craig tried out for Riverdale High School's Halftimers Squad and he made the team. Halfway through his freshman year, the squad's choreographer quit, leaving the team without direction. Determined not to let the absence of a choreographer stop them, Craig naturally began choreographing dance routines and became the squad's official choreographer.

According to Craig, none of the squad's veterans were jealous or angry that a freshman, who had just joined the squad, was now their leader.

"Everyone was very supportive," he said. "It seems like it was supposed to happen."

Craig remained the squad's choreographer until '98, about a year after he graduated college.

Craig said that he has always been a dancer but it wasn't until a few years that he really started to get serious about singing.

"I'd grown more into loving singing. I've been dancing for years but the singing part just started falling into place maybe three or four years ago," he said.

Later Craig hooked up with artists Ricky B & 4Given and Ivan Rattliff and began composing music. The first song he wrote was "Take A Look at Me."

Proud of the outcome of the song, Craig began performing and sparked interest from others.

Now two years and 12 more songs later, Craig has delivered a 13-track collection of tunes appropriately titled, "Conviction."

According to Craig, the album's tracks are all related to being convicted.

"When you listen to the whole album, all the songs can relate to conviction," he said.

"Some of the songs were written on a personal tip as well as on a general point of view that everybody can relate to," he added.

Though his brother's favorites include "Conviction" and He is God, when asked what his favorite songs on the album are, the always jokingly Craig, replied, "Tracks one through 13."

While working on the album, which was a two year on-again, off-again process, Craig surrounded himself with a core group of like-minded artists and producers which included Ivan Rattliff, Ricky B & 4Given, Chris Reno and Tim Hill, who produced about half of the album. Craig also opted to write the bulk of the lyrics and even produce a few cuts.

Craig has not only proven to many that he has what it takes to make it as an artist, but he's also tackled the music business world when he built a business around the album.

This business is known as Alishewa Records, which opened earlier this year.

Craig created Alishewa, a term that came from segments of his daughter's name, because he had the desire to call his own shots.

"I wanted to keep it without as many hands in it as possible and by doing that, I can decide to go ahead and establish a record label," he said.

"There are pros and cons to being on an independent label. I'm open. If a major label comes with a good deal, I'll probably take it," he continued.

If a major deal did present itself, Craig said he is uncertain of what would happen to Alishewa. He said he may just shut it down or he may keep it going.

Artists such as Donnie McClurkin, Yolanda Adams, CeCe Winans, Brian McKnight, Shannon Sanders and Kirk Franklin have been major influences in Craig's life and he hopes to join the ranks of them but he acknowledges that his ultimate objective is to make a difference in the lives of others.

"I really love this. I feel like this is what I'm supposed to do," he said. "Touching people's lives makes all the difference in the world."

Although hip hop and R&B flavored gospel has faced some criticism from religious traditionalists, Craig expressed that he is happy to see the direction the genre has taken.

"I think it's growing and growing. It's going mainstream. I know some people have a problem with it but if that what's going to help somebody and save somebody, then there's nothing wrong with it," he said candidly.

"If you have somebody that's lost and hip hop is all they listen to, then what's wrong with hip hop gospel?" he asked.

"I know a lot of times people may listen to the beat but eventually they'll listen to the words," he said. "Not only that, I love this style of music as well. When you use your talent to lift His name, how could that be wrong?"

Steve Bingham, the head of the Booking/Events/Contacts department at Alishewa said that he visions that Craig will be big somebody but admits that sometimes his fun personality came be a bit of an issue.

"He's aura attracts people. He's such a people person that sometimes he has a hard time being professional," he said.

"The public is his priority. I'm looking forward to him becoming a national figure and touching people," Bingham added.

Bingham is only one of the many people who keep Alishewa going. Other staff members included Cynthia Matthews, Robbie Owens, Tess Wells, Tilope, Farrah Albertie and Craig's mother Mary Watkins.

Craig can admit that he is still adjusting to the demanding life of being an artist/businessman, he praises his family and friends for being supportive and encouraging him to fulfill his dream. Though his mother named him Craig Landers Watkins, this young artist has a following of fans that know him simply as Craig.

Craig graduated from MTSU with a Criminal Justice degree and will return to the campus for a concert at Tucker Theatre this Saturday at 7 p.m. The event is sponsored by the Urban Music Society and Alishewa Records. Tickets are on sale for \$10 at all Ticketmaster locations. For information, go to www.alishewa.com.



