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Memphis, Tennessee



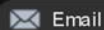
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## MTV wants to do series on Melrose boys basketball team

By Jason Smith

Posted August 13, 2010 at midnight



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The Melrose High boys basketball team, which features one of the nation's top prospects this season in senior forward Adonis Thomas (seen here in a 2009 file photo), will be the subject of an MTV reality series produced by Red Line Films, pending approval from Memphis City Schools.

The Melrose High boys basketball team will be the subject of an MTV reality series produced by Red Line Films, pending approval from Memphis City Schools.

Melrose coach Jermaine Johnson said Thursday that shooting for the series could begin as soon as next week if approved by MCS as he expects.



PHOTO BY NIKKI BOERTMAN  
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Jermaine Johnson, coach of the state champion Melrose boys basketball team, is excited about possibly being on MTV.

Red Line Films has produced, directed and written several hit sports shows for ESPN, including the network's 39-episode "Who's #1" series and "The Life," a behind-the-scenes look at the lives of many high-profile professional athletes.

The Golden Wildcats went 37-4 a season ago, earning their first basketball state title since 1983, and return one of the nation's top prospects this season in senior forward Adonis Thomas.

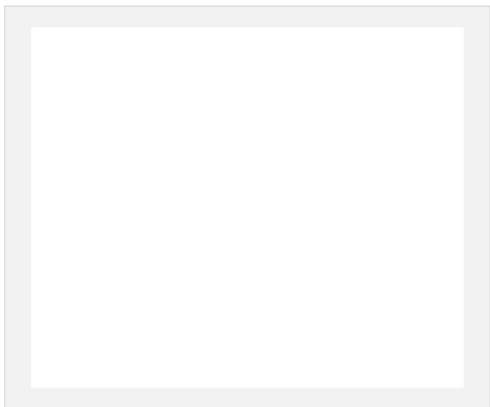
Johnson said representatives from Red Line Films contacted him this week asking whether he and Melrose would be interested in the series.

"I immediately hung up the phone and ran to my principal's office, and he thought I was joking. He was like, 'Quit playing,'" Johnson said.

"I said, 'Mr. (Leroy) McClain, we've got a chance to be on MTV, man, and he was excited. So I met with (MIAA) director Smokey Gaines (on Thursday) and he said he's going to talk with (MCS Supt. Kriner) Cash and tell him it's a positive.

"Once they get (permission), they want to be here next Wednesday and start filming us lifting weights and stuff. They're going to be with us the whole way through (the season)."

Johnson said Red Line views Melrose as "a great success story in the inner city."



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| <p>August 13, 2010<br/>12:11 a.m.</p> <p><a href="#">Suggest removal</a></p> <p><a href="#">Reply to this post</a></p> | <p><b>mtigerdiehard writes:</b></p> <p>I know J.J. the real J.J.</p>  |
| <p>August 13, 2010<br/>12:15 a.m.</p> <p><a href="#">Suggest removal</a></p> <p><a href="#">Reply to this post</a></p> | <p><b>Bigsarge06 writes:</b></p> <p>This is ridiculous, Why not spot light all of the Memphis City Schools Athletic depts and all of the Teams. All of these young men and women work hard to keep up their grades just to stay in the programs and deserve a spot in the limelight. Many of these young men and women use sports to escape the THUG life....</p> |
| <p>August 13, 2010<br/>12:25 a.m.</p> <p><a href="#">Suggest removal</a></p> <p><a href="#">Reply to this post</a></p> | <p><b>Suggest Removal From Memphis writes:</b></p> <p>Indiana Jones was ridiculous, why couldn't they spot light all archeologists?</p> <p>Why did they spot light only Titanic when the Lusitania deserved some attention as well?</p>   |
| <p>August 13, 2010<br/>12:47 a.m.</p> <p><a href="#">Suggest removal</a></p> <p><a href="#">Reply to this post</a></p> | <p><b>midsouthsportssupporter writes:</b></p> <p>Ummm, it is a TV show. They are only interested in spotlighting Melrose. Get over it.</p>  |
| <p>August 13, 2010<br/>12:49 a.m.</p> <p><a href="#">Suggest removal</a></p> <p><a href="#">Reply to this post</a></p> | <p><b>HalleBerry writes:</b></p> <p>in response to <a href="#">mtigerdiehard</a>:</p> <p>“ I know J.J. the real J.J.</p> <p>Who is the real JJ?</p>   |
| <p>August 13, 2010<br/>1:46 a.m.</p> <p><a href="#">Suggest removal</a></p> <p><a href="#">Reply to this post</a></p>  | <p><b>geddy_lee_is_a_god writes:</b></p> <p>It might work as long as they don't put anyone from The Real World in any episodes.</p>   |
| <p>August 13, 2010<br/>5:31 a.m.</p> <p><a href="#">Suggest removal</a></p> <p><a href="#">Reply to this post</a></p>  | <p><b>jow1981 writes:</b></p> <p>in response to <a href="#">Bigsarge06</a>:</p> <p>“ This is ridiculous, Why not spot light all of the Memphis City Schools Athletic depts and all of the Teams. All of these young men and women work hard to keep up their grades just to stay in the programs and</p>  |



