



Read about MTSU's oldest professor, pg. 3

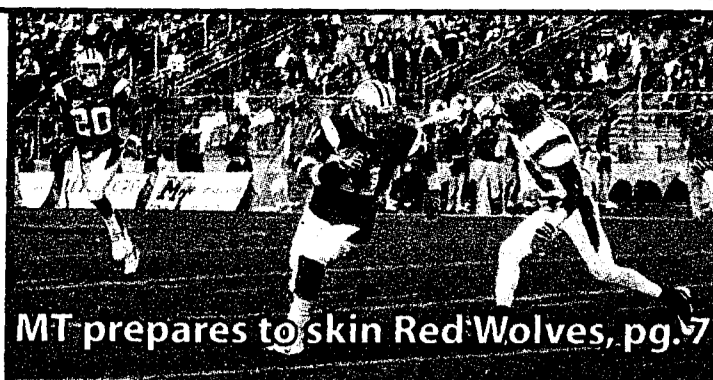
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# MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2009

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT

VOL. 86, NO. 21

## Professor indicted, sentenced one year

By DUSTIN EVANS  
Assistant Community News Editor

Pamela Holder, an associate professor in the MTSU School of Nursing and the former director of the state-wide Regents Online Degree Program, was sentenced to a year a day in prison last Friday for her part in a multimillion dollar mortgage scheme.

Holder was convicted for bank and wire fraud charges during a trial in April and was originally indicted on four counts for executing a material scheme with intent to defraud and obtain funds from the Bank of Nashville and First Tennessee Bank, as well as obtaining loan proceeds for personal benefit through false pretenses.

"Mortgage fraud is a serious crime, and we are pleased that the court has imposed an appropriately serious sentence in this case," said United States Attorney Edward Yarbrough in a recent press release. "The United States Attorney's Office and our law-enforcement partners will continue to investigate such frauds and bring those who commit them to justice."

Holder, along with those also charged, allegedly used a straw buyer scam in which they would find a buyer with a good credit score and solicit them into borrowing \$2.4 million to purchase a \$1.5 million home.

Holder would then prepare or send false documents claiming, among other things, that the buyer was the president of "Team Fat Man," an automotive sales company owned by Holder's deceased husband, which greatly inflated the status of the straw

buyer's income.

Holder was able to qualify the buyer for larger loans that the buyer could afford – and when the buyer was unable to make the mortgage payments of around \$10,000, the mortgage defaulted and foreclosed upon.

My Harrison, the special agent in charge for the FBI Memphis division said the bureau is diligently working to protect residents from future criminal schemes.

"The FBI will continue to target those who criminally manipulate our financial system for personal gain and keep working to bring criminals like this to justice to ensure that they pay for their crimes," Harrison said in a recent press release.

Tom Tozer, director of News and Public Affairs for MTSU, said Holder was put in a non-teaching position at the university. Holder, however, remains an active employee of the university.

"While the university felt it important to take swift action [regarding her employment], it was decided that the institution should wait until the legal process had run its course before taking any action related to revoking tenure or terminating employment," Tozer said. "Upon receiving confirmation of Dr. Holder's sentencing on Monday, the university immediately began taking formal action to address her employment status with MTSU."

Tozer said discussions regarding the university's options regarding her continued employment began immediately following Holder's conviction.



Photo courtesy of Murfreesboro Greenway System

After tornados came through in the spring, the Murfreesboro community is joining together to repair the damage caused to the Greenway.

## Residents help repair parks

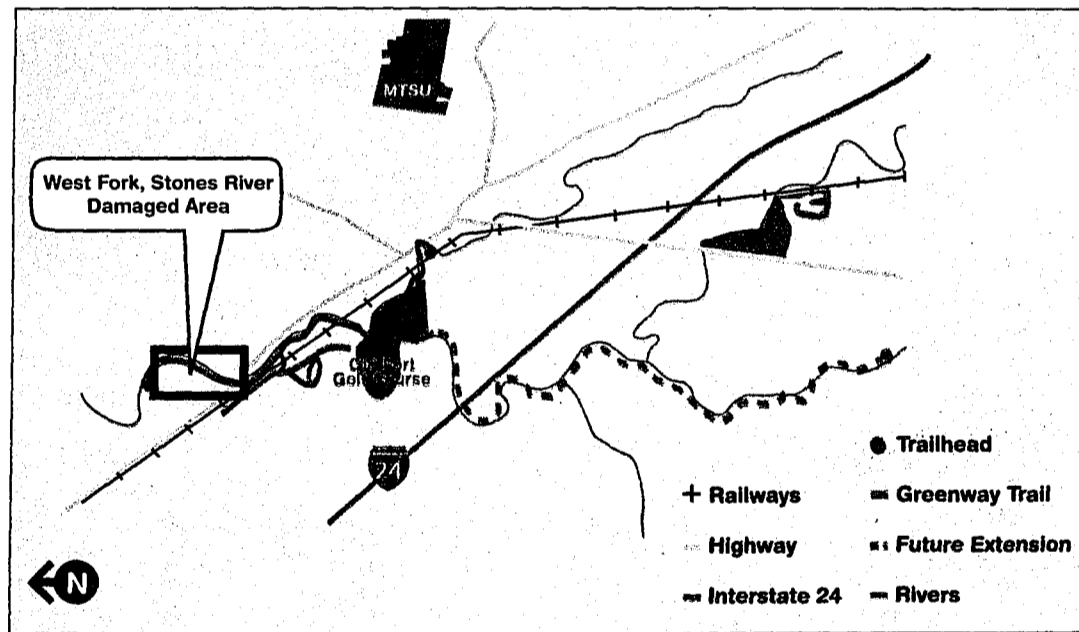
By DOUG McDONALD & DUSTIN EVANS

Following catastrophic damage from tornadoes last April, residents of Murfreesboro are gathering to restore the Murfreesboro Greenway System close to its original splendor.

In addition to three-dozen homes, and an estimated \$40 million worth of destruction to residential property and local businesses, the Greenway also suffered critical damage – damage that can still be seen today.

The restoration project is scheduled for this Friday and Saturday when volunteers will be planting thousands of trees and shrubs along the Stones River Greenway in the area that was damaged.

"After the initial assessment following the tornado it was obvious we needed to do something," said Angela Jackson, program coordinator for Greenways and Wetlands. "Late fall is the best time to plant the native species that the Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation Department



Graphic by Chris Carter, production manager

will be providing."

The restoration project is important to the quality of the Stones River and the surrounding environment. It will help to prevent erosion of the riverbanks and provide habitat for native wildlife.

"After the tornado, many wanted to volunteer and the Tree Planting Day is an opportunity where we really need the help," Jackson said. "We plan to plant

between 5,000 and 6,000 trees, native to the area – this is important for river quality, erosion control and to improve the appearance and health of the greenway corridor."

Pre-registration is requested for volunteers. The workdays and times will be Friday from 9 a.m. until 12 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and later that day from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Jackson said that although there are no student organizations signed up to volunteer, there are individual students and professors that will be involved.

Heather Cusick, an alumna and senior majoring in pre-nursing, said she frequents the Greenway, and the damage in the area is still quite visible.

GREENWAY, PAGE 2

## Media professionals help tackle racism

By MEGAN MCSWAIN  
Staff Writer

Campus organizations, including the NAACP and Intercultural and Diversity Affairs, brought speakers Monday to discuss the current social standing of blacks in America, both in and out of college.

Omega Psi Phi and the Black History Month Committee also sponsored the event, bringing Jeff Reid, who is the executive producer of CNN's "Black in

America" documentaries, and independent filmmaker Reggie Bullock. The forum was titled "Black in America: The Situation, the Solution and the Strategy."

"It really all gets back to education," Reid said. "You can solve a lot of today's problems with just going to school."

Reid said the CNN series was about showing the good and bad conditions of black people. Reid, an MTSU alumnus who graduated in 1981 with a degree in elec-

tronic media communication, said the documentaries are to help motivate people to focus on the future to improve bad conditions.

Reid also said people shouldn't worry about the condition they're in, and that education is the key to get out and away from bad conditions.

The forum also featured a screening Bullock's film, "A War for Your Soul," which highlighted the roles of blacks from slavery to

hip-hop culture.

"I'm finding it's great for people of different races," Bullock said. "It's an American story, not just a black story."

Bullock said the film was originally directed toward at-risk children but can help provide all viewers with different perspectives on human struggles and breaking away from stereotypes.

Glijuan Kirby, president of the MTSU chapter of NAACP and junior electronic

media communication major, said he thinks education is a main priority for bettering oneself.

Kirby said Reid's documentary and Bullock's film were wake-up calls and gave him a new perspective on how black people are represented in America.

"I think [the forum] was important because we just need to see where we are as people," Kirby said. "A lot of times we get so caught up in materialistic things that we

forget where we came from and we forget the struggle that we had to get this far.

"It's like we're falling back instead of progressing, sometimes."

Vincent Windrow, director of Intercultural and Diversity Affairs and chair of the Black History Month Committee, said the forum's focus was to show how people can succeed, regardless of their pasts and struggles.

NAACP, PAGE 2

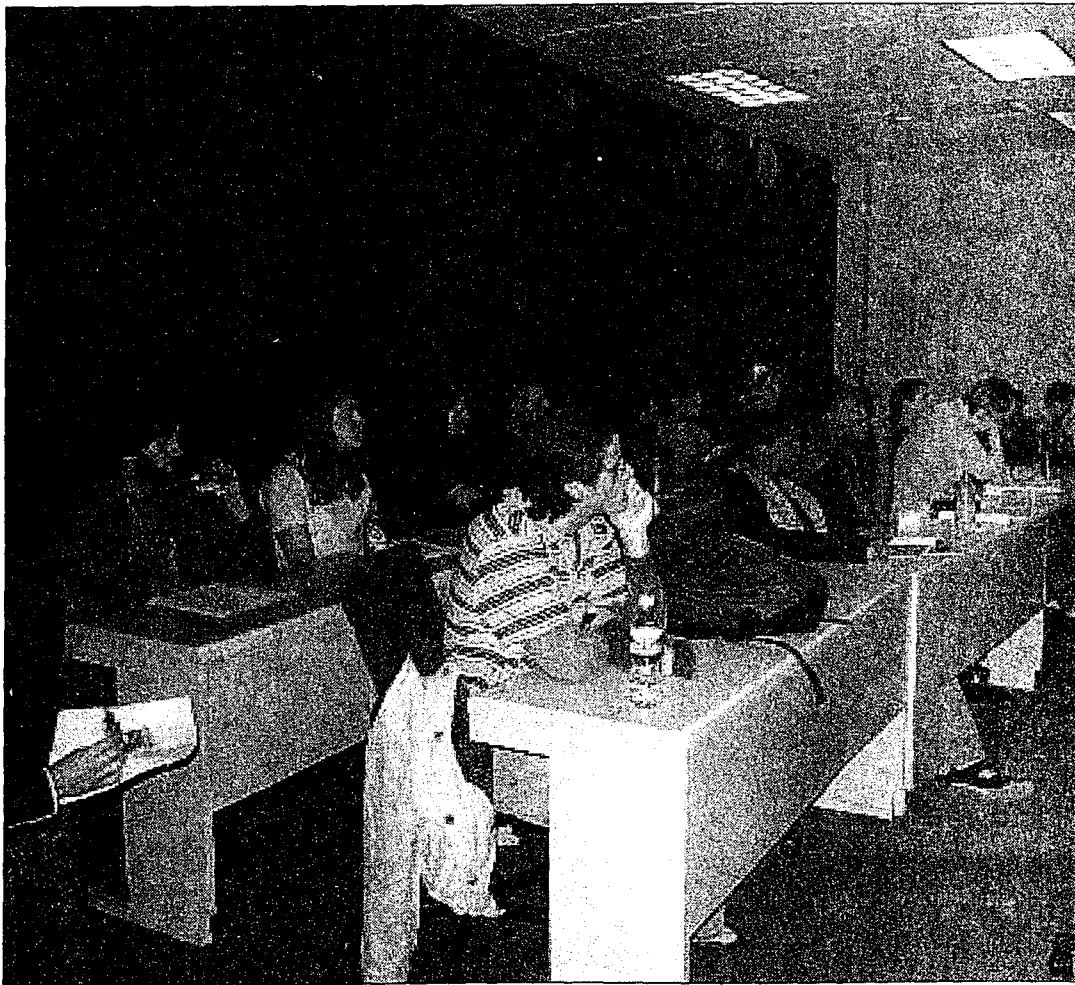


Photo by Gina Deprimo, staff photographer  
Students watch "Kymatica", a documentary by Ben Stewart that focuses on conspiracy theories, on Tuesday.

