

THURSDAY
NOVEMBER 18, 2004

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Mostly Cloudy

Blue Raiders want SBC title

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Tears for Kim

in [flash]



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Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Volume 80 No. 39

Another assistant comes out against McPhee

By Kristin Hall
Managing Editor

Another woman has accused President Sidney McPhee of acting "offensively" in the office and making her feel "uncomfortable," according to depositions filed for the *Tammie Allen vs. Sidney McPhee* civil suit.

Veronica Vinson worked for McPhee between the fall of 1995 and 1996 at the University of Memphis, when he served as vice provost and senior vice provost for academic affairs.

In her deposition for Steven Sager, Allen's lawyer, Vinson claimed McPhee would purposely bend over in front of her and make sure she was looking.

"Mostly he would go to the bottom drawer and would turn his behind to



McPhee

me and would keep looking over his shoulder, I guess to see if I was watching him," Vinson said.

"Instead of just going to get what he needed out of the drawer and leaving, he just – I don't know how to describe how. He just made me uncomfortable," Vinson said.

Other incidents Vinson reported were minor, including McPhee's standing and leaning too close to her. Vinson claimed it was McPhee's body language that made her feel the need to leave the room when he came in.

"I would get up and leave and stay

gone, hopefully long enough until I thought he was out of my office, and then I would come back," Vinson said.

Furthermore, Vinson said, McPhee would lose his temper with another secretary who worked in the office with her.

"He didn't have much patience with her," Vinson said. "If something was done wrong that he did not think we did right, he'd get a little loud sometimes."

Soon after, in June of 1996, Vinson was contacted by Michelle Banks, the equal opportunity and affirmative action officer at Memphis, in regard to rumors about McPhee.

Banks, according to her deposition, had heard from other employees that Vinson was unhappy in her job and had complaints about McPhee. At this

point, Vinson had moved to another job on campus because she "just wanted out."

"The word 'sexual harassment' came out, and it involved Ronnie [Veronica] and Dr. McPhee," Banks said.

However, Vinson never filed a formal complaint with the university, and Banks let the issue go.

Banks was contacted again in October of 2003 regarding the incident between Vinson and McPhee by Debbie Johnson, the Tennessee Board of Regents assistant vice chancellor of human resources.

Johnson was examining McPhee's professional history as part of the TBR investigation into the sexual harassment complaint filed by McPhee's MTSU assistant Tammie Allen.

Allen alleged that McPhee sexually harassed her for more than a year, including such incidents as attempting to kiss and touch her and asking her to touch him.

McPhee was suspended for 20 days and took a \$10,000 pay cut after the TBR's investigation concluded that both McPhee and Allen had acted inappropriately, although there were no witnesses to the harassment.

Allen is currently working in the Office of Development and University Relations.

According to Mary Morgan, TBR's director of communications, no member of the board would discuss the civil case because TBR and its Chancellor Charles Manning are named as defendants in the case.

See McPhee, 2

African shimmy



Photo courtesy of News and Public Affairs

Zelma Badu-Young, an African dance choreographer and performer, is the guest artist for MTSU speech and theatre department's first minority artist residency in dance from Nov. 16-22.

MTSU leadership summit to promote student success

By Hillary Robson
Staff Writer

The MTSU Leadership Summit will be held Feb. 3-4 in Manchester, Tenn.

The summit is designed to educate students in the principles and techniques of effective leadership.

The third annual summit will feature the Seven Habits of Highly Effective College Students.

Attendees will learn how to balance the aspects of college life, form successful habits and focus on control.

"The Seven Habits of Effective College Students and Franklin Covey really gives the practical aspects of leadership," said Deana Raffo, director of leadership development.

"[It] is a chance for students to come together and be involved in a unique learning experience," Raffo said.

Suzanne Hayes of FranklinCovey, an effective training company, will be

presenting the seminar.

She will help students learn how to apply basic concepts that can improve their scholastic and personal lives.

"There will be a lot of interactive activities," Raffo said. "It's not just going to be sitting around, listening to a lecture all day."

"This is a way for students to learn about leadership," Raffo said.

There have been around 90 students from a variety of academic backgrounds already sign up for the summit.

"That's what we like to see," Raffo said. "[The diversity] encourages students to network and get involved with other students."

Registration for the event is free and includes transportation, lodging at the Manchester Holiday Inn and Convention Center and meals.

Enrollment is limited to 100 students and ends on Jan. 28.

However, attendance limits

may be extended to meet student demands.

Students are encouraged to sign up as soon as possible.

The summit is sponsored by student organizations and community service, the department of leadership development and the distinguished lecture series funds.

Future events in leadership development include the Collegiate Leadership Summit, which is scheduled for March 18.

The annual event will be held at MTSU and will include college students from around the United States.

The 2005 theme is "Voices of Leadership," with Ralph Hillman presenting the keynote address.

For more information about the February summit or to register online, visit the MTSU leadership Web site at <http://www.mtsu.edu/~mtltea/brls.htm>.

Honor code not in MTSU's future

By Matt Anderson
Staff Writer

Every semester, every student in every class has to hear it: the honor code.

Nearly every university has one, but a new Tennessee State University proposal would take it one step further by having students sign a pledge to be responsible for their own work.

Such a pledge is unlikely at MTSU, according to Robert Glenn, vice president for student affairs.

"I don't think an academic honor code is something that you can just install at the drop of a hat," Glenn said. "I don't think having students sign something does very much good. What you really have to do is systematically build a culture on your campus where honor and integrity are highly valued."

"Otherwise, it's a little bit like asking a kleptomaniac to sign a pledge that they won't take anything," he said.

Alicia Westbrook, a sophomore business management major, said she doesn't cheat, but she did confess to turning in her own work for more than one class last year.

"If anybody says they've never cheated, they're lying."

– Samantha Summers
Freshman concrete industrial management major

"It's my own work," Westbrook said. "I mean, I can't quote myself I don't think."

"This year, I'm more careful about it because my teachers are really hard about it," she said.

Westbrook said her teachers checked Google when a paper didn't match a student's style, and in her business statistics class, the teacher compares homework, looking for wrong answers and matching work.

Others were less clear about what constitutes cheating.

"Is already having an answer and looking at your neighbor's to check it cheating?" Samantha Summers, a freshman concrete industrial management major, asked. "If anybody says they've never cheated, they're lying."

How can students know exactly what is and what isn't cheating? Glenn said the responsibility rests on the faculty.

"Every pack of cigarettes has

on it a warning that smoking is dangerous to your health, but putting that warning on the pack didn't slow down the behavior," Glenn said. "You've still got to educate folks."

Different professors have different standards, Glenn said.

Some expect all work to be done independently, while others allow collaboration.

How academic integrity applies can shift depending on the situation, but the basic concept remains the same.

When collaborating, Glenn said the key for students is to give clear credit.

"The matter is, are you presenting this idea as your own idea, or are you presented this as someone else's idea, or are you presenting this as an idea we came up with?" Glenn said.