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Baseball recruiting class taking shape

MT Media Relations

Steve Peterson and the rest of the Blue Raider baseball coaches have parlayed an excellent 2001 season into a bumper recruiting crop for the 2002 campaign.

The Blue Raiders have added seven players to their roster and each of them could help the ball club right away.

The Blue Raiders inked RHP Chris Mobley from Kingsport Dobyns-Bennett High School and C/IF Josh Archer from Henry County High School in Paris during the early period. Both went on to earn first-team all-state honors.

The late period has seen IF Chad Cooper from Garrett JC in McHenry, Md., IF Nate Jagers from Louisville, Ky.'s Pleasure Ridge Park High, LHP Danny Borne from Marshall County High School, and Brett Carroll from Knoxville Bearden High School sign with Middle Tennessee.

The team has also added transfer Travis Horschel from Tennessee Tech to the fold. Horschel is a native of Smyrna.

"We are very pleased with the recruits that we have signed. We felt like that we needed to get some guys that could contribute right away and we feel

like we have done that with this class. We lost our starting catcher and three infielders along with four pitchers, so we obviously needed help. We think we have gotten it, but only time can determine what these players will be able to do," said head coach Steve Peterson.

As Peterson eluded, the Blue Raiders will be without the services of 2001 starters C Kyle Thomas, 1B Kris Lammers, 2B Josh Renick, and 3B Brandon Johnson. Pitchers Dewon Brazelton, Jason Moates, Kevin Davis, and Lammers are also missing from the 2002 landscape.

2002 Baseball Signees						
Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown	School	Note
Josh Archer	C/IF	6-4	215	Paris, TN	Henry Co. HS	.620 Avg with 11 HR
Danny Borne	LHP	6-3	175	Lewisburg, TN	Marshall Co. HS	Team's top pitcher
Brett Carroll	IF	5-11	175	Knoxville, TN	Bearden HS	.347 Avg with 14 HR
Chad Cooper	IF	6-1	180	Picture Rocks, PA	Garrett JC	All-Conference
Travis Horschel	RHP	6-3	185	Smyrna, TN	Tennessee Tech	Redshirted last season
Nate Jagers	IF	6-0	170	Louisville, KY	PRP HS	Lead team in bat. avg.
Chris Mobley	RHP	5-11	165	Kingsport, TN	Dobyns-Bennett	130 K's in 60 innings

The Blue Raiders put together the second-best record in school history with a 41-17 record. The 2001 Blue Raiders also posted several milestones including a first-ever Sun Belt Championship and the program's first-ever at-large bid to

the NCAA Tournament.

Dewon Brazelton became the school's first-ever first round draft pick when he was selected third overall by the Tampa Bay Devil Rays. Brazelton set the single-season and career strikeout records at

Middle Tennessee during the season.

In fact, the Blue Raiders equaled a school record with four players (Brazelton, Renick, Moates, and Lammers) selected in the Major League Amateur Draft. ♦

Raider Rising

Blue Raider

Team of the Week

Hicks, Blue Raiders picked as tops in preseason

MT Media Relations

NEW ORLEANS, LA - Middle Tennessee received a double dose of good news in New Orleans when it was announced this morning that five Blue Raiders were named to the preseason all-conference team.

