

THURSDAY

February 12, 2004

26 42
Morning rain/snow



This week's poll question at
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Democratic presidential nomination?

Take off your knickers for Simon Brawl

In [flash], inside



The university's
editorially independent
student newspaper

Middle Tennessee State University SIDELINES

MURFREESBORO,
TENNESSEE

Volume 79 No. 60

Haskew in race for UT presidency

By Patrick Chinnery
Editor in Chief

STATE CAPITOL BUREAU – The search for a new president of the University of Tennessee system has reached Murfreesboro.

MTSU professor (and former university Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs) Barbara Haskew confirmed yes-

terday that Andrea Loughry, chair of the UT Presidential Search Committee, has notified her by mail that she has been nominated as a replacement for former UT President John Shumaker.

Haskew said that she had not decided yet to actively pursue the position, but added that she would announce her decision "in the next couple of weeks."



Haskew

"The candidate should have very good academic credentials

"I'm very interested to see the University of Tennessee identify the best person that can be found," Haskew said.

but also be an individual of very high integrity," she said. "That's very, very important."

John C. Thornton, chair of the search committee's Criteria, Advertising and Recruitment Committee, shares those same expectations. Thornton spoke to the state House Education Committee yesterday and said his goal was to find someone who wanted to see the UT sys-

tem succeed (see "Trustees looking to fill presidential void," page 3).

Haskew is the only MTSU employee on the nomination list of 74 people. She said she didn't know who nominated her, but suspected her family's close ties to the UT program had some influence.

"I'm a UT graduate. ... My husband, father and sister all

graduated from the school," she said. "We know people who are active alumni. [Their] knowing that I'm involved in higher education now may have something to do with [my nomination]."

Also included on the nomination list are UT Dean Tom Galligan, Chancellor and Vice President Loren Crabtree and

See Haskew, 2

MTTV survey available online

By Andrea Hinch
Staff Writer

The campus TV station, Middle Tennessee Television, recently began a survey to obtain feedback from students, faculty and local residents who watch Channel 10.

"Every year we have to go to the cable commission to convince them that we have to stay on the air," said MTTV station manager Justin Davis. "That is why this survey is so important to us – we need to know what you as the viewer wants to continue seeing and also see in the future."

The survey will be running under no specific timeline but should be finished some time this semester.

Viewer responses will help determine what kind of programming is shown to the 54,000 households across Middle Tennessee with access to the station.

Programming on MTTV is either student-produced or provided by the Public Broadcasting Service.

"The master control room picks up the feed from Comcast and transfers it to the PBS station," said Terrence Garrett, production manager for MTTV. "So basically, we are sharing the station and its programming content with PBS."

Garrett said that most of the student programs air after 6 p.m.

Although a local network, MTTV occupies a prime slot – it lies between such major stations as CNN and ESPN. MTTV's signal reaches throughout and beyond Rutherford County.

MTTV airs a variety of student-produced programs including a news broadcast, a car show and occasional live dance parties.

The MTTV studio is located in the Learning Resources Center and showcases such students as Will Sims, a local rapper who hosts *Cooking with Big Fella*.

"Will runs his show right out of his kitchen and our producer edits it for him," Garrett said. "It's fun and the students seem to like it."

"The cable commission is looking for more interesting programming in the day that is not PBS," Garrett said. "That's why this survey will be helpful to us."

The survey is at MTTV's Web site, mttv.net, which includes a place to post personal comments. ♦