When it comes to cheating, Glenn said teaching morals and

See Honor, 2

This week's poll question at

www.mtsusidelines.com

Do you agree with embryonic stem cell research?

Opinions 4 • Sports 5 • Classifieds 7 • [flash] inside

Dedicated



Photo by Matt Orenstein | Staff Photographer

Bob Womack speaks at the dedication of the curriculum library to Andy Womack in the James E. Walker Library Tuesday.

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CRIME LOG

Compiled by Erica Rodefer - Campus News Editor

Thursday, Nov. 11 - 11:45 a.m.
Deere Hall
Harassment
Subject reported harassment.

Friday, Nov. 12 - 1:01 p.m.
Greenland Drive Lot
Theft
Complainant reported his tailgate stolen.

Monday, Nov. 15 - 5:47 a.m.
Cyber Café at Woodmore
Vandalism
Subject became angry and broke a window.

Friday, Nov. 12 - 1:42 a.m.
Nicks Hall
Vandalism
Suspect pulled a fire extinguisher off the wall and sprayed it on second floor.
Complainants report that they heard bottles and other things breaking.

Saturday, Nov. 13 - 4:23 p.m.
Alumni Drive
Vandalism
Complainant reported vehicle had been tampered with.

Tuesday, Nov. 16 - 1:55 p.m.
Murphy Center
Theft
Complainant called to report a stolen projector machine.

Friday, Nov. 12 - 11:01 a.m.
Business and Aerospace Building
Theft
Subject reported a wallet stolen.

Sunday, Nov. 14 - 2:15 a.m.
Fairview Building - Old Bell Aire Church
Public Intoxication
John Stalker, of Mt. Juliet, Tenn., was arrested for public intoxication.

To report a crime, call Campus Police at 898-2424.

Honor:

Continued from I

ethics are important.
"You have to talk about what is moral in the community of which you are a part. There are some questions that apply and some that do not," he said.

Zak Overstreet, a freshman English major, assessed the morality of cheating quite differently.

"College is about the pursuit of knowledge, not the memorization of facts," Overstreet said. "So if you can beat the system and still know your sh--, you're set." ♦

**Been There,
Done That?**

All case files for the civil suit are being held in Sumner County at Judge Tom Gray's office. After all of the Rutherford County judges recused themselves due to their connections to the university, Gray was assigned to the case.

Sidelines initially requested the documents of the case in June, but were repeatedly denied access to the files until a formal letter citing access due to Tennessee open records law was sent last week to the Rutherford County Circuit Court Clerk.

The court date is set for Feb. 7-11, 2005. ♦

McPhee: Court date set for February

Continued from I

When asked about Vinson during McPhee's deposition, McPhee said that his understanding of the incident was that Vinson had lodged an informal complaint but provided no evidence, so it was dropped.

"I had some difficulties with her, with her performance," McPhee said. "And having looked into it, I was told by folks in the provost office that there were difficulties with her in the provost office."

McPhee said Vinson was leaving appointments off his schedule, and he had tried to talk with her about the situation but wasn't planning on firing her.

McPhee was not asked to explain Vinson's problem with his body language in the deposition.

Sidelines initially requested the documents of the case in June, but were repeatedly denied access to the files until a formal letter citing access due to Tennessee open records law was sent last week to the Rutherford County Circuit Court Clerk.

The court date is set for Feb. 7-11, 2005. ♦

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TennCare: Negotiations not making progress

Continued from 1

adequate notice before terminating an enrollee's TennCare coverage, ensure that enrollees receive several days' supply of prescription drugs even if the drug is not on the state's preferred drug list, provide screening and treatment services to children in state custody and require the state to pay for home health care services.

According to Marilyn Elan, TennCare communications manager, the consent decree in *Grier v. Geotz*, which ensures that certain prescription drugs will be available even if they are not on the preferred list, has cost the state hundreds of millions of dollars because of "the burden it places on our ability to control pharmacy costs."

Johnson maintains that the consent decrees are not to blame for rising TennCare costs. "We don't know the specific costs" of implementing the consent decrees, she said, claiming that the state has not provided the center with those figures.

Until very recently, "they refused to sit down with us," she said. According to a press release from the governor's office, the consent decrees "oblige TennCare to provide extraordinary benefits well beyond federal requirements."

Johnson disagrees. While she admits the decrees "don't cut and paste federal law," she said, they interpret laws written in a time before Health Management Organizations.

At the governor's press conference Monday, Bredesen thanked Bonnyman for agreeing to the moratorium, but he noted that the motion "contains

details that, at a minimum, need clarification and, at worst, undermine what we need to have a chance to succeed."

According to Lydia Lenker, the governor's press secretary, Bredesen worries that although the center has agreed to a moratorium on the consent decrees, it will sue the state over other parts TennCare Reform.

"To move forward I need a clear understanding that we will have an opportunity to implement our reforms without legal interference," Bredesen said. "What our state cannot afford is a cease fire on paper but continuing guerrilla warfare on every issue."

Johnson does have concerns about Bredesen's reforms.

"It's the most radical proposal by any governor," she said. She is troubled by a reform provision that requires enrollees to accept the least costly adequate treatments. "You can't get cheaper than nothing."

Representatives of TennCare and the Tennessee Justice Center met on Tuesday and Wednesday to discuss the center's motion and hammer out an agreement about legal action the center might take in the future. They will discuss the motion in federal court Friday.

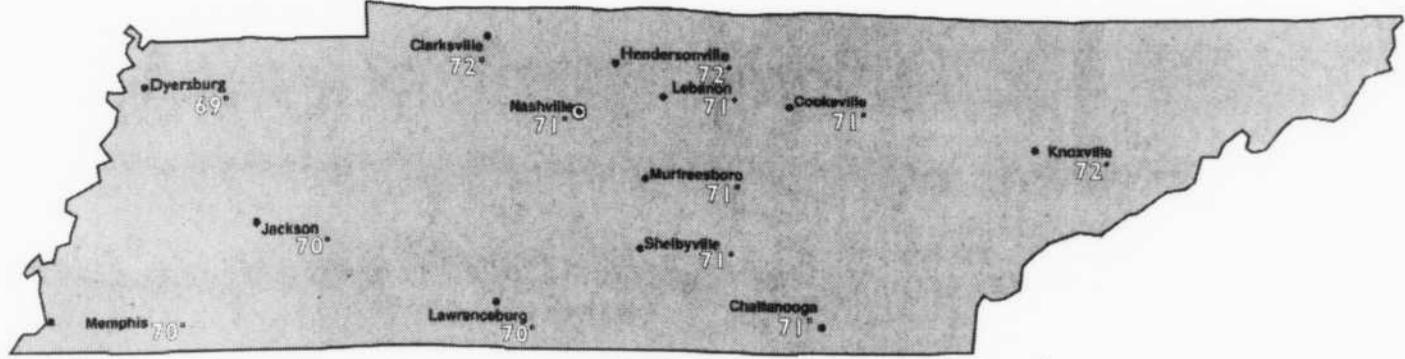
A report by consulting firm McKinsey and Company predicted that TennCare, a \$7.8 billion program in 2004, might cost \$12.2 billion in 2008.