## Documentary highlights conspiracy theories

By CHRIS MAYO  
Contributing Writer

The Young Americans for Liberty presented the latest Ben Stewart film, "Kymatica," Tuesday night, and will be showing it again tonight and tomorrow night in Room 113 of the Business and Aerospace Building at 7 p.m.

"I don't know what to say, except it is awesome," said Micheal Hecker, a member of YAL.

Stewart is known for his first conspiracy theory-laced film, "Esoteric Agenda," which claims the existence of a global ruling elite shadow government that reaches into every social organization and government to control major world events for their own ends.

"The really powerful message is that when people are mean or violent towards others, it is because we see in that person something we want ourselves to be, or something in ourselves that we despise," said Kenny Torrella, senior recording industry major, "That is the cause of many of the problems in the world."

The film takes a look at, among other things, the roots of all major religions, explored the collective consciousness of humankind and explained how the world's magnetic fields and resonance frequencies influence many aspects of people's lives, brains and feelings.

The film also examines the ideas of laws and how they govern lives, the legitimacy of hierarchal power structures and the problems of war and greed that plagues the modern world.

Stewart said he supports the belief that the universe is one huge, fully aware organism, composed of smaller organisms, all committing the same basic tasks, much in the same way that our bodies are made up of individual cells.

Stewart also said that hu-

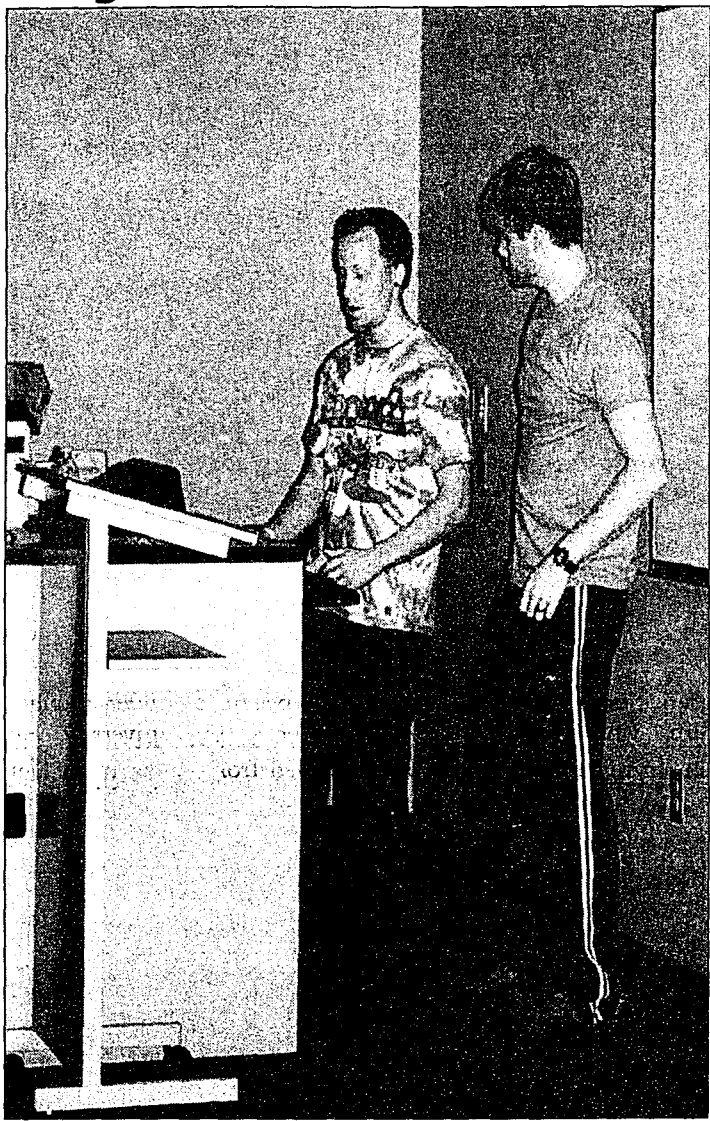


Photo by Gina Deprimo, staff photographer  
Michael Hecker and Stephen Parin introduce the film, "Kymatica."

manity has become cancerous to the larger organism of the Earth, because it long ago lost communication with the greater body, the collective consciousness.

"It was great, but it is a lot of information to take in," said Zakiya Brown, junior advertising major.

Brown said the film throws a lot of information at the viewer, claiming them fact without support, so it is definitely worth further research, but it is an excellent introduction into the search for what she calls the godliness in yourself.

Torrella says the film lost some of its appeal as it dipped into conspiracy theories, such as claiming that many of the major world leaders, including Bush and Obama, are

blood related, and are tools of the "collective ego parasite that instill repression in our society."

"I think, for a lot of people, the message would be stronger without the conspiracy theory stuff," Torrella said. "They might just write the film off."

The film ends presenting humanity with a choice, to evolve and adapt to its environment, become fully self-aware in order to defeat the ego and rejoin the collective consciousness and heal the planet, or, to remain repressed, a plague to the earth and meet its, and perhaps the planet's, extinction.

"Definitely worth checking out," said Torrello, "Whether you disagree or agree, it is going to make you think."

the effects of the tornado on the Greenway."

Cusick said while the damage is visible, she feels the City of Murfreesboro is working diligently to repair

## GREENWAY FROM PAGE 1

"The trees by the [affected] apartments are just gone - it is barren," Cusick said. "You

**“One of the biggest things in the city is the Greenway. It looks like the city is trying to get it back to as normal as possible”**

HEATHER CUSICK  
SENIOR NURSING MAJOR

can actually see the destruction on the houses across the river from the down trees and

the aftermath.  
"One of the biggest things in the city is the Green-

way," Cusick said. "It looks like the city is trying to get it back to as normal as possible."

Anyone interested in volunteering this weekend should contact Angela Jackson at 615-893-2141 or ajackson@murfreesborotn.gov. Volunteers must be at least 10 years old and a parent or guardian must sign a permission form for anyone under 17. Volunteers are also asked to bring a shovel or a garden trowel and gloves.

Volunteers will meet at the Thompson Lane Trailhead at 2240 North Thompson Lane.

## Fraternity flips pancakes, supports cancer research

By EMMA EGLI  
Assistant Campus News Editor

Pi Sigma Epsilon, MT-SU's professional business fraternity, is hosting its second annual Pink Pancake Breakfast to build awareness and raise money for the Tennessee Breast Cancer Coalition, from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. Saturday at O'Charley's.

The fraternity that focuses on marketing and management is partnering with Students in Free Enterprise, the Murfreesboro Girl Scouts and Heritage Farms Dairy to host this event for the non-profit organization dedicated to eradicating breast cancer.

"All the proceeds for the Tennessee Breast Cancer Coalition stay here in Tennessee," said Tyler Walker, senior marketing major and member of Phi Sigma Epsilon. "They directly benefit students who have been directly impacted by breast cancer."

Heritage Farms Dairy will be donating milk and other beverages for the event. Members of the organization will be serving pancakes to the guests.

Walker said the Girl Scout Troop 1137 is helping them in order to get their breast cancer awareness badges.

"Because they have volunteered to help us, our organization is actu-

ally going to buy their badges for them because they can be expensive," Walker said.

In its press release for the event, the organization stated it realizes that raising funds will not only improve the lives of others in Tennessee, but it is also a step toward a worldwide effort for finding a cure.

"Last year we raised approximately \$3,500," Walker said. "We have been selling tickets on campus and around the community trying to get people to attend."

Tickets for the Pink Pancake Breakfast are \$5 and can be purchased at the door on Saturday.

## NAACP FROM PAGE 1

"It's making sure that people understand that self-determination is important, that self-sacrifice is important and that to blame others is only digging your hole deeper," Windrow said.

Sherry Chism and Brittany Bowles also said they gained new perspectives by attending the forum.

Bowles, an undeclared freshman, said just because the fo-

rum is titled "Black in America" doesn't mean it is just for black students. Bowles said it is for all minority groups, including other ethnicities and women.

"This isn't a black-only issue," Bowles said.

"It's for everybody," Chism, sophomore basic and applied sciences major, said. "Everybody needs to be enlightened."

Windrow said another forum will be held in February for Black History Month.

"Ignorance is universal," Chism said. "Everybody needs to start being

aware and start opening our eyes and focusing on a unified future."

Windrow said the event's message of self-help, making priorities in life and helping others, is one for everyone.

"If we choose to better ourselves, we would be amazed at how many other people would choose to help us better ourselves," Windrow said. "The whole universe opens up, I believe, for those who are determined to help self and, by helping self, help others."

## CRIME BRIEFS

Nov. 16, 2:00 p.m.

Vandalism

Greek Row

Reported vandalism at the Sigma Alpha Epsilon house.

Nov. 17, 4:04 p.m.

Vandalism

Maintenance Parking Lot

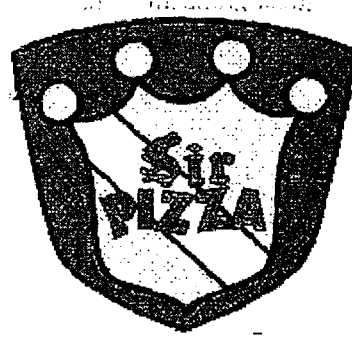
Report of vandalism to subject's white Jeep Wrangler. Subject reported that someone had taken a razor and cut into one of his windows.

Nov. 17, 5:17 p.m.

Theft

Scarlett Commons Apartments

Reported theft of a bicycle described as a light blue, single-speed 1970s Raleigh Technium with black drop handlebars.




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# FEATURES



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## Oldest professor recounts MTSU history

Bob Womack tells MTSU's story from his days as a student and how he became MTSU's most senior professor

By MICHAEL STONE  
Staff Writer

Hundreds of books stand at attention on wooden shelves as they stare down at Bob Womack while he reads over a rough draft of his fifth book. The 86-year-old professor – the oldest at MTSU – doesn't let his attention become diverted while working in his office on the third floor of Jones Hall.

Though he is an educational leadership professor at the university, none of his books are about education. They pertain to various subject matter including history, horses and politics. One of the key topics in his latest work is religion.

"What I try to do is inject the element of reason in religion," says Womack, commonly known by acquaintances and close friends alike as Dr. Bob. "Much of religion is unreasonable. I try to drain those myths and superstitions out of religion and substitute reason in their place."

Discussing sometimes controversial topics, like religion, in the classroom and forcing students to "engage in self-examination" as he calls it, has helped establish Dr. Bob as a man who is not afraid to mentally challenge students or be challenged in return.

"If there was a modern-day Socrates, it would be Bob Womack," says Terry Weeks, an educational leadership professor who has been a colleague of Dr. Bob for 20 years, as well as co-authored a Tennessee history textbook with him.

Though he may not have gained the same level of recognition that Socrates has, Dr. Bob's legacy, at least in MTSU community, is impossible not to notice.