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deserve a spot in the limelight. Many of these young men and women

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August 13, 2010  
5:41 a.m.

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thugs, let's not forget that playing sports can often enhance that characteristic.

**volmike writes:**

Why the need to add parenthesis in basically every sentence of Johnson's quotes. Reading without the parenthesis or with pronouns in place, you still get the point of what he's saying. If the writer felt the need to explain further who he was talking about at a certain point, he could have done so after the quote, used a different one, or paraphrased and not used a quote. It's as if the writer felt the need to 'translate' for the readers what was being said.

August 13, 2010  
6:07 a.m.

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[Reply to this post](#)

**BackNMemphis writes:**

Congratulations to Coach Johnson, Principal McClain and most all to the young men who make up this outstanding basketball team. Here's a chance to show the rest of the country something positive from our inner-city. I think it's fabulous, and I will watch the show when I can and will also be watching and cheering for the Golden Wildcats this season.

August 13, 2010  
7:54 a.m.

[Suggest removal](#)

[Reply to this post](#)

**Essence writes:**

I hope it highlights the positive aspects of Memphis City Schools and Mid-South area.

August 13, 2010  
8:01 a.m.

[Suggest removal](#)

[Reply to this post](#)

**StayThirstyMyFriends writes:**

in response to **volmike**:

“ Why the need to add parenthesis in basically every sentence of Johnson's quotes. Reading without the parenthesis or with pronouns in place, you still get the point of what he's saying. If the writer felt the need to explain further who he was talking about at a certain point, he could have done so after the quote, used a different one, or paraphrased and not used a quote. It's as if the writer felt the need to 'translate' for the readers what was being said.

'Cause the purchasing guy at MCS got a sweet deal on a truck load of parentheses from Ray Ray.

August 13, 2010  
8:04 a.m.

[Suggest removal](#)

[Reply to this post](#)

**JDE984 writes:**

Sounds like a good deal to me. I hope Cash gives it his thumbs up.

Has anyone heard if Melrose and/or MCS would get any money out of this?

August 13, 2010  
8:13 a.m.

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**TRUEBLUETIGER writes:**

anything that spotlights positives from Memphis, i'm a fan of. if you talk to other folks around the country, they tend to think that Memphis is a war zone, due to shows like The First 48 and Police Women of Memphis. if the mayor and the rest of the city council would pull their heads out of their butts and realize that because they're charging too much for movies and TV to be filmed here, maybe we could get Memphis Beat to be filmed here rather than in New Orleans.

August 13, 2010  
8:15 a.m.

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**Uncle\_Ruckus writes:**

This is great for the community. i hope they have a successful season

8:19 a.m.