Bredesen's reforms would lower the program's price tag without kicking anyone off of the rolls by reducing benefits and requiring co-payments.

Replacing TennCare with Medicaid would leave 430,000 Tennesseans without health care. ♦

Tennessee Weather – Thursday's Highs

From the Associated Press



Friday



Saturday



Sunday



Monday



Tuesday



Pizza drivers try national union; first vote fails

By Matt Gouras
Associated Press Writer

Internet chat room about unfair working conditions.

"It's sort of like the thing reached critical mass. We built a Web site and they came," said Lockwood, a pizza delivery driver who declined to identify the company he works for.

Now they have about 600 drivers from across the country signed up for the free union, and he feels momentum gathering for more unionization votes. The union says there are thousands of drivers nationwide.

"Despite the fact that we didn't take the vote, just that it occurred is a major hurdle," he said. "It's never happened before in the history of pizza delivery driving."

Lockwood, treasurer of the pizza delivery union, said getting the first vote itself was a huge victory. After all, the union started just a couple of years ago with a few drivers talking in an

Internet chat room about unfair working conditions.

A lighted pizza sign on a car in a bad area says, "Look at me – I've got food, I've got cash and I'm unarmed," he said.

Lockwood said he envisions collective bargaining with the national pizza chains, forcing them to pay drivers a mileage reimbursement of 30 cents to 40 cents per mile, along with compensation for more expensive commercial driver's insurance. He also said drivers want to see

concessions on safety issues, such as better training.

A spokeswoman for Pizza Hut, which is owned by the Louisville, Ky.-based fast-food giant Yum Brands Inc., said she had not heard of the unionization effort.

"It's not a real issue for us," spokeswoman Patty Sullivan said from Pizza Hut's Dallas headquarters. "We already work really hard to make sure all of our compensation is fair."

She said the company has not heard of any employee unrest.

Ann Arbor, Mich.-based Domino's Pizza Inc. said it couldn't comment Wednesday on the unionization effort.

Matt Howard, a driver for a Pizza Hut in Sunbury, Ohio, found the union's site on the Internet.

Now he's pushing for unionization for drivers at his shop in a vote next week, which will be run by the National Labor Relations Board.

First, though, he had to fight off a legal challenge from the owner of the franchise.

The 25-year-old said he's had his hours cut, and his wife – who also works at the store – fears retribution.

"The company keeps calling meetings to try to talk us out of the union," he said. "They are trying to do everything they can to take away our right to vote."

Howard said he thinks the seven or eight drivers at the store will approve the union idea.

Labor attorney Mark Potashnick, who is helping the union, said the effort is drawing attention from the Teamsters and other unions.

"I think once they get an election or two won and a collective bargaining agreement or two in place, they are going to be in a much better position to pick up momentum," he said.

Potashnick said the drivers can expect a great deal of resistance from the companies, especially if the effort starts to take hold.

"Whenever you have union organizing, it's amazing how many people get fired," he said. "It's even more amazing how many employees get intimidated into abandoning their union activities."

Lockwood, who helped start the union in his spare time, said donations to the group help provide the legal advice and unionization materials for drivers who want to organize their shops.

"I have taken no paycheck. We just don't have that kind of budget," Lockwood said. "That just makes us more dangerous, we are taking no paycheck. We are just doing this because we think this is important." ♦

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OPINIONS

4 ♦ SIDELINES

Thursday, November 18, 2003

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

From the Editorial Board

Words on paper do not a serious solution make

We can all agree that cheating is wrong.

Nonetheless, students cheat.

Tennessee State University is making their students sign an honor code promising that they won't cheat.

If a student is a cheater, isn't it reasonable to think that he or she may have the gumption, to sign the honor code and not honor it?

The TSU administration is more trusting than MTSU's administration. Our administration knows that such pledges aren't worth the paper they're written on. Mind you, cheating is a problem that should be addressed. Parading around honor codes isn't going to cut it. Instituting an honor code might get some press, but it isn't likely to solve any problems.

The university should let the students know they are serious about preventing cheating and plagiarism early. It should be included in an orientation session and introduced in the University 101 curriculum.

The student body should be educated about what cheating is. Some students have a surprisingly lenient opinion about what constitutes cheating. Cheating is more than copying off of your neighbor or hiding a notecard up your sleeve.

To an extent it is the university's job to help instill professional ethics into the students. Cheating in the real world can have disastrous results for the cheater and those around him. Cheating in the real world can cost a person their job and even their career in their chosen field.

The faculty must then adhere to the rules for punishing cheaters. They shouldn't make their own rules when they discover cheaters. How many professors have let cheaters slide after they've been caught? How many students have been busted multiple times by different professors who didn't know they'd been caught before?

Professor should follow university guidelines for punishing cheaters. This ensures that the punishment for cheaters is consistent.

A lenient faculty member could give a student the impression that cheating isn't a big deal, or that the punishment isn't so severe that cheating isn't worth the risk of getting caught. ♦

From the Opinions Editor

Innocent lives don't deserve death for being different

I want to ask the world one simple question: Why?

This Saturday, people from all parts of the nation as well as all corners of the world will take a moment to remember 321 individuals who, in the eyes of most people, never existed at all. These 321 people were killed, often with horrifying violence, for doing nothing more terrible than simply being themselves.

The people that I'm speaking of are from different walks of life, different races and different ages. Yet these people all had one thing in common, one thing that, in the eyes of their killers, marked them as targets for murder. All 321 of these people were transgendered – people whose perception of their gender does not match their physical sex.

The Web site "Remembering Our Dead" maintains a list of the names of gender-variant people who have been killed. The names and images listed are everyday people, faces that you could have seen walking to class, to work, to church, anywhere. Some are male, some female and some are somewhere in between.

But most importantly, they were all living their lives as they wished to. They had all the beauties and flaws of any other person; each was just as good or as bad as anyone else. And every last one of them died because someone was offended by their simply being alive.

So I pose to all of you this question: why?

Why was it somehow right in the eyes of people who committed these crimes against these people to end another human life? What made them feel that they should be the ones to judge a person's worth?

We are all different; we are all unique. We've been being taught this since kindergarten and yet some people feel that there is a limit to how unique a life can be before it doesn't deserve to exist and they feel that they have the right, the obligation, to end it with a knife, a gun or their fists.

I'm not looking for people to start throwing pride parades or anything like that. All I want is someone to answer a question for me: why did these people deserve to die? ♦

Matthew Adair is a sophomore art education major and can be reached at matt.adair@gmail.com.