The voice of news

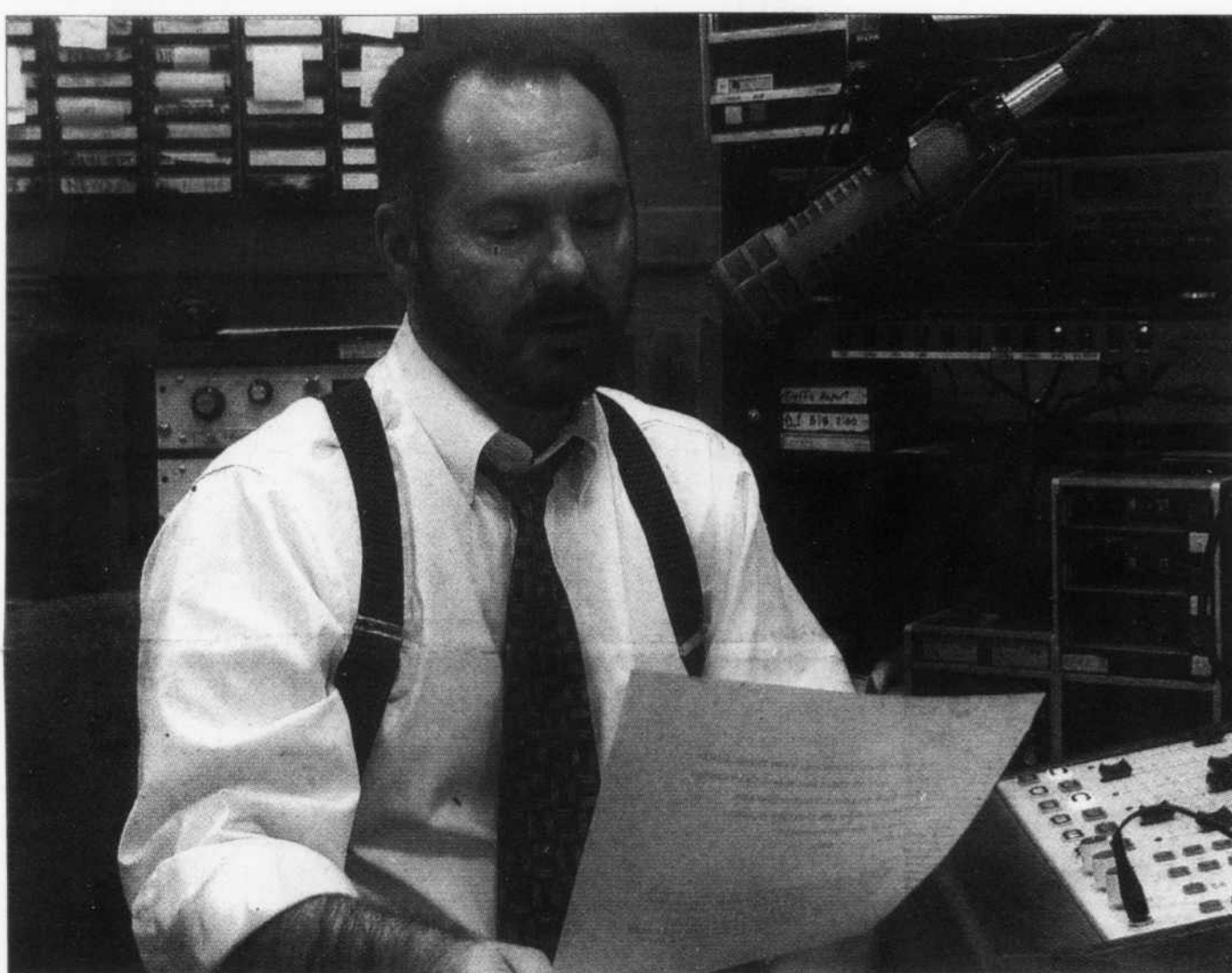


Photo by Seth Holland | Staff Photographer

Shawn Jacobs, a reporter for WMOT-FM, the campus jazz station, recently received two honorable mentions from the Associated Press for his work in broadcast journalism. Jacobs is the station's news producer.

Reporter wins 2 AP awards

By Meagan Kirby
Staff Writer

Shawn Jacobs, news producer for WMOT-FM 89.5, recently received two awards from the Tennessee Associated Press Broadcasters Association.

Jacobs was awarded with an honorable mention in Individual Sound Excellence for a profile interview with jazz saxophonist Mark Douthit and an honorable mention for an enterprise package on the methamphetamine epidemic in rural Tennessee.

Both were in the Large Market Division.

"It is harder to compete in the Large Market Division because you are competing against bigger radio stations out of Nashville, Chattanooga and Memphis," Jacobs said. "Those places have a larger staff and more resources to

work with. Tennessee has some stiff competition in the Large Market Division."

The association used to give out first, second and third place awards, but now they give out one first place award and several honorable mentions.

Jacobs was notified of the award over the phone at the beginning of this year. The award was given over material covered and broadcast in 2002, but is the 2003 award.

The work was judged by news and broadcast professionals from other states.

"It is very pleasing to have your work recognized by your peers," Jacobs said.

WMOT is a non-commercial public radio station that broadcasts out of the Learning Resources Center. It has eight full-time staff members and about 10 students each semester working as disc

jockeys or in the news or production departments.

The station specializes in jazz music. There is a news cast during the morning drive, a mid-day report and a four-minute expanded package report.

It puts out 100,000 watts and reaches most of Middle Tennessee.

Jacobs' job as the news producer is to gather news, do live interviews and newscasts, write stories and make packages out of interviews and stories.

"My job is actually a luxury," Jacobs said. "I do not have to deal with a lot of the problems that other radio stations have. I have a great support staff and the university is very supportive as well."

Jacobs said the hardest part of his job is doing interviews.

"Sometimes, it can be hard to get people to talk to you, but every reporter deals with this," he said. ♦

MTSU to begin program review

SACS requires periodic reaffirmation

By Nona Kempton
Staff Writer

MTSU staff, faculty and students will begin the process today of developing a quality enhancement plan that will be key to reaffirming the university as an accredited post-secondary institution, school officials said.

The two-year process will document the university's policies and procedures to certify that MTSU is in compliance with standards and requirements of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and can retain its status as an accredited school.

"The university will review our programs," said Tom Tozer, director of News and Public Affairs, "and make sure our programs are comprehensive and maintaining proper standards."

According to the U.S. Department of Education Web site, SACS is the agency designated to accredit post-secondary schools in the southern United States and Latin America.

Accreditation means that the institution is meeting all standards set by the agency and is eligible for federal funding for a variety of programs, including Title IV financial aid for students.

Some of the standards in the SACS publication for accreditation include having an adequate number of full-time faculty members to support the school's programs and providing sufficient learning resources and student support services for the size of the enrollment.

See SACS, 2

Evening school program looking to enroll more children

By Simon Kamuiru
Staff Writer

The Evening Extended School Program is trying to increase enrollment.

"We're always looking for more kids," said program director Jennifer Stanley.

The program offers daycare services for students and faculty members at a the Homer Pittard Campus School, located near campus, across Tennessee Boulevard.

All the workers at EESP are currently enrolled students at the university. They undergo an 18-hour training course, and have an extensive background

check run on them prior to hiring. Half of the staff at EESP are cardiopulmonary resuscitation certified.

The program is licensed and monitored by the state Department of Human Services.

"On the last review, the program received three stars (the highest attainable level) from the Department of Human Services," Stanley said.

The student-to-child ratio at the EESP is 1-to-12, with the government-stipulated ratio at 1-17. The facility is licensed for 50 children at one time.

Enrollment is on a first come, first served basis. However, once a child is

enrolled in EESP, the parent will have first priority for successive semesters.

A waiting list is maintained after the limited enrollment has been met, and those parents will be contacted when a slot opens.

The services offered at EESP are moderately structured to cater to every child's needs. Some of the services include tutoring and homework help. The children also get an evening snack at 3 p.m.