The Curriculum Collection in the James E. Walker Library is dedicated to Dr. Bob and his deceased wife, Elizabeth, and the Department of Educational Leadership was renamed the Womack Family Educational Leadership Department because of the impact he and his family have

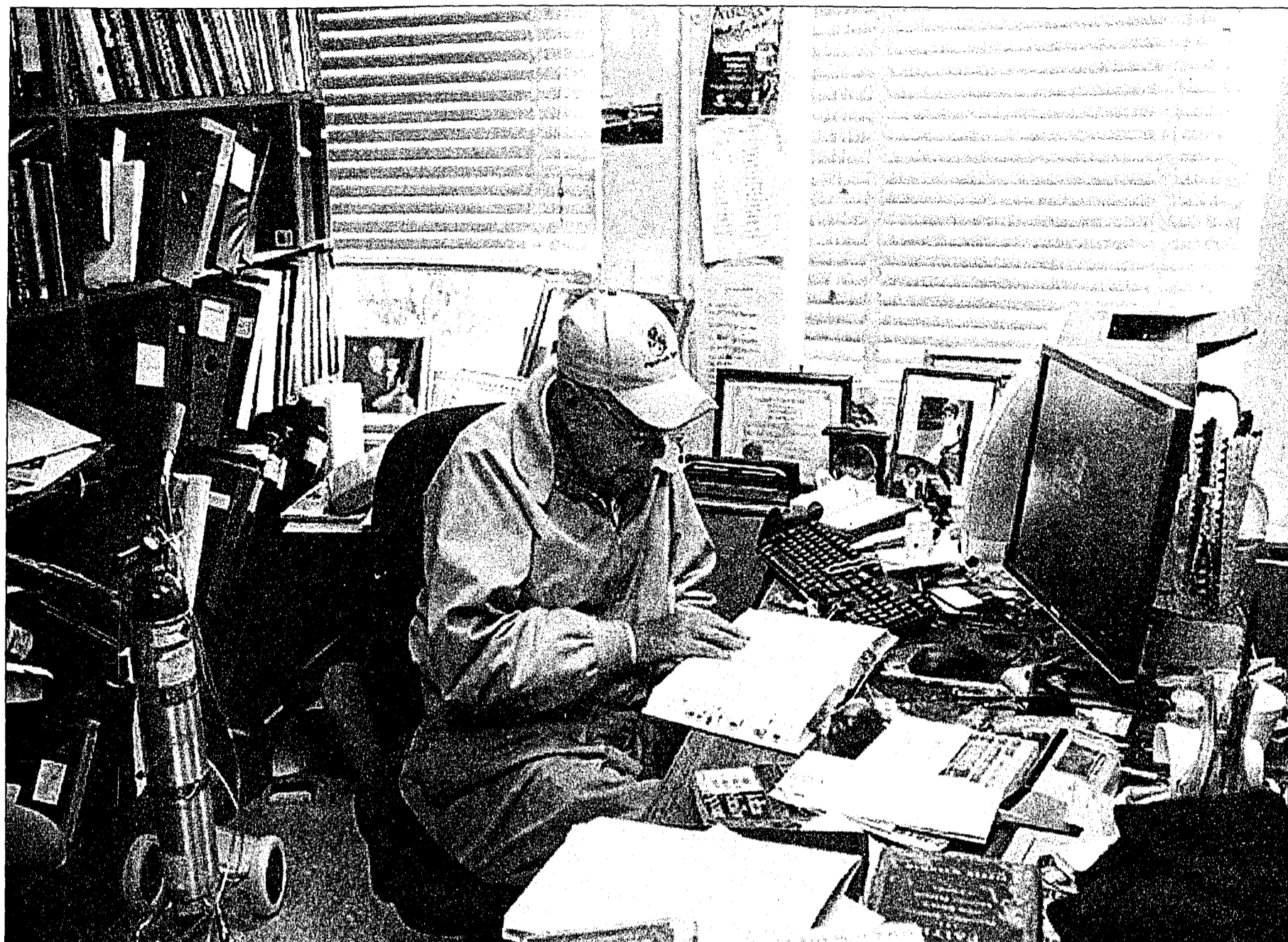


Photo by Michael Stone, staff writer

Bob Womack, at age 86, is the oldest professor at MTSU. Womack, an educational leadership professor, plans to retire next semester after more than 52 years of teaching.

had on MTSU. There isn't any relation, though, to Womack Lane, a road on the outskirts of the university's campus.

"I said, 'I've only been here two weeks and they've already named a road for me,' which wasn't true," Dr. Bob says of

State Senator Andy Womack and current MTSU Business Law Professor Lara Daniel, six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

"I don't do it as well as he did," Daniel says of her father's mentally provocative teaching

four of his children. The only current student is Dr. Bob's granddaughter, Marguerite Sims, who says she lives her life trying to "carry on that Womack tradition."

"It's very honoring to be able to say Dr. Bob Womack is my grandfather," says Sims, a junior early childhood education major. "He's taught me to continue to stay motivated and try harder and harder and to never give up."

The creation of the Womack-MTSU legacy didn't start with Dr. Bob. His older brother attended MTSU when the university was known as Middle Tennessee State Normal School in the early part of the 20th century. His two older sisters

and other older brother later enrolled, and then in 1941, Dr. Bob began his undergraduate career at the university. He moved from his farm in Flat Creek, Tenn. to the third floor of Jones Hall which was then a dorm, and 68 years later, is the same floor where his office is today.

"It was a good atmosphere [and] we were well-behaved students," he says with a look of reflection. "Really, there was very little hanky-panky going on here then. We were generally rural students – came from farms [with] pretty strict morals."

In spite of his eagerness to receive work toward his doctorate and begin his career, it

took Dr. Bob seven years to complete his undergraduate work because of a conflict taking place on the other side of the world.

"I was on the first floor [of Jones Hall] the day Pearl Harbor was bombed," Dr. Bob remembers. "I was down there listening to the radio, and they interrupted the radio and said that Pearl Harbor had been bombed – that didn't mean anything to me, I didn't know where Pearl Harbor was."

That meaning, he says, began to fall into place very quickly. He enlisted into the Navy in 1943 and fought in World War II for three years.

**"I see students as representing potential, and I've always wanted to help develop that potential."**

**BOB WOMACK**  
PROFESSOR OF EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

when he arrived at MTSU as a student in 1941.

Dr. Bob, who has taught at the university since 1957, has four children, including former

style. "But I've learned from watching him."

The majority of his family old enough to attend college came to MTSU, including all

PROFESSOR, PAGE 4

## MTSU's international students celebrate Thanksgiving

By BRITTANY KLATT  
Staff Writer

Thanksgiving is a time of year to which most college students look forward. Not only is it a break from classes, but it also gives students a chance to return home, have a good meal and reconnect with their families.

"For Thanksgiving I'm going back home," Sterling Miller says, junior digital media major. "I haven't seen my family in a while."

Many students plan to spend the Thanksgiving holiday at home with their family, but for the international students at MTSU, home can be thousands of miles away. This year MTSU has 140 international students enrolled in undergraduate programs.

Unlike most students, their holiday plans are uncertain. Because they do not have family that they can automatically stay with, these students are forced to create their own plans for the holiday.

Mariko Kondo, a junior English major from Nagoya, Japan, was invited to a friend's house for the holiday, while Miller's roommate Chan Chen, an international student from Changsha, China, said that she and some friends

were invited to Thanksgiving Dinner at President Sidney McPhee's house.

Chihiro Isono, a junior education major from Hokkaido, Japan, is also planning to spend the holiday with a local family.

"I may go to Illinois with my family from First Friends," Isono says.

According to Tech Wubneh, director of International Programs and Services, First Friends is a program where international students are matched with local families.

The program is a way of trying to introduce students to American culture and to help them feel more comfortable in the U.S. The department "has receptions on a regular basis to help them get to know each other."

Sometimes the student becomes very close to the family.

"It is very likely that those that have that kind of connection will go with their family in these situations," Wubneh says.

Some of the students are taking advantage of the university holiday and planning to travel.

Phylicia Coleman, sophomore accounting major, is a resident assistant in Lyon

Hall and has spoken to some of the international students on her floor about their holiday plans.

"Some of them are going out of town," she says. "They tell me they might go to New York."

Coleman said the international students that have no plans may attend the Thanksgiving dinner that is thrown for students every year.

Sponsored by MTSU's Parent and Family Association and Housing and Residential Life, the dinner is held on Thanksgiving Day at the Scarlett Commons Clubhouse from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Students staying on campus are invited to have a traditional Thanksgiving Dinner for free.

Whether they are spending the holiday traveling around the country or attending a small campus celebration, these students still have certain expectations about the holiday.

Most of them said they were interested in eating turkey and shopping on Black Friday. But others were also interested in the learning experience.

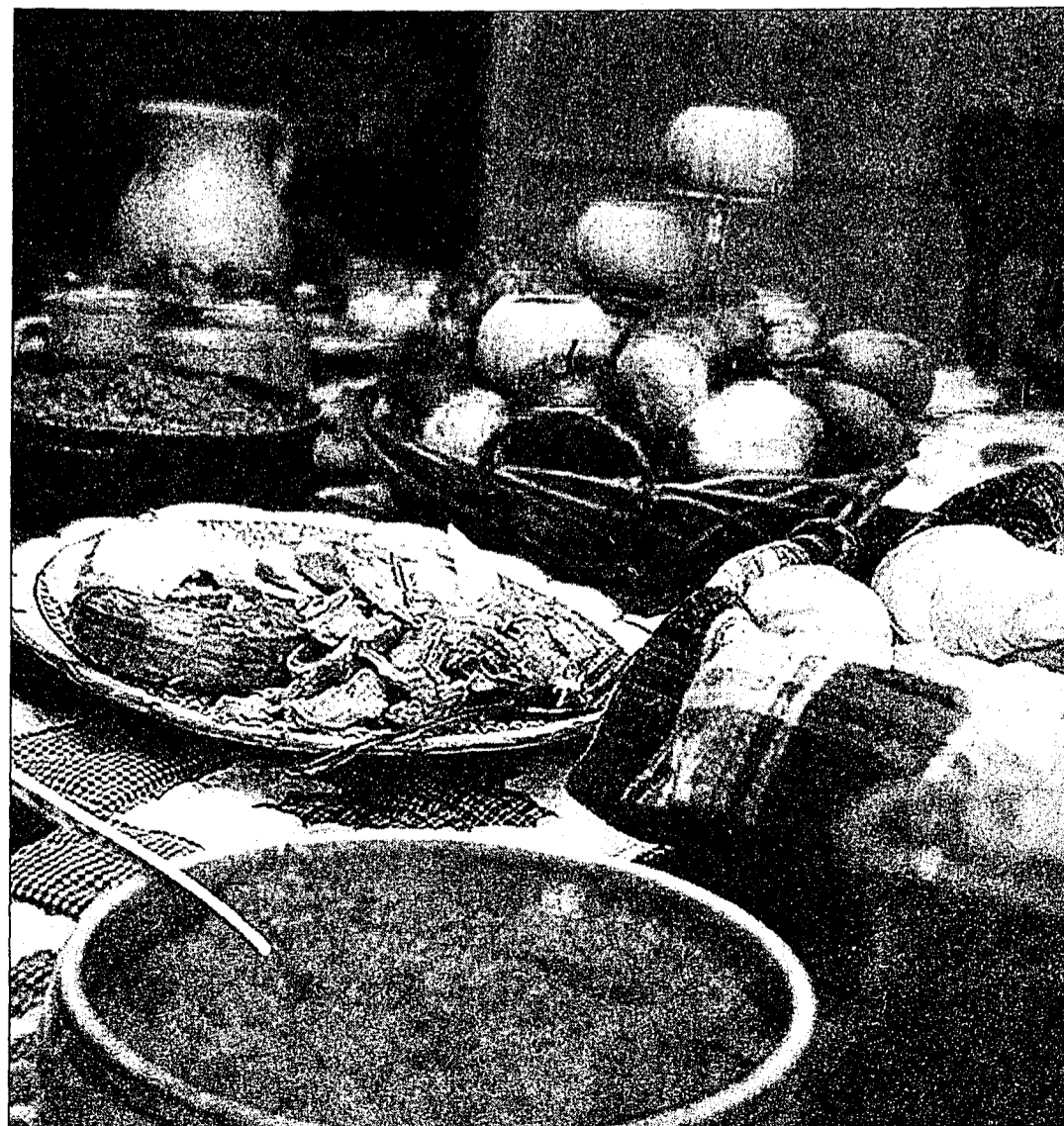


Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Because Thanksgiving is an American holiday, international students often celebrate the holiday alongside American students in order to gain better knowledge of culture in the United States.