Matthew Adair
Opinions Editor

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Sidelines welcomes letters to the editor from all readers. Please e-mail letters to slopino@mtsu.edu, and include your name and a phone number for verification. *Sidelines* will not publish anonymous letters. We reserve the right to edit for grammar, length and content.



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

and other such products.

As a society, we should reevaluate what life we find valuable. Animals are different, each species with its own identity, and it is presumptuous to say that we are above consideration of their lives and well-being.

Be different. Take the time to examine the products that you're buying and look for labels that read "cruelty-free" or "not tested on animals." Do some simple online research to find companies that don't test their products on animals.

These products are everywhere - it doesn't require a trip to the nearest health food store to be kinder to our furry friends.

Just taking a few extra label-reading minutes sends the message to manufacturers that animal testing is not acceptable, and simply because a species has lower cognitive ability does not make them expendable. ♦

Callie Elizabeth Butler is a senior mass communications major and can be reached at ceb2k@mtsu.edu.

Future of politics looks one-sided all across nation

I have finally come to terms with the fact that President George W. ("Dubyah") Bush will be in office for four more years and I am not upset.

OK, so maybe I am, but I have come to realize that isn't what is upsetting me the most.

This election helped the Republicans sweep both the House and the Senate by a razor thin margin, but nonetheless a margin.

The Republicans gained four representatives bringing their grand total to 55 seats, while the Democrats lost four, leaving them with 44 seats (one seat went to the Independent party).

In the House the Republicans lead by 31 members. Though this does not seem like a huge amount, it has far reaching effects we have yet to see.

With Chief Justice William Rehnquist's cancer setting in and 70 plus years averaged by the Supreme Court, new faces are inevitable. Most justices retire at 71 with about 14 years sitting on the bench.

There is no doubt in my mind that the Court will soon be staunchly conservative. And we all know what that means. *Roe v Wade* will soon be the prohibition amendment of our era and gays will have about as many rights as former slaves did.

It is really no loss that John Ashcroft stepped down, but naming Alberto Gonzales as the new attorney general is not promising either. Colin Powell's resignation has left a bitter taste in my mouth.

Powell was the only moderate who would actually admit that Iraq is a total disaster. He was the one who held together some of the few decent foreign relations we have left. Four other cabinet members have stepped down now, bringing a different face to the second-term cabinet.

Republicans penetrated a new level in the 2004 election. Local Southern positions, typically reserved for Democrats, have been filled with Republicans. If they continue to win local politics in the Southern states, they will have succeeded in gaining office at almost every level.

Conservatives everywhere must be in heaven on earth. Karl Rove must be wetting his pants with anticipation. His dreams with Daddy Bush didn't exactly play out, but now he has a second chance since "Dubyah" gets the chance to serve a second term.

Having conservatives isn't a bad thing. In fact, it can have a positive effect when there are an almost equal number of Democrats to balance the scale.

If you are not a conservative, you are probably thinking, "Well, it is just four more years until we get rid of him." But you can think again. There is still another Bush left. Jeb Bush, the governor of Florida and the smarter of the two, could very well surface as a candidate in the near future. The Bush Era has not necessarily ended yet.

It pains me to see that the future could hold such a one-sided America. There is still hope, but that fate rests in the outcome of the next few years.

Unless the Democrats can come up with a miracle candidate (and by this I do not mean Hillary Clinton) we will undoubtedly have to live through a few decades of a very conservative America. ♦

Gretchen Jenkins is a freshman political science major and can be reached at gmj2d@mtsu.edu.

SPORTS

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Thursday, November 18, 2004

5 ◆ SIDELINES

Potential football drop to I-AA would hurt all sports

By Mark Emery
Staff Writer

The home games for the football season are over and Middle Tennessee was unable to average 15,000 per game.

Despite the team's 4-1 record at home, the team averaged only 13,019 fans per home contest this year. The NCAA will now put the school on probation for not meeting the requirement.

This article will be the final installment of a three-part series discussing the attendance issue. The first two articles discussed what MT and other schools in the conference were doing to raise attendance to meet the new requirement this year.

This story will try to show what could happen if the Blue Raiders were unable to maintain its Division I-A status, according to MT athletic director Boots Donnelly.

Why the Move was Made

The main reason Middle Tennessee wanted to move up to Division I-A in football was perception, Donnelly said.

"When you look at the different [academic] programs that we have that are nationally ranked, no one knew about them because perception said that we were a second rate university," Donnelly said.

Donnelly believes that most graduates from MTSU feel they are on a lesser level than those who graduate from Vanderbilt or Tennessee due to their nationally recognized sports programs.

Donnelly wishes all alumni would disagree with his assessment, but he said he has seen this attitude with his own eyes. This perception not only translates to academic programs, but also other sports at MT.

"Everyone assumed that every sport we had was I-AA because of football, because football is basically out in front," Donnelly said. "It is the engine

that pulls the train. You are not saying that the emphasis on football is more important than the other sports. It is the first sport that people start reading about before the school year."

Many students already believe MT plays schools nobody knows about. They tend not to care about football, because the team never plays anybody at home that is nationally recognized.

If the program were to drop to I-AA, then the university would never have a chance to play schools like Memphis or Vanderbilt at home.

Donnelly said that when the school was I-AA, Division I-A schools would not play the Blue Raiders because it would not be beneficial for those schools.

What Could Happen?

If the school has to move back to Division I-AA, the public perception of the university as a whole would suffer.

Donnelly said the move would affect the other sports teams' budgets, but not their scholarships. Traveling would be the main issue, because with a reduced budget the programs would not be able to travel as much and play higher-level competition. Donnelly believed the university's highly competitive coaches would seek jobs elsewhere.

The football program, which currently gives out 85 scholarships to prospective athletes, would see that number reduced to 64.

Prospective student-athletes would not be the only ones who would lose — the coaching staff would also see their numbers reduced. The Blue Raiders currently have one head coach and 10 assistant coaches. Donnelly said that Division I-AA football teams require one head coach and six assistants.

Four of the current MT football coaches would be looking for a job somewhere else if the Blue

See Football, 7

Betterson powers grounded offense

By Cody Gibson
Staff Writer

DeWhitt Betterson has tallied more than 1,000 yards rushing for the second consecutive year. Troy is averaging 164 rushing yards per game.

"DeWhitt has done it the right way," Blakeney said. "He's taken advice... and he's a very deserving young man."

Whatever offensive deficiencies the Trojans have are overcome by the strong play of their defense. Troy is 15th in the country in total defense.

"Troy has played very well all year," MT head coach Andy McCollum said. "Defensively it is probably the best we have seen this year, and that includes Florida. They have a lot of older kids, a lot of seniors, and a lot of quality players who have played in a lot of big games."

The Trojan defense is led by senior defensive end Demarcus Ware, who is considered the top NFL prospect in the conference.

Ware has piled up 10.5 sacks this season and is a finalist for the Ted Hendricks Award, which is given to the best defensive end in the country.

