



partly cloudy

Countdown to destiny

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ONLINE

Do you agree with the decision to hold the Olympics in China in 2008?

'Baby Boy' another Singleton milestone

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INSIDE: In these hard times, athletes should not get special benefits

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An editorially independent newspaper

SIDELINES

Middle Tennessee State University

MURFREESBORO, TENNESSEE

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Campus Briefs

MTSU top in Heart Walk

Marva Lucas, from Developmental Studies, and Anne-Maples-Vaughn, from Campus Planning, are MTSU co-chairs for Heart Walk 2001. The Heart Walk is a fund-raiser sponsored by the American Heart Association held each year in Rutherford County. They plan to keep the tradition that MTSU has obtained by being the top company in dollars and walkers for the last five years. MTSU broke the Heart Walk records a few years ago by raising \$23,000. The Heart Walk will be held Oct. 21 on campus. Lucas and Vaughn said they would start recruiting for participants after classes have started. "It's not too soon to get started," Lucas said. "The Heart Walk seems like a long way off, but it takes time to rally people together, create enthusiasm and keep that momentum building."

Teachers learn to fly

The 44th annual Tennessee Aviation Education Workshops held June 11-29 at MTSU educates teachers about aerospace knowledge. The workshop gave nearly 80 teachers from Kindergarten to 12th grade the opportunity to fly two hours with flight instructors from MTSU's flight operations at the Murfreesboro Airport. Teachers in the advanced group participated in a two-day program from June 20-21 at the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala. The teachers in the program also toured the Kennedy Space Center near Titusville, Fla.

Wulsberg lectures in Japan

MTSU's chemistry professor Gary Wulsberg has been invited to be a speaker at the 16th International Symposium on Nuclear Quadrupole Interactions in Hiroshima, Japan, Sep. 9-14. His lecture is entitled "NQR Studies of Weakly Coordinating Anions and Ligands of Interest in Industrial Catalysis."

Boles announced new chair

Ray Phillips, interim dean of the College of Basic and Applied Sciences, announced Walter W. Boles as the new chair of the engineering technology and industrial studies department June 29. Boles will begin Aug. 1 after the retirement of James H. Lorenz June 30.

Senior accepted as scholar

Brian Chance, a senior from Morristown, Tenn., has been accepted as a Fulbright Scholar. He is the second student ever at MTSU to become a Fulbright scholar. Alyssa Cannon, a vocal performance major, was the first to receive the honor. Chance started MTSU as an English major and after a semester decided to get a second major in Germany. After his graduation in August, Chance plans to travel to Germany to do research from September to July 2002.

Tuition raised fifteen percent

By James Evans
Editor in Chief

Inadequate funding from the state legislature caused the Tennessee Board of Regents to raise tuition at all of their institutions - including MTSU - by 15 percent yesterday, making it the largest increase in MTSU's history.

"I think they (the board members) took this action with a lot of regret and sadness, because it is a big increase," said Mary Morgan, director of communications for TBR. "It increases every year and is a direct result of the legislature's failure to fund higher education adequately."

The next step, Morgan said, is to find a way to maintain quality without any additional funding.

"Vice Chairman Fishman has asked that we have a retreat in October or November to talk about what we can do to provide a quality education for less money on the anticipation that

this is not a scenario that is going to go away," Morgan said.

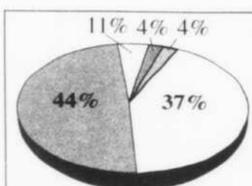
"Everybody is very concerned that we are passing on more and more of the cost of education to the students," she added.

The increase will mean that students will be paying \$167 more per semester, which comes to a total of \$2,556 for a normal, two-semester school year.

In addition to this increase, TBR also approved a \$40 increase to the MTSU athletic fee and a new \$35 health services fee.

The athletic fee increase which will be used to fund athletic scholarships and sports programs was originally proposed as a \$20 increase, but Morgan said the board approved a \$40 raise. She said she was uncertain why they voted for a higher fee.

The new health services fee is a result of MTSU's lack of medical staff. Health Services Director Richard Chapman and interim President Eugene Smith



Last week *Sidelines Online* asked readers how many of them worked while attending classes at MTSU.

All but 11 percent of those responding have at least one job. Students with two jobs, 44 percent; one job, 37 percent. 3 or more jobs, 4 percent.

*This poll is not scientific
Kertha R. Drew, News designer

proposed a \$35 health services fee during the spring semester to combat this problem.

Ultimately, the fee will allow MTSU to hire at least six new doctors as well as increase the nursing staff.

"This will only improve the quality of our health services," Chapman said in April. "We want to make it better for the students."

With the addition of the new health fee (\$35), the increase in the athletic fee (\$40), and the tuition hike (\$167), in-state students will have to pay a total of \$242 more this fall semester than last. ♦

Fed cuts student loan rates

By Leila Fadel
NortheasternNews
(Northeastern U.)

The lowered rates would apply to all loans disbursed after July 1, 1998, while older loans are also being considered for lower rates to offset the slowing U.S. economy.

BOSTON - Like many students, the issue of college tuition lies buried in the back of Lisa Payne's mind as she concentrates on her education and expenses of today, rather than the interest-ridden loans she will have to pay back tomorrow.

Relief may be in sight for graduating seniors and college-bound students as the interest rate for the Stafford loan, the most common federal loan for college and graduate students, dropped 2.2 percent - the lowest in over two decades.

"My boyfriend told me about the new low interest rates on loans, and it's good I guess," said Payne, a Northeastern University graduate student in speech pathology. "I haven't really been thinking about my deferred loans. But with all the expenses of daily life, this will make college more affordable to students in the future."

