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Students visited the off-campus housing fair this week where Aspen Heights, The Grove and other apartment complexes offered students rent deals. Photo by Kati Baird.

Cover photo courtesy of William McCray III.

Visit us at www.mtsusidelines.com

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A goodbye from our editor...

By **Becca Andrews**
Editor-in-chief

There are a handful of moments in our lives that we will never forget. For me, the day I was told I would be the editor of *Sidelines* is one. I remember the excitement, fear and hope that rushed at me; a breadth above a breakdown, a step below an all-time high. In that moment, it was exactly what I needed, but I never could have imagined all that leading *Sidelines* would be.

It's funny, I never stopped to think about what it would do to me. I never considered how it — and its staff — would transform me.

I assumed the head of a strange sort of family. We fight during staff meetings and over the phone; we support each other endlessly; we critique each other's performance; and we love each other fiercely.

This love saved me.

I was not at my best when I became editor. I was dealing with the deepest loss I had ever experienced, and there were days I wanted to give in to it. There were moments that I did, but *Sidelines* gave me a reason to keep fighting.

I needed them more than they can ever fully realize.

When I felt overwhelmed or inadequate, I found an encouraging Post-It on my desk or a cup of coffee I didn't pay for. Around the newsroom we joke that I'm the

"mom," but my "kids" always took care of me.

There isn't a group of students with more heart or determination than those who were crazy enough to put their faith in me. I'm forever grateful to have been a part of that.

I'm always hearing that journalism is dying. Let me assure you that with this group of reporters, that will never be the case. They have a fierce dedication to their craft. It will take a lot more than a shaky business model to scare them off.

Emily West, my managing editor, right hand and metaphorical little sister, will be the incoming editor, and there isn't anyone better for the job. She has grown more than I ever thought anyone could in two years. She is a true Southern belle, classy to the core and the hardest worker I know.

Kelsey Klingemeyer, design manager, has a toughness about her that I have always admired, with an insane creative talent to boot. She also has the best laugh in the universe.

Chris Bishop, our online manager, is more of a behind-the-scenes kind of guy, but he can fix absolutely anything — if he doesn't know the answer right away, he finds it, all while maintaining a smile and flawless hair.

Quinton Quillen Qualls III, news editor, has a razor wit that frustrates me and instantly brightens my day. His hard news judgment

and consistently clean copy always amazes me; I can't wait to see his work in *The New York Times* as a war correspondent.

Sinclair Sparkman, assistant news editor, has the best alliterative byline in the history of *Sidelines*. Her fiery red hair matches her passion for journalism and all things environmental.

Jay Powell, features editor, constantly surprises me. He has taught me a lot about the importance of taking time to get coffee and get to know someone. Actually, he has just taught me a lot in general.

Jane Horne, arts and entertainment editor, is more talented than she will ever admit to herself. She came in as a fashion writer and ended up taking over the section, and I'm so glad she did. Her fabulous touch was just what it needed.

Claire Osburn is one of those rare human beings with a genuinely sweet spirit and a strong desire to always be better. She already has greatness.

I remember the day I met Alex Harris, our opinions editor. He was so uncertain, and he was fighting some serious demons at the time. It has been a pleasure watching him grow in confidence and push his own boundaries.

Mark Mize, sports editor, is always sure to let me know he has my back. He may claim not to be a "journalist,"

but he keeps up with us easily.

I would be remiss not to mention Daniel Jansouzian, our chief political correspondent. I've never met anyone with such a kind soul who cares so deeply with such abandon. He's a constant bright spot in our newsroom.

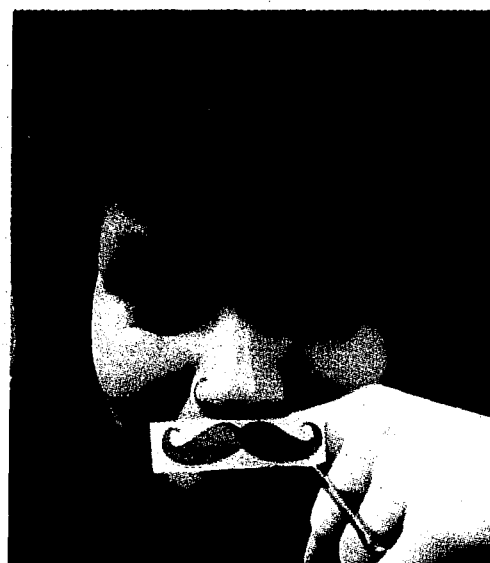
Kati Baby Baird, as I call her, has shouldered more responsibility this semester than I thought one person could without breaking. I'm so grateful that she said "yes" to being my photo editor in Starbucks last December.

There is not a copy editor out there with a better eye than Amanda Gambill. If she and I battled for the title of grammar queen, she would beat me soundly.

I respect Leon Aligood's opinion, and I would bend over backward for his praise. He is always patient, never judgmental, and his door is always open to me and anyone on staff. We would not survive without his guidance.

When he first arrived, I didn't trust Stephan Foust. But throughout the past year, he has charmed his way into my heart with always-handy colloquialisms and metaphors. He withstands my fury better than anyone, and I'm grateful to have had his office for endless rantings.

I would not be who I am without the legacy set by my predecessor Amanda Haggard, Richel Albright's endless support, Christopher Merchant's



uncanny way of making me laugh, Matt Masters' inappropriate comments or Alex Hubbard's loyalty and friendship.

Although there were certainly days I was more annoyed than enamored with our converged newsroom, I admit that I have loved every second working with MT10. Michelle Potts, news director, kept me going with a steady stream of hugs and the occasional margarita. Kelsey Lebeck, assistant producer, quickly became one of my best friends. She has maturity beyond her 20 years, and she listens to me vent more often than anyone should have to.

The DJs at WMTS always have the perfect tune in their back pockets to alleviate newsroom stress.

Rob Jasso, the man brave enough to advise MT10 and WMTS, somehow decided to include me and my staff in his family, and I am so thankful.

The guys at WMOT genuinely care about all of us. I look forward to

my morning chats with them.

I would not be standing without the constant stream of caffeine supplied by any Starbucks within a 35-mile radius, most of whom know my name and order by heart.

It sounds like something I'm supposed to say, but I truly have no regrets. Lately, when I walk across campus, I catch glimpses of who I've been during the past four years — I laughed with friends there, I fell in love here, I failed there.

It hasn't been perfect, but it was exactly what I needed.

I was accepted to The University of California at Berkeley to pursue my master's degree in journalism. I'm going to chase my dream of writing longform magazine pieces. It's easily the most exciting thing to happen to me.

But you all are making it so hard to leave.

I love you. ■

SGA resolves to make undergraduate diplomas larger

By Daniel Jansouzian and Sinclair Sparkman
News team

The Student Government Association unanimously passed a resolution to increase the diploma size in proportion to those of other Tennessee universities.

According to Rachel Lee, SGA executive vice president, MTSU has the smallest diploma of all the state schools. The resolution will increase the size from 8.5 by 11 inches to 11 by 14 inches.

They also want graduate degrees to increase by equal increments.

"The concept was actually proposed by students who had friends attending neighboring universities, which grant larger diplomas," Lee said.

