

SIDELINES

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

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EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT



PHOTO BY DANIEL POTTER - COMMUNITY NEWS EDITOR

Thousands march on the campus of Tennessee State University in Nashville to commemorate Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

March honors King's legacy

By Daniel Potter

Community News Editor

Some 2,000 people marched in Nashville Monday to commemorate Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

The crowd marched from Jefferson Street Missionary Baptist Church to the Gentry Center on the campus of Tennessee State University. Mayor Karl Dean and Rep. Jim Cooper gave speeches there at noon.

"This is one of the great holidays of the year," Dean said. "Dr. King's dream is still our dream." King advanced "the sublime notion of democratization and equality," Dean said.

Many political organizations and agendas were present throughout the event.

Before the main march, for which police closed off traffic in the area that morning, numerous smaller marches converged at the church, which is located at the intersection of Jefferson Street and 28th Avenue.

There, various singers and groups performed, including a group of mimes, before a speaker read King's famous "I Have a Dream" speech.

Meanwhile, inside the church was a screening of the film "Uncounted—The New Math of American Elections," a documentary about election fraud.

The coming election was clearly on the minds of many present, with some carrying signs or wearing stickers in support of Senator Barack Obama, the Democratic presidential candidate running on a platform of unity and change.

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Taking a stand against censorship

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Local Forecast

Thursday



HI: 31
LO: 14

Friday



HI: 42
LO: 30

Saturday



HI: 47
LO: 38

Sunday



HI: 55
LO: 50

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Campus News

MT celebrates King's birthday

By Dylan Morris

Contributing Writer

MTSU concludes the celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. week this weekend with community day service programs and a grand finale at College Sunday with Murfreesboro First Baptist Church.

"The reason King did what he did is still evident," said Jeremy Simpson, junior mass communication major and president of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. "Not as strong, but society is still going through racial and ethical struggles, but because of King and others the struggle has become less severe."

Various student organizations, including Simpson's fraternity Alpha Phi Alpha, will engage in community service and service learning activities on Jan. 25 at Mitchell Nielson Elementary School in Murfreesboro. This program is designed to give back and improve the lives of members of the community in accordance with the teachings of King.

"King's teachings are still as important today as they were when he was alive," said Raymond Dennis, sophomore mechanical engineering major. "In the past, white people thought they were superior, and we just wanted to be treated equal. Racism is still a problem, but not so much today."

The week ends Jan. 27 with College Sunday. The finale of the celebration week is a musical that connects many local churches and other organizations. The MTSU Gospel Choir will perform with other choirs from around the area.

MLK week officially began the night of Jan. 21 with a candle light vigil at the Keathley University Center in honor of King. The vigil featured worship leaders from Hillel, The Wesleyan Foundation, and the First Baptist Church. Linder spoke about King's legacy and how it still relates to today's society.

"We've included worship leaders of various faiths," said Luther Buie, interim director of Intercultural and Diversity Affairs. "We understand King was a Christian minister, and how his work has affected people of all faiths. The turnout was very well this year with over 100 students there."

The week also included campus and community service projects. Student organizations visited the Murfreesboro Discovery Center to participate in a "unity project" with local children.

"This year is the 40th anniversary of King's assassination," Buie said. "An entire generation has been raised and not been physically touched by this, and it's very important for us to remember his great works and pass it to future generations."

This year's MLK week brought new events and guest speakers to MTSU, Buie said.

"To hear all the voices of faith speaking about King is new this year," Buie said. "The Wesleyan Foundation singers, as well as, the MTSU Gospel Choir performed. It was the Wesleyan Foundation

See MLK week, 3



PHOTO BY RYAN DEBOUY - PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Posters hang in the James E. Walker Library as part of the 'READ' poster campaign of the American Library Association.

MT alumni faces on posters state-wide in libraries

By Michael Guggisberg

Contributing Writer

MTSU alumni are now featured alongside world-renowned individuals on the American Library Association's statewide "READ" poster campaign.

The ALA established their series of posters using famous faces with the mission of advocating reading in 1985. Two decades later, the ALA formed the software to make these posters available to libraries. This enabled the James E. Walker Library to showcase a few of MTSU's most accomplished alumni on their own "READ" posters.

"The 'READ' posters are beneficial to MTSU in two ways," said Gina Logue, media representative in the Office of Public Affairs. "They are intended to inspire young people in Tennessee schools to read, and to see the people on the posters as role models. Also, the young people will be exposed to the quality of successful MTSU students."

The academic careers of the recent alumni are the reason for their involvement in the "READ" program. All four alumni were actively involved in campus clubs, received academic honors and hold lengthy volunteer work credentials.

In addition to their campus involvement, some of the alumni overcame physical limitations, while others contended with issues involving their home countries.

They share one overarching characteristic, their usage of reading as an essential key in helping them to progress in academic and

See READ, 2

Grants aid homeless

By Faith Franklin
Staff Writer

Murfreesboro Housing Authority will continue providing assistance for the homeless, and Greenhouse Ministries will begin to offer support, both thanks to grants from the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Three grants totaling \$251,334 will allow the Murfreesboro Housing Authority to continue to provide housing for homeless people with mental disabilities, U.S. Rep. Bart Gordon announced.

"HUD's Continuum of Care Assistance programs provide funding for transitional housing, permanent housing and a variety of supportive services for homeless persons, helping them on their way to becoming more self-sufficient," Gordon said.

One grant totaling \$79,154 will allow Greenhouse Ministries to provide transitional housing through its Cottage Program, set to launch this summer.

The three grants being awarded to the Murfreesboro Housing Authority are being allocated in two areas.

The first goes to a Homeless Management Information System renewal of \$47,166.

"HMIS is a Web-based program that homeless assistance providers can [access] and track homeless individuals, to give them better service," said Deborah Fox, Section 8 Administrator for Murfreesboro.

The other grants are allocated to Shel-

ter and Care renewals of \$97,968 and \$106,200.

These renewals "help us to continue housing with grant [funds] from the previous year," said Fox. "If the [grants] were not renewed, then those people would be homeless again."

The funds from grants received are meant to give rental assistance for homeless people with mental disabilities. "We help to pay a portion of their rent and they have to continue using services for their disabilities," Fox said.

The Murfreesboro Housing Authority partners with agencies that assist such individuals.

Fox says the majority of the people receiving assistance do have a mental disability. "Some of them have a mental and physical [disability]."

Fox feels the actions of the Murfreesboro Housing Authority creates a "win-win situation, because a lot of people that are homeless do not have that ability to get in and get the services they need." The grant "gets homeless families off the street and it gives them help with their disabilities," Fox said.

The Cottage Program is "for those people classified as homeless," said Leslie Mertz, program coordinator.

Those individuals will be eligible to live in one of three apartments for six months.

The three apartments consist of a one, two or three bedroom accommodation, housing up to six people.

During the six-month period, individuals "will be required to get a job if they don't already have one," said Mertz.

Part of their payment, received from working, will go into a savings account to help those individuals once they are finished with the Cottage Program.

Once individuals reach the end of the program, "they will have something to put towards another apartment," said Mertz.

Participants in the Cottage Program will also take classes at Greenhouse, specific to each individual's need. "We offer all different kinds of classes, career advancement that will help them get ahead," said Mertz.

After the six months in the program, individuals will contribute money to utility payments for the home, which are not covered by the grant.

The decision-making process for an individual to be admitted into the Cottage Program will be based on character. The program requires an application process and will conduct interviews.

"We want to make sure that the people that live [in the apartments] will be of the utmost character," Mertz said. Greenhouse is looking for those individuals "willing to get a job, and [also] willing to do the things that it will take. They have got to be ready for a change."