The interest rates for all subsidized Stafford loans dropped from 8.19 percent to 5.99 percent, while the rate for deferred re-payments dropped to 5.39 percent July 1. The interest rate for the Parent Plus loan was cut from 8.99 percent to 6.79 per-

cent. The cut in interest rates would result in significant savings for students who are already repaying their loans, according to Beth Feinberg, assistant director of student financial services. In addition, the new rates would make financing higher education more feasible to students and parents, she said.

"It's exciting because [the rates] are so low," Feinberg said. "But on the other hand, you think: How long is it going to stay this way and is it only for this year?"

But the rate cut may not be as significant for students who are currently attending college, since interest rates are re-evaluated on an annual basis, Feinberg said.

Some students are indifferent to the change.

"Do you think it makes a difference to me whether interest rates go up or down when I'm paying off a \$20,000 loan I have no money for anyways?" asked Andrew Kehayas, a sophomore engineering major. ♦

Students get comfortable at Customs



Photo by Chris Montaque | Staff

Laura McGregor (left) and Willie Nelson (right) assist students during Customs orientation registration.

By Erin Edgemon
Staff Writer

A grimace creeps across students' faces as they carelessly stroll across campus with blue bags dangling from their hands, anticipating the first day of fall classes.

The freedom of being away from home, meeting new friends and adjusting to the college setting is a big transition for some students.

Customs is designed to provide a smooth transition for students and parents into the MTSU environment by offering early registration for classes, the opportunity to learn their way around campus, tour the dorms, and receive academic advising and get a glimpse at student life.

The mission of Customs is to "facilitate the transition of new undergraduate students into the university; prepare new students for the opportunities, and initiate the integration of new undergraduate students into the intellectual, cultural,

and social climate of the institution" according to the Customs literature.

"I think that every incoming freshman should come to Customs," said Charles Lyons, one of the student coordinators of Customs.

"They meet their best friends and their peers, so when they come back to school, they see familiar faces," Lyons said.

They get to meet an academic adviser, and they get to see the buildings where they are going to have classes, Lyons said.

When incoming students register at Customs, they are divided into different groups, which are named after countries. Each of the 22 countries has a student orientation assistant that leads the group.

The freshman orientations are two-day events. The first day of freshman orientation opens with a general assembly with a greeting from Vice President of Student Affairs Robert Glenn.

The freshmen then have the

chance to walk through a simulation of college life," Lyons said.

There is a 20-minute fall semester with a 5-minute Christmas break, and likewise there is a 20-minute spring semester with a 5-minute spring break.

It is kind of like a game, because the freshmen have to set up academic, personal and social goals, and then they go through the semester trying to achieve those goals Lyons said.

During the first day, the students and parents get to meet with advisers from their college. They also get to go to three "ports of call," where they get information on different programs on campus.

In the evening, there is cookout at the Recreation Center, where students and parents can visit "ports of interest," which are different student organizations on campus. The main event of the second day is registering for classes and getting student ID cards. ♦

Habitat House donated to family



Staff Reports

Robert Glenn, vice president of Student Affairs, was awarded a certificate July 14 by Duane Gibbin, construction supervisor for Rutherford County Habitat for Humanity, at the house dedication of the Tysha Johnson family. MTSU's faculty, staff and students volunteered on weekends to help build the

house that the Johnson family will move into.

The dedication ceremony included a blessing of the house, presentation of Bible and homeowner guidebook, along with a presentation of the keys to the family. The Johnson family consists of Tysha Johnson; Keverria, 9; Komesha, 6; and Teneithia, 4. ♦

McPhee starts job

New MTSU President Sidney McPhee was on campus yesterday for his first official day on the job, but not for long. McPhee was back at the Tennessee Board of Regents' headquarters in Nashville Tuesday for TBR's meeting to vote on tuition hikes.



ACADEMIC APPEALS FOR FALL 2001

If you think you may be suspended after grading for the 2001 Summer term and you want to appeal your academic suspension, you must complete an academic appeal form and return it to the Records Office by 4:00p.m. on August 14, 2001. Academic appeal forms are available on the web at www.mtsu.edu/~records and in Room 106 of the Cope Administration building. Suspension notices cannot be mailed out to the permanent addresses until August 15. If you have any questions, please contact the Records Office at 898-2164.

THE DEADLINE TO APPEAL FOR FALL 2001 IS AUGUST 14 AT 4:00 PM



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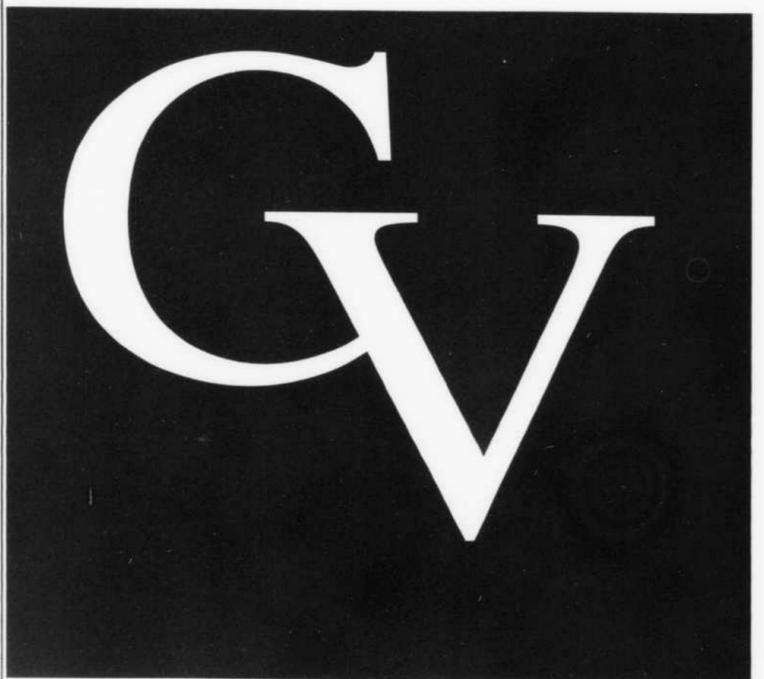
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From the staff

Athletes should not get special treatment

Most fees students have to pay benefit the general student population. All of them except one - the new \$40 athletic fee the Tennessee Board of Regents approved yesterday for MTSU.