Meredith Holt, basic and applied sciences senator, presented the resolution. She said graduates hold their degree in high regard and should have an impressive symbol to display university credentials at their place of work or residence.

"It looks more professional and better for display," Holt said.

According to Ann Reaves, associate registrar, their office already made some changes to diploma appearance, including increasing the size of graduate degrees to 11 by 14 inches in last fall.

The new version of the diploma includes "The Tennessee Board



Undergraduate students may receive larger diplomas when they walk the line for future commencements. Photo courtesy of Facebook.

of Regents" instead of "State Board of Regents" in two locations on the degree. The seal changed from the State of Tennessee to the MTSU seal, and the new degree also uses blue ink in the title instead of black and white.

According to Reaves, the university now prints the diplomas at the school instead of through Clarksville-based Jostens, and cost to students will not increase as a result. The only charge to students is \$10 for a replacement diploma.

Reaves said many

alumni have requested a new version of their diploma, but not as many as the office expected.

will be able to move forward with the changes before spring graduation.

"A lot of senators

"It looks more professional and better for display."

After forwarding the resolution to Deb Sells in student affairs, Lee said the registrar's office is not sure they

were hoping for this graduation, but we know realistically it's probably not going to happen," Lee said.

Increasing the undergraduate diplomas to 11 by 14 inches would likely not be an issue because that is the current size of graduate degree; the dimensions are already programmed in the machine. However, Lee said they want to increase graduate diplomas, and that could prove slightly more difficult.

"We are trying to make doctoral degrees higher than other degrees, so alumni can be in step with those from other schools who give larger diplomas," Lee said. ■

CRIME BRIEFS

DISORDERLY CONDUCT

Gentleman Jim's
E. Main St.
April 26, 2:52 a.m.

Authorities responded to a fight that had already occurred. The parties involved declined medical treatment, and none of them wished to press charges.

TRAFFIC

Greenland Drive lot
April 25, 10:32 a.m.

Victim reported her vehicle was struck while parked on campus.

TRAFFIC

James E. Walker
Library lot
April 24, 8:58 p.m.

Authorities issued Demayo Partee, 22, a state citation for unauthorized use of a handicap permit.

VANDALISM

Monohan Hall
April 24, 3:53 p.m.

Complainant reported that a lobby television was vandalized.

VANDALISM

Student Union Building

April 23, 11:36 p.m.

Complainant reported that three males broke the revolving door of the Student Union Building.

WARRANT

Baird Lane lot
April 22, 4:29 p.m.

Authorities arrested Luke Simmonds, 24, on an outstanding capias warrant.

University space expands to former medical center

By Mamie Nash
Staff writer

Campus is expanding through the addition of the former Middle Tennessee Medical Center site in downtown Murfreesboro.

The 17.4 acre site, which includes the Bell Street building and a parking garage, was purchased for \$11.1 million. The price was based on state appraisals.

"The property was bought to help with our immediate academic and academic support needs," said John Cothorn, MTSU senior vice president.

The classroom space currently available to students is somewhat limited, according to Mayor Tommy Bragg.

"MTSU as a whole has less classroom space per student than any other Tennessee Board of Regents school," Bragg said. "They are packed into many of the campus buildings they already have."

Final decisions on how the space will be used are still under consideration.

"The primary intent is to provide classroom and faculty office space for academic programs," Cothorn said.

The partnership between MTSU and MTMC has been longstanding – MTMC provided clinical experience for nursing

students and support sponsorship in the athletic department.

good bit of our clinicals here at MTMC," said Gordon Ferguson,

ing."

MTMC has already moved to its new location on Medical Center Parkway, a \$267-million campus with more than 1,000 employees.

"We were basically looking at our long-term plans, and with the population growth we've experienced, the existing facility really wasn't going to serve our

needs going forward," Ferguson said. "We looked at the possibility of expanding the original space, but it is really

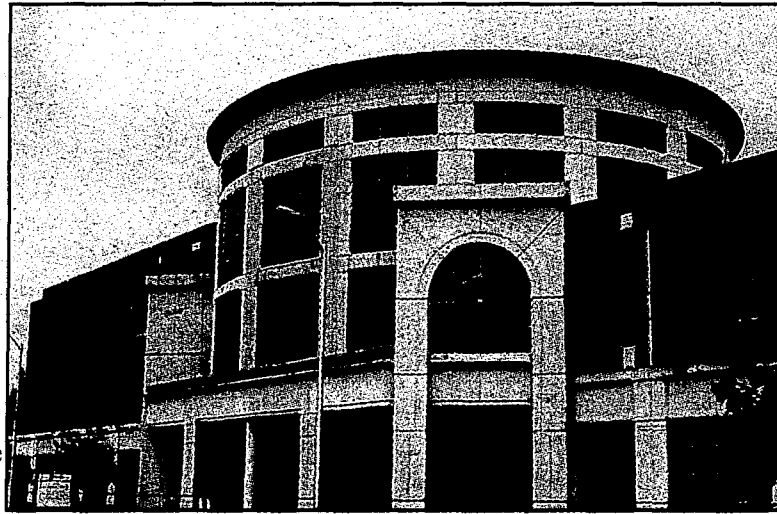
just so landlocked that that was not feasible."

MTSU started serious negotiations with MTMC for the property last fall.

"There were other commercial groups that expressed an interest in it, but MTSU was the only entity really interested in purchasing all of the available land plus the buildings," Ferguson said.

Most of Murfreesboro's citizens have been supportive of the transition, according to Mayor Bragg.

"We have major financial impact because of MTSU," Bragg said. "I think it's somewhere between \$800 million and \$1 billion because of goods and services delivered." ■



MTSU purchased the former Middle Tennessee Medical Center for \$11.1 million.
Photo by Kati Baird.

"We rely very heavily on the School of Nursing to help us with our supply of nursing staff, and they do a

MTMC president and CEO. "A good number of our nursing staff graduated from the MTSU School of Nurs-

ing."

Show your True Blue Health!

4 out of 5

MTSU students limit their drinking or abstain to avoid performing poorly on tests and projects.

trueBLUE
HEALTH

MIDDLE
TENNESSEE
STATE UNIVERSITY



Source: MTSU Core Drug and Alcohol Survey, 2012, n=1155
MTSU is an AA/EEO employer.

To be the man who walks a thousand miles

By Jay Powell
Features editor

Every so often, a dream will feel so real, so concrete, that we can't help but question its meaning. Some call these moments purely coincidental, but for 35-year-old freshman Steven Maggard, it was a call to action.

"I had just fallen asleep, and I had a moment of epiphany," he says. "Instead of sitting and feeling sorry for myself all summer and having somebody else support me, I can do something bigger than me, and it came to my head a fully formed idea of what I wanted to do, how I was going to do it and I started looking at details."

At the time, Maggard was stressed because of difficulty securing the right funds for summer school. While most students will be on vacation, catching up on sleep or filling their schedules with more classes, he, along with his golden retriever, Casey, will walk 818 miles across the country to the center of the continental United States.

During the walk, titled "Meet Me In The Middle," Maggard will visit local autism communities throughout the country, step-by-step, advocating awareness for the disorder and the struggles families must face once a child is diagnosed with autism.