Greenhouse undertook this project because it "seemed like a really good program to help [homeless individuals] get back on their feet," Mertz said.

READ: Posters encourage reading

Continued from page 1

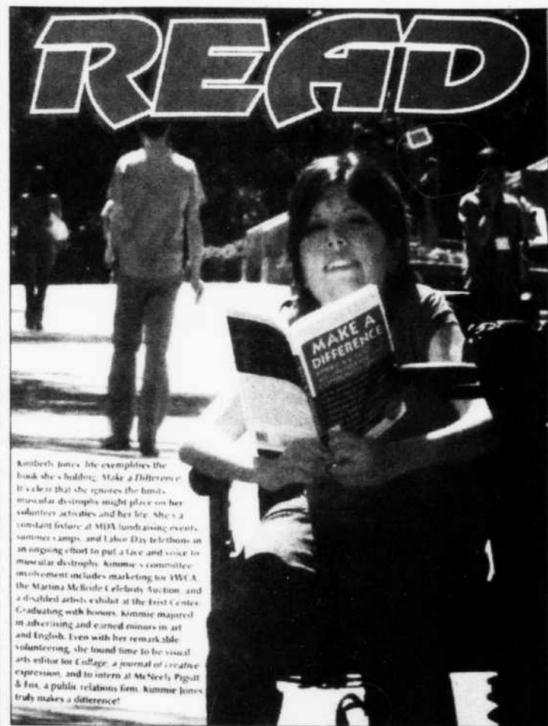


PHOTO COURTESY OF GINA LOGUE - NEWS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
'READ' poster features MTSU alumna Kimberly Jones.

personal lives, Logue said.

Bill Black, administrative services librarian, expressed his support for the continuation of the "READ" poster project at MTSU.

"Our goal is to do four posters each year," Black said. "We work to identify model students for the program, who will highlight activities, success and reading."

The newest "READ" posters featuring MTSU alumni can be seen in the periodicals section on the second floor of the James E. Walker Library. They display each student amid a creative background, holding a book, accompanied with a paragraph

about them and the "READ" slogan.

These posters will also appear in libraries across the state.

"I think the 'READ' posters are such a fundamental art of the library experience," said Kimberly Jones, alumna advertising major, who is one of the featured alumni on the posters and graduated with an honors degree.

"It was cool to be part of that," Jones said. "It is kind of like a legacy I left, a dent I made. I don't really think there is anything extra special about my situation, but I love to read and if I can share that enthusiasm, it is well worth it."

Like to ask lots of questions? We'll give you a good excuse.

Campus News - slnews@mtsu.edu
Community News - sstate@mtsu.edu
Office Phone: 615-898-5436

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Classifieds

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Evening Extended School Program: Part-time Activity Instructor for K-8. Any major - must be 18. Monday.

Continued from last column
Friday 2:15pm-6:00pm
\$6.50 to start - Call Jennifer
904-8220 eespm@mtsu.edu

Lifeguard needed: Campus Recreation needs a qualified lifeguard for the Tuesday/Thursday 7:30-9 a.m. shift. American Red Cross certification with updates implemented after Dec 2006 is required. Candidates must be able to pass skills test administered on site. Fill out an application at the

Continued from last column
Campus Recreation office,
7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday-Friday or call 898-2255 for more information.

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

For Rent

For lease

Continued from last column

FOR SALE

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Female roommate

Continued from last column

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, PanamaC-

Continued from last column

ity, 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.

\$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,

Continued from last column

SERVICES

WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHY - \$650. Julie Lampl Photography offers wedding packages starting at \$650. Servicing the Greater Nashville Area, contact us at (615) 799-9618 or julie.lampl@gmail.com and see galleries at www.jpbase.com/jlampl

Continued from last column

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.

Continued from last column

CRIME BRIEFS

Jan. 16, 10:31 a.m.

Theft
Keathley University Center
An extra duty officer at the Phillips Bookstore called in advising that a student needed to report a stolen backpack. The student claims a silver TI-83 Plus calculator was inside the backpack along with a small blue/black calculator. Blue Raider bookstore and Textbook Brokers were notified.

Jan. 16, 4:36 p.m.

Accident
MTSU Police Department
The subject came into the lobby of the university police department and said that someone had left a note on his vehicle claiming that they had hit it.

Jan. 16, 5:04 p.m.

Drug Abuse/Possession
Jim Cummings Hall
The area coordinator requested an officer due to a suspicious male subject leaving a room, which was possibly drug related.

Jan. 16, 8:42 p.m.

Miscellaneous
Corlew Hall
The caller advised that the area coordinator had witnessed subjects vandalizing a vehicle parked in front of Corlew Hall. The subjects were drawing inappropriate items on the vehicle out of the snow. Overall, no damage was done to the vehicle.

Jan. 16, 10:57 p.m.

Vandalism
Scarlett Commons Apartment 2
The area coordinator on duty claimed that someone had broken a window on one of the rooms.

Jan. 17, 6:39 a.m.

Vandalism
Scarlett Commons Apartment 4
While officers were on call at Scarlett Commons room 231 due to a broken window, housing located the suspect responsible in Scarlett Commons room number 824. The suspect admitted only to breaking a window at apartment 424.

Jan. 18, 9:07 a.m.

Burglary
Kirksey Old Main
A subject called and wanted to report a theft that happened over the break regarding a fifty dollar gift card and some other items.

Jan. 18, 9:54 a.m.

Theft
MTSU Police Department
The subject came into the university police department and claimed someone took out a student loan in his name.

Jan. 18, 1:03 p.m.

Harassment
Wiser-Patten Science Hall
A female subject called advising that someone was stalking her in the WPS.

Jan. 18, 4:05 p.m.

Theft
Mass Comm. South Parking Lot
A stolen bicycle was reported.

Jan. 18, 10:43 p.m.

Assault
Scarlett Commons Apartment 6
Byron McLeod, black male and 19, was arrested for consumption of alcohol under 21, public intoxication, resisting arrest and assault on an officer in Scarlett Commons Apartment 424.

Jan. 19, 3:53 p.m.

Theft
James Union Building
A wallet was reported stolen.

Jan. 22, 4:22 a.m.

Theft
Murphy Center
Three computer monitors and one laptop computer were located in a garbage can by the custodial staff. The laptop computer was possibly stolen from the press box.

MLK march: 'Many voices, one city'

Continued from page 1

Angie Watson, who was handing out stickers, said she supports Obama out of concern for health care.

Still, "everyone out here has the right to vote for whoever they choose," she said.

Many also showed support for Obama's chief Democratic rival, Senator Hillary Clinton. Republican candidates seemed to garner less attention, but at least one Ron Paul supporter was distributing information.

In addition to handing out information about candidates, some activists handed out flyers reminding voters about the Tennessee state primary, Feb. 5.

Beyond the election, marchers demonstrated support for a wide variety of causes, including the Green Party, labor, transfolk and immigration. Others had signs and flyers demonstrating opposition to such things as the Iraq War, capital punishment, and taxes on food.

The agitation for disparate political causes did not stop at the end of the march.

Various local organizations set up tables in the Gentry Center to distribute literature and advocate their respective causes to passers-by. At least one was equipped to register new voters.

Several speakers during the convocation also took the opportunity to push their politics.

Reverend Interdenominational, the president-elect of the Edward Thompson Minister's Fellowship, attacked the education system, "an unneeded war" and candidates touting "the experience card," a clear jab at Clinton for her criticism of Obama.

"I think the challenge of this generation will be not only civil rights but economic opportunity," said Congressman Cooper, speaking the same day numerous global economic indexes suffered dramatic losses due to fear of a U.S. recession.