**woodendoor writes:**

[Suggest removal](#)

[Reply to this post](#)

in response to [TRUEBLUETIGER](#):

“ anything that spotlights positives from Memphis, i'm a fan of. if you talk to other folks around the country, they tend to think that Memphis is a war zone, due to shows like The First 48 and Police Women of Memphis. if the mayor and the rest of the city council would pull their heads out of their butts and realize that because they're charging too much for movies and TV to be filmed here, maybe we could get Memphis Beat to be filmed here rather than in New Orleans.

Well... it IS a warzone.

Case and points: What happened during free tuesdays in March during spring break? What happened during early morning hours at 4th & beale when Plush Club was opened? What happened to the crowds after the lackluster 4th of july fireworks on beale? How many people were shot in Orange Mound and other challenged parts of the city last night?

This series will just promote a thug lifestyle in a tough city as glamorous. But coming from other MTV series about out of wedlock teenage pregnancies, what else can we expect?

August 13, 2010  
8:22 a.m.

**Klondike75 writes:**

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[Reply to this post](#)

Sounds great but with the way the NCAA has been running roughshod, they better check, re-check and re-check again to ensure this doesn't jeopardize Thomas' eligibility. I would think not, but it's just one more thing that would raise a red flag for the NCAA to scrutinize. Lance Stephenson had his own documentary/reality show about himself and they cleared him, but I'm just saying.....

August 13, 2010  
8:23 a.m.

**olli1965 writes:**

[Suggest removal](#)

[Reply to this post](#)

in response to [TRUEBLUETIGER](#):

“ anything that spotlights positives from Memphis, i'm a fan of. if you talk to other folks around the country, they tend to think that Memphis is a war zone, due to shows like The First 48 and Police Women of Memphis. if the mayor and the rest of the city council would pull their heads out of their butts and realize that because they're charging too much for movies and TV to be filmed here, maybe we could get Memphis Beat to be filmed here rather than in New Orleans.

I agree with you completely. I was in Atlanta last year I got into a conversation with a couple of women and told them I was from Memphis. They immediately spoke of the crime, corrupt politicians, and the show "The First 48". To make it worse... met someone the very next day and they said the same thing. Memphis has more to offer than that.

August 13, 2010  
8:37 a.m.

**woodendoor writes:**

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[Reply to this post](#)

in response to [olli1965](#):

“ I agree with you completely. I was in Atlanta last year I got into a conversation with a couple of women and told them I was from Memphis. They immediately spoke of the crime, corrupt politicians, and the show "The First 48". To make it worse... met someone the very next day and they said the same thing. Memphis has more to offer than that.

Indeed. It offers legendary summer weather.

August 13, 2010  
8:38 a.m.

**olli1965 writes:**

[Suggest removal](#)

[Reply to this post](#)

in response to [woodendoor](#):

“ Well... it IS a warzone.

Case and points: What happened during free tuesdays in March during spring break? What happened during early morning hours at 4th & beale when Plush Club was opened? What happened to the crowds after the lackluster 4th of july fireworks on beale? How many people were shot in Orange Mound and other challenged parts of the city last



night?

“ This series will just promote a thug lifestyle in a tough city as glamorous. But coming from other MTV series about out of wedlock teenage pregnancies, what else can we expect?

No one can argue that crime is a problem here but there must be positive stories presented as well. Crime happens everywhere... but what must be done to show the positive to offset a lot of the negative press. For example... New Orleans has a high crime rate in certain areas however they make an concerted effort to illustrate the positives of the city in an effort to keep the convention and tourism dollars coming in and more importantly... they really love their city.

Memphians and those in the surrounding areas for the most part continually complain about this city and rarely speak of the positives.

August 13, 2010  
8:40 a.m.

[Suggest removal](#)

[Reply to this post](#)

**CordovaMaxin writes:**

in response to [woodendoor](#):

“ Well... it IS a warzone.