"My big thing is awareness," he says. "Because most people don't understand that

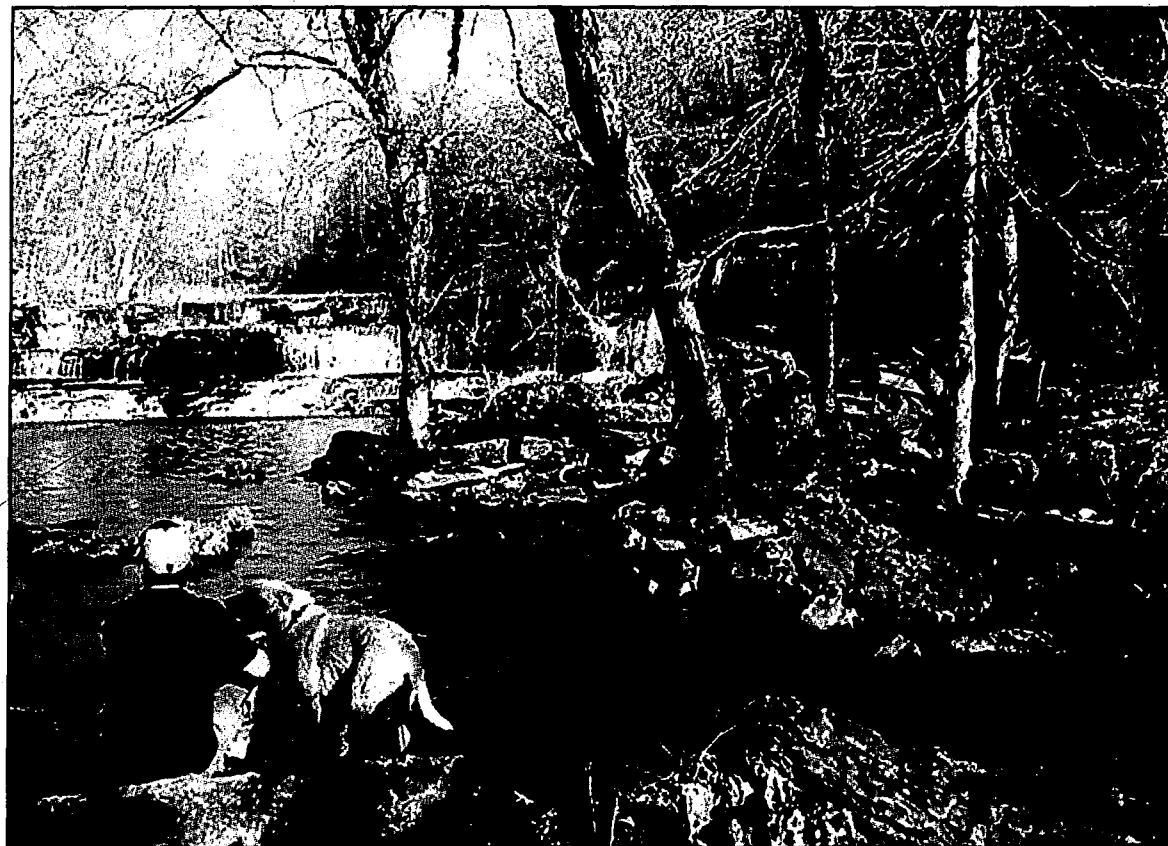
it's not covered. Everybody has to understand that having a kid with autism isn't like having a kid with Down syndrome. There are lots of families that will go bankrupt trying to pay for the medical needs, counseling and therapy that their children need, and at times it comes down to a choice."

For Maggard, giving back is something that has been a long time coming. Before coming to MTSU, he was cutting his chops in the restaurant industry. Before that, he had been kicked out of his mother's house, disowned and homeless. He slept on benches, inside his high school and anywhere he could keep warm.

"Nobody really knew the extent that I was at, that I had no place to go ... and it was a fairly cold night. I walked around for a few hours and didn't have any place else to go."

When he was 15, he was discovered sleeping by a friend's mother in front of their apartment one cold November night in St. George, Utah. Everything began to change for the better after that.

"I went and I laid down behind the bushes ... She came home and saw a pair of feet sticking out from behind the bushes, and she was going to check it out. She thought, 'Some crazy person is behind my bushes,' and she looked, and she saw me, and she knew who I was ... and she woke me up, and she said,



Steven Maggard and his dog, Casey, go everywhere together, whether it is for a walk in the park or cross country. Photo courtesy of Steve Maggard.

'All I have is a couch, but you are not sleeping behind my bushes. Get in there and go to sleep, we'll deal with everything tomorrow.'"

He was not only given a couch, but something he didn't have before — help from another person when he couldn't help himself.

Since then, Maggard has helped raise his niece, Brenda, who has autism. He says that watching her and the sacrifices that her parents have made throughout the years has had a lasting effect on him, most notably in his own awareness of the disorder.

"They have to make choices at times," Maggard says. "Do we take her to a devel-

opmental therapist, or do the other kids get to play Little League soccer this summer, or do they get new shoes or do they get bikes for Christmas?" How do you justify it to the other kids?"

Not knowing how he was going to get the word out about his walk across half of the country, Maggard approached Jennifer Kates, a former professor of his whose son, Harper, was diagnosed with autism 11 years ago.

Kates is also the Tennessee Community Outreach Chair for Autism Speaks, which is supporting Maggard's walk. As outreach chair, she organizes events like Walk for

Autism and the Blue Tie Blue Jean Ball to raise awareness and to help other families cope.

"There's sort of this disbelief because in 'autism world,' the world I live, no one ever helps you," Kates says. "You're always on your own, and you're always fighting everybody. All the doctors are telling you, 'Just wait and see, there's nothing wrong with your kid,' and so you're just in that mode. So when someone offers to help you're kind of like, 'Wait, what do you mean?' I just thought, 'What an amazing idea.'"

She is helping organize Maggard's big

kickoff May 7 at 10 a.m. at Beaman Park in Nashville. Attendees will be able to walk alongside him and Casey for the first two miles.

The actual total of Maggard's walk will be 1,039 miles, but he says he is sticking to the original 818 mile estimate because of its significance to autism diagnoses — every one in 88 children are diagnosed with the disorder.

That's more than 1 percent to be exact, a number large enough to cause those affected by it to take notice and scratch their heads as to why it isn't covered like other preventable and curable disorders.

The answer, accord-

ing to both Maggard and Kates, is that the right people haven't stepped forward to propose changes necessary to help autism families lead a "normal" life.

"Nobody makes laws without anybody asking for them. Unless someone stood up and says, 'Hey, no fair,' then no one's ever

going to change that, and it's expensive. Insurance companies don't cover it because it's expensive, and their job is to make money ... and so that's their default mode," Kates says.

It's also been difficult for legislation to pass, because no treatment for autism exists. Each case is different, and the stages of a person's life depends on the severity of treatment required.

According to Kates, data shows that the best and least overall expensive way is to treat it early.

"What we know now – we have a lot more data to go on now – is that it's far less expensive to treat early. Early intervention is far less expensive than treating over the lifetime," Kates says. "Now that we have that data, we can

go and say, 'Look, you can pay a few cents a day now, or you can pay for this person to be institutionalized for the rest of their life and pay millions of dollars, your choice.'"