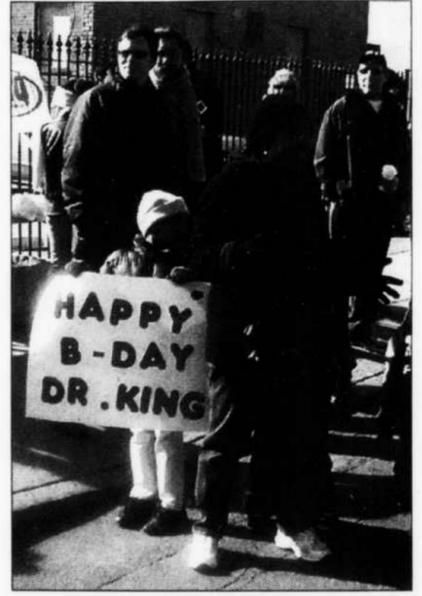


PHOTO BY TIFFANY GIBSON - ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR
A child holds a homemade sign as the King Day march begins Monday.

In addition to the many political causes represented, a few street vendors were present, selling cotton candy, as well as King T-shirts reading "1929-1968."

Despite the many different causes and goals represented throughout the day, the celebration of King's legacy remained the unifying element of the march. One homemade sign summed that spirit up: "Many voices, one city."

CORRECTION

Last Thursday's "Princeton Review lists MTSU No. 1 in region" [Jan. 17] contained incorrect information. Princeton Review does not rank schools for undergraduate students nor did it list MTSU as No. 1 in the Southeastern region.

MTSU did not outrank Belmont or Vanderbilt in academics because the Princeton Review does not serve as a ranking system. Belmont and Vanderbilt are located on the "Best in the Southeast" list.

Princeton Review did recognize MTSU as one of 146 colleges and universities in the 12 southeastern states that are considered the "Best in the Southeast." The list with all of the colleges recognized can be found on the Princeton Review Web site.

The Princeton Review does not follow a system of rating faculty or staff, but rather chooses schools based on the opinion of academic opportunities the institution offers.

Sidelines regrets these errors.

MLK week: Students celebrate King's legacy

Continued from page 1



PHOTO BY RYAN DEBOY - PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Students gather outside the Keathley University Center for a moment of silence for King.

Singers first time and they both did a wonderful job."

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People held "A Voteless People of Hopeless People" event on Jan. 23. NAACP members, along with Alpha Phi Alpha, registering students to vote and providing information about the voting process.

The event also featured an informational display about King, and chronicled his life, including his time as a member Alpha Phi Alpha.

"King thought voting was important because it serves as a communication between the people

and their government," said Lemon Keith, senior mass communication major and vice president of the MTSU chapter of NAACP. "We always say our voice is not heard, but if we don't vote, it can't be heard at all."

"King's peaceful protest was more effective because the strong move quiet and the weak start riots," said James Perry, senior public relations major. "You don't have to be violent to get your point across. Let America see them beating you down, and you get your point across without lifting a finger."

HOUSING REAPPLICATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR FALL 2008 / SPRING 2009

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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FEATURES

What are you doing to avoid the cold?

- Bundling up to a ridiculous degree
- Drinking a lot more alcohol
- Avoid it? I live to be frozen.

Go to mtsusidelines.com to answer

Freed Voices

MTSU Dance Theatre celebrates diversity

By Laura Roberts
Staff Writer

On Monday, Jan. 21, no freshly printed copies of Sidelines hit the streets, no frantic students were seen running to and from classes, and the campus of MTSU was closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

That same weekend, MTSU Dance Theatre did its part in observing the esteemed holiday.

"Freed Voices: A Dance Concert Featuring Choreography and Performance by African-American Guest Artists" was performed on Jan. 19 and 20 at MTSU's Tucker Theater to honor the late, great Dr. King and to celebrate diversity.

MTSU's Director of Dance Kim Nofsinger served as the artistic director of Freed Voices and came up with the production idea midway through 2006.

As time went on, Nofsinger contacted four internationally and nationally known choreographers and performers he thought would be best for the production: Zelma Badu-Young, Travis D. Gatling, Ursula Payne, and Erica Wilson-Perkins.

Nofsinger then chose the student dancers who would perform alongside them.

Out of the 45 members of MTSU Dance Theatre, Nofsinger selected 30 students to dance in Freed Voices. The students worked hard to make the production the best it could be. Nofsinger said this included the dancers giving up their fall break last semester for forty hours of rehearsals. Those same students also came back to campus a week before classes began this year in order to put in fifty hours of work to learn the last number of the production, "Stories of the Bones".

Senior marketing major and MTSU Dance Theatre dancer James Roberts didn't complain though. Roberts said it was nothing short of a pleasure working with "Stories of the Bones" choreographer Payne.

"I really love working with Ursula," Roberts said. "She makes you want to come back and keep going."

Roberts also said that his favorite piece of the production was the "Stories of the Bones" number.

"It creeps into me," Roberts said. "I feel like I lose myself in it."

In the end, all the choreographers and students' hard work paid off when the curtain went up at Tucker Theatre this past weekend.

The debut of "Freed Voices" was composed of seven numbers, four of which were premiere pieces.

One of the earlier numbers in the show was a premiere choreographed by Badu-Young and entitled "Marie-Joseph Angeliqne." The piece included a narration that told the true story of a slave named Marie-Joseph Angeliqne. In 1734, Angeliqne was accused of setting fire to buildings in Montreal and was later hung for the crimes. During the piece, Badu-Young performed a solo dance with blue and purple lighting flooding onstage. Towards the latter part of the number, a girl dressed in black came out with a rope. Badu-Young incorporated the rope in her dance as red-flamed lighting was illuminated in the background.

Later on in the show, the piece entitled "Abandoned" opened with the choreographer and dancer Gatling taking center stage in black pants and a white shirt. Gatling performed with a chair as a prop to a beautiful French song entitled "Ne Me Quitte Pas," which translates in English to "Don't Leave Me." Gatling said the performance was an expression of how he "felt abandoned by humanity" during the times in his life when he had been discriminated against because of his race.

The program pamphlet explained how the closing "Stories of the Bones" piece was inspired by the discovery of a slave cemetery, unearthed in 2006 in Davidson County, Tenn. The male dancers in the number went shirtless and the females dressed in simple clothes as they moved to natural sounding music to tell the "Stories of the Bones." Many times during the performance, the dancers mimicked people digging with invisible shovels. The number and the production came to a close as the students circled around each other and the lights faded to black.

When the curtain came down on the dancers of "Freed Voices," thundering applause could be heard all over Tucker Theatre. MTSU Dance Theatre's goal of honoring Dr. King and celebrating diversity in the country, had indeed been met.

Nofsinger stressed just how important he thought it was for people to observe Martin Luther King Jr. Day in one way or another and reflect on the past.

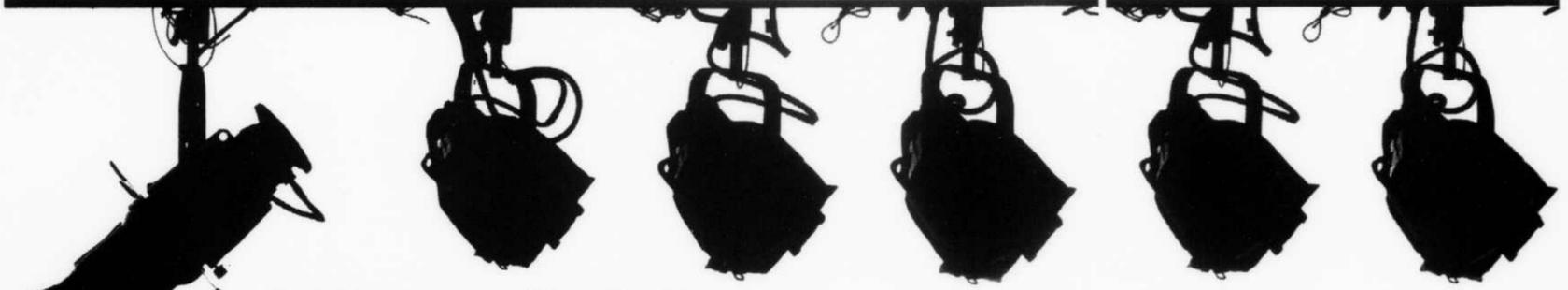
"It's huge," Nofsinger said. "Our culture and society has come so far, but not to say this is enough; we have to go further."