Case and points: What happened during free tuesdays in March during spring break? What happened during early morning hours at 4th & beale when Plush Club was opened? What happened to the crowds after the lackluster 4th of july fireworks on beale? How many people were shot in Orange Mound and other challenged parts of the city last night?

This series will just promote a thug lifestyle in a tough city as glamorous. But coming from other MTV series about out of wedlock teenage pregnancies, what else can we expect?

This show will more "Two A Days" than "Teen Pregnancy". Look it up if you've never seen it...

August 13, 2010  
8:59 a.m.

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[Reply to this post](#)

**concernedmemphian writes:**

I think this is a great chance to show the positive that Memphis basketball is. I do have a little pause in knowing that message and how it comes across is ultimately going to be left to MTV editors.

August 13, 2010  
9 a.m.

[Suggest removal](#)

[Reply to this post](#)

**ORISIS writes:**

If I was with MCS I would make sure that I had a chance to review before airing, I would have the right to reject, approve or modify.

August 13, 2010  
9:15 a.m.

[Suggest removal](#)

[Reply to this post](#)

**cheffner#365257 writes:**

It's time to spotlight and expose the dedication and commitment. It's called talent meeting opportunity. If MTV can showcase the work ethic and determination these young men demonstrated, it's a win, win situation. Our youth need motivation, encouragement and hope. It's a belief we all can believe in.

August 13, 2010  
9:21 a.m.

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[Reply to this post](#)

**mtblake writes:**

Sorry, White Station has won finished as high as #9 in the USAToday poll - #10 twice - and been State runners-up FOUR times. My bad. Still...where's their show?

August 13, 2010  
9:22 a.m.

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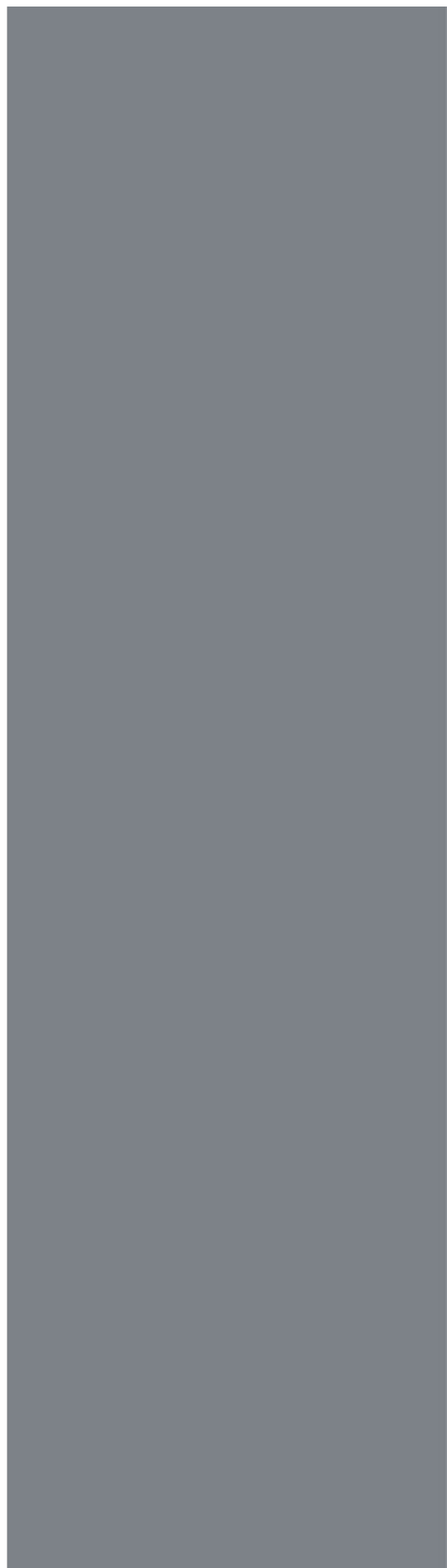
**Noamsayin writes:**

I'm sorry, but I've forgotten -- what does the "M" stand for in "MTV"?