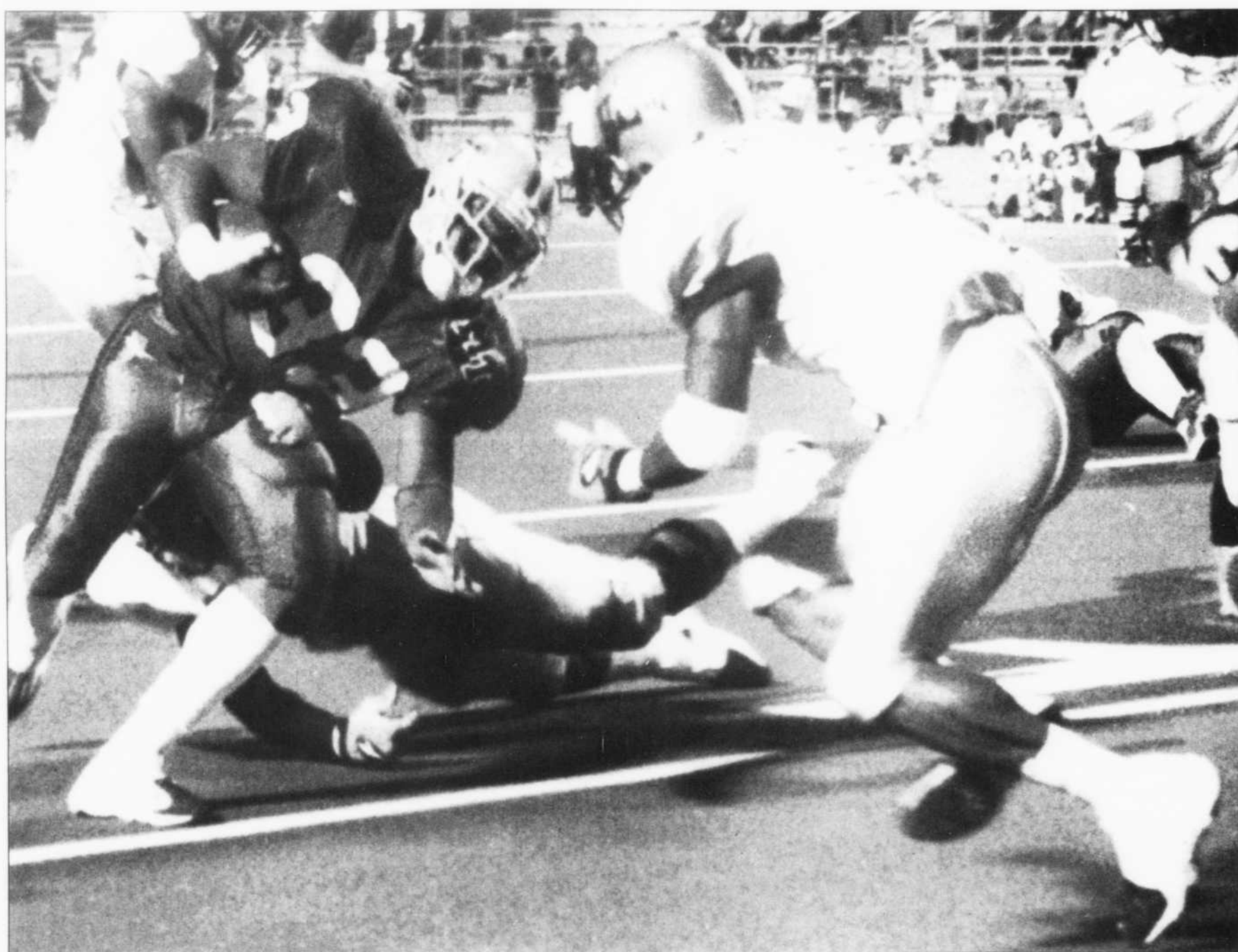
Highlighting the announcement was junior running back Dwone Hicks being voted the league's Preseason Offensive Player of the Year.

"Every one of our players who made this team is very deserving," head coach Andy McCollum said. "It says a lot about the progress of our program, but as I said yesterday you have to take care of your business on the field. The end of the year is when you want these type honors the most because it usually means your team was very successful."

Hicks, a 2001 Doak Walker Award candidate, returns after racking up 1,247 yards on the ground in 2000 to finish 15th nationally. During his record-setting season, Hicks tallied 126 points and 21 touchdowns, while topping the 100-yard mark on eight occasions. In a win over Louisiana Tech, Hicks set a new school record with 311 yards rushing and six touchdowns.

The first preseason all-SBC team is made up of 25 players with five each coming from Middle Tennessee and Idaho. New Mexico State and North Texas saw four players on the list, while Arkansas State placed three players on the squad. Louisiana-Monroe and Louisiana-Lafayette each had two representatives.

Along with Hicks, senior wide receiver Kendall Newson and sophomore tackle Brandon Westbrook made the



File Photo

Sophomore Dwone Hicks is no longer an unknown threat - he was selected as preseason offensive MVP after his 1,247 yard freshman campaign.

offensive team. Newson, an all-America candidate and one of just two wide receivers selected, enters the 2001 campaign as the school's career leader in

receptions, receiving yardage, and 100-yard games. Westbrook was one of five offensive linemen earning recognition.

On defense, senior Tanaka Scott made the team as a defensive lineman. Scott, the Blue Raiders' sack leader in 2000, joined North Texas line-

backer Brad Kassell as the only unanimous selections to this year's squad.