PHOTO BY MARTIN O'CONNOR

Steven Tate of Nashville, a junior speech and theatre major, is a featured dancer in the "Freed Voices" concert presented by MTSU Dance Theatre.

Movie Review



'Cloverfield'

Like the 'Blair Witch Project,' only with an actual plot and budget

By Dale Maxfield
Contributing Writer

The early months of any new year basically guarantee that the major studios will throw their left over muck from 2007 into the theaters for poor audiences to endure.

The three movies that I've seen so far this year all have received one star ("First Sunday," "In the Name of the King," "One Missed Call").

It's in desperate times like these that we should all raise our arms in the air and wail, "Thank God for 'Cloverfield.'"

The plot is quite simple. During a surprise party held for Rob Hawkins (Michael Stahl-David), a tremor is felt similar to an earthquake. The partygoers soon find out that an earthquake did not take place; instead, a Godzilla-like monster is attacking New York City.

This is realized once the head of the Statue of

Liberty comes flying by the crowd. Rob and his friends then go to find Beth, (Odette Yustman), Rob's love interest, in the heart of Manhattan.

While Cloverfield (directed by Matt Reeves) is no masterpiece, it still has plenty of fantastic qualities. The movie is shot entirely from handheld cameras. It would be fair to call this "The Blair Witch Project" with an actual plot and budget.

There were plenty of scares and thrills in the film. While many of these "jump scares" seem too obvious for conventional methods, the first person camera view gets the audience more engaged. Be warned: You will get nauseous.

The wonderful cinematography of Cloverfield is not its only highlight, however. Michael Stahl-David gives a surprisingly good performance for a movie with this sort of plotline. This, however, will be unfortunately overlooked in the long run because the real stars of this movie are its technical aspects. That said, Stahl-David's performance

is noteworthy.

The movie does have its shortcomings, however. The character of Hud Platt (T.J. Miller) was supposed to provide some comic relief. Instead, he comes across as rather annoying and unrealistic. There were also some minor plot points I had qualms with. The characters have tendencies to make rather ridiculous decisions. One of the worst errors a screenwriter can make is when he makes the audience say "Yeah, right." That happens on a few occasions throughout the movie, but the good moments definitely outweigh the bad ones.

Cloverfield is a wonderful example of a film that takes a simple idea and goes a long way with it. The handheld camera works so well that it arguably carries the movie. However, if this becomes the new trend, I would be highly upset. Cloverfield is fun for the same reason that 3-D films are fun. They are novelties, and as stylistic as they may be, they are more fun because they are not

the norm. If this filmmaking method becomes too frequent, Cloverfield will lose the magic that makes it entertaining in the first place.

★★★★
(out of five)

Dale's Top 10 of 2007

- Zodiac
- Juno
- 3:10 to Yuma
- Grindhouse
- Before the Devil Knows You're Dead
- Lust, Caution
- Into the Wild
- Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street
- There Will Be Blood
- No Country for Old Men

What's next for spring

all that glitters

By Lauren Prince
Contributing Writer

There is a pivotal decision every person must make during his or her life. Each must choose between living what they love or simply working to live. And then there are the few who find a way to do both.

They say the first step to recovery is admitting you have a problem.

My name is Lauren, and I'm a fashion junkie. I am not ashamed. Life is too short to be quiet any longer.

I've always loved clothes, even as a little girl. As I grew, my passion for fashion only intensified. I learned to spot a new trend seasons away, but always assumed everyone shared the same skill. But I learned that I was wrong. Anyone who watches The Style Channel's "How Do I Look" or reads Mr. Blackwell's "Worst Dressed List" knows that normal people and celebrities alike often fall prey to fashion mishaps. But how could I turn my fashion know-how and truthful, albeit sometimes brutal, honesty into a career?

I've always loved magazines, pouring over dozens every month, analyzing trends and colors, new designers and models, but how could I make a career out of a job that seemed as attainable as a front row seat during New York's fashion week, sitting next to Anna Wintor?

So that is where this column comes in.

Now, it must be said, I don't know everything (as my Biology professor can attest). Though when it comes to the pretty, sparkly, bold, glossy, new and different, I can actually lead the conversation instead of just nodding and looking interested.

This column is about the aforementioned adjectives. I want to have a discussion with the student body about trends, new designers, colors, shapes, prints, bags, shoes, belts, people, places, events, parties, makeup, hair, jewelry. You get the picture.

I'm happy to give you advice about all that I know and have devoted my time to figuring out and would love to hear what you think, too. I want to know what MTSU students love, what makes them happy to put on every morning and night, what trends they've spotted in Hollywood or on East-Main Street.

Certain trends, no matter how much you want to love them, just don't work for everybody, whether it's body type (everything looks different when it's not hanging on a 5'10, 97 pound frame), or it's just not your style. But that doesn't mean you can't be fashion forward. The main goal of every fashionista should be the elusive art of mastering the 'mix.'

The 'mix' can be a variation on many forms of style, and by 'mixing' certain pieces or looks, you get the most fabulous outfit possible. This can be achieved by mixing trendy, current pieces with classic more timeless ones.

It can also be about price. Mixing designer pieces with thrift store finds adds a personal and eclectic vibe to your outfit. The mix can also be about your accessories or hair and make up. A cocktail dress is always dramatic, though much more so with bare make up, except for perhaps red lips and undone hair.

Finally, it can be about mixing girly, frilly fabrics and colors with edgy, masculine pieces.

I have always believed the celebrities who have their own unique style are much more interesting to look at than those who always play it safe. Sarah Jessica Parker, Chloe Sevigny, Scarlett Johanson, Lindsay Lohan and Kate Moss: all extremely different women, though all masters of the 'mix' and consistently look fabulous.

I had to begin with the importance of finding individual personal style because the new spring trends, while fantastically fresh and bold, could perhaps be intimidating. Though now it feels like spring will never come through the long, arduous days filled with bitter wind and spitting snow, I promise it will.

The upcoming season is certainly not one for the shrinking violet. R.O.Y.G.B.I.V has come to town, so expect to see an incredible amount of bright color. A lot of pink and yellow have been popping up, though I still have a particular affinity for the regal purple of fall.

The trick to wearing shades that may be too loud for day wear is to remember that the lighter the sky the lighter the color. Save your magentas and fluorescent pinks for evening. What better way to break out of the monotony of winter grays and blacks than mixing in a few pops of color?

Prints are huge for spring and will appear in every way imaginable. There are geometric prints with a mod vibe carrying over from fall, as well as large blocks of color in clothes replicating a '70s disco feel.

Fashion is cyclical, so for better or worse, hippie prints and florals are going to be everywhere this season. From loud, bold flowers to tiny calico prints, this trend is one to embrace in large or small doses, though it must be done carefully to avoid looking like Laura Ingalls or your grandmother's table cloth.

If you wear a dress with bold florals (think black and white blooms) toughen it up a bit with an edgy clutch in red or hot pink and wear sexy, strappy sandals or pumps. Wear this trend now with opaque black tights and platform heels and, later, opt for bare legs with sexy sandals. Experiment and find a way to wear these prints to suit your individual style.