Considering MTSU has more than 19,000 students, this fee will generate nearly \$400,000 during the fall semester alone.

The revenue the fee will bring is to be used for athletic scholarships and for general uses in the various sports programs. Apparently officials in the athletic department want the extra money so they can attract better recruits, which theoretically would make our teams better.

That would be great, but it seems the priorities of this university are a bit skewed. Why should athletes get off so easy?

If this school administration is going to charge all students \$40 more, then let's make it something that would affect everyone.

To add insult to injury, TBR approved a fee that was originally proposed as a \$20 increase. Somehow, the board ended up passing a \$40 dollar increase - double what it was supposed to be.

Officials at TBR aren't sure what happened but said it may just have been a mistake. Still, even if the Board realizes it made a mistake, it's doubtful they would reduce the fee.

Why should they when they have already seen that a \$40 fee will fly.

Unruly mob triumphs over reason

For Argument's Sake



Jason Cox
Staff Columnist

For months now, our state legislature has stared a budget shortfall in the eye. Many ideas - including raising the sales tax, creating an income tax and installing a state lottery - were reviewed and discussed. That's what you do when you can't make enough money to properly support your state.

But, in the end, the legislature proved its worth by doing absolutely nothing. Was this year's session worth the \$16,000 or so we paid each legislator, not to mention the expenses? I think not.

The "bare-bones" budget is not a joke. Not only does it not cover the needs of our education and health systems, it takes away much of the state's safety net by using our tobacco settlement money. The tobacco money is a very exhaustible resource, and we're going to be at this very impasse again when the legislature reconvenes next year to squeeze more lifeblood out of our universities.

And guess what? With the state's actions, tuition is almost certainly going to go up at least 10 percent ... again. That's an increase in our tuition of more than 20 percent in the last two years. Is it worth it? I guess that's up to your pocketbook to decide.

Besides the pain to the wallets of current college students, Tennessee also

risks losing the top high school students to other states. Many are already sensing the unfriendly attitude that the state legislature has toward greener and are seeking greener pastures.

To the unruly mob that I spoke of earlier: did you see the news when they were passing the budget? People convened on the Capitol steps to protest the income tax by shouting, breaking windows and beating up a reporter. This just goes to show that no matter how much you try to "yuppie-fy" a state, you can't get rid of its redneck roots.

The thing that frustrates me most about this whole budget situation is that the general public seems so ill-informed about the situation. When discussing a state income

tax, it's rare that the accompanying sales tax reduction (and elimination of the sales tax on food) gets much attention. This would save almost everyone tons of money and take some of the burden off the poorest people in the state, even if they don't know it.

It's ironic that the lowest income classes are being stirred up and tricked by manipulating politicians and talk-radio hosts (one of the worst legislators for it serves the MTSU area in the state House) and largely represented the mob that protested outside the Capitol building.

What did our legislators have to say about the situation?

Rep. Tommie Brown, D-Chattanooga, said, "I guess it's indicative of our

state's education system. Our education system is near the bottom, and the people out there tonight are reflective of the quality of education we give."

Ouch. It's pretty funny though. Is it true? I'm not sure, but the facts concerning a state income tax have been in the news and available to all seekers, but they apparently have not chosen to educate themselves.

Brown may be more right than we know at the moment. The quality of any society is directly linked to the quality of its education system, and education systems cannot function properly without sufficient funding.

Do the math, and you'll figure out that we're getting screwed.

Don't ya just love politics? ♦

Hellions need attention from parents

Out of Leftist Field



Lindsay Turner
Staff Columnist

This past weekend, my 9-year-old brother Rickey came to visit us in our new apartment. Sunday afternoon, we decided to go swimming at the apartment complex's pool.

Much to our dismay, the pool was not empty. But we sensed Rickey's primal childhood need to do a cannonball and went anyway. After all, it was only a small group of people - two women and a young guy sunbathing and two young kids in the pool

splashing around like normal kids would.

We had no more than slipped, anonymously, into the water when the youngest kid - a skinny, blonde boy - stealthily made his way toward us like a shark.

At first, he was cute, asking questions like, "How old are you?" and "Can yawl touch the bottom?"

Phil (my boyfriend), Rickey and I were taken somewhat aback by the outgoing tyke. All three of us, after all, are introverts.

But then the little guy latched into annoying mode. He skimmed his arm across the water to splash our faces. He pounced on Phil's back and loudly insisted that he join him underwater. Phil did, and the kid unsuccessfully tried to hold him

under.

We laughed at his antics, unsure of how to react since he seemed to be doing things out of meanness, not for fun.

Interestingly, his mother - laid out like a beached whale - barely raised an eyebrow to check on her young son, who was splashing around in the deep end. Bizarre. I thought, but whatever.

That is, until the little wanker began trying to drown Rickey, who was minding his own business, by latching onto his legs and dragging him down to the bottom.

Even amidst splashing and Rickey's cries of "help me" that were half worried and half embarrassed, the mother, along with her cronies, never batted an eye.

The kid, obviously hungry for some attention, dunked Rickey, gave him an Indian burn and yelled a plethora of lovely insults to us, complete strangers.

I finally intervened, when the kid's mom wouldn't, by prying the kid's meathooks off of Rickey's arm and ordering him to go terrorize his family, not us.

"They're not my family," the kid retorted.