"We do something structured but not tedious. Kids tend to like it more," said Katlin Seaton, an education major.

See Extended, 2

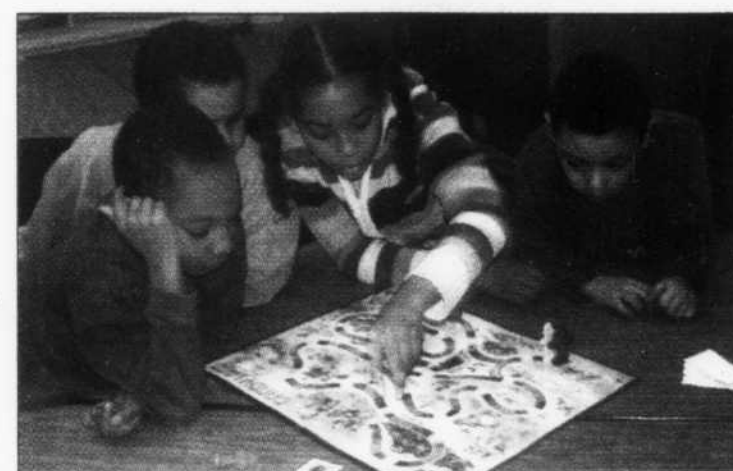


Photo by Kyle Seaman | Staff Photographer

John Thomas, Alexander Krebs, India Reed and Neal Burton play a board game at Pittard Campus School, which houses the Evening Extended School Program.

Love hurts

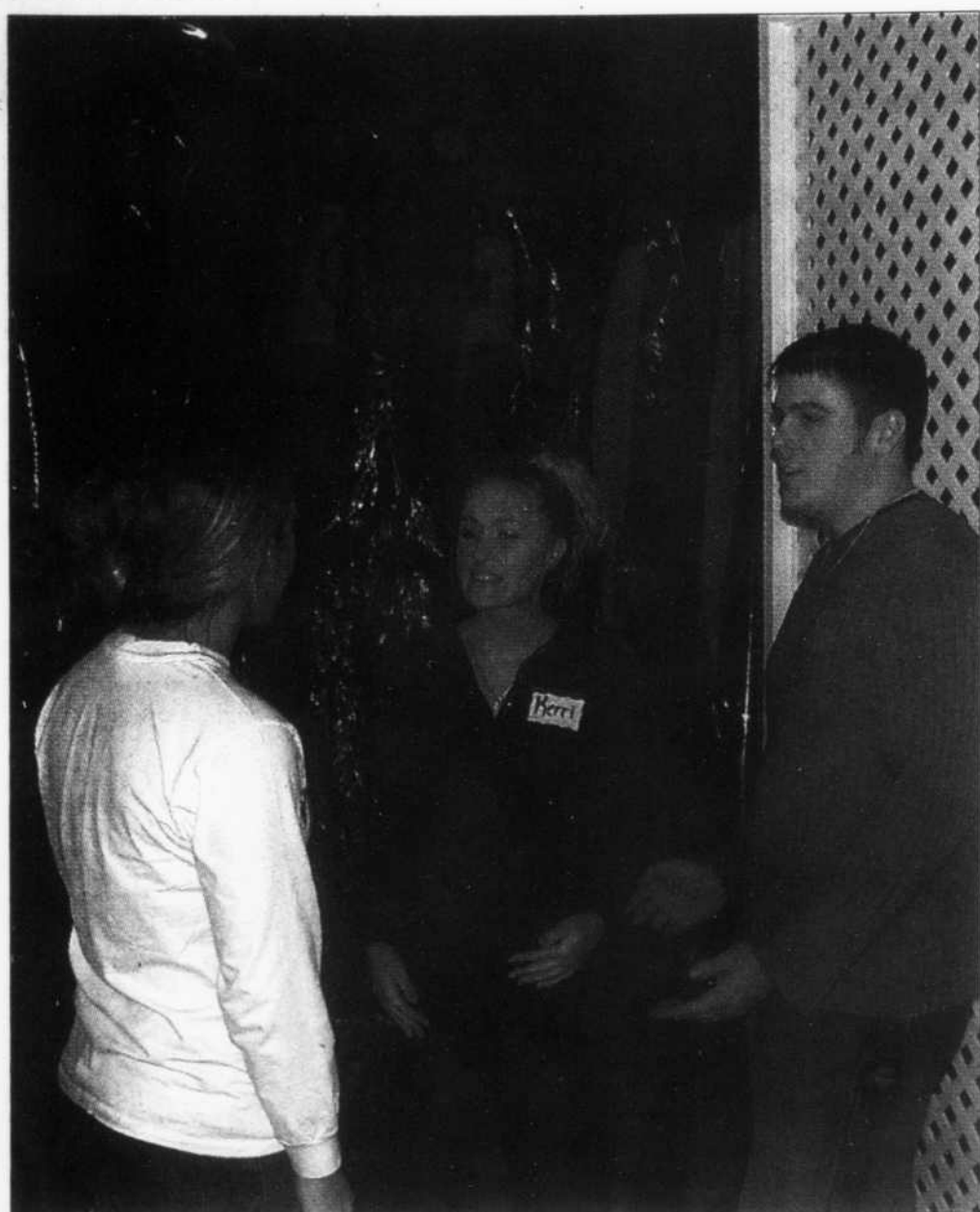


Photo by Kyle Seaman | Staff Photographer

Chrissy Basile, left, Kerri Thomas, middle, and Jonathan Hutson, right, stand in the Tunnel of Love or Pain, held in Murphy Center Monday. The tunnel was constructed in effort to increase awareness of sexually transmitted infections.