Expect to see more silhouettes with a '70s feel. Get this look with long, lean trousers or body skimming dresses worn with strappy platforms and a skinny belt. Forget anything vintage made of polyester. It's too painful for me to even think about.

Gorgeous tribal prints and those reminiscent of exotic cultures from around the globe are a great way to make a statement, but be careful when planning your look and don't pile them on all at once or you'll be mistaken for a Woodstock groupie.

Menswear is a major trend for spring, though now is an opportune time to experiment and find pieces that will take you all the way to next season. The key to mastering the menswear trend is finding a balance between the masculine and feminine. Mix a tweedy sport coat with a frilly skirt.

Pair a long sweater, think Grampa cardigan, over a shiny, sparkly camisole, and bonus points for a fedora (also huge this season). Finish with a floral scarf and platform heels to tie it all together.

Finally, expect to see lots of polka dots and feminine ruffles, as well as black paired with silver and earth tones with gold, black and white with pops of color. Shiny patent leather is still huge in vivid hues like red, pink and blue.

Now is a fantastic time for women and fashion, with individuality as the front runner to any trend. Embrace the trends you love and broaden your horizons by trying on some you don't.

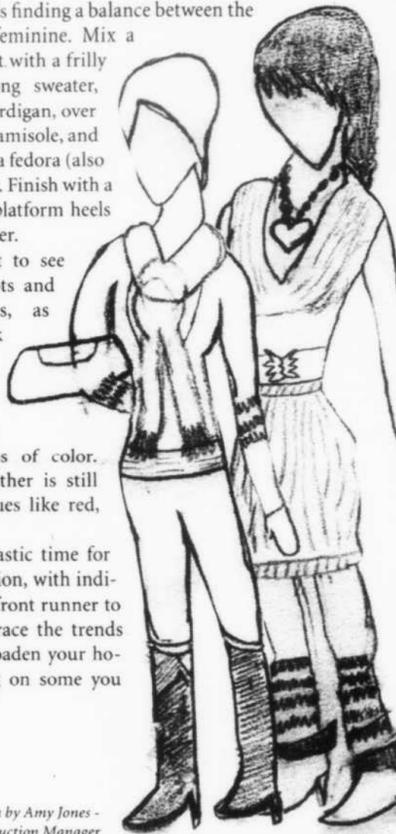


Illustration by Amy Jones -
Production Manager

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Sidelines wishes to invite all journalism students who are required to publish an article for class, to attend our weekly staff meeting on Monday to speak to one of our editors.

Failure to do so will result in you failing your class, which we will take no responsibility for.

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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:

Honor King by continuing his work

It's hard to appreciate the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. to an appropriate degree when you were born some two decades after the Civil Rights Movement.

Sadly, for many of us, one of the first things that King Day brings to mind is how far we still have to go to reach real equality. Further, the lines along which our society is fractured are not solely racial – we are also divided by such things as gender, religion, sexual preference and class privilege.

America was founded on the principle of equality, and much of its greatness owes to affording opportunities for anyone willing to work hard. Yet it is evident that even today, some people will have to work harder than others in order to succeed, solely due to circumstances that cannot be helped and that should not be relevant.

That inequality is no excuse to give up for those disadvantaged by discrimination. For others to feign oblivion to it, blithely perpetuating the status quo, would be un-American.

Further, it is worth noting that race is a purely social construct. From a scientific standpoint, humans are simply humans.

Race as an intrinsic divider of mankind was devised as a means of dehumanizing slaves. Rather than reconcile themselves with the unconscionable nature of slavery, its practitioners simply denied their cruel deeds were harming real people at all. Incredibly, over a century after abolition, the vestiges of this fallacious mindset continue to poison countless minds.

Although segregation ended decades ago, in many ways we remain a divided society. Neighborhoods and school districts are still often split along racial lines. Too often, this rift extends to educational opportunity, and from there pervades social and professional aspects of life.

So as much as King accomplished, it's critical that we do more than celebrate his successes – we must also examine our society's remaining inequalities, and expand the scope of our ambition beyond race. We must outdo King.

The focal point of King's legacy was tolerance – that is, simply tolerating those who are different from us. That shouldn't be too much to ask. Does it hurt men when women earn the same wage as men for the same work? Does it hurt straight couples when those of the same sex receive the same benefits from their employers?

Hardly. But it clearly hurts our society when we are divided in so many ways.

Faces in the Crowd

How do you feel about people utilizing Martin Luther King Jr. Day for their own political agendas?



Phillips



Jones

"I think you should celebrate the good he [Martin Luther King Jr. did], but you should not use it for your own political game. Just celebrate what he was trying to achieve."

-Tracey Phillips, senior music theory

"I think its garbage. All the activists and their games had nothing to do with Martin Luther King Jr. They took advantage of a great American figure to promote their own game. Boo on them."

-Josh Jones, sophomore accounting



Miller



Eli

"Martin Luther King Jr. strived to bring society together as a whole. The sad part is it takes someone's holiday for someone to listen [to] a different political standpoint."

-John Miller, junior instrumental music education

"I feel that it's kind of dishonoring him as a person and as a leader. It's dishonoring him because it focuses off [Martin Luther King Jr.'s] accomplishments."

-Donnie Eli, senior aerospace pro pilot



"And Friends"

frankhasenmueller@gmail.com

Frank Hasenmueller

Book censorship: a burning issue

Atticus Finch would not approve. As the intellectual, morally upstanding leader of a small Southern town, Finch would naturally oppose an effort to stifle the learning of young citizens.

But that's what's happening, all across the country.

Book censorship or banning is not a new phenomenon, but it is one which teachers, parents, librarians and students invariably encounter, all too often.

In Jan. 2006, the story, "To Kill a Mockingbird" by Nelle Harper Lee was challenged in Williamson County Schools. The anonymous protestor took issue with usage of racially-charged language and mild profanity. Of course, the intelligent reader and history student would know that racially-charged language would be par for the course in a book about the pre-Civil Rights era in the South, but those who challenge this book don't seem to get it. Yet, racism rears its ugly head, and feeble-minded people continue to challenge this book. Luckily, the school board in Williamson County voted unanimously to keep Atticus Finch in their schools.

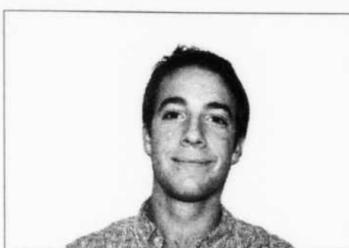
The American Library Association keeps a list of banned and challenged books, and a database on the location and the institution of the challenge. It holds a yearly celebration to tout the merits of hotly contested books, called Banned Book Week. Some of the books on the list are surprising, and others, not so much.

The no-brainers include "The Anarchist Cookbook" by William Powell and "The New Joy of Gay Sex" by Charles Silverstein. Most parents would agree that these are not necessarily suited for very young readers, at least in public school libraries. (Of course, a book touting the joys of straight sex would be banned just as quickly.)

The surprising books are the ones that shape your perceptions and teach life lessons. It is for these reasons that these books must remain in every school library and be available to any teacher who wishes to teach them. These books must stand up to continued challenges.

We read "Slaughterhouse-Five" by Kurt Vonnegut to better understand the horrors of war, yet the 21st century has literally brought war without cessation.

"Brave New World" by Aldous Huxley can educate us about the hazards of our



The Pen is Mightier

By Evan Barker
Staff Columnist

postmodern time; with totalitarian governments and omnipotent mass media. Of course, the majority of media outlets are currently owned by only five massive corporations, bringing us ever closer to Huxley's dystopia, but challenges to the book continue nonetheless.