Troy is fourth in the country at stopping the run, which has helped the Trojans hold opponents to 14.9 points a game.

The Troy secondary is ranked 69th in Division I-A in pass defense, however, meaning MT quarterback Clint Marks may have an easier day than any of his backfield teammates.

The MTSU Student Government Association is sponsoring buses to take students to Saturday's game, which begins at 6 p.m. For more information, students can go to the SGA office at the Keathley University Center, Room 208A.♦

Blue Raiders want SBC title



Photo by Micah Miller | Staff Photographer

The Blue Raider volleyball team heads into this week's Sun Belt Conference tournament with a No. 4 seed.

Volleyball team faces host New Orleans in first round

By Jill Davis
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee volleyball team is returning to the Sun Belt Conference tournament this year, but this time the Blue Raiders expect different results.

The Blue Raiders enter this week's eight-team tournament as the No. 4 seed, the highest seed they have ever earned. MT lost to Western Kentucky 3-1 in the first round of the tournament last year.

At the start of this season the Blue Raiders had no chemistry. With four new starters and many younger and new faces, the team has learned to work together and build up their confidence in order to play the sport the way new head coach Matt Peck insisted.

As a result, the Blue Raiders now have developed the balance Peck was looking for. In addition to the consistent play of senior hitters KeKe Deckard and Dara McLean, freshmen Lindsay Sisco and

Quanshell Scott have improved greatly in the past two weeks, according to Peck.

"Our threat to the match [is that] we're a more balanced team right now," Peck said. "Rather relying on two or three players, we can rely on five players."

The Blue Raiders (17-13, 9-5 SBC) head to New Orleans on Thursday to take on No. 5 seed New Orleans (19-10, 8-7 SBC). Although New Orleans is the host school this year, the tournament is not being held on the Privateers' home court.

UNO usually plays in an auxiliary gym, but the tournament this weekend is going to be held at Lakefront Arena, meaning UNO's 11-5 home record means little this week.

One thing that hasn't changed for UNO, however, is the play of senior Jennifer Cruz, who is second in the conference in kills behind MT's KeKe Deckard.

"I think if we stop [Cruz] and make the other players for their team win it, our chances will be good," Peck said. "But we have to play a good match. We've got to

work together, leave everything out on the floor, and we can't have an ounce of energy left after the match."

Changes have also been a big part of the Blue Raiders' strategy in preparing for this tournament.

"We've thrown in a few changes offensively that will keep the other team off-balance," Peck said. "We'll do some different things with our offense."

If the Blue Raiders seal a victory over UNO, they will advance to play against the winner of the New Mexico State v. North Texas game.

Tournament play begins today at noon as No. 2 seed Western Kentucky takes on No. 7 seed Denver. No. 3 Arkansas State and No. 6 University of Arkansas-Little Rock play at 2:30 p.m.

No. 1 NMSU goes against No. 8 UNT at 5 p.m., followed by MT-UNO at 7:30 p.m.

The SBC championship continues until Saturday at 1 p.m. ♦

MT hosts Lambuth in season opener

By Chase Williams
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee men's basketball team tips off the 2004-05 regular season tomorrow when they welcome Lambuth University to Murphy Center.

Expectations are high for head coach Kermit Davis' squad, which has been picked to finish atop the East Division of the Sun Belt. All hype aside, however, the Blue Raiders are just ready to get the season underway.

"I think we're all pretty anxious to get going. Everybody is healthy and in great shape. The whole team has worked incredibly hard

in practice and now we just want to get it started," Davis said.

Though Lambuth is a member of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, the Blue Raiders should not look past the Eagles. Lambuth (5-1) has played well so far, with all but one of their wins coming on the road. The Eagles notched a 98-92 win at NCAA Division I foe UT-Martin on Nov. 11 and won 76-74 in overtime against Lindenwood University on Nov. 13.

The Eagles are led by senior guard Ivan Bozovic and 6-10 junior center Mark Konecny, a transfer from Syracuse.

"Lambuth is bringing in a

good team," Davis said. "They've proven that they can win on the road. They have a good point guard and they're big up front. Our guys are going to have to play a good game."

Davis' guys played well last week in an 86-62 exhibition win over North Alabama. Forward Michael Caffee was the leading scorer in the win with 18 points. Mike Dean, MT's leading returning scorer, added a game-high eight assists in the victory.

The Blue Raiders will also rely on the steady play of sophomore point guard Bryan Smithson, and sophomore forward/center Kyle Young will be

assigned the tough duty of guarding Konecny. Freshman forward Brian Lake will likely be called on as well after he poured in 14 against UNA.

Davis and his players are excited to start the season at home in the Blue Raiders' quest for their first NCAA berth since 1989.

"Everyone is going to see us playing physical man-to-man defense, crashing the boards, taking charges, diving after loose balls, and running up and down the floor," Davis said. "We are ready to come out, compete, and have some fun. The players and coaches are all very excited about this season." ♦

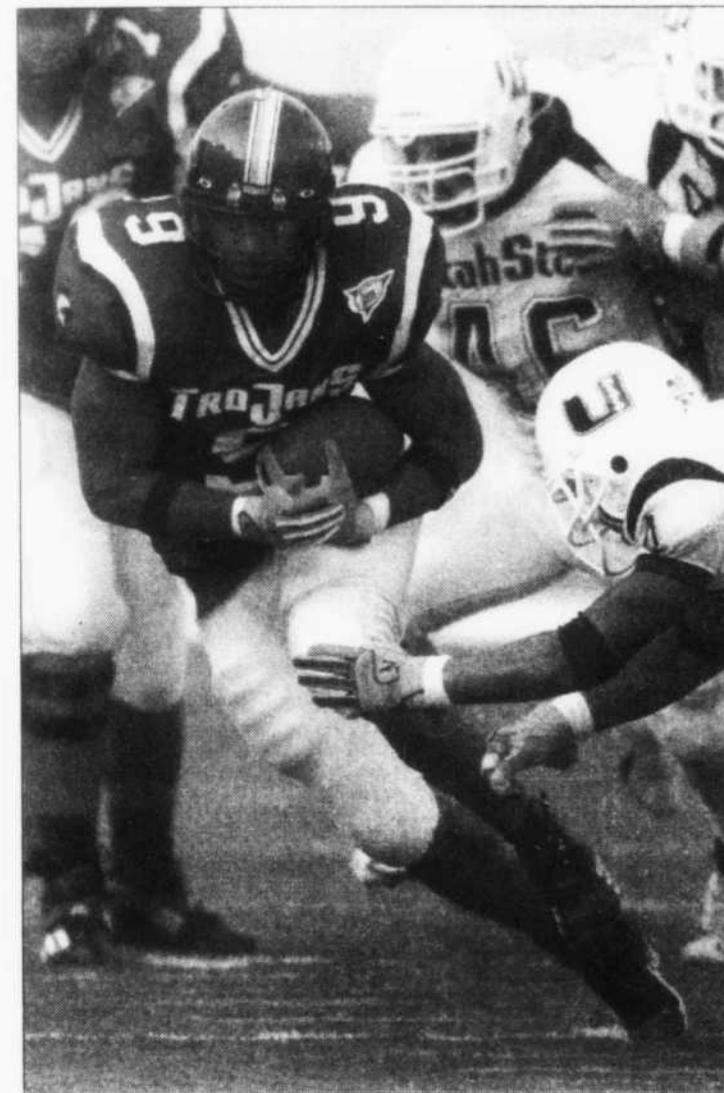


Photo courtesy of Troy Media Relations

DeWhitt Betterson leads the potent Trojan rushing attack with 1,013 yards and nine touchdowns.