"Maybe that's the problem," I replied.

As we dried off, the kid and his sister screamed and fought over the bobbing rope in the pool. "Mom!" the sister protested obnoxiously. "Make him let go!"

But her mother just raised an apathetic hand and continued with her ever-important cell-phone conversation.

As we left, I grew more and more disgusted with the kid's family - especially his mother. It is parents like his who use the television as a baby-sitter for years and then wonder why the kid is a hell spawn with a Ritalin prescription.

Many college students are nearing their parenting days. We should all keep in mind that children need guidance, discipline and attention from their parents from the very beginning to grow as functional humans. But the guidance and discipline has to come long before the family books and appearance on *Maury*.

So future parents, please pay attention to your kids and their behavior. Don't spoil them ... don't ignore them ... just be their parents. ♦

Correction

In the June 27 issue of *Sidelines*, it was reported that Leah Leonard finished in the top ten in the Miss Tennessee Pageant. Leonard actually did not finish in the top ten, but Mandy Smith, an MTSU student and Miss Tennessee Valley, did finish in the top ten.

Here's what to do about the budget

Canadian Bacon



Patrick Chinnery
Staff Columnist

Last week, our state legislature passed a budget for the 2002 fiscal year. Opponents of a state income tax got their wish; there is to be nothing of the sort. Opponents of the sales tax hike also succeeded in convincing lawmakers of the harm that measure would do to the people of the state.

Who then, lost out? Everyone.

This budget - which spends nearly all of the

tobacco settlement money we have in hand, as well as

all the money we are expected to receive over the next year - brings no improvements to any state services and, in fact, causes cuts where they are most desperately needed.

This includes spending on higher education. Last year, according to Jim Vaden, the Tennessee Higher Education Commission's chief fiscal officer, schools received \$253 million dollars less than they begged the legislature for. Had the income tax plan passed, they would have been short \$92 million. However, with the current budget, only two new programs can be executed: a new scholarship fund for needy students and a 2.5 percent pay raise

for all faculty and staff.

The state of Tennessee consistently ranks at the bottom of every national poll when it comes to education. According to the July 14 edition of *The Tennessean*, only one in six state residents has a four-year degree. The THEC claims that it is their mission to make college more accessible to all Tennesseans.

What is their proposed solution? What will allow them to offer a higher education to more Tennesseans while receiving less money? The commission's solution was to raise tuition at all University of Tennessee schools and at all Tennessee Board of Regents schools by 15 percent. For MTSU students,

that's roughly \$334 per year.

Where I come from, raising your rates at a higher pace than your competitors is not the right way to convince students to attend your institution. What was to be a banner year for MTSU in several departments will now be sold short by the carelessness and inconsideration of our lawmakers.

In the 21st century, a college education is a right, just as a high school education was a right for our parents, grandparents and their parents. Without a college degree, our generation of Tennesseans will be compelled to pump gas and drop chicken nuggets into a deep fryer to earn a living, while students of other states will get careers

that allow them to influence humanity.

Until the state reprioritizes and places the condition of the educational system above the condition of our highways, until they believe that the number of bodies in classrooms should outnumber the number of fast food employees, we, the future of the state, should abandon it.

Take your degree and get out. Move to Georgia, Kentucky, New York, Washington, anywhere where they have initiatives to educate their population.

The state legislature doesn't want to educate education? Fine. Show them how well the state functions without it. ♦

SIDELINES

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Holding olympics in Beijing is a travesty

By David Frost

Iowa State Daily (Iowa State U.)

AMES, Iowa - How much is a single human life worth? A billion dollars, or maybe as high as two trillion? No one can really put a price on a human life.

If no one can put a price on one human life, what is the price of thousands of lives?

I personally don't know the answer, but apparently Beijing does.

The city will host the 2008 Olympics despite being criticized for countless human rights issues.

The Olympic committee didn't see human rights violations as a significant reason to deny Beijing the

Olympics in 2008.

China lobbied hard to host the Olympics in 2008 and take pride in the country, but at what cost must the rest of the world pay by looking away?

In June, Amnesty International issued a report which stated China has executed more people in the last three months than the rest of the world has in the last three years.

More than 1,700 people were executed and at least 2,960 sentenced to death. The Chinese government believes this is its business, and the rest of the world needs to stop interfering, but the report claims these numbers are only a small fraction of the executions carried out (the Chinese

government doesn't make all records public.)

Tax fraud is just one crime severe enough to be put death in China, according to the Amnesty International report. Others include pimping, bribery, embezzlement, and many more, including violent crimes.

Some countries have the death penalty, but by anyone's standards, this is an excessive use of the death penalty.

Not only has China been excessively using the death penalty, it is turning it into a public justice event.

There have been reports of prisoners in China being paraded through the streets on their way to the

firing squad.

The Chinese government still believes it is its business if it chooses to shoot everyone in the country, but can the rest of the world just stand by and let that happen?

China is unlike all other countries. But while it has its own customs and beliefs, there should be basic human rights that apply to everyone, no matter the country they reside in.

The Olympics should be earned by a country, and it's obvious cleaning up the human rights issues would be a way for China to earn the games. To give it the Olympics with the hope that it will stop these human rights violations is

called appeasement.

Hopefully this turns out better than the time in history when a German leader invaded a country, while the rest of the world stood by and said it's OK as long as you stop here (appeasement). This started World War II.

Don't misunderstand this statement. I don't believe this is going to start World War III. But now China has no reason to worry about the human rights issues. The consequences are not severe enough. But maybe China will end its human rights violations because they believe it to be unjust.

All people can do is hope. ♦

INTERESTS

4 ♦ SIDELINES

Wednesday, July 18, 2001

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Singleton does it again with 'Baby Boy'

By Shawn Whitsell
Features Editor

Veteran film director John Singleton celebrates the 10th anniversary of his debut feature film *Boyz n the Hood* with its follow-up, *Baby Boy*.