August 13, 2010  
9:25 a.m.

**mtblake writes:**

<p><a href="#">Suggest removal</a></p> <p><a href="#">Reply to this post</a></p>	<p>Since 1995, White Station has won FIVE TSSAA 5A State Titles; been runners-up in FOUR others; and finished as high as 9th in the USAToday poll...10th two other years. Melrose wins ONCE and gets a TV series. Yeah. That makes sense.</p>
<p>August 13, 2010 9:28 a.m.</p> <p><a href="#">Suggest removal</a></p> <p><a href="#">Reply to this post</a></p>	<p><b>smad writes:</b></p> <p>Well the truth of the matter is Adonis is probably the reason they are spotlighting the school. The reality is they cant do EVERY school so they picked one it just happened to be Melrose. And so what if kids use sports as a way of avoiding being thugs at least they are not being thugs.</p>
<p>August 13, 2010 9:31 a.m.</p> <p><a href="#">Suggest removal</a></p> <p><a href="#">Reply to this post</a></p>	<p><b>MPvols16 writes:</b></p> <p>in response to <b>reggiec</b>:</p> <p>““ (This comment was removed by the site staff.)</p> <p>im pretty sure it would go over a lot worse, on here especially, if it was at a majority white school, get over your racism</p>
<p>August 13, 2010 9:32 a.m.</p> <p><a href="#">Suggest removal</a></p> <p><a href="#">Reply to this post</a></p>	<p><b>Hawk80 writes:</b></p> <p>in response to <b>HalleBerry</b>:</p> <p>““ Who is the real JJ?</p> <p>Not good - at least if mtiger knows he JJ many know...</p>
<p>August 13, 2010 9:37 a.m.</p> <p><a href="#">Suggest removal</a></p> <p><a href="#">Reply to this post</a></p>	<p><b>mwyatt998 writes:</b></p> <p>in response to <b>volmike</b>:</p> <p>““ Why the need to add parenthesis in basically every sentence of Johnson's quotes. Reading without the parenthesis or with pronouns in place, you still get the point of what he's saying. If the writer felt the need to explain further who he was talking about at a certain point, he could have done so after the quote, used a different one, or paraphrased and not used a quote. It's as if the writer felt the need to 'translate' for the readers what was being said.</p> <p>Thank you! I couldn't agree more. The overuse of parenthetical explanations in attribution is a big pet peeve of mine.</p> <p>I understand that the goal of journalism is to write for Joe Six-Pack; but sometimes it seems the writing is being dumbed down for the writer, not the audience.</p>
<p>August 13, 2010 10:06 a.m.</p> <p><a href="#">Suggest removal</a></p> <p><a href="#">Reply to this post</a></p>	<p><b>moundboy writes:</b></p> <p>Some of you people are idiots. This article was not about crime, poverty or THUG life. It's about an amazing opportunity for these young men, the coaches, staff and Orange Mound community. Melrose is the only high School in the Mound so there is a lot of Pride there. Lets give props to the kids and not make this about the state of the city. OMB</p>
<p>August 13, 2010 10:11 a.m.</p> <p><a href="#">Suggest removal</a></p> <p><a href="#">Reply to this post</a></p>	<p><b>mse writes:</b></p> <p>I hope this gets a yes vote from MCS. This is great to put a team that's working really hard in the national spotlight. Good luck to you guys and coach. Also heard on FOX Adonis may be the Valedictorian this school year. Way to go guys!!! Keep up the good work!</p>
<p>August 13, 2010 10:20 a.m.</p> <p><a href="#">Suggest removal</a></p> <p><a href="#">Reply to this post</a></p>	<p><b>raul Kemp writes:</b></p> <p>in response to <b>woodendoor</b>:</p> <p>““ Well... it IS a warzone.</p> <p>Case and points: What happened during free tuesdays in March during spring break? What happened during early morning hours at 4th &amp; beale when Plush Club was opened? What happened to the crowds after the lackluster 4th of july fireworks on beale? How many people</p>



were shot in Orange Mound and other challenged parts of the city last night?  
“  
This series will just promote a thug lifestyle in a tough city as glamorous. But coming from other MTV series about out of wedlock teenage pregnancies, what else can we expect?

war zone?? so is this extreme day!! not sure if war involves crowded zoo areas. lets be realistic, not live off hype.