Sophomore Brian Kelly completed Middle Tennessee's

honors by being tabbed as the league's top place-kicker. Kelly made 11 of 13 field goals as a freshman, including his first five attempts. ♦

Coaches
1. Middle Tennessee
2. Idaho
3. New Mexico State
4. North Texas
5. Arkansas State
Louisiana-Lafayette
7. Louisiana-Monroe

Pts. (1st place votes)
43 (3)
41 (2)
39 (2)
24
19
19
11

Sports Information Dirs.
1. Middle Tennessee
2. Idaho
3. New Mexico State
4. North Texas
5. Arkansas State
Louisiana-Lafayette
7. Louisiana-Monroe

Pts. (1st place votes)
45 (4)
44 (2)
35 (1)
26
17
17
12

2001 Sun Belt Conference Preseason Team

Offense

Offensive Line: Garry Johnson (Arkansas State); Larry Pink (Louisiana-Monroe); Brandon Westbrook (Middle Tennessee); Tony Wragge (New Mexico State); Mike Zuniga (North Texas).

Tight End: Geoff Franks (Idaho)

Wide Receivers: Chris Lacy (Idaho); Kendall Newson (Middle Tennessee)

Quarterback: John Welsh (Idaho)

Running Backs: Dwone Hicks (Middle Tennessee); Kenton Keith (New Mexico State)

Defense

Defensive Line: Tanaka Scott (Middle Tennessee); Wil Beck (Idaho); Derrick Marshall (Louisiana-Lafayette); Corey Williams (Arkansas State)

Linebackers: Brad Kassell (North Texas); Brad Rice (Idaho); D'Wayne Taylor (New Mexico State)

Defensive Backs: Dedrick Buckles (Louisiana-Monroe); Don McGee (North Texas); Corey Paul (New Mexico State); Charles Tillman (Louisiana-Lafayette)

Special Teams

Kicker: Brian Kelly (Middle Tennessee)

Punter: Jason Ball (North Texas)

Return Specialist: James Hickenbotham (Arkansas State)

Preseason Offensive Player of the Year: Dwone Hicks

Preseason Defensive Player of the Year: Brad Kassell

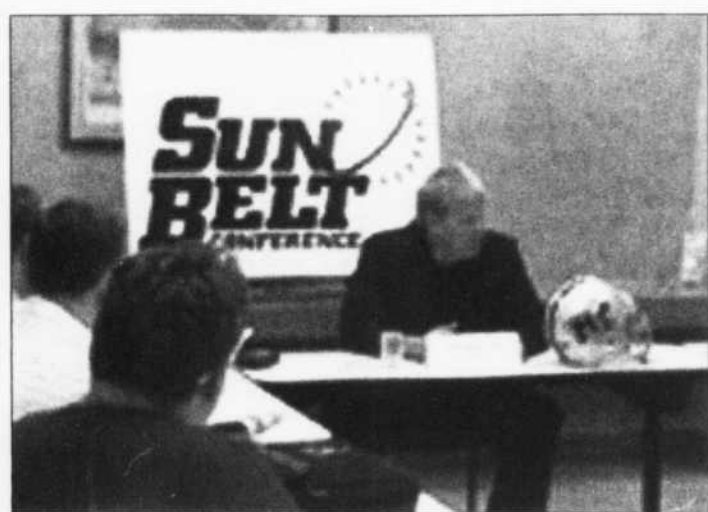


Photo Provided

Coach Andy McCollum addresses members of the media.

MT Media Relations

NEW ORLEANS - The Sun Belt Conference, entering its inaugural season of Division I-A football sponsorship, announced the first preseason football polls at Media Day breakfast with guest speaker Tim Brando from CBS. Middle Tennessee was selected to win the league's first football title by the Sun Belt football coaches and sports information directors.