Although not a sequel to the classic hood flick, *Baby Boy* walks the same lines as its predecessor.

Both films deal with the issues young black men living in the inner city of Los Angeles face, such as sex, violence, family and responsibility. Both movies depict the inner struggle of the characters trying chose between what they want to do and doing what they should do.

Jody, the central character in *Baby Boy*, played by model/singer Tyrese Gibson, is a jobless young man with two children by two different women who still lives at home with his mother (A.J. Johnson).

Afraid to leave the nest and become the man his family needs him to be, Jody spends the majority of his time driving

his girlfriend Yvette's (Taraji P. Henson) car and hanging with his homeboy Sweetpea, played by Omar Gooding, Cuba's little brother.

However, after his mother becomes involved with a former gangbanger-turned-entrepreneur, and Yvette catches him cheating again, things take a turn for the worse. It doesn't help that Yvette's jealous ex-boyfriend Rodney (Snoop Dogg) gets out of jail and comes back to claim the woman he'd left behind.

Jody is then faced with a major conflict, and he has to decide how to deal with all these variables at once.

Baby Boy is not the classic that *Boyz n the Hood* is, but it's definitely one of Singleton's better films. It's surprisingly funny, realistic and full of different emotions.

If you're still trying to decide if you should go see this movie, just give in and go. It's very entertaining and packed with a lot of hard lessons about life, love and finding out who you are.

This movie gets a B. ♦



Photo Provided

Inevitably, Jody (Tyrese), who has fathered two children by two different women, must face the responsibilities that come with his "baby mama" Yvette (Taraji P. Henson) and his own fears of adulthood if he wants to escape the life of a baby boy.



Photo Provided

(Top) Director John Singleton is at the helm in the Columbia Pictures presentation, *Baby Boy*. (Bottom) Juanita (A.J. Johnson, right) and Melvin (Ving Rhames, left) strive to maintain a normal household while "baby boy" Jody (Tyrese, background) still lives under their roof.

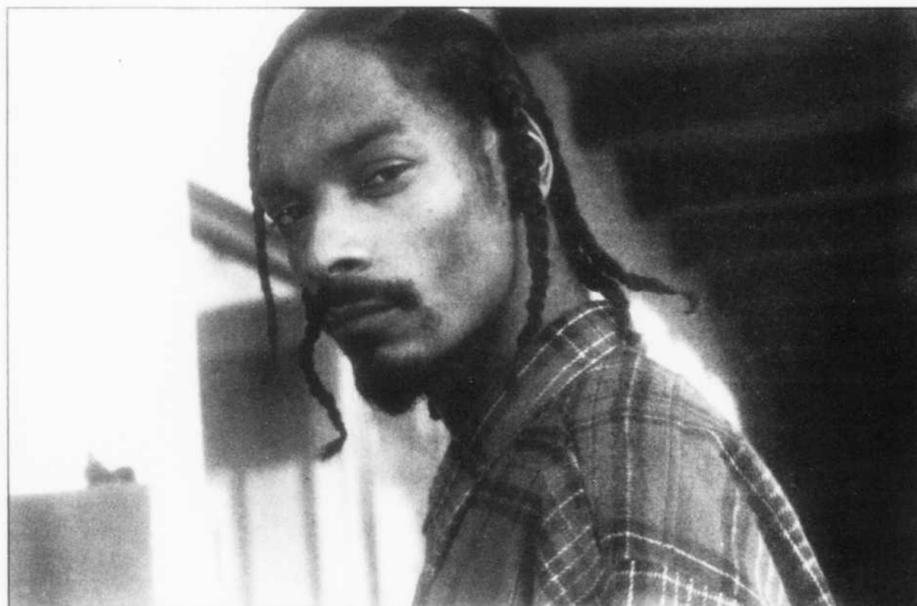
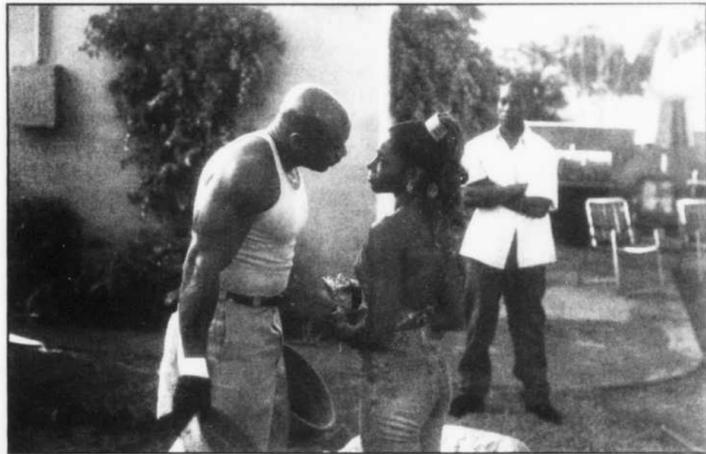
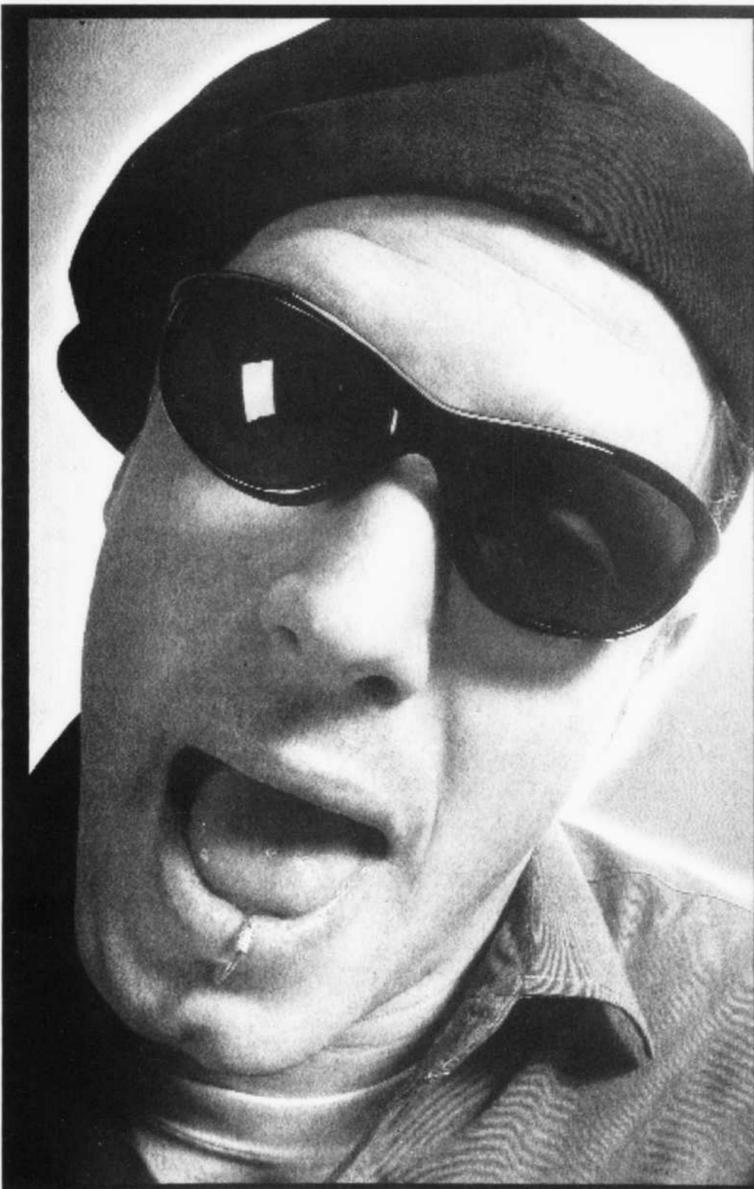