Haskew: Nomination list for position includes 74 candidates; 13 have confirmed

Continued from 1

former Tennessee Sen. Fred Thompson.

Thirteen people have confirmed themselves as candidates for the position as of Friday, including George Emert, president emeritus of Utah State University, and Lt. Gen. Dennis Cavin.

Several high-profile figures have already declined their nomination, including UT-Knoxville women's basketball coach Pat Summitt, sometime MTSU adjunct professor and former Vice President Al Gore and Brown University President

Ruth Simmons.

A spokesperson for University of Michigan President Mary Sue Coleman told *Sidelines* yesterday, "President Coleman did not seek the nomination and her plans are to remain at Michigan."

Loughry also spoke to the House committee yesterday, outlining the selection process. She said the process was an educational landmark for a university president search because of its openness and nominating procedure, which allows anyone to nominate an individual for the search committee to review,

making for a competitive process.

"Any candidate must win the support of a diverse group of individuals," Loughry said.

Haskew was one of three finalists for MTSU's presidency during the most recent search in spring 2001 after former President James E. Walker left. The selection committee eventually chose current university President Sidney McPhee.

Schumaker retired in August 2003 after an official audit found that he spent more than \$500,000 to renovate the presidential mansion. ♦

SACS: Accrediting process 'examines the quality of our resources,' Austin says

Continued from 1

the size of the enrollment.

SACS requires that member institutions apply for reaffirmation every 10 years. The three-step process involves a self-study of the university's programs, followed by a report by a SACS committee of professional peers that will visit the campus. The final step is a response by the university to the report of the committee.

The president's office has appointed three committees that will concentrate on specific areas for the self-study report.

Richard Detmer, chair of the computer science department, will head the compliance certification audit team. Jill Austin, chair of the management and marketing department, will lead the quality enhancement committee. Janice Leone of the history department will coordinate the institutional effectiveness plan.

"The institutional effectiveness plan will serve as the planning document for our departments," Leone said. "We will

map out our goals, missions, and objectives. We are asking [each department] to state clearly what are their goals, did we get there, and if not, why didn't we. We are examining what we are doing, appreciating what we do well and seeing where we can improve."

According to Detmer, documenting the institutional effectiveness plan should be a little easier than in 1995 – the last time the university applied for reaffirmation.

"SACS has changed the procedures since [then]," Detmer said, "instead of compiling reports from every department into one monster report, we are creating a shorter narrative and a great deal of supporting documentation."

Detmer is creating a link on MTSU's Web site that will serve as access to the database the university is building to compile the reports and audits from each department.

"If we do our job right, there should really be no effect on the faculty at all," Detmer said. "We have no idea what the audit will

turn up, but we will make sure that the documentation is there for all the faculty."

Austin said that quality enhancement committee will meet today in the James Union Building for the first brainstorming session.

"The accrediting process examines the quality of our resources," Austin said, "and it is related to every aspect of the university."

The quality enhancement plan, according to documentation provided by Austin, is intended to enhance student learning and result in "creative, engaging and meaningful learning experiences for students."

Austin said MTSU would complete the self-study over the next two years. A kickoff meeting is planned for April to introduce the quality enhancement plan to the university community.

The compliance audit will be complete and submitted to SACS for the 2006 annual meeting, Detmer said. ♦

Extended: Program offers monthly 'Parents' Night Out,' other services

Continued from 1

For Valentine's Day, Stanley said, the children will be making doorknob signs for the families living in Womack Lane Apartments on campus.

The program also offers a service for parents who need a night out. "Parents' Night Out" is held every month on a Friday.

The rates for enrolling children in the program are \$8 daily for one child, \$6 for each additional child. Weekly rates are \$30 for one child, \$16 for each additional child. The weekly fee is charged for students attending four or more days a week.

There is also a \$20 non-refundable fee per child per school year. Fees are paid on the first day the child attends each week. Children may not be allowed to attend the program if the parent has an outstanding balance.

Before a child can be enrolled at EESP, some basic requirements have to be met. Each child must have a completed application, child health information, developmental health history and registration fee to be enrolled.

The parent must also complete a parent agreement that indicates a receipt of the parent

manual and their understanding of its contents. The Permission of Medication form is needed only if medicine must be administered during EESP hours. A doctor's note must accompany this form.

The program is paid for by both university funds and the parents, and offers services for children in kindergarten to the eighth grade. The program hours are Monday through Thursday from 2:45 to 9 p.m., and Friday at 2:45 to 6 p.m.

The program adheres to the MTSU class holiday schedule, and closes whenever MTSU classes do not meet. ♦

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STATE AND LOCAL

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Thursday, February 12, 2004

SIDELINES ♦ 3

Trustees looking to fill presidential void

By Patrick Chinnery
Editor in Chief

STATE CAPITOL BUREAU — "We're here today because we need your help."

Andrea Loughry, University of Tennessee trustee and Presidential Search Committee chair, addressed the state House Education Committee yesterday with those words to describe the selection process for the higher education system's next president.

"Working together, we're

sure we can find the best candidate for this job," she added, noting that unlike the 2002 search that brought former President John Shoemaker to UT, the current search would be characterized with absolute scrutiny from the media and public.

Loughry, together with advi-



Loughry

sory council committee Chairs John C. Thornton, Susan Williams and Waymon Hickman, described in detail the two obligations the committees were taking to select a president: openness and a commitment to the schedule.

"We've never attempted a totally open search," Loughry said. "There's always room for improvement, and we want your criticism."

Thornton, chair of the Criteria, Advertising and Recruitment Advisory Council

Committee, explained for the committee the qualifications a successful candidate would have.

"We're looking for someone who shares the culture, values, and our zeal for the university," he said. "We want folks who want to make the university better."