George Orwell's "Animal Farm" and "1984" are also dystopia novels. One is an allegory of the formation of the totalitarian Soviet Union and the other is deeply ingrained into our cultural lexicon as the perfect example of government gone wrong.

Lois Lowry's "The Giver" is like George Orwell or Aldous Huxley for kids. "The Giver" is set in a utopia just as dysfunctional as Huxley's, but the book is written so that younger readers may understand, and be less likely to be brainwashed.

Ray Bradbury's "Fahrenheit 451" is another oft-challenged book in the literary canon. Ostensibly, challengers find its language offensive, but this is a textbook example of literary irony. A book about burning books is challenged in schools. The truth is stranger than fiction.

Book banning is certainly not likely to end anytime soon, but parents and educators must remain vigilant against it. Another memorable incident occurred when many right-wing religious fanatic groups burned copies of J.K. Rowling's "Harry Potter" books en masse. Supposedly, reading "Harry Potter" encourages children to study the occult, theoretically distracting them from studying the One True God®.

Their logic is laughable. A book includes fictional stories about the occult, and this somehow equals encouraging our impressionable children to abandon their religion

for magic wands and pointy hats. By those standards, Agatha Christie's murder novels would have instigated mass homicide by now, yet society remains intact.

Of course, these are the same people that file complaints against "Heather Has Two Mommies" by Leslea Newland, or "Daddy's Roommate" by Michael Willhoite.

Proponents of banning such books often argue that books should not mention the homosexual lifestyle without condemning it. Interestingly enough, "Daddy's Roommate" merits far more challenges than "The Anarchist Cookbook." The reader may decide which is more dangerous, if any.

This censorship agenda extends further into sex education. The book "What's Happening to My Body? Book for Girls: A Growing-Up Guide for Parents and Daughters" by Lynda Maderas is high on the ALA's list. Not surprisingly, so is its companion for boys. Puberty is apparently too hot for public school, although it's a natural biological process for all humans, one about which children must eventually learn.

This, of course, leaves schools and libraries hopelessly mired in legal wrangling, because it is usually unclear whether popular opinion or equal opportunity should have the upper hand in the education of America's children. As a result, educators shy away from many banned books, leaving our children intellectually poorer, and giving an easy victory to those who simply cannot stand to hear a viewpoint other than their own. This mistake must not be repeated. The latest books on the closed-minded hit list are the "His Dark Materials" series by Philip Pullman, which includes "The Golden Compass." According to Internet furor and outraged parents, the books are about killing God.

Not to let the facts get in the way of a good story, pundits have pushed for the burning of these books and the boycott of the movie series. Many readers object to this one-sided paraphrasing of these books, and rightfully so. Rather than bowing to public opinion and stigmatizing an author, challengers should read and thoughtfully consider the works that they wish to silence.

Who knows? They could learn something from a book.

Evan Barker is a senior viola performance major and can be reached at ehb2d@mtsu.edu.

Letter to the Editor:

Support the Blue Raiders, not other schools

Since I have been at MTSU, I have developed a deep passion for our athletic programs and have become an avid supporter and fan of the Blue Raiders. I have also been an every day reader of Sidelines, until Monday [Jan. 14]. Last semester I was so proud of Sportacus to publish an article about the Orange that has crept all over this campus.

However, Monday as I pick up my first issue of Sidelines for the spring semester, I flip by the sports section to see an article about Vanderbilt losing to Kentucky in the men's basketball. I stopped for a minute then went and set the paper back down. We are BLUE, not gold and black or orange for that matter. As a fan and reader, I want to read about things going on at and about MTSU, not about surrounding schools that sometimes steal our spotlight. These student athletes lay everything out there when they take the "stage" and they deserve to be recognized for it, especially in their own school newspaper.

Let's leave The Tennessean to take care of the other schools while we take care of our Blue Raiders. We have a lot to be proud of. We are Blue.

-Kyle Tornquist
sophomore science major

Trey Johnson - Contributing Cartoonist



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

Editor in Chief
Andy Harper*
sleditor@mtsu.edu

Features
Sarah Lavery
sfatur@mtsu.edu

Photography
Ryan DeBooy
slphoto@mtsu.edu

Managing Editor
Mary Rose Fox*
sidelinesmanager@gmail.com

Sports
Richard Lowe
slsports@mtsu.edu

Production
Amy Jones
slads@mtsu.edu

Campus News
Christin Pepple*
slnews@mtsu.edu

Assist. News
Tiffany Gibson
slcopy@mtsu.edu

Online
Bryan Law
slonline@mtsu.edu

Comm. News
Dan Potter*
slstate@mtsu.edu

Assist. Features
Katey Coil
slflash@mtsu.edu

Adviser
Steven Chappell
schappell@mtsu.edu

Opinions
Jessica Laven*
slopinio@mtsu.edu

Assist. Sports
Chris Martin
slsports@mtsu.edu

Advertising
Jeri Lamb
jlamb@mtsu.edu

*denotes member of editorial board

Business
Eveon Corl
ecorl@mtsu.edu

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UNO, McCaleb snap Blue Raiders' winning streak

Yates scores career-high 30 points in first home loss since Dec. 29

By Chris Martin
Assistant Sports Editor

A four-game winning streak was not in the cards for Middle Tennessee when it fell at home to the New Orleans Privateers 82-75 in overtime on Saturday.

The Blue Raiders (7-10, 4-3 Sun Belt) held a 64-58 lead with 39 seconds left in regulation before the Privateers (14-5, 5-2 SBC) putback as time expired to make the contest 66-66.

MT ran out of depth on the bench in overtime and was outscored 16-9. The Blue Raiders played the extra stanza without starting guards Nigel Johnson and Kevin Kanaskie, both of whom had fouled out, and were forced to play freshman guard Broderick Gilchrest. To make matters worse for MT, starting center Theryn Hudson did not play due to a foot injury, which meant the Blue Raiders had to play the overtime period without three starters.

"We didn't have our two point guards, Nigel [Johnson] and Kevin [Kanaskie], on the floor to run the offense," freshman guard Josh Sain said. "It was hard to do anything."

MT experienced trouble at the line towards the end of the game, missing five of their last nine free throw attempts. Overall, the Blue Raiders only knocked down 58.4 percent of their 24 free throws, compared to UNO's 73.3 percent on 30 attempts.

"It boils down to simple things," MT head coach Kermit Davis said. "If we just make free throws, the other parts don't really matter. We had the game in hand, and all we had to do was hit free throws. We can talk about who fouled out and this and that, but if



Freshman guard Josh Sain scored 13 points and picked up five rebounds in MT's 82-75 overtime loss to New Orleans. PHOTO BY RYAN DEBOY - PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

we make free throws, it's game over."

Redshirt sophomore Desmond Yates set a new career-high in points with 30. That is six points better than his previous career-best of 24, which he set in MT's previous game against the Troy Trojans on Jan. 16. Yates shot 12-of-20 from the field and also had five rebounds.

"He's playing as good as any big guy in our league," Davis said. "He can take New Orleans' big guys and go off the dribble and drive into the paint. For a sophomore, he's going to be a special guy. There were two great players on the floor tonight in McCaleb and Desmond Yates. I don't care what level you are watching, you are watching two high-level guys."

Second-leading scorer Demetrius Green, who has been a catalyst on both ends of the floor for the Blue Raiders, only made two of his 10 shots to finish with five points, less than half his 11.6 points per game average coming into the contest. Green did pull down seven

boards, good enough for second on the team behind forward Dino Hair's eight.

UNO was led by reigning SBC player of the year Bo McCaleb. The senior guard dropped 28 points on MT. The Blue Raiders played good defense on McCaleb in the first half, allowing the SBC's leading scorer to pick up only eight points in three for seven shooting. McCaleb then came back for 17 points in the second half, hitting half of his next 14 shots.