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Snoop Dogg plays Rodney, one of Jody's new adversaries.



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Sports Commentary



Blue Raiders count down to destiny

Only 43 days. 43 days to what? 43 days until the Middle Tennessee football team faces Vanderbilt in the opening game of the 2001 season. So why the count-down as seen on "GoBlueRaiders.com"?

This game could symbolize that the Blue Raiders' football program has arrived in Division I-A. Or it could be just another close call against a team from the Southeastern Conference. But regardless of the outcome, head coach Andy McCollum has the program heading in the right direction.

The opener against Vanderbilt brings more to the table than just another SEC opponent. The natural geographical rivalry comes into play as well. With only 30 miles of Interstate 24 separating the two schools, the regional interest for both teams is at its peak.

Adding to the appeal of the game is the legitimate chance Middle Tennessee has of beating Vanderbilt. Even Vanderbilt head coach Woody Widenhofer is having second thoughts of scheduling Middle Tennessee to open the season as stated in David Climer's column in *The Tennessean*.

Vanderbilt is traditionally toward the bottom of the SEC Eastern division while Middle is picked to win the Sun Belt. Of course the competition within the two conferences makes a better judge in comparing the two programs based on conference rankings. That withstanding, the gap between the two programs draws even closer.

Vanderbilt will not be the only SEC team slated for the 2001 campaign. Middle will travel to Oxford Miss. to take on Ole Miss Oct. 20, and will face the Bengal Tigers Nov. 10 for a Saturday night date in Baton Rouge La.

But the key game this season will be when Idaho comes to Floyd Stadium Oct. 6 for a key Sun Belt Conference match-up. The winner will probably represent the Sun Belt in the inaugural New Orleans Bowl.

Looking ahead to the 2002 season - the first season where the regular season will be expanded to 12 games from 11 - Middle will face four SEC school. Another date with Vanderbilt is scheduled; and three new ones: Alabama, Kentucky and the University of Tennessee.

The season will open in Tuscaloosa, Ala., against the Crimson Tide on Aug. 31, followed by a Rocky Top and Neyland Stadium to face the Vols Sept. 7.

But all this begins Aug. 30, 2001 against Vanderbilt. Probably the most anticipated game in Middle Tennessee's history will be played on a Thursday night as one of the first college games of the season in the country.

Fortunately for me I have to stay neutral as a journalist because I am a lifetime Vanderbilt fan. However, with my experiences with McCollum and his staff and my ties now to Middle Tennessee as a student and future alum, my heart will be Raider Blue that Thursday night in August. ♦

Women's Golf announces fall slate

MT Media Relations

Middle Tennessee women's golf coach Kim St. John announced today the program's first-ever fall schedule. The Lady Raiders will compete in

five tournaments to jump-start the first year of women's golf.

"We are in some excellent tournaments," St. John said. "It's a schedule that should really advance our program as we gear toward the spring season

and the Sun Belt Championships."

The Lady Raiders will begin the fall schedule at the Memphis Women's Intercollegiate Tournament on Sept. 17-18 before traveling to the

University of Arkansas on Oct. 1-2 for the Lady Razorback Invitational. On Oct. 8-10 Middle Tennessee will head to Las Cruces, N.M. for the NMSU Collegiate Women's Golf Invitational, then will compete

the following week at the Arkansas at Little Rock Invitational. The Lady Raiders will conclude the 2001 fall season Oct. 28-29 at the John Kirk-Lady Panther Invitational in Atlanta, Ga. ♦

MT athletes honored

The Sun Belt Conference announced that 69 Middle Tennessee student-athletes have been named to the 2000-2001

Commissioner's List and Academic Honor Roll. The Commissioner's List is a

compilation of student athletes who maintained at least a 3.5

grade point average for the previous two semesters or

three quarters. The Academic Honor

Roll List is a compilation of student athletes who maintained a

grade point average of 3.00 to 3.49

for the previous two semesters or three quarters.