Education committee mem-



Thornton

ber Rep. Mark Maddox agreed. "The candidate doesn't have to be a Tennessean, but he needs to have Tennessean values," Maddox said.

To entice as many qualified people as possible to run, the committee allows anyone to nominate a person for the position. Once nominated, a person will have until April 3 to publicly declare himself or herself a candidate. The declaration is to be made with the submission to the Search Advisory Council of a resume, completed applica-

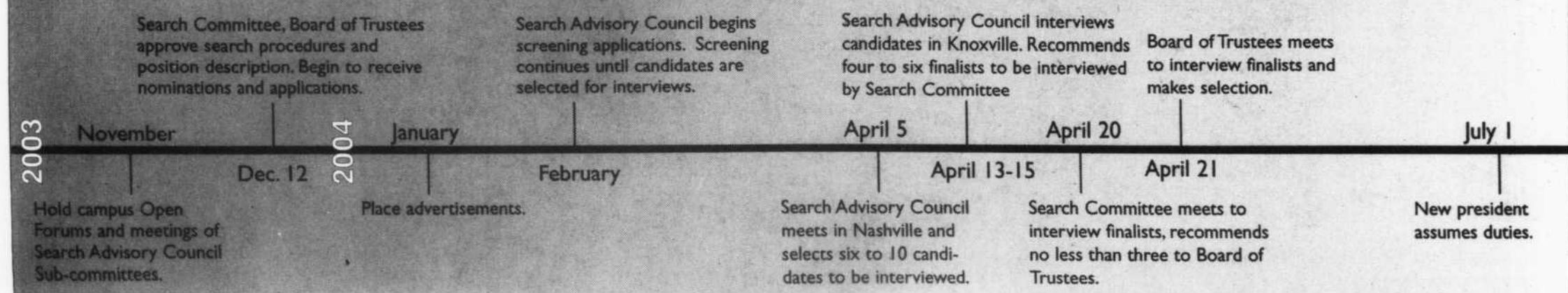
tion and a letter declaring the nominated person's desire to hold the position.

The SAC is made up of 19 people: four current UT students, four faculty, four alumni, four trustees, one non-exempt staff member, one exempt staff member and Loughry (as an ex-officio member).

In a meeting to be broadcast on the Internet, the SAC will gather April 5 to winnow the list of declared candidates to six to

See UT, 4

Proposed Timeline for UT Presidential Search



Descended from history



Photos by Micah Miller | Photo Editor

(Above) Kevin Douglass Greene, the great-great-grandson of Frederick Douglass (right) keeps mementos of his prominent ancestor and is contributing to a Center for the Arts exhibit.

New Boro resident related to Douglass

By Maura Satchell
Staff Writer

Kevin Douglass Greene is a soft-spoken retired army recruiter who recently moved to Murfreesboro from Portland, Ore. with his wife and four children. He has no ties to the area, but his wife has family here.

Greene conceded that since his wife tolerated the military life and its many moves for the past fifteen years, the least he could do, after retirement, was to move to a locale that she chose. Besides, he said, it is more affordable here in Middle Tennessee than many other places.

What makes Greene different from every other retired serviceman looking to settle down in Middle Tennessee is that he is the great-great-grandson of the leading voice of the abolitionist movement from the early 1800s: the former slave turned publisher and lecturer Frederick Douglass.

"He just walked in here one day," said John Lodl, museum director of Bradley

Academy, which is featuring some Douglass family artifacts this month in conjunction with an exhibit on the Underground Railroad.

"He moved to town and came in and wanted to see what he could contribute," Lodl said.

The museum director jumped at the proposal and accepted the family trinkets and other items Greene had to offer for the current exhibit. In addition, Douglass will present a lecture entitled "The Douglass Tree" on March 6 at the museum.

"What I basically do is get their mouths wet," Douglass said of his presentation.

He lectures about the family history of the Douglass family, starting with the extraordinary feats accomplished by his great-great-grandfather and he traces the family tree to children and grandchildren of Douglass, right on down to his own place in the family.

Greene highlights the remarkable successes that Douglass' sons and grandsons achieved. Suffice it to

say that the Douglass lineage shines with impressive feats. He wants attendees to leave his show with a desire to learn more about the great family.

Greene has been giving this presentation for 13 years now at various locations, and mainly to school-aged children. He became involved in the recognition of African American troops on a national level too.

"I got involved with the African-American Memorial in D.C.," he said.

Moving to Middle Tennessee was not just about his wife's ability to persuade, he said. Greene's attention was caught by the fact that a colored troop memorial statue is being constructed in Nashville and he was introduced to Dr. George Smith, a local physician who shares interests with Greene and is founder of the Civil War Roundtable.

That group hosts monthly

roundtable discussion covering issues related to the Civil War at Bradley Academy. Smith is a civil war re-enactor and is also forming a Colored Troop re-enactment unit in Middle Tennessee.

Greene, post-retirement from the military, said it was time to explore other interests in his life. He drives a school bus for the Murfreesboro City School system but plans to get more involved in the Civil War history movement.

He will continue to make his presentations to any interested organizations and said he may even go back to college.

Although he has retired from the military, it would seem the progeny of one of the great abolitionist voices has only begun to find his voice. ♦

Kerry will satisfy Dems

By Jason Cox
State and Local News Editor

While Sen. John Kerry may not have been the unanimous choice of Tennesseans and Virginians, it seems voters would be fine with him as the Democratic nominee.

An Associated Press exit poll found that seven of ten voters who were supporting Gen. Wesley Clark, Sen. John Edwards or former Gov. Howard Dean would be satisfied with Kerry representing Democrats in November's general election.

Local Democrats saw these statistics and the mood of the nation as a whole as a good sign President George W. Bush will be unseated come November.