THANKSGIVING, PAGE 4

# Overzealous has nearly 10-year MTSU history

By JESSICA PACE  
Staff Writer

Over the whirl of blenders in the MTSU Walker Library coffee shop, Crittenden and Sellers sit and talk about Overzealous and why they have both stuck with the music for so long.

"I don't really recall," says Brad Crittenden vaguely, thinking about how the name came to be for the band he has been a consistent part of for almost 10 years with band mate Dustin Sellers.

Both guys are quiet and vaguely bookish, seeming almost too polite for the sound that they have spent the last decade sculpting. Since forming in 2000, they have burned through drummers who could not quite commit, gone from a two-piece band to a three-piece to four-piece and back to two.

They have interchanged instruments — Sellers used to play drums with Crittenden on lead guitar.

Amidst constant morphing in the band's assemblage, Overzealous has stumbled upon a lot of random opportunity along the way. After winning a Battle of the Bands in Murfreesboro, the guys received a bit of free studio time, which was used to record a collection of songs simply titled "EP."

They released an assortment of small compilations, most with little formality but all packing a lot of punch. But now Overzealous has been whittled back down to just Crittenden, who took up bass, and Sellers, on guitar. Both play piano, and both are vocalists.

"Writing and narrowing down the vision has been easier," Sellers says of being a two-



Photo courtesy Emily Spence

Dustin Sellers (left) and Brad Crittenden (right) are only original Overzealous members remaining with the band through its ten year history.

piece band again.

Still, the search for a permanent drummer has occupied much of the band's time when Crittenden and Sellers are not promoting their brand new release.

"Yellow Jr." is a five-track EP with a quirky name landed upon by a lot of "underlying shit" and a "yellow sort of mood," Sellers says.

He and Crittenden have been playing shows in Knoxville and Murfreesboro in the

past two weeks to break out the upbeat but still lyrically complex "Yellow," which is possibly the band's most pronounced and relevant release to date.

"They came across sufficiently and honestly," says Crittenden of the five songs. "Not too much pizzazz, but enough force to present themselves."

"Force" describes it well. "Yellow Jr." is confident and the guitars are blazing in a



Foo Fighters-type way that is laid-back but does not lack finesse.

And Overzealous seems happy with the relevancy the album has compared to previ-

ous EPs, which were pieced together on others' timeframes so that the material was somewhat outdated by the time it surfaced.

"It seems to be a reflection of the moment," Crittenden says.

Most of what Overzealous does seems to be of the moment, seizing projects spontaneously and approaching them head-on. In 2005, the band starred in "Novem," an independent film about

a college band that meets a sudden death after a week of recording in the summer of 1973.

The type of role that the guys were to have in the film, however, came as a shock to the band.

"We thought we were signing up to write songs, but we were trying out for parts," Crittenden says.

Overzealous took the roles anyway, and continues to dive headlong into whatever opportunities present themselves.

"At 22, we were like, 'Yeah, we'll play music. Where do we go?'" Crittenden says.

Though he and Sellers are both 27 now, they have hardly curbed the enthusiasm for the band, their music often sticking out like a sore thumb, but in a positive sense, as Sellers puts it.

"The name Overzealous probably has more meaning now than it did at the time," Sellers says. "Here we are 10 years later, just me and Brad still, pushing the same thing. I feel like when our work does come out, it's overzealous."

In addition to pushing "Yellow Jr." wherever it can, the band's next endeavor may possibly be another release of songs recorded live in New York. If the New York recordings, should they see the light of day, have any of the energy of "Yellow Jr.," it will be worth a listen.

"We've taken a lot of opportunities that were hit or miss," Sellers says. "If you don't try and test the waters, you'll just be sitting around waiting for something to come."

## PROFESSOR FROM PAGE 3

Though he doesn't like to talk about the conflict, he has great respect for the opportunities that came out of it, mainly the G.I. Bill of Rights, which paid for Dr. Bob's, as well as many other soldiers', tuition.

"It redid education," he says of the bill. "Soldiers had money to come to school on."

Dr. Bob predicts that when he started college, about 350 students attended MTSU and there were only five buildings: Kirksey Old Main, Jones Hall, Rutledge Hall, Lyons Hall and a cafeteria. As the student population blossomed and more buildings started to pop up, he says the university began to establish itself as something it is still stereotyped as today: a commuter college.

"Long time ago, most of the student body lived on campus," he says. "But after World War II, [the students] dispersed. It



Photo by Michael Stone

Dr. Bob is pictured with his late wife, Elizabeth, for whom the Curriculum Collection in MTSU's James E. Walker Library is named.

became a commuter college — still is."

After obtaining his undergraduate degree and moving on to get his master's degree and doctorate from

Peabody College in Nashville, Dr. Bob began stimulating the minds of hundreds of students.

He has played crucial roles outside of the classroom as

well, including becoming the third president of the university's Faculty Senate in 1968.

And now, even though he is limited by mobility and other health concerns, he says his desire to educate is still running strong.

"I see students as representing potential, and I've always wanted to help develop that potential," Dr. Bob explains.

At the end of the current school year, Dr. Bob plans to say "goodbye" to the university he has seen grow to become the largest undergraduate school in the state. James Huffman, chair of the Womack Family Educational Leadership Department and 35-year colleague of Dr. Bob, says his fellow educator "will always be dear to [my and my colleagues'] hearts."

"He's had an impact on so many students and he'll be remembered for that impact," Huffman says.

Dr. Bob says he ready to retire, though, and even though he is leaving the school in a

time of economic uncertainty, he believes that the future of MTSU is "unlimited."

"Harvard is the model for all of American education as far as I'm concerned," he explains. "The rest of us merely try to imitate a little bit of what Harvard does. And I think we at MTSU are doing a good job of moving in the direction of the excellence projected by Harvard."

One of the things Dr. Bob says he will miss the most at MTSU is having lunch every day at the Keathley University Center with fellow professors from various fields.

But the biggest thing he is going to hate to say "goodbye" to is teaching.

"I always enjoyed every class I ever had," he says. "I just hope the students enjoyed it as much as I did."



Listen to soundslides about Dr. Bob Womack online at [MTSUSidelines.com/podcasts](http://MTSUSidelines.com/podcasts)

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## THANKSGIVING FROM PAGE 3

"I want to learn about culture in the U.S.," Isono says. "For example, I want to learn about the dishes and customs."

Because Thanksgiving is an American holiday, many of these students have little knowledge about the holiday and its customs.

"I don't know much about it," Isono says. "I know about Black Friday, and they eat with family in their homes."

Wubneh believes that this lack of knowledge is one of the reasons why it is important for international students to be involved in Thanksgiving celebrations.

"International students are not familiar with Thanksgiving because it is a U.S. event," Wubneh said. "It's good for them to know. Many students come here to study and end up getting a job and living here permanently. So they need to understand culture."

Since family is such a large part of Thanksgiving, some students think that it is good for U.S. students to invite the international students to their celebration.

"These students are thousands and thousands of miles away from their home, and Thanksgiving is part of our culture," Miller says. "If I was an exchange student and someone invited me, I would be thankful for it."



At the moment, IPS does not have a formal way for students to invite international students to its home for the holidays because it is afraid of pressuring students into an uncomfortable situation. However, IPS hopes that those involved in First Friends will be invited to their family's celebration.

"In an indirect way, that is what we are encouraging," Wubneh says.

Miller agrees that if there was a way for students to volunteer to invite international students to their home, the program would have to be dorm-based because it will make the stay more comfortable for both students.

"Since we live with those exchange students in our dorm we get to know them better," Miller says.

For now, those who want to invite an international student to their home for the holiday should just ask. Odds are that they will appreciate the offer and might return the favor when they return to their home country. Isono said if she met an American student at her university in Japan, she would now invite them to her house.

"I would teach them about Japanese culture," Isono says. "Also about Japanese food, news, politics. I would teach them everything I know about Japan."

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# OPINIONS

## US' celebrity worship silly, time-wasting

You see them everywhere. They tell you to buy certain products, they influence the politics and ideas of you and your friends, and their faces are plastered everywhere. Your friends are obsessed with them and you know their stories.



### Pearl before swine

Pearl Howell

influence the public opinion.

That's right: celebrities. Everywhere, on movies, commercials, television, radio, newspapers and the internet, the fabulously famous haunt us. The president is even something of a celebrity.

They endorse products and movements. They guide the decisions and lifestyles of some people. Where does this power come from, and why? Why do the people of the world allow themselves to drift in the turbulence of the lives of famous people?

Certainly in this day and age it is difficult to be a celebrity. They are stalked, bought and sold, used and even robbed. In the absence of a stalker, however, drugs, sex and alcohol make for a pretty good substitute. Claiming to be misunderstood and sick of the superficiality, they seek an escape through substance abuse.

Oh, the burden of fame. Nevertheless, is this really the sort of person that needs to be idolized?

Some people see celebrities as godlike heroes, and hold them high on a pedestal in order to observe and mimic them in a desperate search for their own shred of fame.

What makes these people so heroic? Why are they worthy of the public's rapt attention? Why this intense fascination and blind admiration with people most have never met or even seen face-to-face?

There are people in this world worth acknowledging as heroes, and while they may occasionally reach celebrity-level fame, it is a rare thing. Putting forth the mindless antics of some famous people is not only completely pointless, but a base waste of time. There is nothing heroic about many of today's celebrities, but they are nonetheless put forward as ideal Americans.

Why should they provide beacons of brilliance when there are so many others in this world far more worthy of the title "hero?" Why do so many care about the day-to-day lives of celebrities and so little for the once-in-a-lifetime actions of true heroes?

Have celebrities done anything to deserve out attention beyond the realm of entertainment? Do they have degrees in political science or experience in the political realm? Are they doctors or sages?

Their fame does not give them automatic rights to endorse, persuade or otherwise

In fact, it can be dangerous to follow the strict rulings of one's favorite celebrity.

Oprah's endorsement of Suzanne Somers proves that celebrities sometimes don't know what they're talking about. Somers recommended high doses of synthetic estrogen on a daily basis, ridiculous amounts of vitamin supplements and an unrealistic level of diet and exercise, all in an effort to stay young. In medical fields, it is an acknowledged fact that estrogen in high doses does not keep the body young, but rather increases a woman's risk of certain cancers and diseases.

Oprah also endorsed the inspirational speaker James Earl Ray, who was in charge of setting up a sauna in the middle of a desert that recently killed three people.

In the realm of politics, celebrities always have their fingers in the pie. Bono and Green Day voice their protests through catchy pop tunes. Michael Moore makes entire movies attempting to recruit the American populace to his own beliefs. Stephen Colbert and Jon Stewart feed America news with a comedic (and generally blatantly biased) spin.

The list could go on forever, but the question remains: what gives them the right? Celebrities are merely humans, like every other person on this earth. Why do their opinions matter so much to so many?

Pop culture's media are controlling America. There are whole magazines and television channels devoted to the relationships and lives of celebrities. People blog about what they wear and where they eat. Why do we care?

Certainly it is wonderful the celebrities can throw their support behind a worthy cause and encourage others to be equally philanthropic. Some are very talented and intelligent people. But when will America shake off its coma-like stupor, step away from the television screen, and learn to appreciate the everyday people that make this country great?

Pearl Howell is a freshman theater major and can be reached at rph2t@mtsu.edu.