Blue Raider tennis player, Niger Kaur (right), was in an elite group as she

maintained a perfect 4.0 average in Biology/Pre Med.

In all, 800 student-athletes from the 12 members institutions were honored for their classroom efforts in 2000-01.



Men's Basketball Team faces tough 2001-02 campaign

MT Media Relations

Head Basketball Coach Randy Wiel has announced his team's schedule for the upcoming 2001-02 season and the slate features some top-notch competition.

"We have a dangerous schedule and we will be tested early," said Wiel. "We are facing good non-conference opponents and the Sun Belt, as everyone already knows, is tough top to bottom. There is no night off in this league."

The Blue Raiders will face foes from the SEC, WAC, and Conference USA to go along with the difficult Sun Belt Conference schedule. The Blue Raiders begin the regular season on Nov. 17 in a home contest against Bryan College and continues in the

Murphy Center against IUPUI on Dec. 21. The team will then compete in road contests against Belmont and Radford before returning home to face WAC opponent Rice on Dec. 4.

Back-to-back former Ohio Valley Conference foes highlight the next part of the schedule with a Dec. 6 game against UT at Martin in Jackson, Tenn., and a home tilt against Tennessee State on Dec. 8.

Two first time opponents also appear on the slate. The Blue Raiders travel to Greensboro, N.C., to take on East Carolina from Conference USA on Dec. 19. The second first-timer shows up on the schedule on Jan. 31 when the Blue Raiders travel to IUPUI-Fort Wayne.

The Blue Raiders are also renewing a dormant series with Texas Pan-American. The Blue Raiders will travel to Edinburg, Texas, for a game on Dec. 15 and the favor will be returned in Murfreesboro on Feb. 4. The teams last met during the 1972-73, a span of 29 years.

The Sun Belt schedule begins on Dec. 28 with the Blue Raiders traveling to Mobile,



Photo Provided

Ala., to challenge SBC East Division champs South Alabama and will continue the road swing with a game in New Orleans against the Privateers on Dec. 30.

The Blue Raiders are tentatively scheduled to kick off the New Year with a Jan. 2 game against Tennessee, but indications are strong that the game could be pushed back further into January depending on the Vols' TV schedule.

The 2002 portion of the schedule is highlighted with Louisiana-Lafayette's first trip to Murfreesboro on Jan. 12 and Western Kentucky's visit to the Murphy Center on Jan. 17. The Blue Raiders will make their first trip to Denton, Texas to play North Texas on Jan. 19.

The regular season concludes on Feb. 23 with the Blue Raiders playing in Bowling Green, Ky., against WKU. March 1-5, against the Blue Raiders' second foray into the Sun Belt Conference tournament, with this season's event scheduled to be held in New Orleans, La. The tournament will follow the same format as last season with every eligible team participating.

"Our kids are working very hard this summer because they know that the schedule is going to be difficult," Wiel said. "We started back to work as soon as last season ended because we want to be successful." ♦

Lady Raider signees in town for orientation

Seven of coach Stephany Smith's eight Middle Tennessee Lady Raider basketball signees were in town last week and over the weekend to take part in orientation for this fall on the MT campus.

Freshmen Renee Hall, Tiffany Fisher, Patrice Holmes, Eboni Kirby and Ciara Gray were all in Murfreesboro getting acquainted with dorms, admissions and registering for fall classes.

Schlueter and Kirby began summer school classes Monday, getting a head start on their academics for the upcoming year.

"It's good to be on campus and get used to the surroundings," Hall said. "The beginning of school will be a hectic time, and it's good to get as much of that out of the way as possible and meet a lot of my new teammates in the process."

The Lady Raiders begin their 2001-02 regular season on Nov. 16 at Tennessee State and play at Georgia before playing their regular season home opener against Cincinnati on Saturday, Nov. 24, at the Murphy Center. ♦