"I think it's good news for the Democrats and bad news for Bush," Jeff Clark, a one-time MTSU professor who ran for Senate in 2000 and lost to Bill

Frist, said. "This is not one of those kind of situations where we're struggling and grasping for someone who could really do the job."

"This is not one of those kind of situations where we're struggling and grasping for someone who could really do the job."

Zac Wright, spokesperson for the Tennessee Democratic Party, noted the overwhelming number of Democrats who voted in the primary versus Republicans.

"People are energized and enthused right now, and if you look at the ratio of Democrats voting in the primary to Republicans, it's overwhelming Democratic," he said. "You expect there to be some greater margin of Democrats than Republicans because Republicans have an uncontested race, but it far exceeded the expectations. It's a clear sign Republicans are staying at home and not coming out to support George Bush."

Wright said Kerry's military record will go over well in

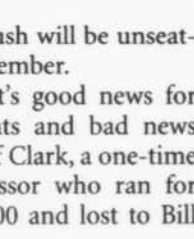
See Primary, 4



Kerry



Edwards



Clark

Love song queen performs with Nashville Symphony

By Juanita Thouin
Staff Writer

Music legend Roberta Flack will take the stage this weekend as a guest soloist for the Nashville Symphony's Valentine's weekend performances.

Flack, whose voice is often described as romantic, sultry and soulful, gained popularity in the early 70s when Clint Eastwood featured her single, "The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face," in the soundtrack of his hit movie, *Play Misty for Me*.

Since then she's released more than 20 albums; her latest title, *Holiday*, arrived on store shelves in September 2003.

Mike Alleyne, associate recording industry professor, said Flack's longevity in pop music is impressive. He also said her ability to continually draw a crowd is not so much due to record sales as it is a combination of her songwriting

artistry. "She's not a dancing diva," Alleyne said. "Before there was Alicia Keys, there was Roberta Flack."

Flack, who twice won a Grammy for Best Pop Vocal, is most known for her love songs. Her 1973 hit, "Killing Me Softly With His Song," catapulted its cover album to gold status within two weeks of release.

Classically trained at Howard University, Flack taught music for several years before deciding to become a nightclub performer.

This classical training has endeared her to major symphonies across the nation and the globe.

"She does an amazing job of blending classical and pop genres," Laura Alabed, communications manager for the Nashville Symphony, said of Flack.

Nashville is the first stop of a 12 concert tour for Flack, six of

high school Basketball ROUND UP

By David Hunter
Staff Writer

The basketball regular season is coming to a close for all the Murfreesboro high schools.

The Riverdale Boys basketball team picked up a piece of the District 7-AAA title with a 61-52 victory over Lebanon Tuesday night.

1988 was the final time that the Warriors won a district title. The win also gives Riverdale the number one seed in the upcoming district tournament.

LaBrian Lyons was the top scorer for the Warriors with 15 points.

Riverdale improves their record to (20-6, 11-2).

On the girl's side, the Lady Warriors defeated Lebanon 79-59 earlier that night. The 79 points were the most that the Lady Warriors has scored all season. The win moves Riverdale into fourth.

Lebanon's Kristin Kirkland was the top scorer with 23 points. Mosheda Pettus had 18 to lead the Lady Warriors.

The Lady Warriors goes to (19-7, 8-5), while Lebanon drops to (4-21, 1-12).

Oakland High traveled to Cookeville Tuesday night, and left with a hard-fought sweep of the Cavaliers.

In the girl's game, the Lady Patriots won 52-50 as they held off the Lady Cavaliers. Oakland's Taran Hayes was the top scorer with 25 points, including six three-pointers.

The Lady Patriots is now (17-5, 9-4), while Cookeville goes to (18-9, 9-4).

The Oakland boys defeated the Cavaliers in overtime 47-37 after Cookeville missed a couple of free throws that could have ended the game in regulation.

Both Oakland's Adareus Dixon and Cookeville's John Rader each had 11 points to lead all scorers.

Blackman High got a split at White County on Tuesday night.

The boys defeated White County 79-50. It was the first ever victory in school history over White County.

The Blaze nailed 13 three-pointers from downtown in the game. That included nine in the second half.

Kris Lee had 19 to lead the Blaze. David Price added 17.

Blackman is now (16-8, 10-3), while White County falls to (12-4, 3-10).

In the girl's game, White County earned the No. 1 seed in the district tournament with a 62-47 win over the Lady Blaze.

Nikki Hughes had 16 points, tops for the Lady Blaze, while Brooke Sunday had 14 to lead White County. The loss drops the Blaze to (14-10, 8-5), while White County improves to (20-6, 11-2).

Siegel High, the newest school in town, also had a split in their action on Tuesday night.

The Stars took an 84-61 victory over Warren County in boy's action. The win gives the first-year school a winning season. Keith Ramsey had 23 for the Stars and Jimmy Oden added 21.

The win puts the Stars at (14-10, 6-7) on the season. Meanwhile, Warren County drops to (7-16, 0-13). The Pioneers are winless in the district.

In the girl's action, the Lady Stars fell to the Lady Pioneers 59-37. The Lady Stars was only behind by nine points at the half. However, that margin increased to 20 after the third quarter. Tikeedra Jones had 16, tops for all scorers.

The loss puts the Lady Stars at (6-18, 1-12), while the Lady Pioneers goes to (12-9, 5-9).

Friday night all four teams are in action, Blackman goes to Cookeville, Siegel travels to Oakland, and Riverdale hosts White County as the upcoming district tournament is coming up. Games begin at 6:30 p.m. in double-header action. ♦

Primary: Clark banked on Tenn.

Continued from 3

Tennessee.