Maggard doesn't hope to change the world with his walk, only to raise awareness for a disorder that is in

you're going to be able to walk that far?' You know what, every morning when I wake up, I have a choice, and because I have that choice, I will make it. I will walk. When [my niece] wakes up every morning, she doesn't have the choice whether or not she's going to be an autistic child."

"People have asked me, 'Are you sure you're going to be able to walk that far?' You know what, every morning when I wake up, I have a choice, and because I have that choice, I will make it. I will walk."

In the meantime, Maggard will be accepting donations for his walk at walkforautismspeaks.org.

His goal is to raise \$10,000, but he says that it will not stop him from walking if that goal isn't met.

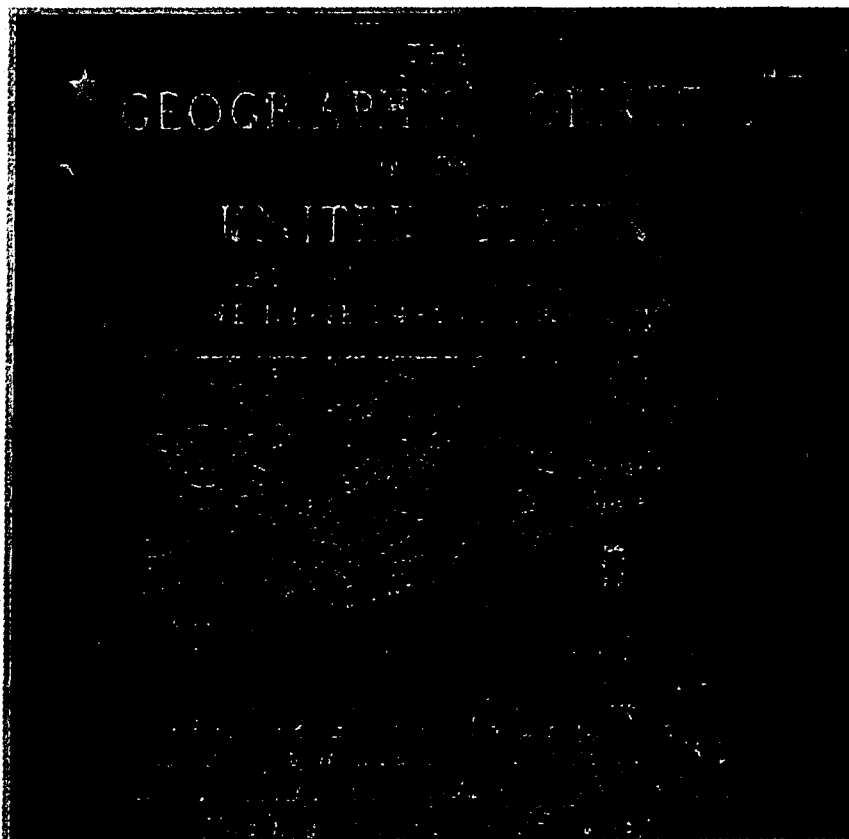
"I have this time to

plan," he says. "... To me, it's not because my sister and everybody else that has autistic kids, they don't get to plan out months in advance, they don't have people that are like, 'Well, I'll sponsor you.' They're just expected to deal with it because it's 'their' kid, and I have the opportunity to try to take care of these things, and if I don't, well then, that's just something that I don't get taken care of, it just is, meant to be." ■

dire need of support. He doesn't want to be thought of as a hero. "I'm hoping ... not only that they'll have a chance to do stuff, but that media will start to notice. I mean, it's not very often that someone walks a thousand miles."

Although the idea of walking such a long stretch of road seems overwhelming and maybe even a little crazy, Maggard said he feels compelled, because he was fortunate enough to be born with the ability to choose, whereas others aren't so lucky.

"People have asked me, 'Are you sure



Steve Maggard will see this plaque after his 1,000 mile journey to the center of the United States. Photo courtesy of walkforautism.org.

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COVER STORY

Making the grades together: A father-daughter graduation

By Jane Horne
Arts & Entertainment
editor

William C. McCray III, 52, has watched his daughter Nikila Atcheson, 28, turn five, set a track record at her middle school, get married, have three baby girls and help her husband start a business.

However, McCray won't be among other parents and family members in the bleachers as she walks across the Murphy Center stage when she graduates college this May — he'll be right behind her.

As two non-traditional students, Atcheson and McCray never intended to graduate the same semester. It was serendipity that the two best friends would share the same special day together.

"We're the best of friends," McCray said.

"I talk to my dad every day," she finished.

The entire McCray family originally moved from Michigan to Tennessee in 1991, when William took a job at General Motors.

Atcheson, who is graduating with a degree in professional studies with a concentration in organizational leadership, graduated from Nashville School of the Arts in 2003, where she specialized in dance. She then came straight to MTSU. Her college career has been long, shaped by various challenges that have pushed her to work hard toward a diploma.



Left: Nikila said her three daughters Harmonnee, Milena and Larenia were her biggest inspiration for finishing college. Right: William walks with two of his "BGs," and he spends time with them on a regular basis. Photo courtesy of William McCray III.

McCray's extended education has been unique, too. He originally came to the university with 40 credits that he earned through online courses while

working for GM, and he earned a degree in 2010 in liberal studies. However, McCray wanted more, and this time he will graduate with a degree in

sociology and minors in criminal justice and philosophy.

Most college students learn the balancing act of juggling classes, homework

and extracurricular activities, and Atcheson conquered those while helping her husband, Cliff, start a business. On top of those accomplishments, she added

the role of motherhood. She became pregnant with her first daughter, Harmonnee, at 20 and has two more daughters. Milena will soon be six, and the baby,



COVER STORY

Lareina, is two.

Atcheson was pregnant with her second daughter when another challenge reared its head. Doctors diagnosed her with von Willebrand disease or VWD, a hereditary bleeding disorder that prevents blood from clotting normally.

As she raised her children and handled her medical issues, Atcheson made the most of her situation by going to school and earning three scholarships from the Tennessee Hemophilia Foundation branch in Murfreesboro.

"It's how I've gotten through," Atcheson said.

Because Atcheson's second daughter and her older brother are affected with the same disease, she and McCray have volunteered with the organization, and McCray has served as a board member and speaker for events. However, Atcheson's biggest motivators are her daughters.

"My oldest is really excited," Atcheson grinned. "She's like, 'Mommy, I can't wait to see you walk!' I just want to teach them that it can be done. Mommy did it, you can do it,

too."

The innate desire to motivate her daughters comes from the way McCray inspired his daughter from a young

him do work and school and then come home and cook."

McCray, a man of many talents, was a member of the Army

variety of other goodies made up the menu.

But like many small businesses in the recession, Mac-a-licious closed its doors, which

foot soldier," McCray explained. "I wanted to see what it was like because, ya know, I worked and raised the kids, and I never had

baby grands — and I'm their Pa-G," McCray boasted. "I wanted to be called G-Pa, but the oldest, Harmonee, couldn't say it, so it became Pa-G, and it stuck."