"Seattle Spew"

megapencil5@yahoo.com

Kyle Patterson

### FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

## Will felon remain on MT salary or not?

Last Friday, professor Pamela Holder was convicted of bank and wire fraud charges, namely against homebuyers, the Bank of Nashville and First Tennessee Bank.

While it might be difficult to muster sympathy for corporate entities such as banks, the real victims here are the people whose finances were pilfered by Holder et al. In times of recession, anyone who illicitly takes advantage of the U.S. financial system should be an especial subject to scrutiny.

But the real question here is why MTSU and its administrators have yet to make a statement on whether Holder, who was at one time director of the Regents Online Degree Program, will continue to remain on staff. After her initial charges, the administration reclassified Holder as "nonteaching," yet technically she's still employed at the university.

Though an employer can't necessarily fire an individual for his or her conduct off the job, that person is still a representative of the organization after he or she has clocked out. Basically the problem in Holder's case is that MTSU has a convicted felon currently on staff; her name, e-mail, office, title, phone and box numbers are still on the campus directory if you want to drop her a line.

Director of News and Public Affairs Tom Tozer did make a comment on the situation and the steps the administration is taking to review Holder's employment here. Granted, much of the comment amounted to "no comment," but at least it shed a little light on what the university is doing.

Yet this light is far from being wholly transparent with the MTSU community at large. The next step is having a panel of administrators determine whether she's eligible for further employment. This process reeks of bureaucratic lag.

What the public probably wants to know, at the least, is the official university position on this sort of criminal activity. We can only hope that administrators don't condone these sorts of activities, but it'd be nice to hear them say it.

What would be even better is if MTSU would take a clear-cut position on the matter in as timely a fashion as possible, then make a statement on it in an e-mail to students, faculty and staff.

## 2013 calendar, anyone?

Last Friday afternoon, I went and saw the brand new Hollywood interpretation of the end times, known as "2012."

To be perfectly honest, I have been waiting for it to come out, because it looked amazing. Visually, it was absolutely fantastic. The first half of the movie sat better than the last half, though I will not give anything away to those who want to see it and have not yet.

The movie is based on the belief that because the ancient Mayan long calendar ends on Dec. 21, 2012, the world as we know it will end as well. Not being one to subscribe to conspiracy theories, I had not given it much thought. As someone who loves history, it is certainly intriguing. Being a realist, the world cannot possibly last forever.

It does make one think. Here are the Maya, an ancient people whose understanding of the world in many aspects far exceeded our own, ending their long calendar on this certain date. No one knows why the calendar ends there.

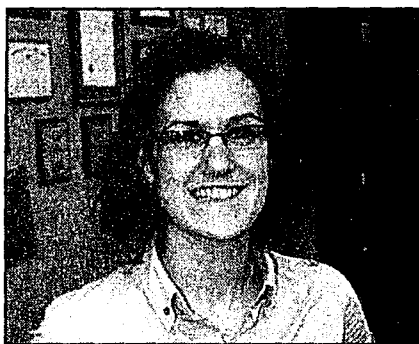
Maybe they got tired of making it. Maybe they knew their civilization was about to end, and they no longer cared about making their calendar because they would have no use for it. Maybe they really did find something that indicated some cataclysmic event is set to happen in 2012.

No one can possibly know the reasoning behind the abrupt end to the Mayan calendar. What we have are many theories and many different people accepting them, or at the very least, becoming intrigued by them.

We as a society are very interested in these theories, not just relating to the possible end of days in 2012. How many people know someone who had a safe room filled with bottled water and were preparing for the apocalypse in 2000?

There are people who are absolutely fascinated with the inner workings of the church, or of the Freemasons, or any secret society, which is why Dan Brown can continue to write and sell millions of copies of his books. If he were to write a book on 2012 and make Robert Langdon a central character, he would never have to work again.

Nostradamus continues to attract attention, sell books, inspire Web sites and even a tele-



### My point, and I do have one

Mallory Boyd

vision show on the History Channel, 443 years after his death. The name "Nostradamus" was ranked number one on Google search after the 9/11 attacks.

There are many that believe the Mayan calendar and the Book of Revelations in the Bible are both predicting the end to be in 2012. According to the Bible, we are in the last stages of the world right now. In fact, we are past due for the second coming.

The more we engage in wars and witness horrific natural disasters worldwide, the more it seems people are questioning whether this is it.

How many people have heard someone joke after a disaster about it is the end of the world? Whether it is or it is not, it is certainly creating a buzz.

What is this fascination with if and when the world, or at least the civilization to which we have become accustomed, will end?

We have become so fascinated by it that television shows like "It Could Happen Tomorrow" on the Weather Channel are incredibly successful. One I am guilty of watching is the History Channel's "Life After People," which is based not on what would happen after some huge event has wiped people out, but more on what would happen if the human race just suddenly vanished.

Also along this line is Alan Weisman's book, "The World Without Us." He briefly touches on the fact that most go along believing nothing will end the human race by stating, "Any conjecture gets muddled with our obstinate reluctance to accept that the worst might actually occur."

The film "2012" and followers of this philosophy are definitely thinking about what would happen if the worst does occur. A major part of the movie deals with the eruption of the Yellowstone super volcano, which is indeed very real.

Though the movie itself is very Hollywood, it is fact that the Mayan calendar ends in 2012, for whatever reason.

We cannot possibly know why. Perhaps the better question is: do we really want to know?

Mallory Boyd is a sophomore geology major and can be reached at mnb2v@mtsu.edu



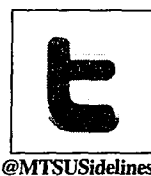
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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Ft Hood attack tragic; resist temptation to blame Islam

To the Editor:

The recent events at Ft. Hood are horrible and inexcusable, but we must remember not to hold an entire group of people responsible for the actions of one man. Thousands of Muslims have served faithfully and honorably in our all-volunteer armed forces and will always continue to do so. Regardless of religious ideals, soldiers have effectively served alongside each other peacefully and have proven time and time again that we have the greatest military in the world.

Muslims all over the globe and especially here in the U.S. have suffered from a bad reputation. Despite efforts to overcome the stigma caused by those that claim to fight in God's cause; it is always "one step forward, two steps back." You know what they say about those with the biggest mouths.

It is a fact that true Islam does not condone suicide or the murder of innocents. The abundance of recent and heartfelt statements issued by alarmed Muslims will only serve to support this, but don't take my word for it. The Quran says in 5:32 that whoever kills an innocent human being, it shall be as if he had killed all of mankind.

One of the first things we as Americans do immediately after an accident, catastrophe or attack is look for someone to blame. Throughout human history, the human element has failed us innumerable times. We can sort it out later when all the facts are clear. Right now it is time for mourning and support, not debate and finger pointing.

As a Iraq War veteran and a Muslim, my thoughts and prayers are with the families and friends of those wounded and killed in the attack. I ask all to remember that when people commit crimes, they do so not because of their religion or culture, but in spite of their religious and cultural upbringing.

Greg Mecomber  
freshman, College of Liberal Arts

## 'Veggie libel' laws legal disaster

Consumer advocates have been sounding the alarm for years that corporations have too much power over the markets in which they operate. Nowadays, the more chilling statements may be the ones they don't make.

Thirteen states have so-called "veggie libel" laws on their books, at the behest of major food and chemical corporations. These states are Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota and Texas.

These laws establish a lower standard of damage to prove libel when the subject of the statement is food. In plain speech, these laws make it easier for a food producer to win a case against anyone who makes a comment about their product unless it is scientifically verifiable beyond the shadow of a doubt. In most states, the law allows for civil suit, but in Colorado, this kind of speech is actually criminal.

The effect this has on any legitimate research or reporting is positively numbing.

Since these laws took effect, it is extremely easy for any company to sue someone for expressing an opinion about any food product in these states.

Therefore, the defendant is required to prove that his or her statement, which could be as innocuous as "I think this bagged spinach made me sick," is solidly backed by reliable science, instead of being constitutionally protected speech expressing an opinion.

Media experts explain the danger in this condition, called the chilling effect. Journalists, doctors and consumer advocates are likely to



## The Pen is Mightier

Evan Barker

self-censor exposing these situations, for fear of costly lawsuit. Even if they win the legal battle, they're likely to go bankrupt in the process, which is what the companies who bring the suits want.

"If I'm a small-town newspaper, I'm likely not to publish [these stories] because I can't afford to be sued," says Larry Burriss, journalism professor at MTSU.

Imagine who may get to decide which evidence is scientifically sound. A vast majority of the research done about modern corporate food is conducted by the companies themselves, which tend not to release their research, especially when it shows them in a bad light. This constitutes a catch-22, in which the research justifying a critical remark is kept secret for the very same reason.

Think of those oft-cited tobacco company studies that proved the arguments of the accusers and were therefore kept secret, such as the study that proved that secondhand smoke caused cancer. That study was eventually seized.

The dearth of food health research is an important related topic. Public university agriculture schools are supposed to conduct the kind of research and fact checking required to keep private

companies in line. However, these companies overwhelmingly fund this research at the schools, effectively outsourcing their work to government entities and silencing any criticism. Why would a university publish research critical of its donors? It could even get sued for doing so in these states.

Veggie libel came about after a 1989 episode of CBS' "60 Minutes" aired concerns that a plant-growth-regulating chemical, Alar, was likely carcinogenic. Public outcry caused large retailers to reject apples treated with the chemical, and the apple growers sued CBS for what they argued was a loss of profits and defamation.

Of course, it turned out that Alar was carcinogenic in both mice and men, but that didn't stop the companies from crying bloody murder. The suit against CBS was a traditional libel suit; under the law, the growers would have to prove that CBS knowingly published false information with intent to defame. Of course, they could not, since CBS had science on their side, and the case was dismissed in 1994. Enter special treatment for giant companies.

Starting in 1995, several states quickly adopted laws holding the speaker civilly liable for saying that any "perishable food product or commodity" was unfit for human consumption.

Consider, then, the following hypothetical situation. Suppose a company makes a chemical which kills all plants on contact. The same company produces some bean varieties genetically engineered to be immune to the killer chemical. Therefore, farmers can nuke their fields with the plant-killer, keeping

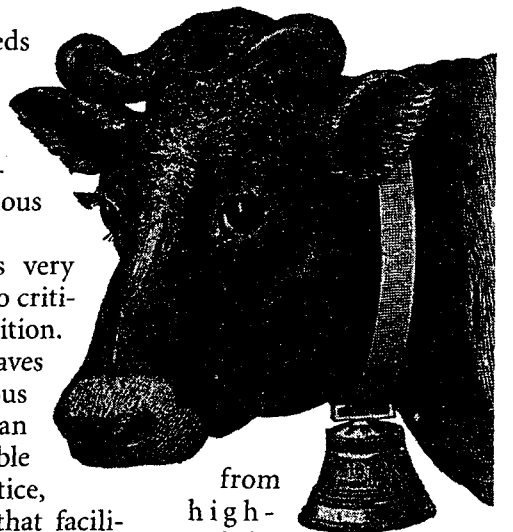
them free of weeds for their beans to grow. Now, suppose this same company manufactured the infamous Agent Orange.

The kicker: it's very risky in 13 states to criticize this very condition. To reiterate, it leaves one open to frivolous lawsuit to express an opinion unfavorable towards this practice, or the company that facilitates it. If a farmer were to advertise that his beans were superior because he didn't use the killer chemical or the magic beans, he could be sued for millions of dollars. He'd be sued, and he'd probably win, but go bankrupt in the process. By the way, the chemical is called RoundUp, and the company is called Monsanto.

Somehow, the First Amendment does not apply when the subject of one's opinion is a food product in 13 states. No one, however, is immune to this litigious bloodlust.