"We live in [the] Volunteer State, and there's a reason for that name," he said. "Tennesseans have turned out in wars and confrontations every time in record numbers, and I think John Kerry's record ... will play strongly in Tennessee. People will support that."

"I think we have in John Kerry a person who's a proven leader not only in the Senate, but in life and in the battlefield," Jeff Clark said, "and he's the kind of person people in Tennessee would like to meet, would like to know."

Another aspect of the poll, which was conducted for the AP by Edison Media Research and Mitofsky International, was that eight of ten voters said they were dissatisfied with the job Bush had done.

Meanwhile, Wesley Clark

and Edwards are left wondering what went wrong in Tennessee, a state both — particularly Clark — were banking on to slow Kerry's momentum and stay viable in the race for the nomination.

"While Edwards and Clark did more appearances here, most people get most of their news about the elections from the national sources," Jeff Clark said. "It wouldn't matter if Kerry was coming to us from Virginia and Clark was coming to us from Memphis and Edwards was coming to us from Nashville."

Both Wright and Clark said that, with the support Kerry was able to get from Memphis-area Rep. Harold Ford Jr. and endorsements from the likes of former Gov. Ned McWherter, along with the bounce from Kerry's win in Iowa, helped him shore up the win here without actually spending much time in Tennessee. ♦

UT: President predicted to assume role July 1

Continued from 3

10 people. If there aren't six qualified people by this time, the search can be extended for up to two weeks.

Between April 13-15, the SAC will interview the finalists in Nashville in meetings also to be broadcast online. On April 15, the SAC must forward a list

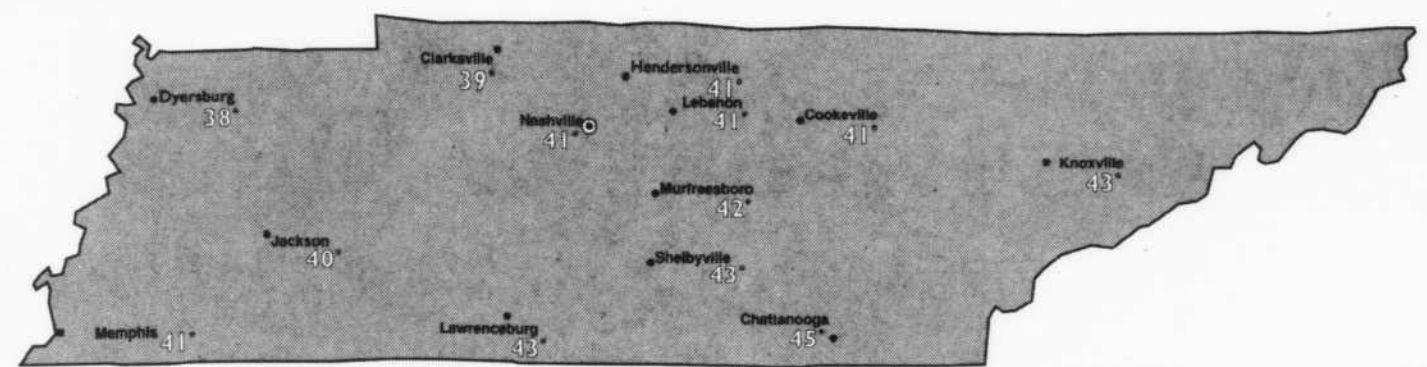
of four to six people to the Search Committee.

The Search Committee will reduce the list to no less than three people on April 20, and submit their list to the UT Board of Trustees for a final selection the next day. The new president will be expected to take office July 1. ♦

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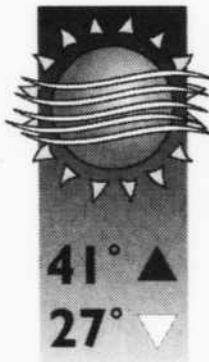
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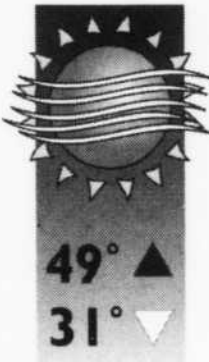
Saturday



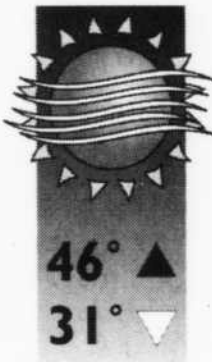
Sunday



Monday



Tuesday



Indictment raises questions about examiner's testimony

By Woody Baird
Associated Press Writer

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — Charges that the Memphis medical examiner lied about a bizarre bomb attack could lead to challenges of his work in helping convict more than a third of Tennessee's death row inmates, a defense lawyer said Wednesday.

A federal grand jury has charged O.C. Smith with possessing an illegal bomb and lying about being attacked by an unknown assailant, who Smith said wrapped him in barbed wire and hung a bomb around his neck.

Smith pleaded not guilty Wednesday before a U.S. magistrate and was released without bond.

"Dr. Smith maintains his absolute innocence of these charges," defense lawyer Jerry Easter said.

Authorities have given no indication why Smith would have staged such an attack.

The investigation into Smith's report led Gov. Phil Bredesen to delay the execution of Philip Workman, who was scheduled to die in September for the murder of a Memphis policeman in 1981.

Bredesen said state medical examiner Bruce Levy will look into Smith's damaging testimony against Workman at a clemency hearing in 2001 and determine "in his estimation how accurate his testimony is."

"I want to be sure that all the facts have been properly presented and fully considered," Bredesen said.

Smith testified the bullet that killed police Lt. Ronald Oliver came from Workman's .45-caliber pistol.

Workman contends Oliver was killed by friendly fire from another police officer.