All the BGs have taken up their mother's passion for dance, futhering Atcheson's dream to one day open a dance studio.

McCray has a couple of dreams to choose from post-graduation. His hobby of writing music has always been one that he wanted to dedicate more time to. He is also considering the restaurant business again — Middle Tennessee food lovers should hope so.

As they end one journey and start another, Atcheson and McCray will continue to support each other. The past several years have been a seesaw support system of sharing



Nikila's daughters want to be a dancer just like their mom, and she is considering opening a studio for them and other children who want to learn. Photo courtesy of William McCray III.

age.

McCray had his share of hurdles before and during college. Throughout his 20 years as an operation technician at GM, he took care of his three kids, coached Atcheson's track team and helped with the household.

"That's my daddy; that's what pushed me," Atcheson said. "Seeing

for two years. When disability prevented McCray from continuing his job at GM, he decided to pursue his 8-year-old dream of opening a restaurant. Mac-a-licious was located in Smyrna in a 4,000-square-foot old movie theater. His banana pudding, hot legs, — personal favorites of Atcheson's — ice cream and a large

prompted McCray's decision to return to school. In light of the technological age, more non-traditional students work from home and take online courses, but McCray wanted the full experience — overpriced campus food, walks across campus in the rain and all.

"I could've chosen to do classes online, but I wanted to be a

the opportunity to go to school after the military."

McCray easily transitioned into college culture for two reasons. As a man of 52, he could still pass for someone in his 30s. Plus, his love for his children and his "BGs," as he calls his grandbabies, keep him young at heart.

"They're my BGs, I call them — my

school problems. They even carpooled every Tuesday and Thursday last semester, giving each other the special support.

"It's not a sprint or a marathon, it's more of a relay," McCray said.

And for McCray and Atcheson, they're about to cross that finish line together. ■

RANTS AND RAVES

May 1
Pickwick
Mercy Lounge
1 Cannery Row,
Nashville
9 p.m.
\$10

PICKWICK AVAILABLE

The end of the semester is always chaotic. Students are struck with excitement, fear and panic simultaneously. You suddenly realize that barely passing that honors math class doesn't leave you with much of a safety net, and exams are right around the corner.

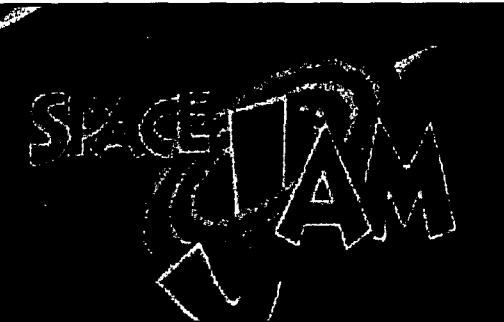
Before the stress re-

ally sets in, head to Mercy Lounge to hear the sweet sounds of the pop/rock group Pickwick. The members of Pickwick – Galen Disston, Michael Parker, Garrett Parker, Cassady Lillstrom, Alex Westcoat and Kory Kruckenberg – have created a sound that falls somewhere between The Cold War Kids

and The Shins.

There is something about Pickwick that sounds like summer. It could be the relaxed vibe that oozes from the band and seeps into their songs. The band recorded their newest record *Can't Talk Medicine* in the living room of their home. This show is definitely worth it.

May 2
MTSU After Dark:
Pajama Jam
McCallie Dining Hall
10 p.m. to 11:59 p.m.
Free with MT ID



Imagine you have just been invited to a party where guests will be given free food. Are you stoked? What if the free food was from your college's cafeteria? Suddenly, you're not so hungry.

No one has ever compared the food found in campus dining halls to French cui-

sine. It isn't the healthiest option, and nothing should smell quite that foul. MTSU After Dark is hosting Pajama Jam, an event where students will find free entertainment and free breakfast food from McCallie.

Golly, how enticing. The event will also have a street fair and live DJ. The most

exciting part of the night, if you can call it that, is the fact that "Space Jam" will be playing in the Keathley University Center and Student Union. You can wear your pajamas on campus, grab a moldy waffle and sing "I Believe I Can Fly" at the top of your lungs. Please skip this event entirely.

May 2
Night Beats
The End
2219 Elliston Place,
Nashville
11:30 p.m.
\$7



There's nothing more refreshing than a person who truly knows what they want and will stop at nothing to achieve it, even if it means being unconventional. The American psychedelic group Night Beats is a key example of such innovators.

The band, based out of Seattle, was formed in 2009

by frontman and guitar player Lee Blackwell. He was later joined by drummer James Traeger and bass player Tarek Wegner. Since their start, Night Beats has released various albums, including their debut release the *H-Bomb* EP in 2010 and the self-titled *Night Beats* in 2011.

While Night Beats is more widely accepted as a psychedelic group, the band creatively incorporates little bits of style and instrumentation of R&B. The overall sound created by Night Beats brings listeners back to a time and place when artists like Jimi Hendrix ruled.

May 3
Bloodkin
Exit/In
2208 Elliston Place,
Nashville
11:30 p.m.
\$10



Rock band Bloodkin is coming to Exit/In to play some of their music that has been winning audiences over since 1990.

A love and appreciation for rock and roll was planted in the heart of Bloodkin even before the band formed. Lead vocalist and guitarist Daniel Hutchens and fellow

guitarist Eric Carter grew up together in West Virginia listening to rock music and performing in garage bands. After high school Hutchens and Carter were joined by William Tonks, backing vocalist, guitar and dobro player, Jon Mills on the bass and Aaron Phillips on drums.

A progression in the

band's music has happened naturally throughout the years. Bloodkin's music changes with the times. One thing is consistent – the sound of traditional Southern rock on any of Bloodkin's albums.

May 5
The Black Angels
Mercy Lounge
1 Cannery Row,
Nashville
9 p.m.
\$15



Despite their name, The Black Angels make exceptional music. It might be instrumentally heavy, but that is the nature of most psychedelic-rock bands.

Founded in 2004, The Black Angels are known for putting on an incredible live show and incorporating political commentary into

their songs. Lead vocalist and occasional bass and organ player Alex Maas says that the band strives to make music with a message, especially messages about confronting issues not easy to deal with.

Maas is joined by bandmates Christian Bland, Stephanie Bailey and Kyle

Hunt who each play various instruments to create music that makes The Black Angels sound like a modern-day Monkees with more edge. The Black Angels are celebrating the release of their newest album, *Indigo Meadow*, with a North American Tour this summer.

Guitar work tells tales in Dawes' 'Stories Don't End'

By Nick Georgiou
Critic

Some bands cannot write songs that reflect observations on the human experience without sounding like they are preaching. Other bands can pull it off, writing songs with such elegance and accuracy that make the listener wonder for days why the band thought of it first.

Dawes does that and more with ease on their third album effort, *Stories Don't End*.

The visceral sounds that have branded Dawes are defined by two brothers, Taylor and Griffin Goldsmith. Taylor's songwriting and guitar work are his best to date, and the



Dawes' new album, *Stories Don't End*, is on iTunes for \$9.99. Photo courtesy of Facebook.

subtle drum work of Griffin is innovative and deliciously felicitous.