In 1998, Oprah Winfrey was sued for \$12 million by a group of Texas cattlemen, after a former rancher said on her show that the U.S. was in danger of a Mad Cow disease outbreak. He claimed that at some ranches, dead cattle were fed to the herd. Oprah responded "It has just stopped me cold from eating another burger." The lawsuit took four years to end in her favor. However, the Supreme Court, which has the power to put the issue to bed once and for all, declined to hear the cattlemen's appeal. Do food producers deserve special protection from otherwise legal criticism?

The point of these lawsuits is not to win money



from high-profile defendants such as Oprah. The point is to stifle debate about practices that may be extremely harmful to our health and environment. Remember, Alar turned out to be cancerous, as did Agent Orange, but that doesn't mean anyone wanted to admit it.

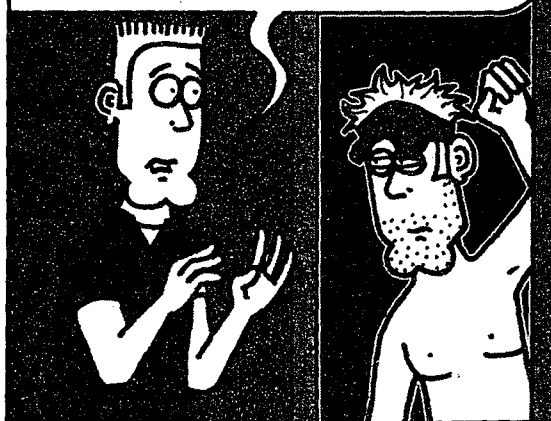
In the meantime, how do we decide, under these sweeping and vague laws, what is safe? Right now, Tennessee doesn't have a veggie libel law, but would it be dangerous to publish this column in our neighboring Alabama, or Georgia or Mississippi? Is it already hazardous to say this, since this newspaper is published on the Internet? Is it risky for a writer to express preference for food raised potentially toxic chemicals or genetic modifications?

Journalists and scientists are liable to shy away from asking these questions, because the very real threat of lawsuit-induced bankruptcy exerts a firm grip on legitimate inquiry. Today Oprah; tomorrow the rest of us.

Evan Barker is a senior English major and the Opinions Editor for Sidelines. He can be reached at [slopino@mtsu.edu](mailto:slopino@mtsu.edu).

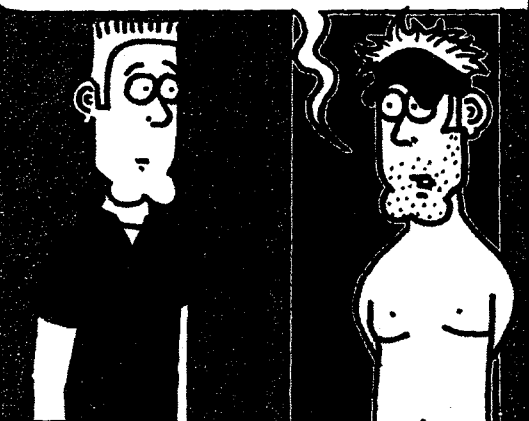
## COMICS

WHEATHEAD! BRO, I CAN'T FIND MY LITTLE SISTER! SHE'S A PROSPECTIVE STUDENT VISITING THIS WEEKEND.



"Blundergrads"

IS SHE ABOUT 5'9" WITH PORCELAIN SKIN, FLOWING RED HAIR, AND A DOLPHIN TATTOO ON HER LEFT HIP?

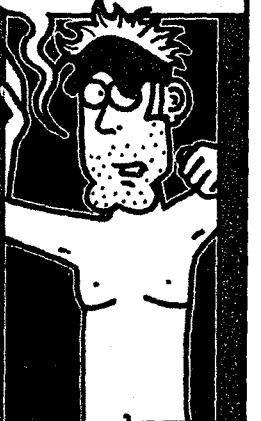


blundergrads.com

YES! YES! THAT'S HER!



UH... NOPE; HAVEN'T SEEN HER.



Phil Flickinger

## Ft Hood shooting about mental health

At this point, everyone has heard about the Fort Hood shooting incident that claimed thirteen U.S. soldiers' lives and wounded 38 others.

The assailant, Army Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan, was allegedly disturbed about being deployed to Afghanistan.

The fact that Hasan was Muslim has been extensively covered to the point of being shoved down our throats. Yes, it was a major contributing factor, but I am sure there are other Muslims in the Army, and as a soldier, I have no problem serving with them.

It seems there is a heavy focus on his religion and race, but that was only one factor of many that lead to this horrible tragedy. Is it so difficult to get past the fact Hasan was Muslim? Let's put this aside and look at a couple of facts, shall we?

Hasan was an Army psychologist. Soldiers came to him with their fractured psyches and conditions like post-traumatic stress disorder. Warriors came back from deployment with broken spirits and trou-



## A call to arms

Johnathon Schleicher

bled minds, and Hasan's purpose was specifically to help soldiers who came back from Afghanistan, a territory that was culturally and religiously relevant to him.

One can only imagine the problems this man has seen others deal with, and he was probably terrified of going over there himself.

In no way am I defending what he has done, but I will say that he probably did not commit these crimes solely because of his religion. The fact that Hasan had

helped take the burden off other soldiers possibly contributed to his own mental collapse.

How can we expect a man to fix shattered psyches who was cracked himself?

What Hasan did was terrible and unforgivable, but we cannot just chalk it up to religious or cultural differences when there are other pieces of the puzzle. That will only feed a stereotype and promote hatred.

Another point: Hasan was an officer. He was in charge of America's most precious resource: the blood of its soldiers. Yet a man who was responsible for many soldiers at Fort Hood took several lives.

According to the "Los Angeles Times," Hasan took a seat at a table before the shooting commenced, and it seemed like he was there to help his soldiers before shipping them out to war. After a small prayer, Hasan started the bloodshed against his own kind. How could this have happened?

It is terrible to lose a soldier over-

seas in combat, but to lose a soldier on our own soil by one of our own commanding officers is even more gut-wrenching.

How can someone who was charged with the honor of being responsible for American lives take them so callously?

Was he so disgruntled about his deployment that he saw his own soldiers as the enemy? If this is the case, Hasan's superiors should have seen this ordeal coming. Hasan gave presentations explaining why he thought Muslims should not be sent to Afghanistan.

As a soldier, I know what I signed up for. I know that there is a great chance I will be deployed. I love this country, and I will proudly go when that time comes.

You know what you commit yourself to when you sign that line. You are now a part of something bigger than yourself. How did this man who had such a strong opinion to being deployed remain an officer in the military? I know how we missed the signs. We did

not expect for one of our own, an officer even, to take the lives of his fellow Americans. I think we dropped the ball.

The media concentrated so heavily on Hasan's Muslim ties, but let us again put that aside. There are Muslims in our army that have not shot anyone.

American men and women were murdered. Their lives were cut short right here on an American base by someone they should have been able to trust. Hasan is a troubled man who became a murderer, regardless of his religion.

Everyone is so focused on the killer that the victims are falling out of sight. Let us not forget those who lost their lives or were wounded in this terrible event. Let's keep their families in our thoughts and take a lesson to heart. We must not submit ourselves to focus on a single part of the puzzle.

Johnathon Schleicher is a senior journalism major and can be reached at [js3q@mtsu.edu](mailto:js3q@mtsu.edu).

# SPORTS

## Blue Raiders look to stop Red Wolves

### Historic season continues as MT looks for fifth straight, eighth overall victory

By STEPHEN CURLEY  
Sports Editor

The Blue Raiders look to add to their unprecedented season Saturday at 3:30 p.m. as they host the Red Wolves of Arkansas State University at Floyd Stadium.

A win would give MT its best record in the program's short Football Bowl Subdivision (formerly Division I-A) existence. The team's best season came in 2006, when it finished the year 7-6 following a loss to Central Michigan University in the Motor City Bowl.

After a dominant second half last week against the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, the MT defense will look to continue its attack style against an offensive line that's allowed 23 sacks season.

"We are an attacking, blitzing defense that plays multiple coverages," head coach Rick Stockstill said. "We blitz from everywhere. Our defensive coaches deserve a lot of credit from how we come up with different schemes each week, but it is not all about coaches, it is about the players."

Junior safety Jeremy Kelle is coming off a week where he accumulated two sacks, seven tackles and a forced fumble against a statistically better offensive line

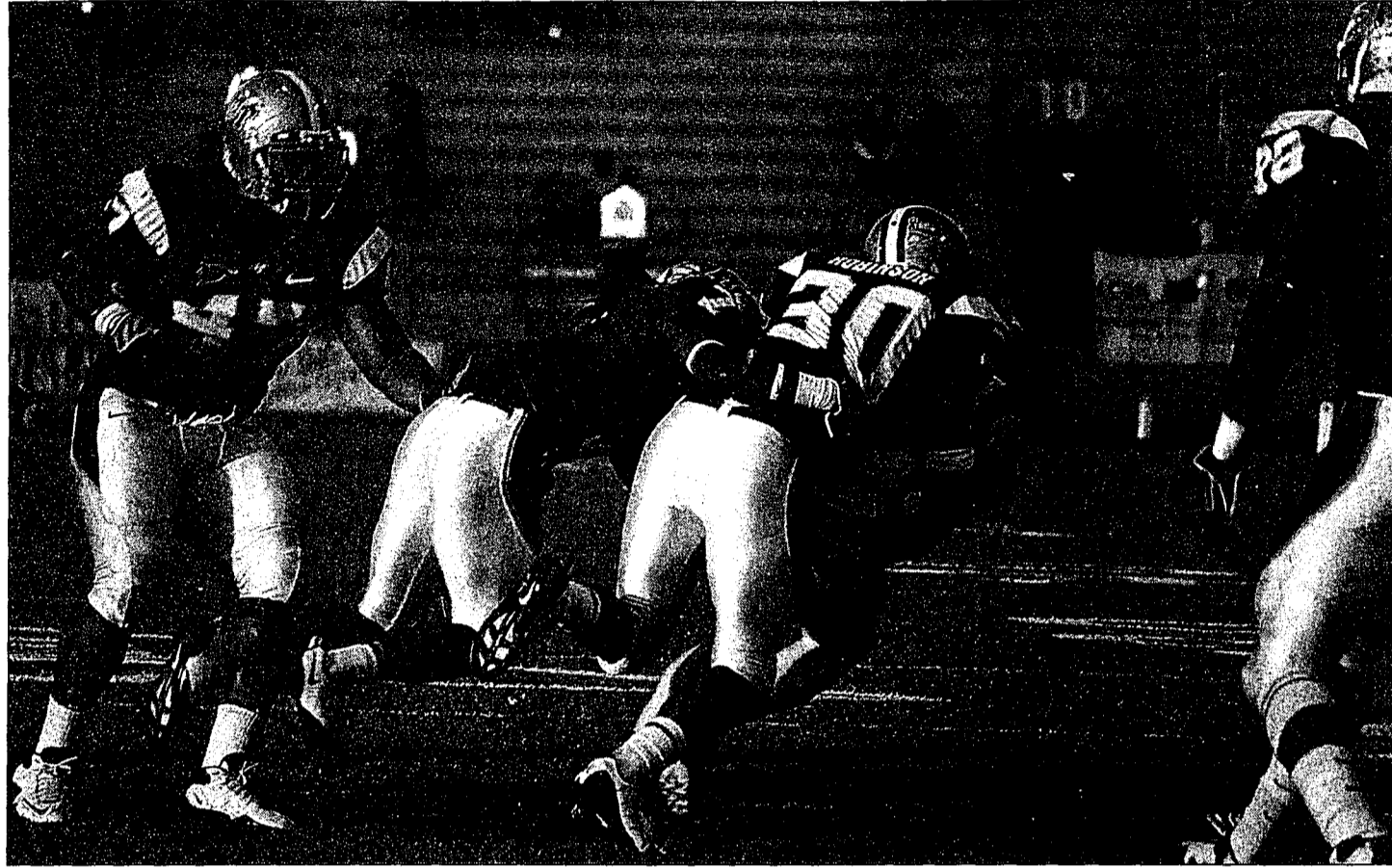


Photo by Brennan Sparta, staff photography

Senior Cam Robinson leads defenders making a tackle Saturday against Louisiana. Robinson finished the game with eight tackles.

than the Blue Raiders will see Saturday.