Guess you would compare Grenada to WWII...

panzy

August 13, 2010  
10:35 a.m.

**4merMemphian writes:**

Somebody needs to confiscate Jason's keyboard and remove the parenthesis keys!!

[Suggest removal](#)

[Reply to this post](#)

August 13, 2010  
10:39 a.m.

**jots writes:**

in response to [Noamsayin](#):

“ I'm sorry, but I've forgotten -- what does the "M" stand for in "MTV"?

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[Reply to this post](#)

Back in the day it stood for Music. Today? Not so much.

August 13, 2010  
11:01 a.m.

**bornin47 writes:**

I hope, if approved, the show will include a bit of history. Be nice to see a nice, long segment on Larry Finch and what he means to the city of Memphis.

[Suggest removal](#)

[Reply to this post](#)

August 13, 2010  
11:18 a.m.

**TRUEBLUETIGER writes:**

in response to [woodendoor](#):

“ Well... it IS a warzone.

Case and points: What happened during free tuesdays in March during spring break? What happened during early morning hours at 4th & beale when Plush Club was opened? What happened to the crowds after the lackluster 4th of july fireworks on beale? How many people were shot in Orange Mound and other challenged parts of the city last night?

This series will just promote a thug lifestyle in a tough city as glamorous. But coming from other MTV series about out of wedlock teenage pregnancies, what else can we expect?

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a couple things that i'm sure of:

Memphis is NOT a war zone.

woodendoor IS a troll with nothing but negativity spewing out of his mouth in every single post.

August 13, 2010  
11:29 a.m.

**MemphisBelle writes:**

They could have done a show on White Station, LAST YEAR!, when Joe Jackson was there. But MTV pitched the project this year! Let the kids have their moment and be excited. This is a great day for Memphis.

[Suggest removal](#)

[Reply to this post](#)

People complain so much about negative stories always getting attention... and no one ever doing anything positive. Now, we get a chance in Memphis for a positive show...please let the kids have their moment and stop being cruel.

I'm proud for you Melrose and 4.0 student athlete Adonis Thomas!

August 13, 2010  
11:38 a.m.

**Rodhawk writes:**

OK everyone. Why is it being filmed at Melrose? It's called drama. It makes a good story. There are complex challenges for the participants. Triumph over

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adversity. Good for these kids, good for the producers for wanting to tell an honest (I'm hoping) story about the human experience. I must confess I enjoy Police Women of Memphis, it portrays police officers in a positive light, though the citizens who appear on the wrong side of the law aren't really our shining jewels. I look forward to this series as well.

August 13, 2010  
11:45 a.m.

**LngDstncTgrfan writes:**

in response to **Bigsarge06:**

“ This is ridiculous, Why not spot light all of the Memphis City Schools Athletic depts and all of the Teams. All of these young men and women work hard to keep up their grades just to stay in the programs and deserve a spot in the limelight. Many of these young men and women use sports to escape the THUG life....

"Many of these young men and women use sports to escape the THUG life...."

High school sports are part of the school curriculum. Whether one's a thug or not, they're scheduled to participate. So I guess your wording caught my eye. I wouldn't dispute the fact that some attempt to utilize sports to acquire financial success, but to imply they're trying to escape "thug life" goes too far. These young people have choices to make and avoiding thuggish behavior and character can be accomplished without the avenue of sports. I grew up in Chicago and Memphis and sports was in no way an avenue for me. Mentors exists in the schools and all we ever have to do is listen. I thank those who took an interest in me and others who just wanted to succeed.

I'm happy for these students and hope they make the best of the opportunity but to also make the best of their academic opportunities foremost.