One of the characteristics that set Dawes apart from others in their genre is the solid rhythm section that delivers the backbone and

punches with a unique, refreshing flair.

The album starts out with "Just Beneath the Surface," a waltz-like, up-tempo song that sets the tone for the rest of the tracks. In February, the band released the next tune on the album

"From a Window Seat" as their first single. This song will instantly conjure up thoughts of the Eagles or Steely Dan with the way the intro piano hook feels and connects with the rest of the band.

The ballads are

where the vocals start to lose the appeal of the more upbeat songs. Songs like "Just My Luck," "Something in Common" and the title track "Stories Don't End" leave you ready for whatever is next. Luckily, that's a great California folk rock tune.

"Most People" is the fifth track on the album and incorporates elements that appeal to most people who appreciate California folk from the '70s. Mix tapes everywhere should have the next tune "Hey Lover," which features the reverb of guitars and gritty vocal timbre that made you listen to the band in the first place.

"From the Right

Angle" and "Side Effects" are both summer tunes best played at sunset while enjoying a libation or on a road trip with friends.

The art of the guitar solo is not lost on this record, if only for a handful of tracks. Producer Jacquire King pushes the boundaries of the California folk genre where Dawes fits so well. King has produced acts like Tom Waits, Kings of Leon, Josh Ritter and Norah Jones. He is no stranger to talent that has massive potential, and he's taken Dawes to a new level with *Stories Don't End* by extracting the marrow of their creativity on a genre level. ■

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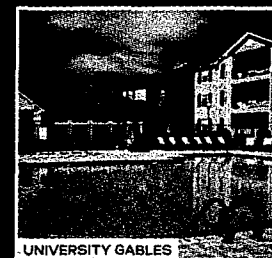
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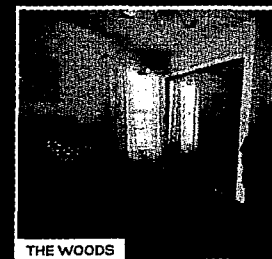


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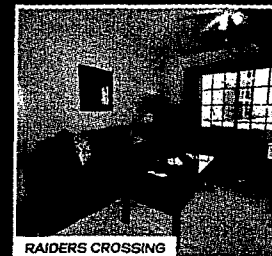
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THE WOODS



RAIDERS CROSSING

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Nashville plays host to independent filmmakers

By Quint Qualls
News editor

Eight days of movies and parties at the Nashville Film Festival featured big name stars on the screens and reeled in some of the industry's largest representatives for red carpet events.

The festival ignited April 18 with food, drinks and a VIP opening night party.

Opening night featured the premiere of selected short films, including "Mancipo," which was directed by Sam Willey, a senior electronic media production major.

The film, set during the Great Depression, was intensely emotional with overtones of death and internal conflict. It was shot in only two weeks.

The festival featured different films genres and styles throughout the week. Among the special presentation films shown was "Mud," a modern Southern gothic written and directed by Jeff Nichols that starred Matthew McConaughey and Reese Witherspoon.

The film focused on two teenagers living on the Mississippi River in Arkansas who meet the mysterious vagrant, Mud, on an isolated island. The plot resembled a modern rendition of Mark Twain's "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer," where mythical river folklore struggles against the oppressive machinery of the modern world. McConaughey's portrayal



Senior electronic media production student Sam Willey and electronic media communication professor Tom Neff watched Willey debut his movie "Mancipo" during the Nashville Film Festival. Photo by Nhu Duong.

of the character, Mud, in the film likely represented his best performance to date.

Another film favorite, "The Way, Way Back," was a more lighthearted coming-of-age tale than "Mud." The film stars Steve Carrell in an unusual role as the cruel and entirely unfunny suitor of the protagonist's mother. The story centers on hopelessly awkward 14-year-old Duncan, who finds a father figure in the form of water park manager Owen.

The film would have been a droll, mindless comedy were it not for Sam Rockwell's por-

trayal of Owen and Alison Janney's drunken housewife hilarity as Betty. Rockwell's performance harkened back to his character Zaphod Beeblebrox in "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy," where he played the childish and totally oblivious president of the galaxy.

It was a charming film, but mostly due to only two or three of the characters. Fox Searchlight Pictures has slated a July 5 release date for the film.

Brought back by popular demand, "East Nashville Tonight," played on the final night of the festival and

switched gears completely.

The film's textual preface encompassed everything that was shown.

"On February 12, 2013, the Barnes Brothers began shooting a documentary in East Nashville, starring Todd Snider. Its purpose was to promote touring songwriters from the neighborhood. They failed. Instead, drugs took over. Instead they made: EAST NASHVILLE TONIGHT."

The documentary focused on folk musicians Todd Snider and Elizabeth Cook, whose quest was to create a

localized talk show for East Nashville while on LSD, psilocybin mushrooms, cocaine, heroin, marijuana and a vast collection of various uppers and downers.

Many viewers probably haven't heard of Snider or Cook, but they represent everything that's right and true in the Nashville music scene. Thanks to them and a long list of other touring songwriters, the film was laced with incredible folk music.

The film was a collection of conversations between songwriters, most of which were hilarious, thanks to

Snider. However, it had no explosions or computer-generated effects, so some audience members might find it boring.

The closing night party on Thursday surpassed the opening night party by a wide margin. The food was better, and for that matter, so were the people. Industry representatives, corporate sponsors from Nissan, press and gold member filmgoers all gathered to bid the 2013 festival a fond farewell. ■

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT
'The Place Beyond the Pines'
 blends cast with indie plot



Ryan Gosling breaks out of his normal role as Luke Glanton, a motorcycle stunt rider who unexpectedly finds he must raise his child. Photo courtesy of Facebook.

By Claire Osburn
 Assistant Arts &
 Entertainment
 editor

"The Place Beyond the Pines" has three stories to tell, and writer/director Derek Cianfrance, who previously teamed up with Ryan Gosling on the heart-wrenching flick "Blue Valentine," is happy to tell them.

Set in Schenectady, N.Y., in the late 1990s, this crime-drama is poetic in nature and filmed realistically enough to make you feel like you're there.

The film opens with Gosling ("Crazy, Stupid, Love") as Luke Glanton, a motorcycle stunt rider for a traveling carnival, makes his way through the crowd on his bike into the steel cage where he performs.

Sporting a bad bleach-blond dye job and covered in tattoos, Glanton — cigarette permanently in hand — runs into one-night stand Romina (Eva Mendes, "The Other Guys") at his latest stop. He soon finds that he has a son. For someone who tends to

take on more glamorous roles, Mendes plays the part of the dowdy, single mother well, allowing the audience to feel her pain as she struggles between her relationships with the baby's father and her new man.

Determined to man up and be a decent father — he is fatherless — Glanton puts down roots, bunking up with a mechanic Ben Mendelsohn ("The Dark Knight Rises") as Robin, who informs him that one job exists for him to properly provide for his boy — bank robbing.