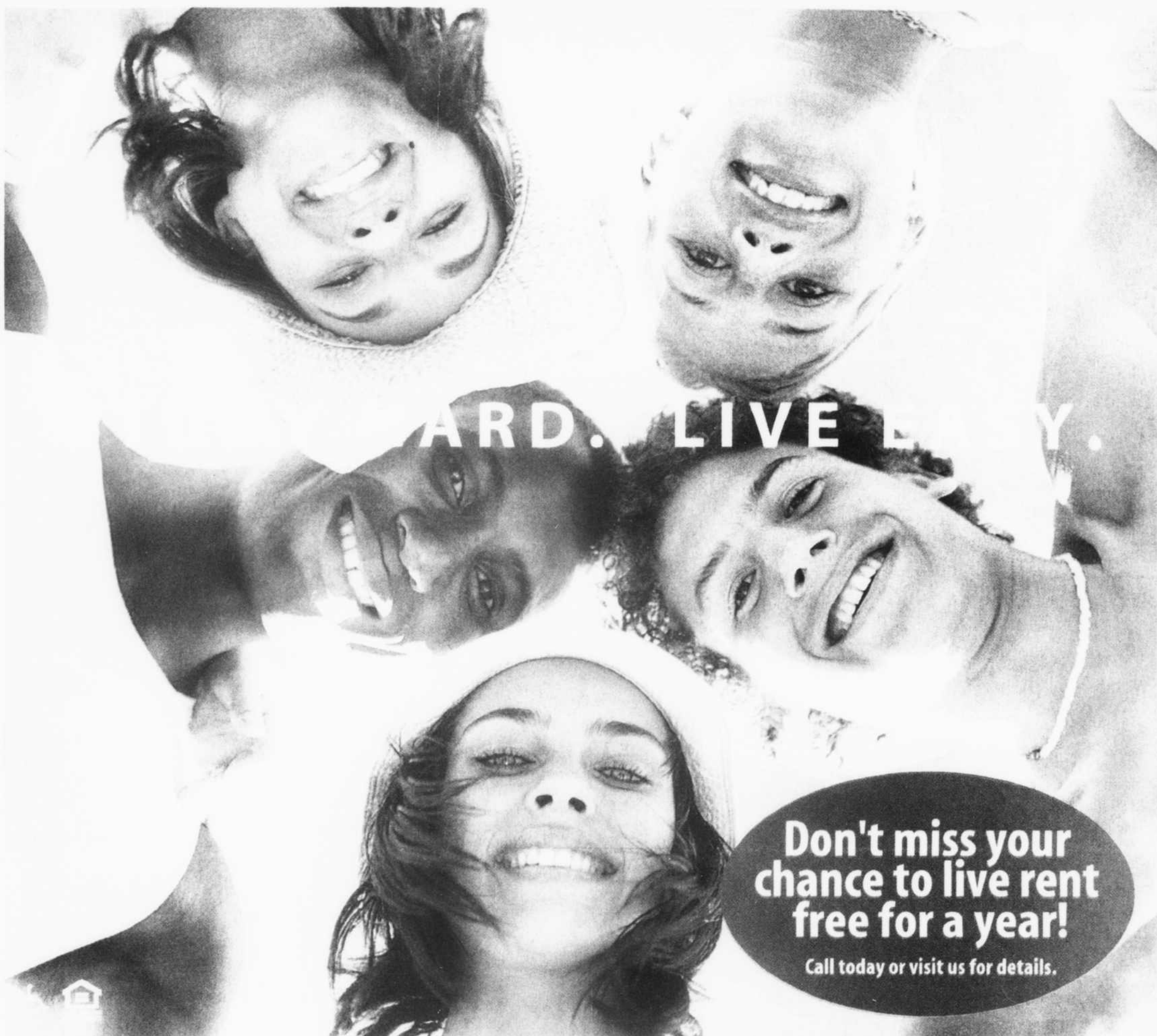
"It's a great honor to be picked first," head coach Andy McCollum said. "Unfortunately, championships are not won on paper. They are won on the field, and we have to realize that."

The Blue Raiders, under McCollum, received three first-place votes in the coaches' poll, while the league's SIDs gave Middle Tennessee four first-place votes. Both groups came up with the same predicted order of finishing for the inaugural season. Following close behind was Idaho in second place with two first-place votes in each poll and New Mexico State in third with two first-place votes from the coaches and one from the SIDs. Predicted to finish fourth is North Texas, followed by a tie for fifth place between Arkansas State and Louisiana-Lafayette. Louisiana-Monroe rounds out the poll in seventh place. ♦

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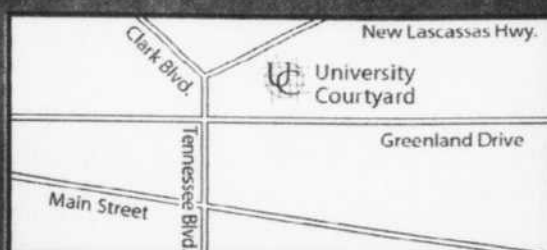


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