Senior linebackers Cam Robinson and Danny Carmichael will look to have a big day against ASU's o-line as well. Robinson finished the game last week with eight tackles and a sack.

MT will be challenged to prepare for two different quarterbacks, as the Red Wolves have made it clear

that they are willing to start either freshman Ryan Aplin or senior Corey Leonard.

The main difference between the two is that Aplin represents a bigger running threat. He ran for 82 yards on 15 carries last week against Florida Atlantic University, including a 47-yard run.

Aplin was a consistent passer last week as well, completing 20 of 27 attempts for

168 yards and a touchdown in a loss to FAU.

Leonard was named to the Preseason All Sun Belt Second Team this year, and is regarded as a top quarterback in the conference. He is not as mobile as Aplin, but has thrown for 1,387 yards and seven touchdowns this season.

The Blue Raiders offense will look to continue its suc-

cess running the ball against a defense allowing just 3.5 yards per carry.

The offensive line will have a tougher time creating holes for sophomore running back D.D. Kyle to run through.

Kyle has rushed for 100 yards for three straight weeks, including a 177-yard effort last week against UL.

"They are very physical up front," junior offensive line-

man Mark Fisher said. "Five of their front seven are pre-season all-conference. They are a very sound team."

"We have no less confidence in our throwing game than we do in our running game," Stockstill said. "You would like to be able to run the ball effectively. Now we are pretty effective running and we do not have to throw as much, which balances us out more."

If plays on the ground are ineffective, the Blue Raiders can feel confident about their passing attack.

The Red Wolves give up an average of 234 yards per game through the air, including 13 touchdowns. ASU also only has five interceptions as a team this season, which should give junior quarterback Dwight Dasher more deep throw possibilities when looking downfield.

While an eighth win would make the Blue Raiders even more appealing to bowls looking for at-large bids, the team insists it's still more concerned about the Sun Belt Conference.

"It enhances your marketability and makes you more of an attractive team," Stockstill said. "But I do not know if winning eight gets you a bid more than winning seven. We want to get to eight to stay in the hunt for a conference championship."

## Stockstill withdraws from search

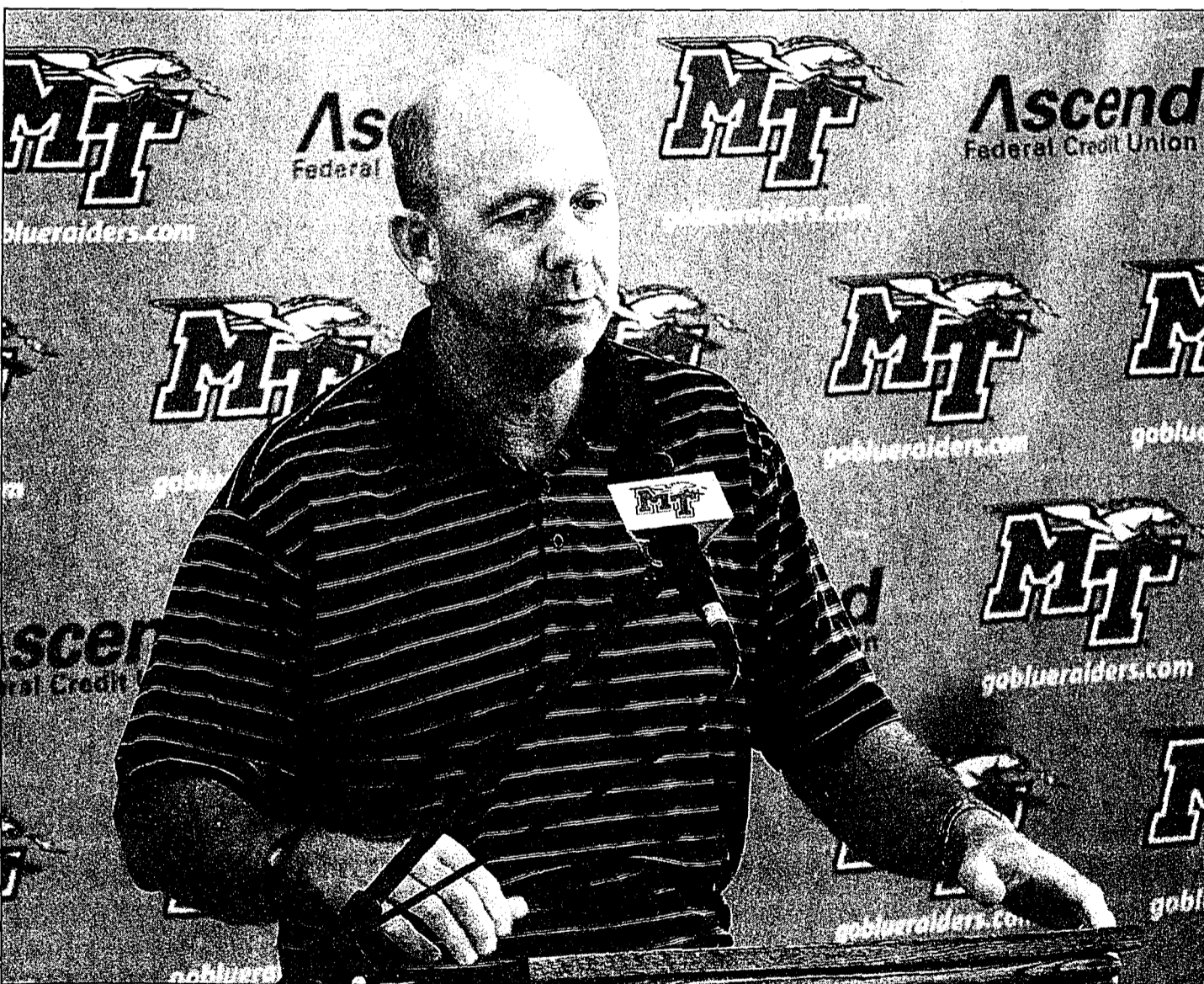


Photo by Jay Bailey, photo editor

Rick Stockstill speaks to the media during his weekly press conference. Stockstill is 24-23 overall at MTSU since being hired in 2006.

## Coach announces he's not interested in Memphis job

STAFF REPORT

Head football coach Rick Stockstill has decided that he's not ready to leave MT just yet.

Stockstill has removed his name from consideration for the University of Memphis head coaching vacancy.

Earlier in the week, "The Commercial Appeal" released a list of five names that UM was considering for their head coaching position.

Stockstill was thought to be the lead candidate as recently as Wednesday morning, the same day he released the statement.

"I am very flattered and honored with

the interest that the University of Memphis has shown in me and the MTSU football program," Stockstill said. "However, at this time I am only focusing on our remaining two games and hopefully a bowl game and this will allow Memphis to continue its search for their next coach."

MT is 7-3 heading into this weekend's matchup with Arkansas State University. Stockstill's overall record is 24-23 with one bowl appearance.

Memphis fired Tommy West last week after nine seasons with the program. His overall record was 49-59 record and had five bowl appearances.

### STOCKSTILL'S STATS

YEAR:	OVER:	CON:
2006	7-6	6-1
2007	5-7	4-3
2008	5-7	3-4
2009*	7-3	5-1

Stockstill became head coach at MTSU in 2006.

He was a former quarterback for Florida State. He also served as assistant coach at Central Florida, East Carolina, Clemson and South Carolina.

\* stats at time of print

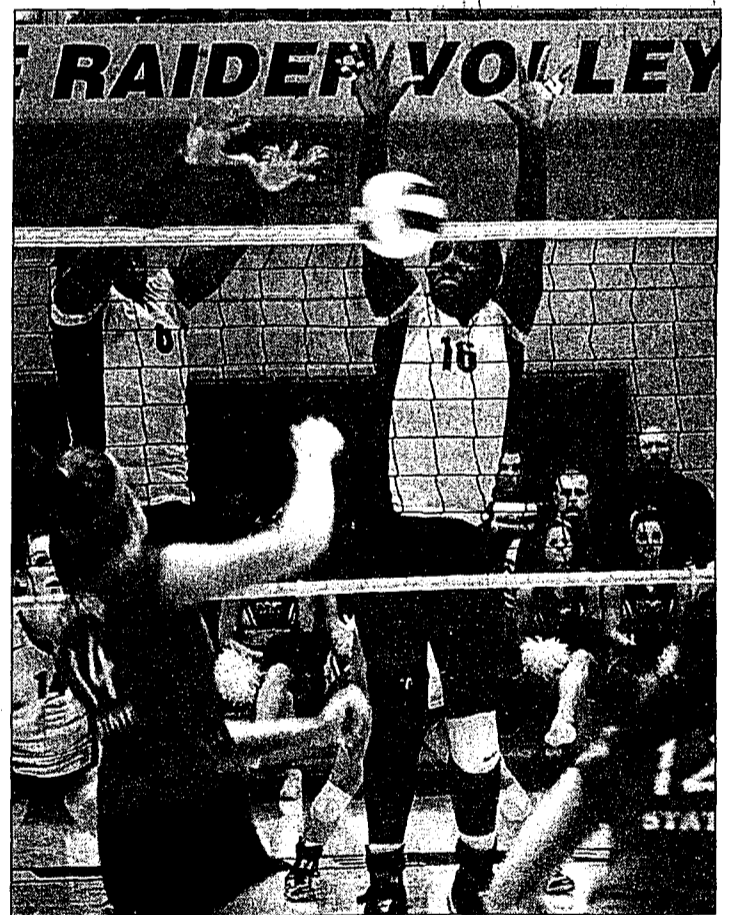


Photo by Jay Bailey, photo editor

Middle blocker Janay Yancey leaps to block an attempted ASU shot.

## Blue Raiders begin tournament play against Arkansas-Little Rock

STAFF REPORT

The second seed Blue Raiders begin Sun Belt Conference tournament play Thursday against the seventh seeded University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

"I think we have had a very good season so far and I think our team is playing very well at this time," head coach Matt Peck said. "Our players know what is on the line as far as making it to the NCAA Tournament and are excited to get things going."

Florida International University will be seeded first after an undefeated run through the conference. Host Western Kentucky University will be the third seed.

The other side of the bracket will also include fourth seed the University of New Orleans and sixth seed Arkansas State University

If MT wins, it will meet the winner of the game between WKU and the University of Denver in the semi-finals.

The Blue Raiders finished the season with an overall record of 22-8, with a conference record of 15-2.

MT comes into the tournament having won six straight sets to beat Troy University and the University of South Alabama.

Check mtsusidelines.com and the sports Twitter account at twitter.com/SISportsOnline for updates.

# Blue Raiders fall at Marshall

## Washington leads with 14 points, Haddock grabs eight rebounds

By MT ATHLETICS

Middle Tennessee never gave up on Tuesday night against Marshall with a chance to force overtime in the final seconds but fell 63-60.

Two free throws by junior James Washington made it a one possession game, 63-60, and then the Blue Raiders got the ball back on a Marshall turnover on the inbounds pass.

Middle Tennessee (1-2) had 6.9 seconds to tie the game. The Blue Raiders got two shots off from behind the arc from junior Rod Emanuel and senior Calvin O'Neil neither were good to tie and force overtime.

The Blue Raiders shot 44 percent in the game going 22 for 50 and shot 80 percent from the charity stripe making 12 of 15. Three Middle Tennessee players scored in double figures with Washington leading the way with 14.

Emmanuel posted 11 points, going 3 for 6 from the field and 3 for 4 from the free throw line. O'Neil ended the night 4 for 10 from the field with 10 total points.

Senior Montarrio Haddock grabbed a team high eight rebounds with Emanuel, O'Neil and senior Theryn Hudson each getting four.