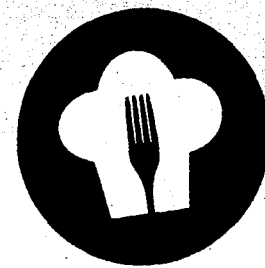
However, greediness comes with a price. Enter Bradley Cooper ("Silver Linings Playbook") as Avery Cross, a rookie cop with something to prove. After going head-to-head with Glanton, Cross was wounded, which forced him to question his job and feel guilty. Cooper performed well and veered away from normal pretty boy roles toward a role with more substance. He rises to this occasion and attacks this film with same intensity as

seen in "Silver Linings Playbook."

Also a father to a young boy, Cross wants what every man wants — to do right by his kid and his wife Rose Byrne ("Bridesmaids"). However, internal corruption at the force, led by Ray Liotta ("Blow") as Detective Deluca, pressure him to please his father played by Harris Yulin ("Scarface").

The film then launches 15 years into the future to focus on the offspring of these damaged souls. Emory Cohen, ("Smash") as AJ Cross, is a delinquent, druggie and "Jersey Shore" wannabe, while Dane DeHaan ("Chronicle") as Jason Glanton is a loner looking for answers. DeHaan is the quintessential teen full of angst that hangs on his face.

With beautiful cinematography thanks to Sean Bobbitt, "The Place Beyond the Pines" is a deeply touching story about manhood and the inevitable choices life forces us to make. This is an indie film worth seeing. ■



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Tennessee's high beer tax - the tax that ales us

By Brandt Cowan
Contributing
columnist

Tennessee has become home to several small businesses that operate solely to make people happy the way they best know how: by brewing beer.

Companies such as Yazoo, Blackstone, Jackalope, Turtle Anarchy, Calfkiller, Mayday, Cool Springs Brewery and Fat Bottom have popped up around the state. This is great news for craft beer consumers in Tennessee who want to sit back with a good brew made by friends and neighbors.

However, the growth of this young industry in our state is held back by the highest effective beer tax in the nation.

According to fixthebeertax.com, a website operated by supporters of a bill aimed at reforming the tax, state beer sales have declined by five percent from 1999 to 2010 although local wholesale tax revenues from beer have risen more than 30 percent.

Prior to 2007, Tennessee had the third highest beer tax in the nation, and in 2008, the state overtook Alaska for the top spot in the nation. The state's beer tax policy has not been altered in approximately 60 years.

The reason for a lack of reform involves the structure of the beer tax, which com-



Brandt Cowan

bines federal and state excise taxes calculated on volume and then adds a 17 percent local wholesale tax calculated on price. These taxes go to the cities and counties where the beer is sold.

However, this pay structure puts a strain on craft breweries because of the higher prices that accompany their product, which is the cause of economies of scale and higher

quality ingredients, as opposed to a beer produced by Anheuser-Busch.

What helped drive Tennessee to the top of the list the most is inflation.

Because a large part of the wholesale tax is based on price, the rising cost of supplies and labor inevitably drive up that price. The state's effective tax rate increased 12 percent higher than Alaska, and future inflation increases could drive the tax

ident of SEC Enterprises, Inc., a wholesaler in Cookeville. "The local wholesale tax might have made sense 60 years ago when it was established, but this is excessive, and surely Tennessee didn't intend to become the highest beer taxer in the United States."

The tax policy is even damaging a prospective investment.

A potential Sierra Nevada brewery recently considered opening in the state

cost of freight tacked on - than they do in their own neighborhoods.

One Tennessee distributor, Kurt Strickmaker at BountyBev, makes half as much on many of his kegs as his local government does in taxes. His local government takes twice the offerings as he does on many of his products.

In 2011, the wholesale beer tax generated \$125 million in revenue for cities and counties in the state.

"We want to contribute our fair share," Hall said. "But we respectfully believe that government should get more tax revenue

as a result of businesses selling more, not because we have to adjust our prices due to, say, rising barley and glass prices."

Currently, 48 other states base their beer tax on volume instead of price, which is what

the Tennessee Beer Tax Reform Act of 2013 seeks to do. The bill is sponsored by Rep. Cameron Sexton, R-Crossville, and Sen. Brian Kelsey, R-Germantown.

The bill passed through the Tennessee General Assembly with minimal opposition and was recently signed by Gov. Bill Haslam.

By implementing this reform act, state communities will not see a decrease in beer tax revenues - instead, an estimated \$14 million increase in tax revenue is expected. However, it will shift the load to those who sell the most beers.

Out-of-state macro breweries such as Coors, Miller and Anheuser-Busch will enable Tennessee's growing craft beer industry to hit bigger strides, encourage new breweries to start and will open the doors for more breweries to sell their beer in the state so that consumers have more choices. ■

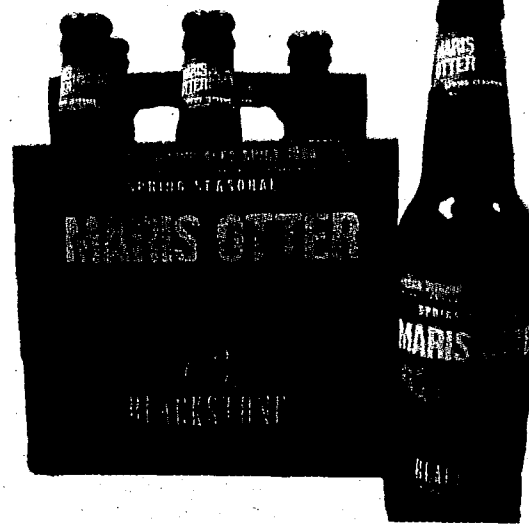
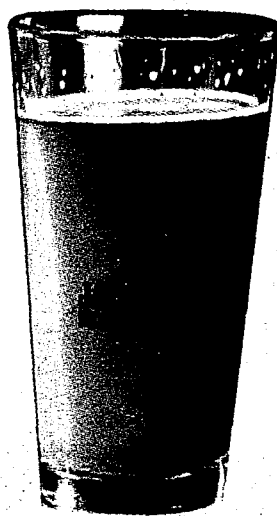
"Prior to 2007, Tennessee had the third highest beer tax in the nation, and in 2008, the state overtook Alaska for the top spot in the nation."

rate up even more.

"A tax that goes up that fast and continues to climb in spite of lower sales is punitive and is simply not good tax policy," said Ottis Phillips, pres-

but decided to locate in North Carolina instead. According to Linus Hall, the owner of Yazoo, breweries like his make more money selling out of state

even with the



SPORTS

Cunningham, Harley sign free agent contracts

By Jordan Mayton
Staff writer

The NFL Draft leaves pro and college fans on the edges of their seats each year waiting to see their favorite team's pick, while they watch their favorite college teams' alumni earn a spot on a pro roster.

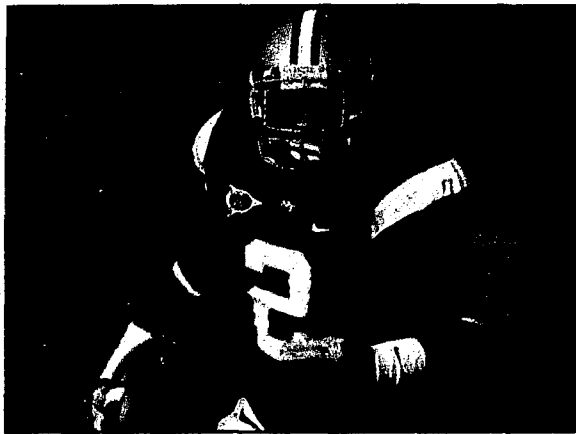
Five prospects from Middle Tennessee hoped to have their names called in 2013. Receiver Anthony Amos, running back Benny Cunningham, safety Jajuan Harley, center Micah James and defensive end Omar McLendon have been on the radar of at least 13 NFL teams leading up to the draft.