Middle Tennessee at Troy GameDay Preview



(4-5)

By Jon Leffew
Asst. Sports Editor

When MT runs

After I ripped the Blue Raider running attack apart in last week's GameDay Preview, the offense responded by giving the Blue Raiders their best game on the ground in more than a year.

Both Terry Jackson and Lee Baker rushed for career highs (82 and 88 yards, respectively) on the way to 213 yards for the MT ground game.

However, none of that matters this week, as the Trojans have the fourth best run defense in the nation.

Advantage: Troy

When MT passes

Clint Marks, Kerry Wright and the rest of the Blue Raider passing attack got back on track last week, as both Marks and Wright continued to set MT records.

MT is averaging 275 yards passing per game this year, and despite having the nation's 15th ranked defense overall, the Trojans give up an average of 218 yards per game.

Marks has proven that he will get his 200 yards passing, and Wright is as automatic as they come.

Advantage: MT

When Troy runs

The Trojans possess a true threat at running back that MT has not faced in a while.

DeWhitt Betterson, who averages nearly five yards per carry and more than 100 yards per game, has 1,000 yards and nine touchdowns on the year.

Also, teams are now averaging 130 yards per game on the ground against MT.

Advantage: Troy

When Troy passes

If the Trojans had a quarterback that was a threat to throw the ball, this match up could be very intriguing.

They don't.

However, it is hard to side with a pass defense that allows nearly 290 yards passing per game.

Advantage: Even



35



21

Pos. No. Name**Offense**

QB	13	Clint Marks
RB	20	Eugene Gross
FB	31	Nick McAfee
WR (X)	1	Kerry Wright
WR (Y)	15	Cleanord Saintil
WR (Z)	11	Pedro Holiday
WR (H)	3	Chris Henry
TE	85	Stephen Chicola
LT	60	Willie Hall
LG	58	Quinton Staton
C	51	Kyle Ringley
RG	71	Joe Evilsizer
RT	73	Germayle Franklin

Defense

LE	43	Erik Walden
NG	92	Jeff Littlejohn
T	93	Thomas Johnson
RE	56	Antoine Owens
SLB	40	Dennis Burke
MLB	23	Alvin Fite
WLB	41	Marcell Horne
LC	24	Bradley Robinson
LS	30	Jeremiah Weaver
RS	8	Jonathan Harris
RC	5	Damon Nickson

Special Teams

PK/P	46	Colby Smith
KO	49	Paul Wheeler
HO	47	Walt Bell
DS	36	John Crawford
PR	1	Kerry Wright
KR	6	Lee Baker

Head Coach

Andy McCollum

Athletic Director

Boots Donnelly

Special Teams

The Trojans have three different kickoff returners who average more than 23 yards per return and a punt returner, Leodis McKelvin, who has two touchdowns this year.

Gregg Whibbs is 11-of-13 in field goal attempts this season, and Thomas Olmsted has averaged 43.3 yards per punt and had 25 punts downed inside the 20-yard line.

For MT, Colby Smith has emerged as a weapon, but he doesn't return kicks and punts.

Advantage: Troy

Intangibles

The Blue Raiders are a perfect 5-0 in season ending-games under head coach Andy McCollum, and also 10-1 all time against Troy, but the Trojans are looking to improve their record to 7-4 and capture a victory on Senior Day at Movie Gallery Stadium (where they are a perfect 4-0 this season).

Saturday's game also marks the first in which the two teams will play for the Palladium, an attempt to add more luster to the rivalry.

Advantage: Troy

Coaching

McCollum will be looking to lead the Blue Raiders to their first winning season since joining the SBC in 2001.

Since Troy head coach Larry Blakeney took the helm in 1991, the Trojans (113-53-1) have been the most successful team in the state of Alabama – better than Auburn (108-55-2) and Alabama (106-64).

Advantage: Troy

Conclusion

With a win on Saturday, the Trojans will keep their bowl hopes alive.

The Blue Raiders performed extremely well in last week's second half, sending their seniors out of Floyd Stadium with a victory.

However, the Trojans have more reasons to come away with a victory this week. Senior Day and a potential bowl bid should be plenty of motivation for Troy on Saturday. ♦



(6-4)

Pos. No. Name**Offense**

QB	12	D.T. McDowell
TB	9	DeWhitt Betterson
FB	33	Sean Dawkins
SE (Z)	5	Jason Samples
FL (X)	81	James Earl Cray
TE (Y)	46	Joe Munson
LT	60	Henry Tellis
LG	79	Junior Louisaient
C	59	Lee Milliner
RG	76	Zarah Yisrael
RT	70	Donnie Bostian

Defense

LE	94	Demarcus Ware
DT	96	Alfred Malone
NT	78	Eric Thomas
RE	99	Cedric Sullivan
SLB	42	Robby Farmer
MLB	30	Leverne Johnson
WLB	27	Bernard Davis
LCB	3	Adrian Ghent
FS	10	Derrick Ansley
SS	13	Sherrod Martin
RCB	8	Johnny Faulk

Special Teams

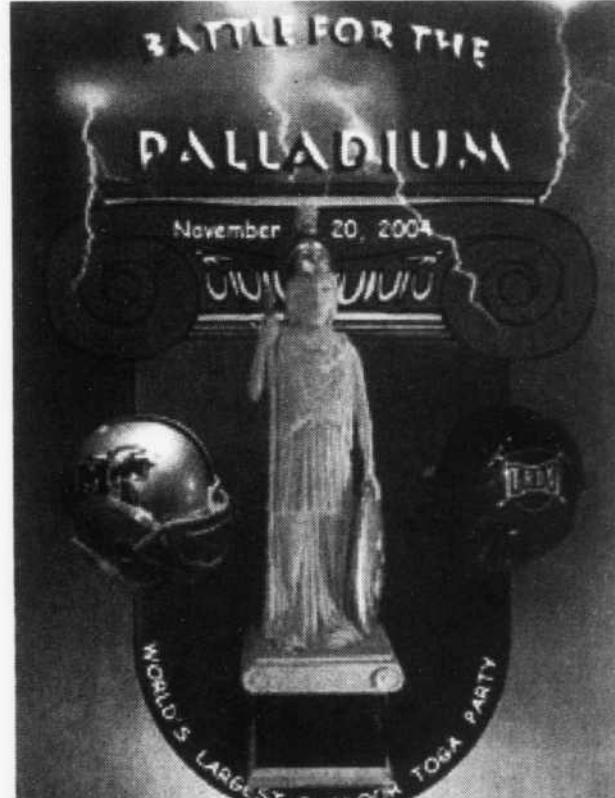
PK	40	Greg Whibbs
P/KO	20	Thomas Olmsted
HO	18	Josh Russell
DS	63	Zach Yenser
PR/KR	34	Leodis McKelvin