"We did pretty good on him," Yates said. "He still got 28 [points], but we did a decent job. He started taking over in the second half. He's the best scorer in our league, so we kind of knew he was going to do that."

The Blue Raiders will look to start another winning streak today when they take on the Warhawks of Louisiana-Monroe (7-12, 1-6 SBC). The game will take place in Monroe, La. and will begin at 7:30 p.m.

Lady Raiders sink Lady Privateers

MT, led by Holt, has four players score in double figures

By Jo Jo Freeman
MT Media Relations

Middle Tennessee put together a 19-4 run over a six-minute stretch, the last three minutes of the first half and the first three of the second, and never looked back in defeating New Orleans 80-61, Sunday afternoon at Murphy Center. It was the 34th consecutive home victory over Sun Belt competition for the Blue Raiders dating to 2005.

Amber Holt led four double-figure scorers for Middle Tennessee with 24 points and seven rebounds as well as four assists. Anne Marie Lanning hit four three-pointers and scored 13 points, while Starr Orr added 14 points and five boards and Chelsia Lymon netted 12 points with a career-high six rebounds. Lymon also had three steals and three assists in her third consecutive start.

Middle Tennessee built a 12-point lead in the first half but UNO cut the deficit to four with 2:47 left before intermission. Lanning then hit a pair of three-pointers and Holt added two free throws and a basket before the break for a 42-30 advantage. All four double-figure scorers had points in the opening minutes of the second half, buckets from Orr and Holt, two free throws by Lymon and a three-pointer from Lanning capped the 19-4 run to give Middle Tennessee a 19-point advantage.

The Blue Raiders would push the lead to as many as 27 late in the contest, and UNO never got closer than 17 the rest of the way.

All eight Middle Tennessee players scored points and played at least 12 minutes. The Blue Raiders turned 21 Privateer turnovers into 26 points and won the battle of the boards for the second straight game, 40-37, thanks to a team-best eight boards from Emily Queen.

Holt was just 8-of-18 from the field but made 8-for-10 at the foul



Senior guard Starr Orr, who scored 14 points, was one of four Lady Raiders to score in double digits against the Privateers. PHOTO BY MT MEDIA RELATIONS

line. Orr had all five of her rebounds on the offensive glass and Lanning was 4-of-9 from three-point range, giving the freshman nine three-pointers in the last two games.

UNO played well in spurts in the opening 20 minutes and never let the Raiders run away with the game. The Privateers shot 13-of-22 from the field and continually cut into the Middle Tennessee lead.

The Blue Raiders led 27-16 with 7:07 remaining in the half before UNO put together a 12-5 run over the next four plus minutes, cutting the lead to four. Middle Tennessee then closed the half with its 10-2 run for the 12-point halftime edge.

Middle Tennessee plays at Louisiana-Monroe tonight at 5:30 p.m. before returning home Saturday against North Texas at 7 p.m.

Athletics vs. student body: The blame game ends now



By Richard Lowe
Sports Editor

When I arrived at Middle Tennessee in the fall of 2004, I wondered, "Where are all the fans?" As time has passed I have grown to accept the fact that there won't be many sell-out crowds at athletic events. The one thing that I have not outgrown is the constant finger pointing between members of the MTSU Athletic Department and the student body.

Let me update you on the blame game. The athletic department gets upset when students don't show up to games and the student body claims they don't know when games take place and even if they did know, there is no incentive in going to games. In the end, student attendance is low and the conclusion is that students just don't care about our athletic department.

As a student, let me just say this is completely false. Although both sides have valid arguments, I am beginning to think that most people don't realize what the main issue is. Instead of blaming each other on why students can't walk across campus to attend games, let's take a look at the bigger picture.

In order to do this, we must disqualify any student who graduated before MT became a full division I-A member in the fall of 1999. In the same accord, we must disqualify any game that took place before that time. Although we are examining the entire department, football at the I-A level is significantly different than at the I-AA, so we must keep it fair. Finally, we have to judge on-campus events only, "Home games" in Nashville are impossible to get to

without transportation.

This, however, can kill too many stats, thus far as attendance goes. Football loses their most attended game (versus Tennessee - 27,568) but keeps the top 10 over that, including two games from this year (Western Kentucky and Virginia). In men's basketball, the No. 1 attended game in that time period is also the No. 1 game of all time (versus Western Kentucky - 11,807). In women's basketball, the top five games not only come from this time period, but also from a two-year span (Louisiana - Lafayette, Denver, Western Kentucky, and Maryland in 2006; LSU in 2007).

It is true that some students honestly don't know when games are but it has been proven many times before that the best way to advertise on this campus is by word of mouth. This is why the majority of parties and concerts on and off-campus are filled to capacity. This is also why many of my friends are in attendance at the games.

There are ways to advertise games that take place on this campus besides word of mouth. Signage off-campus helps as well. "Go Blue" painted on a window is nice, but it doesn't compare to "Beat North Texas this Saturday." Little signs around the streets of campus are fine, but it doesn't compare to billboards advertising for season tickets on I-24. The "I'm One" campaign is good for recruiting students but you have to be able to acknowledge the presence of an athletic department outside of campus.

To be fair, we also have to take into account that some students just don't want to know when games are. In every university on this planet, there are some students who are only interested in going to class and then going home. This same principle holds true at MT as well. I don't see anything wrong with that.

See Blame game. 8

Sun Belt Conference Basketball Standings

Men's Basketball - East Division

Team	SBC	Overall
South Alabama	7-0	15-3
Western Kentucky	6-1	14-5
Middle Tennessee	4-3	7-10
Troy	2-5	9-9
Florida International	2-5	5-12
Florida Atlantic	2-6	6-13

Women's Basketball - East Div.

Team	SBC	Overall
Western Kentucky	7-0	14-5
Middle Tennessee	6-2	11-8
South Alabama	3-4	12-6
Florida International	3-4	7-11
Troy	2-5	9-9
Florida Atlantic	0-7	4-12

NCAA Women's Basketball

Division I: Points Per Game Through Games 01/20/2008

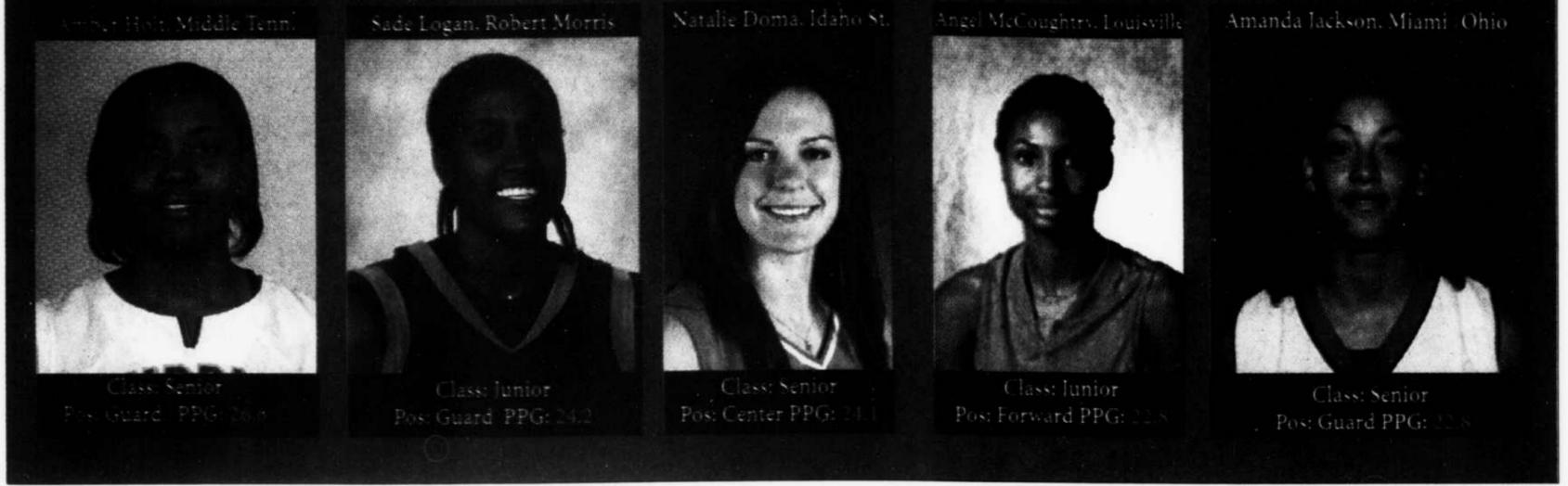


Photo Illustration by Amy Jones - Production Manager

Buick Invitational starts this weekend at Torrey Pines

Tiger Woods, Phil Mickelson among golfers participating in event held in La Jolla, Calif.; Golf Channel anchor Kelly Tilgham returns from suspension caused by racially insensitive comments