Good luck Melrose!

From a Northside H.S. alumn

August 13, 2010  
11:57 a.m.

**LngDstncTgrfan writes:**

in response to **TRUEBLUETIGER:**

“ anything that spotlights positives from Memphis, i'm a fan of. if you talk to other folks around the country, they tend to think that Memphis is a war zone, due to shows like The First 48 and Police Women of Memphis. if the mayor and the rest of the city council would pull their heads out of their butts and realize that because they're charging too much for movies and TV to be filmed here, maybe we could get Memphis Beat to be filmed here rather than in New Orleans.

We get Memphis Beat in Tacoma, WA and the other shows you mentioned. I like Police Women of Memphis but wish they'd also update and show other Memphis female officers before the show gets stale with the same one's all the time. But of course maybe the current one's earned the spotlight so I'm not complaining. Just asking for more.

August 13, 2010  
12:01 p.m.

**LngDstncTgrfan writes:**

in response to **Klondike75:**

“ Sounds great but with the way the NCAA has been running roughshod, they better check, re-check and re-check again to ensure this doesn't jeopardize Thomas' eligibility. I would think not, but it's just one more thing that would raise a red flag for the NCAA to scrutinize. Lance Stephenson had his own documentary/reality show about himself and they cleared him, but I'm just saying.....

You're certainly right about that! If the Tigers have any chance of signing Adonis Thomas, everyone keeping an eye on things better ensure discrepancies don't occur, jeopardizing the Tiger's chances.

August 13, 2010  
12:14 p.m.

**MJames writes:**

in response to **mtblake:**

“ Since 1995, White Station has won FIVE TSSAA 5A State Titles; been runners-up in FOUR others; and finished as high as 9th in the USAToday poll...10th two other years. Melrose wins ONCE and gets a

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TV series. Yeah. That makes sense.

Apparently no one at MTV cares about your little rant. Congratulations to WSHS for their achievements (you OBVIOUSLY have a connection to the school) BUT Melrose was chosen for whatever reason MTV wanted them to be selected.....period!

Dont be so "green" with envy.....pun intended

August 13, 2010  
12:28 p.m.

**tyl1070#384807 writes:**

in response to [StayThirstyMyFriends](#):

“ ‘Cause the purchasing guy at MCS got a sweet deal on a truck load of parentheses from Ray Ray.

LMAO!!

[Suggest removal](#)

[Reply to this post](#)

August 13, 2010  
12:48 p.m.

**godchild writes:**

Y do Melrose still have that Old A#\$s football coach he is killing that RICH PROGRAM...

[Suggest removal](#)

[Reply to this post](#)

August 13, 2010  
1:33 p.m.

**getwellmphs54321 writes:**

in response to [Noamsayin](#):

“ I'm sorry, but I've forgotten -- what does the "M" stand for in "MTV"?

monkey

[Suggest removal](#)

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August 13, 2010  
1:41 p.m.

**AlwaysMemphis writes:**

Some of you stop being jealous.

[Suggest removal](#)

[Reply to this post](#)

August 13, 2010  
1:44 p.m.

**fedexboy1966 writes:**

If they want this to have a positive image, then they must NOT include the following.

1. Guys with sagging pants.
2. Hoochie mama looking/acting young girls
3. Souped up cars, guys flashing fistfuls of money, a wind machine and huuuahs dancing in slow motion!

THEN, it might be suitable for viewing.

[Suggest removal](#)

[Reply to this post](#)

August 13, 2010  
1:47 p.m.

**fedexboy1966 writes:**

We're talking about MTV! No wind machine and dancing huuuahs?

What was I thinking!?!?!?

[Suggest removal](#)

[Reply to this post](#)

August 13, 2010  
2:06 p.m.

**MidtownLisa writes:**

in response to [Noamsayin](#):

“ I'm sorry, but I've forgotten -- what does the "M" stand for in "MTV"?

"Moot"

[Suggest removal](#)

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