Head Coach Larry Blakeney

Athletic Director Boots Donnelly

BATTLE FOR THE PALLADIUM

MTSU vs. Troy



Greek Mythology holds that The Palladium is a wooden statue that fell from the Heavens. It was kept at the Temple of Athena in the city of Troy. According to legend, as long as The Palladium was preserved within the walls of the city, Troy would be safe and could not be taken. However, a 'Raider' by the name of Odysseus - also known as the Raider of Cities - stole The Palladium during the Trojan War leading to the fall of Troy.

In the spirit of the Blue Raiders and Trojan Greek mythology link, Middle Tennessee and Troy compete in The Battle for the Palladium during their annual Sun Belt Conference game. Legend dictates the winner of The Palladium gains an unknown and unexplainable advantage over the other making it more difficult to regain control during future battles. The history between the two schools dates back to 1936 with the Blue Raiders owning a 10-1 advantage in the series. Now competing in the same conference for the first time, the legend may extend well after the football season is over. Many believe losing possession of The Palladium has an enduring effect, mystically influencing other athletic events throughout the year matching the Trojan and Raiders. It's just another factor to overcome in this rivalry game between Middle Tennessee and Troy.

SGA is sponsoring a trip to Troy.

We will be departing at 9:00 am on Saturday

and returning Sunday morning.

The cost of the trip is \$15.00 and the seats are limited.



Cheerleading Competition Squads Tryout

When: Sunday, November 21, 2004

Where: Alumni Memorial Gymnasium Rm. 216

Time: 3pm

Interested in competing on the Coed or All Girl cheerleading competition teams? Contact Jonathan Pursley at 615-898-5812 or jpursley@mtsu.edu for more information.

Three teams leave Sun Belt after weekend

By David Hunter
Senior Staff Writer

The 2004 football season comes to a close this weekend with all the Sun Belt teams trying to end on a positive note. Three teams will be saying goodbye to the SBC, while North Texas prepares for another trip to the New Orleans Bowl.

Louisiana-Lafayette Ragin' Cajuns (4-6, 2-4) at Louisiana-Monroe Indians (4-6, 3-3)

These two interstate rivals will be meeting each other for the 40th time. The Indians lead the series 20-19 and have won the last two matchups.

Both teams are looking to bounce back from losses last week. ULM lost to Middle Tennessee 37-24, while Troy defeated ULL 13-10.

Two of ULL quarterback Jerry Babb's passes were picked off by Troy cornerback Johnny Faulk Jr. Faulk received the SBC Defensive Player of the Week award for the second time this season.



Kickoff is set for 6:30 p.m. on Saturday from Malone Stadium.

North Texas Mean Green (6-4, 6-0) at Arkansas State Indians (3-7, 3-3)

The Mean Green will look to continue their 24-game conference winning streak against ASU tonight. The streak is tied for longest in the nation with Boise State's 24-game streak inside the Western Athletic Conference. Both teams are facing each other for the 14th time, and UNT holds a narrow 7-6 series lead after winning the last three meetings.

UNT clinched their fourth straight SBC title last week with a 51-29 victory over Idaho. The Mean Green will be traveling back to the Wyndham New Orleans Bowl on December 14th on ESPN. UNT will take on a yet-undetermined opponent from Conference USA.

In UNT's victory last week, running back Jamario Thomas ran for 291 yards and four



touchdowns. To no one's surprise, Thomas earned SBC Offensive Player of the Week for the fourth time this season.

Thomas is averaging 189.9 yards per game, the most in the nation.

ASU defeated Utah State 16-7 last Thursday. In the win, ASU's Darren Toney took a punt back 61 yards for a touchdown, giving him SBC Special Teams Player of the Week honors for the second time this season.

Kickoff is set for 6 p.m. tonight at Indian Stadium. This game will be televised on ESPN Regional, but not locally.

New Mexico State Aggies (5-5, 4-2) at Utah State Aggies (2-8, 1-5)

These two teams will be playing their last game as members of the SBC. Next season both teams will be joining the Western Athletic Conference.

Saturday's matchup is also the final game for USU head coach Mick Dennehy after he was fired on Nov.



8. USU will try to send Dennehy out on a winning note as they end their five-game conference and six-game overall losing streak.

Both teams are facing each other for the 29th time. NMSU controls the series, 23-5.

Last week NMSU defeated Florida Atlantic 35-7, while USU fell to ASU 16-7.

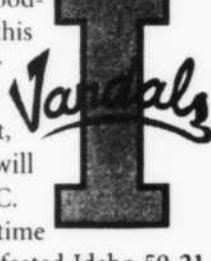
Kickoff is set for 2:05 on Saturday from Romney Stadium.

Idaho Vandals (3-8, 2-5) at Hawaii Warriors (4-5, 4-4 WAC)

Idaho will also be saying goodbye to the Sun Belt after this weekend. This week they make the long trip to take on a future conference opponent, Hawaii. Next year Idaho will become a member of the WAC.

The Warriors leads the all-time series 3-1. Last week UNT defeated Idaho 59-21, while Fresno State defeated Hawaii 70-14.

Kickoff is set for 10:05 p.m. on Saturday and will be shown on pay-per-view. ♦



Lady Raiders take on FAU tomorrow

By Clarence Plank
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee women's basketball team will meet Florida Atlantic for the first time this Friday at Murphy Center.

For MT head coach Stephany Smith, however, it wouldn't matter who the Lady Raiders are playing right now.

"We are going to try

and get better," Smith said. "At this point in the season we are way more concerned about Middle Tennessee than we are any of our opponents."

The Lady Raiders (0-1) opened their season with a 70-62 loss to South Florida in the first round of the Women's National Invitational Tournament.

Although the Lady Raiders also return lead-

ing scorer Patrice Holmes, MT has added five freshmen to a squad

that won the Sun Belt title last season and reached the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

"By far this is the best team that I've been associated with at Middle Tennessee, and I've been here for 12 years," Smith said. "It probably makes this one of the best teams

period, but we're counting on a lot of people."

The Lady Raiders were chosen by the conference coaches as the preseason favorite to win the Sun Belt East Division.

The Lady Raiders will face a FAU team that has nine returning players, including four of its five leading scorers. Shontavia Williams, a junior, averaged 12.5 points and 5.4 rebounds

per game last year.