"We got better. In pre-game we talked about it and on Sunday afternoon watching tape and during our two practices yesterday and shoot around today. Our effort was terrific tonight but I told our guys this is what is expected at this level," head coach Kermit Davis said.

"We got off to a great start in the second half up seven and then one of their guys took the ball out of Calvin's hands and dunked and got it going. Then we go it going again and they called an unbelievable foul on Theryn and then we turned the ball over four straight times."

Marshall (2-0) shot 41.5 percent in the game after going 22 for 53. Three Thundering Herd players scored in double figures and Has-

san Whiteside pulled down 10 rebounds.

Middle Tennessee began the game strong taking a 3-2 lead after a shot from behind the arc by Emanuel with 19-17 remaining. The Blue Raiders kept with Marshall and at the 15-minute media timeout had a one-point lead 8-7.

Middle Tennessee and Marshall continued to battle with the Thundering Herd taking its largest lead of the game 14-10 at the 12-minute media timeout.

Trailing by as many as five-points, Middle Tennessee cut the Thundering Herd lead to three, 25-22, at the four-minute media timeout.

A three by Washington put Middle Tennessee up by 2-points with 1:15 on the clock but then Lutz hit a three for Marshall and the Herd's defense held the Blue Raiders for a one-point lead, 30-29 at the half.

Emanuel led the team at halftime with 11 points after going 3 for 5 from the field. Haddock also performed well as he had seven points including 3 for 4 from the charity stripe and had pulled down seven rebounds.

As a team, the Blue Raiders were 34.6 percent from the field after going 9 for 26 but were 8 for 11 from the free throw line for a 72.7 percent. Marshall shot 41.7 from the field after going 10 for 24 but only shot 50 percent from the charity stripe going 9 for 18.

Middle Tennessee began the second half with a bang going on an 11-3 run to take a seven-point lead, 40-33. The Blue Raiders had one more basket as Marshall made a 14-2 run of its own to take a 47-42 lead.

The Blue Raiders continued to battle and after a jumper by O'Neil took a three-point lead, 54-51 with 5:25 remaining on the clock. Middle Tennessee cut the lead to two with 26 seconds left in the game but fouled to get the ball back and Marshall made its free throws.

Middle Tennessee will be back in action on Thursday, Nov. 19 when it faces Lamar at 7 p.m. in Murphy Center.

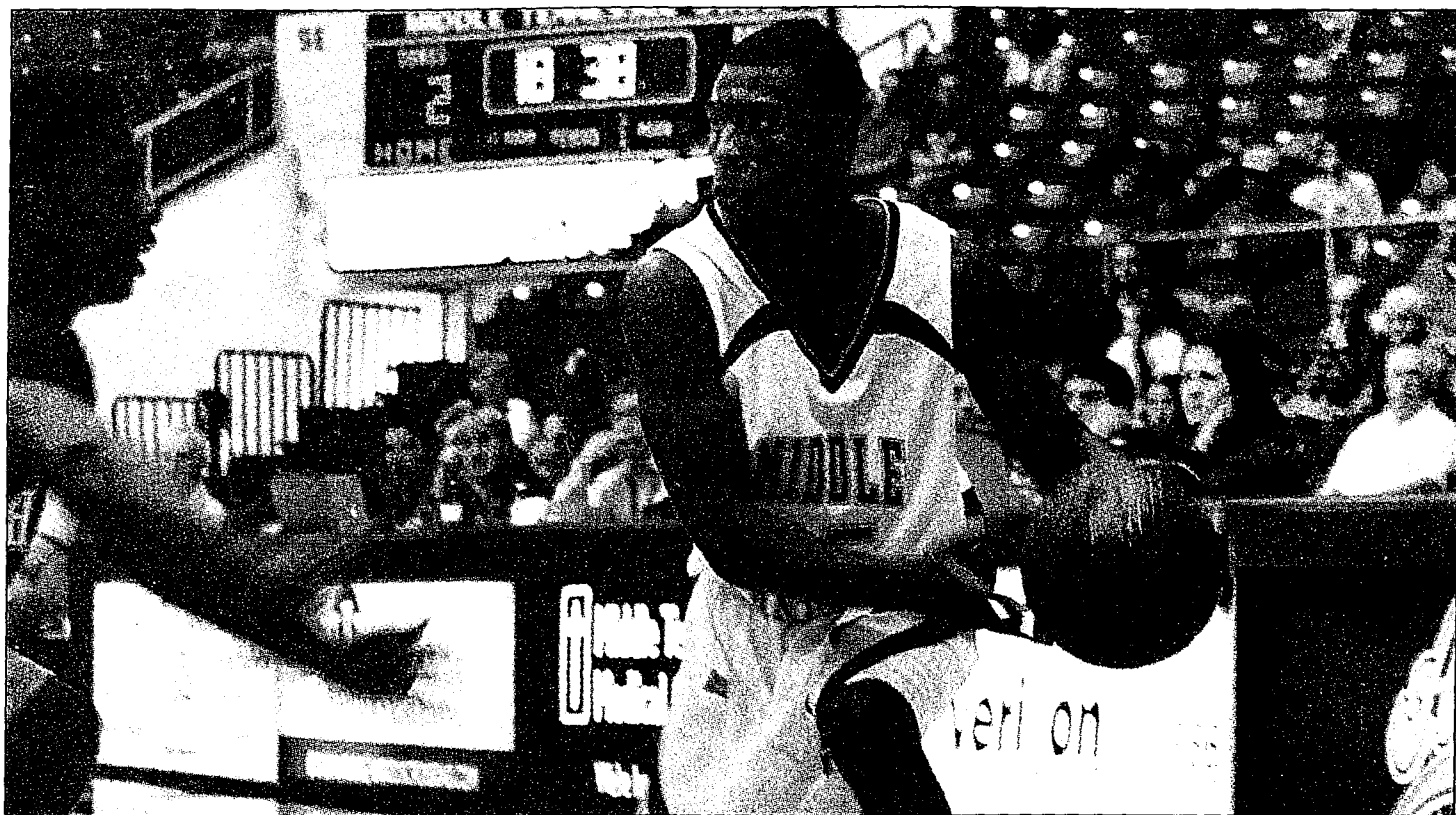


Photo by Brennan Sparta, staff photography  
Junior guard James Washington looks for an open pass. Washington lead the team Tuesday and is second in points per game with 16.3

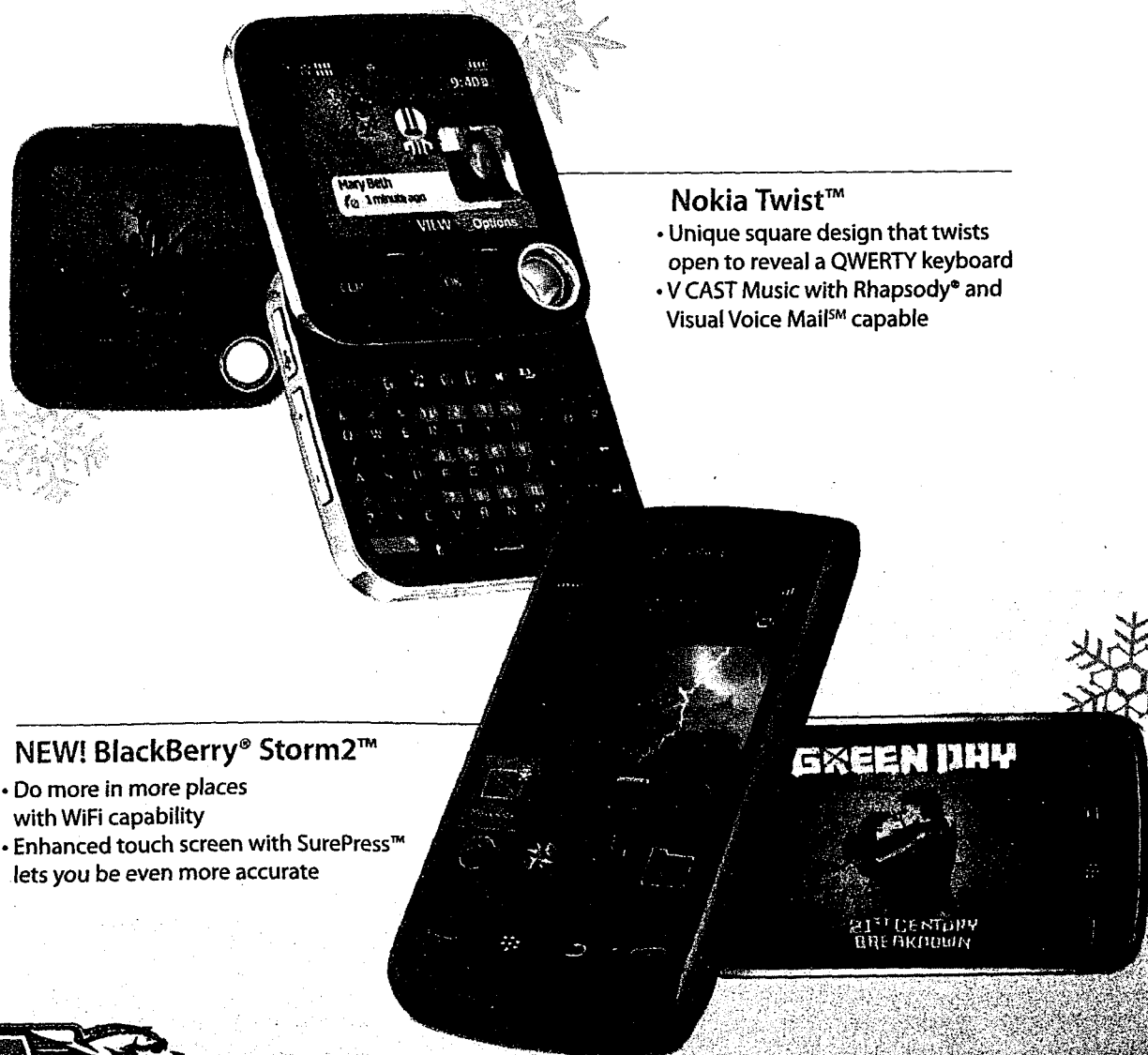


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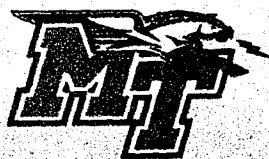


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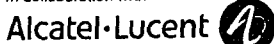
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## Upcoming Men's Basketball Games

Nov 19	Lamar University	7 PM
Nov 23	North Carolina A&T	6 PM
Nov 27	Cumberland	7 PM
Dec 2	UAB	7 PM
Dec 8	Belmont	7 PM
Dec 11	Tennessee	6 PM

## Chemaoui heading to NCAA Championships

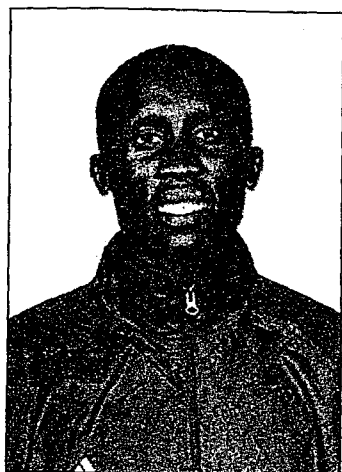
STAFF REPORT

Junior Festus Chemaoui became the first Middle Tennessee cross country runner to qualify for the NCAA Cross Country National Championships, taking place on Monday in Terre Haute, Ind.

Chemaoui finished 13th overall at the NCAA South Regional meet in Tuscaloosa, Ala. The Ainobkoi, Kenya native did not qualify initially, but was given an at-large bid as a top five individual not on a qualified team.

The last Blue Raider runner to compete in the NCAA National Championships was Richard Russo in 1971.

Teammate Zamzam San-



Chemaoui

gau, a senior from Kampala, Uganda, will also compete as the first female Blue Raider to compete on a national level.