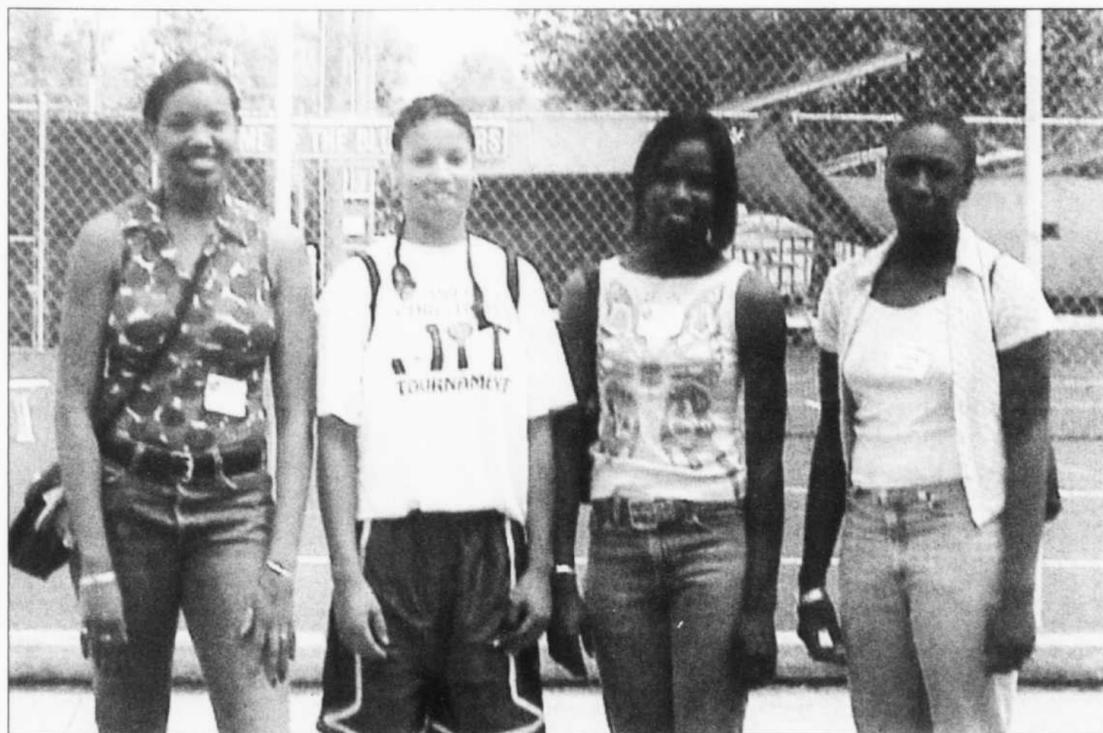
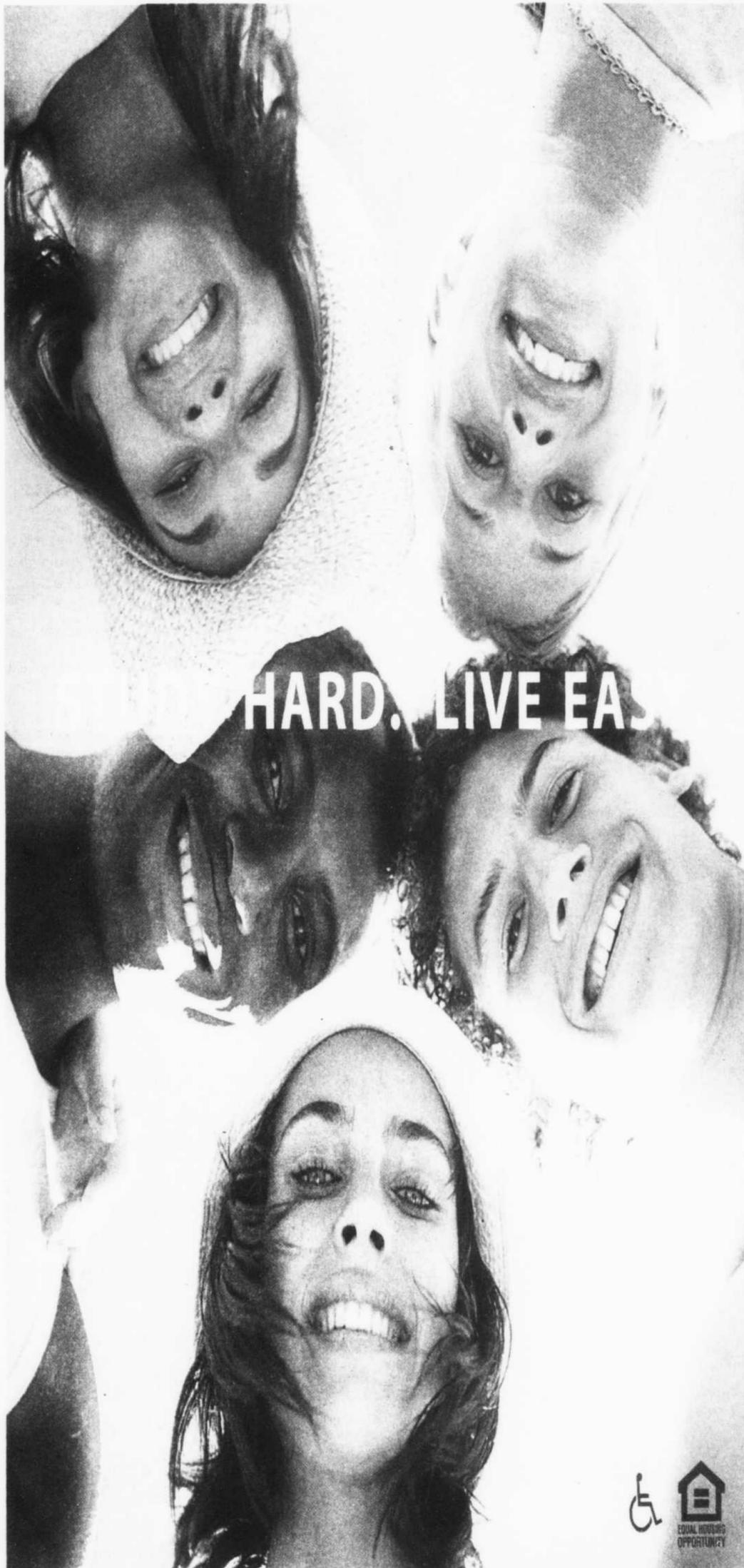


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Renee Hall, Tiffany Fisher, Ciara Gray, Patrice Holmes pose for a group shot. All seven freshman on the MT squad attended CUSTOMS last week. Junior Jennifer Justice, the eighth signee, will attend the one-day session for transfers.

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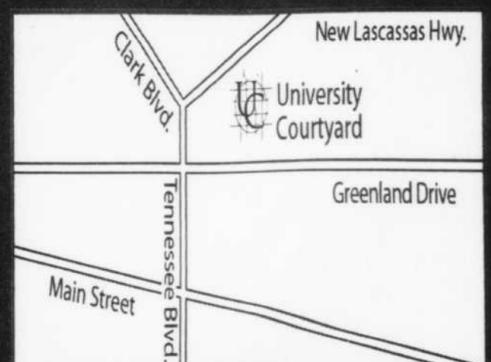
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