By Doug Ferguson
AP Golf Writer

At sunrise Wednesday at Torrey Pines, the PGA Tour began a slow shift back to golf.

Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson have not been on the same piece of property in nearly six months, since celebrating a U.S. victory at the Presidents Cup in Montreal. They were on the first tee together in the chilly morning of the Buick Invitational pro-am, Woods on the South Course, Mickelson on the North Course, before making their 2008 debut.

This was one day after a public meeting on the new anti-doping policy that brought the occasional outburst.

This was two days after Woods' first public comments on a Golf Channel anchor getting suspended for jokingly suggesting that young players "lynch" Woods in a back alley. Only three days before that, a magazine editor was fired for putting a noose on the cover.

And a dozen or so players are still livid over the PGA Tour's new cut policy that kept 18 guys from playing on the weekend in the first full-field tournament of the year.

Some feel the PGA Tour season doesn't start until Woods shows up.

This year, it couldn't come fast enough.

Woods and Mickelson headline the field at the Buick Invitational, which is sure to have some sizzle beyond the fact they are No. 1 and No. 2 in the world ranking and the two biggest personalities in golf.

They have combined to win this tournament six of the last eight years, and Woods is the three-time defending champion. A win this week would be his sixth victory in 12 season-openers, and allow him to tie Arnold Palmer in career tour victories with 62.

And while the majors don't start until April at Augusta, consider this week a sneak preview of the U.S. Open, which will be held at Torrey Pines in June and will be substantially tougher.

Woods caused a stir earlier this month by saying the Grand Slam was "easily within reason," and he hasn't backed off.

"For most of my career, I've won more than four tournaments per year, and all I have to do is win the right four," Woods said. "And I've done those a few times. I think if you put it all together, have luck on your sides, all the stars will line up, and it certainly is possible."

One challenge could come from Mickelson, whose season last year was slowed by a wrist injury. He won two of the last four events he played, including a duel with Woods outside Boston and his first international victory at the HSBC Champions in China.

"My excitement level for '08 is extremely high because I feel very comfortable with the swing changes I've made over the last nine months with Butch Harmon," Mickelson said. "I feel like I'm ready

to play competitively without having to think about the nuances of that and to be able to react again to shots, as opposed to having to think about swing mechanics."

There were still lingering effects of the other issues.

Woods again said he spoke to Golf Channel anchor Kelly Tilghman about the "lynch" comment during the telecast from the Mercedes-Benz Championship and he thought the incident was over.

Then came a picture of a noose on the cover of Golfweek magazine, "and from there it created more of a firestorm," he said. Woods also was asked if he felt he should have been more outspoken on such a social issue, and he responded by mentioning his work with children at the Tiger Woods Learning Center and other education programs through his foundation.

"I know there are people who want me to be a champion of all causes, and I just can't do that," Woods said.

Tilghman, meanwhile, returns to work at Torrey Pines after a two-week suspension and plans an on-air apology at the top of coverage Thursday. CBS Sports takes over coverage on the weekend, the first time golf is on a network this year, and on the weekend where the NFL is taking a break before the Super Bowl.

This isn't a major and doesn't feel like one, even with the U.S. Open coming in June. But it has Woods and Mickelson, and those two tend to make the PGA Tour more about golf.

Blame game: A sports plateau?

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My only problem is when those people speak their minds on how they feel our teams are terrible whenever they hear about a loss. Our women's basketball team won 30 games last year, but when they lost in the second round of the NCAA Tournament, I still heard students talk about how "[MT] never steps up during the big moments."

With these things being stated, I honestly don't believe either side is at fault. If anything, both sides are improving with their approach toward the games themselves. Attendance is growing in all sports, the athletes and coaches are more competitive, and the facilities rival some of the more successful universities. If there is any blame

to be placed, then the finger should be pointed at Murfreesboro. Don't get me wrong. There are citizens and business owners in this town that bleed blue every chance they get but they also bleed for the Riverdale Warriors, Blackman Blaze, Siegel Stars, Oakland Patriots and MTCS Cougars, among others.

Murfreesboro is not a college town, and since it isn't, the university does not get the perks that many other schools around the country receive. Until this town starts to do more of the small things like signage and special events cater to the Blue Raider sports fans, then we will forever be seen on the same plane as the high schools here.

Richard Lowe is a junior Electronic Media Journalism major. He can be reached at rlowe@mtsutv.org

SPORTS BRIEFS

Sloss named SBC Track Male Track Athlete of the Week

Middle Tennessee's DeRay Sloss was voted the Sun Belt Male Track Athlete of the Week on Tuesday after his performances at the Blue Raider Invitational over the weekend. Sloss won the 55-meter hurdles, finished second in the 200-meters and anchored the mile relay team at the Blue Raider Invitational.

The honor is the third in two weeks for the Blue Raiders after sophomores Zamzam Sangau and Sarah Nambawa both garnered awards last week.

The Blue Raiders return to action Saturday at Murphy Center, hosting the Middle Tennessee Classic.

Holt added to Wade Watch list

Lady Raider senior Amber Holt has been placed on the State Farm Wade Watch list, the award given annually by the Women's Basketball Coaches Association to the top national player.

This is only the second time a Lady Raider has landed on the prestigious list with the first being Chrissy Givens last season.

Holt leads the nation in scoring with an average of 26.6 points. She also is shooting 53.7 percent from the floor, good for 41st in the nation. Holt has also been busy on defense averaging 2.5 steals a contest.

"This is a great honor for Amber and is a reward for the hard work she put in this summer

to improve her all-around game," Lady Raider head coach Rick Insell said. "She is definitely one of the best players in the nation and has played that way all season long."

The Wade Trophy was established in 2000 and is awarded to Division I athletes based on the following criteria: game and season statistics, leadership, character, effect on their team and overall playing ability.

Women's tennis loses to UT, Ole Miss to start the season

Middle Tennessee's women's tennis team dropped its first two matches of the season over the weekend.

In their first game of the season the Blue Raiders fell 7-0 to No. 22 Tennessee on Friday. The Lady Vols, who possess the No. 2 doubles pair in Caitlin Whoriskey and Zsafia Zsabor, took every singles and doubles match.

On Sunday, MT lost to Ole Miss 6-1. Senior Claudia Zsabo and freshman Shannon Hartmann defeated Soledad Podipnik and Preethi Subramanian in a doubles match.

Junior Marlene Chemin picked up the lone point for the Blue Raiders when she defeated Subramanian 6-2, 2-6, 10-7.

MT will return to the court on Friday when it hosts Tennessee Tech. The match is set to begin at 12 p.m.

Information for this article gathered from MT Media Relations

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