None of them heard their names called during the three-day event, but Cunningham and Harley have inked undrafted free agent contracts with the St. Louis Rams and Seattle Seahawks, respectively, as of Sunday.

At the beginning of his senior season, Cunningham, a running back by trade, served as a key piece to the Blue Raider offense. Five games later, he suffered a season-ending injury while playing the FIU Golden Panthers.

During his shortened season, Cunningham managed to run for 600 yards with a 6.2 yard average and 11 touchdowns, including a 217-yard, 5 touchdown game against a stout Georgia Tech defense.

Harley played in all 12 games for the Blue Raiders in 2012 after he transferred from



Benny Cunningham looks to carve a place on the St. Louis Rams' team. Photo courtesy of MT Athletic Communications

his former ACC home with the Seminoles. He amassed 74 tackles and three interceptions and started in eight of those 12 contests.

Both players are expected to attend rookie camp, starting this week. Cunningham and Harley's three former teammates could still also sign undrafted free agent contracts.

Anthony Amos, a 2012 First Team All-Sun Belt Conference selection, amassed 99 catches for 1,371 yards and 12 touchdowns in his two-year career with MT. The senior showed off his straight-line speed by running a 4.65 40-yard dash at Middle Tennessee's Pro Day.

The rising senior was also invited to the annual East-West Shrine Game this after the completion of the 2012 season and caught the game's opening touchdown in front of a slew of scouts.

For center Micah James, a future NFL career may be within reach. The former

junior-college transfer had an outstanding senior season for the Blue Raiders. The offense line allowed the second-fewest sacks of any team in Division I football. James did not allow a sack during the 2012 season.

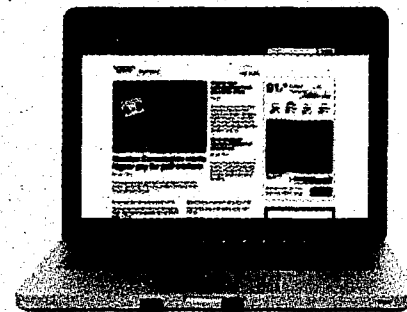
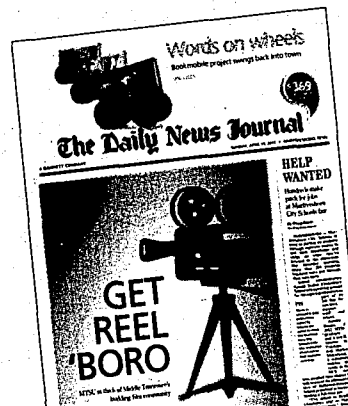
While earning 2nd Team All-Sun Belt honors, defensive end Omar McLendon anchored a dominant defensive line throughout his collegiate career. The senior accrued 34 tackles, five sacks in his final season with the Blue Raiders.

Like James, versatility could work in McLendon's favor. The senior has the size, speed and versatility of skills to play a 3-4 outside linebacker position at the next level. His natural position is as a 4-3 defensive end, but he may switch to offensive linebacker.

NFL camps are set to begin in late July where the former Blue Raiders will compete for a chance to earn a spot on an active roster. ■

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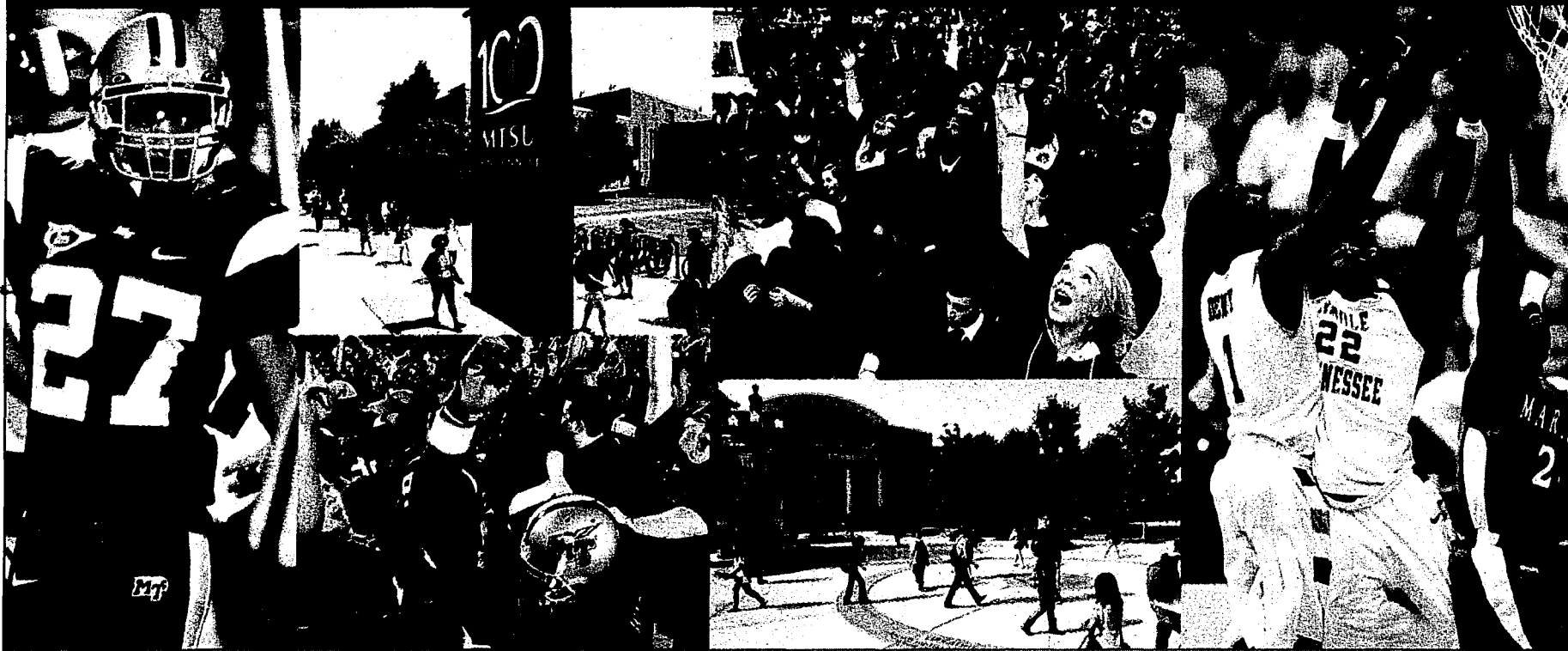
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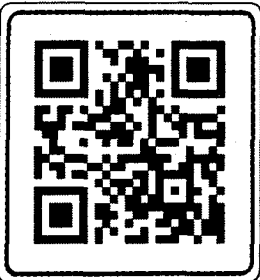


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