Junior Sharia Young, FAU's most accurate three-point shooter in school history also returns. Young went 4-for-4 from behind the arc in the Lady Owls' only preseason game.

Middle Tennessee will face FAU this Friday at 5:30 p.m., before the men's team takes on Lambuth University at 7 p.m. ♦

Football: Drop would hurt

Continued from 5

Raiders dropped down to I-AA.

When the team was a member of the I-AA Ohio Valley Conference, the Blue Raiders were unable to recruit further than just locally. Now that they are I-A, the Blue Raider coaches are able to move out of state and recruit better prospects. A drop in status would significantly affect recruiting.

"We would reduce the recruiting area," Donnelly said. "Therefore, we would not be

out spreading the word of the location of the university, who we are and what we stand for."

Donnelly went on to say that MTSU would go back to being more local and seen as a "good old country small school."

On a final note, MTSU President Sidney McPhee refused to comment for this story. When *Sidelines* attempted to contact McPhee, his secretary said he was tired of talking about the subject and did not want to do any interviews. ♦

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Please call 893-4885.

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The Tennessee Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation is seeking student tutors for the following ETIS courses: Statics, Instruments and Controls, Technical Drawing, Industrial Electricity. Please contact Barbara Knox at 898-5311 for more information. Jones Hall Room 333.

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(Will Pick-up & Deliver)

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(no large items cars - etc)

Black Rod- Iron Day bed. Barely used, extra padded mattress. Great condition. \$125. Price ne. Call 615-218-7622.

Small entertainment center fits 27" TV. light wood color, great condition barely used. \$75 oboe. If interested contact Beth or Step @ 615-542-9860 or 615-895-3462.

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'98 Blazer For Sale 4x4, 4Dr Excellent Condition. Need to Sell! Call 931-592-2494.

4, ZR18 Yokohama Parada Tires with 18" Niche Road Wheels. \$1500 oboe. Call Mike @ 533-0273.

Roommates

I am looking for a female roommate who is responsible and doesn't party much (at least at home). I have a really pretty house in a nice subdivision about 2 miles from MTSU. Please call ASAP to see the house. Thanks!

Nonsmoking female roommate needed to live with 2 outgoing females! Rent is 216 & 1/3 utilities. 3 Bd Brick house CLOSE TO CAMPUS! For info call Samantha at 931-581-6064.

I am a graduate student who is looking for a non-smoker, responsible and clean roommate to share 1300 sq ft. apartment only blocks from campus. Renter would have own private bath and walk-in closet. Rent is \$305 plus half utilities (phone, cable, electric, water). Deposit required. Please call 615-904-7246 or

931-334-0985 for more information.

21-yr old female seeking roommate to share 2bd/ba at Oak Park Apts.\$279/month + \$150 deposit. Washer and dryer included. Possible first and last month's rent upon move-in. No preference regarding sexual orientation. Please call 615-631-8479 ASAP!

Female sub-leaser wanted for one bedroom in a two bedroom two bath apt @ Univ. Courtyard. Located on 1st floor 2/no noisy neighbors above or around. This apartment usually rents for \$525 but get in NOW for \$495 w/o \$99 dep. Move in ASAP, lease will end in July. Contact me ASAP at 615-5907-0794 or Hnp2b@mtsu.edu

Female roommate needed ASAP. 3 BR/2BA house Stonegate subdivision. \$325 plus 1/3 utilities; 5 minutes from campus. Brand new house, 2 car garage, high speed internet, W/D included. Call 731-693-9595 or 615-585-4802.

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Sterling University Gables. Female subleaser needed for spring/summer semester. \$335/mo. Utilities included w/ internet. Awesome roommates, just moving to Fla. Lease starting in Jan. Call Maggie at 770-778-1498 cell

Female subleaser needed. University Courtyard 1st floor. Fully furnished 4BD/4BA \$395/mo utilities included and internet access. **1st Month Free**-Move in Now! Call Katie at 770-778-1497 or 770-459-7435.

2BD/2BA apt. @ Raiders Crossing. Lease is from Jan-Aug 13. Completely furnished to include full-size washer/dryer, fridge, microwave, dishwasher, & stove. Also included:

IS THIS YOU?



LAWSTAR, 70.87.40.xxx, 12.13 AM 9/15/04; drenge1105@fileshare, 86.173.250.100, 1:15 PM 9/15/04;
dustbin@fileshare, 85.40.200.xxx, 3:42 AM 9/15/04; den71859@fileshare, 28.72.84.100, 4:51 AM 9/15/04;
dethrone25@fileshare, 28.73.26.xxx, 11:44 AM 9/15/04; soulchaser_low@KaZaA, 69.158.43.xxx, 1:55 AM 9/15/04;
bulletin2004@fileshare, 65.55.231.100, 9:04 AM 9/16/04; acerace@fileshare, 69.32.219.100, 6:17 PM 9/16/04; Philip1@fileshare, 69.154.176.100, 9:24 PM 9/16/04; anonymous_gamer@KaZaA, 59.192.156.100, 10:30 PM 9/16/04;
brassai@fileshare, 68.112.218.100, 10:22 PM 9/16/04; 65eddyg@fileshare, 24.94.56.xx, 10:36 PM 9/16/04; xixixixia@fileshare, 68.229.217.100, 7:04 AM 9/17/04; bullido61@fileshare, 24.10.246.100, 8:29 AM 9/17/04;
ponyboy@KaZaA, 64.203.10.xxx, 8:44 AM 9/17/04; EnergyStar_17@fileshare, 67.181.236.100, 2:40 PM 9/17/04; gbgamile1@fileshare, 68.189.19.x, 11:21 PM 9/17/04; blazenz21941@KaZaA, 24.129.219.100, 12:11 PM 9/18/04;
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swankraws@fileshare, 24.252.84.100, 1:20 PM 9/18/04; gayle@fileshare, 68.97.3.100, 2:46 PM 9/18/04; vermitck@fileshare, 209.30.17x.100, 4:12 PM 9/18/04; ma23@fileshare, 24.170.91.100, 6:32 PM 9/18/04;
ms1080@fileshare, 68.49.176.100, 6:25 PM 9/18/04; delight3624@KaZaA, 69.149.50.100, 7:08 PM 9/18/04; naughtypinky13@fileshare, 68.3.1xx.x, 8:45 PM 9/18/04; tinamobina@fileshare, 68.127.166.100, 9:45 PM 9/18/04;
lupe@Grokster, 69.153.1.100, 9:59 PM 9/18/04; amwan123456@fileshare, 24.181.231.100, 12:28 AM 9/19/04; landers3212005@fileshare, 68.113.10x.100, 1:00 AM 9/19/04; TheKazA, 24.28.10.100, 1:31 AM 9/19/04;
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LAWSUITS BEGIN THIS WEEK.

Pursuant to the Copyright Act (17 U.S.C. Section 504(c)), statutory damages can be as much as \$30,000 per motion picture, and up to \$150,000 per motion picture if the infringement is willful.

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