Bredesen is expected to decide in April if the execution should proceed.

Don Dawson, the state's chief post-conviction defender, said other inmates may challenge their convictions or sentences if Smith is convicted of lying in a criminal investigation or shading evidence.

Such challenges would have to fit within narrow legal parameters, however.

"I think it's going to open a can of worms no matter what it does," Dawson said.

As Shelby County's top medical examiner, Smith has investigated hundreds of criminal cases and often testifies in court as an expert witness for the prosecution.

Smith, 51, joined the medical examiner's staff in 1978 and was appointed head of the department in 1999.

Smith "either did the autopsies, or testified, or at least supervised the autopsies" in 30 percent to 40 percent of the convictions of the state's death row inmates, Dawson said.

Tennessee has 97 inmates on death row; 38 were convicted in Shelby County.

State law allows prison inmates to renew their appeals if new scientific evidence could prove their innocence.

"If you find out the medical examiner testified well beyond his competency and was actually wrong, I think it's open to question whether that would be considered new scientific evidence," Dawson said.

District Attorney General Bill Gibbons, the lead prosecutor in Memphis, said he does not expect a flurry of appeal petitions because of the allegations against Smith.

"I really don't think it's going to be a serious problem," Gibbons said. "We may take a few post-conviction petitions by defendants who are in prison now."

To be permitted a new appeal, a prisoner would have to show he was convicted because of inaccurate testimony or faulty evidence from Smith.

"By analogy, what if a doctor is indicted for tax evasion or insurance fraud, does that mean that doctor's medical opinion is

automatically wrong? Of course not," Gibbons said.

Workman's conviction and death sentence have gone through numerous appeals and Smith's testimony was at a clemency hearing, not in court, Gibbons said.

"Given what the Workman apologists are going to argue, I think it's best for the governor to just disregard Dr. Smith's opinion at the clemency hearing, just look at the court record," Gibbons said.

Smith was discovered June 1, 2002, wrapped in barbed wire in a stairwell outside his office with a bomb strapped to him.

He said he was attacked by an unknown assailant who threw a chemical in his face to blind him.

The charges against Smith carry a maximum punishment of 20 years in prison, though federal guidelines would call for a much lighter sentence.

At the time of the reported attack, authorities said they were looking for a death-penalty opponent angry at Smith because of his testimony against Workman.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives said the bomb tied to Smith could have killed him. ♦

Symphony: Concerts Friday and Saturday

Continued from 3

which are symphonic performances.

Alabed and Alleyne also noted that Flack is a perfect choice for a Valentine's concert.

"It's a voice that's well-suited to a romantic setting," Alleyne said.

Jeffrey Steinberg will conduct the Nashville Symphony Valentine's weekend performances. In addition to Flack, the concert will feature Nashville favorite Mike Eldred.

The concerts take place on Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. in the Tennessee Performing Arts Center. Regular tickets range in price from \$22-\$67.

Those with a valid college student ID, who come to the box office one hour before curtain time, can purchase tickets for \$10

each, based on availability.

Also, this season the Nashville Symphony is offering a ticket-purchasing plan to college students called Sound Check.

Once registered via an online form, students can purchase up to two tickets, 10 days in advance for the same low price of \$10 each. The Web address for Sound Check is nashvillesymphony.org/sound-check.

Nashville Symphony marketing director Michael Buckland encourages couples of all ages to spend this Valentine's enjoying the romantic sounds of Roberta Flack and the Nashville Symphony.

"What better way to say 'I love you' than with the help of an 84-piece orchestra," Buckland said. ♦



Photo provided

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- This mop smells like cat food.
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Career tip No. 1: Don't be this guy.

OPINIONS

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Thursday, February 12, 2004

SIDELINES ♦ 5

From the Editorial Board

Haskew sounds good for UT presidency

The University of Tennessee might be taking a little piece of MTSU in the near future, in the form of professor Barbara Haskew.

Haskew was recently notified by mail that she had been nominated as a replacement for former UT President Joel Shumaker. She has yet to decide on whether or not to pursue the position, but will announce her decision soon.

Haskew's potential competition includes at least one general, Dean James Byford at UT-Martin and President Emeritus George Emert of Utah State University.

Haskew would be a great leader for the UT administrative staff, even if she wasn't chosen to be the leader of MTSU in 2001.

Haskew was one of three finalists for the MTSU presidency and subsequently lost to current President Sidney McPhee.

It's obvious that Haskew's skills are in demand, and nothing makes this more evident than her lengthy list of accomplishments.

According to her resume, more than half of MTSU's current faculty were hired during Haskew's tenure as provost. She focused on recruiting talented and student-oriented faculty and was committed to paying market salaries to attract them to campus.

She was also instrumental in developing the university's 15-year Academic Master Plan, a strategic plan focused on three major goals: pursuing areas of competitive advantage, deepening excellence in all academic programs and creating a student-centered environment.

These ideals led to the development of Tennessee's first honors college in a public university.

She was also responsible for managing a budget of \$96 million. While that pales to the \$1.26 billion budget the UT system operates on, it's a large enough amount with which to practice.

The accomplishments list goes on.

If Haskew decides to accept the presidency at UT, we will be sad to see her go, but elated that she finally got the recognition and position she so rightly deserves. ♦

Letter to the Editor

Support MT Blue Raiders

To the editor:

I am writing you concerning the matter of MTSU student support. It makes me sick to see students sporting the names of other colleges on our campus. It seems to me that we see more UT, Kentucky and Texas A&M stickers, caps and sweatshirts than we do MTSU.

I am tired of the lack of school spirit. It's time this stops. If you like them more, then why don't you go to school there? Support your school. I know I do.

Another thing that is getting under my skin is the lack of student participation at athletic events. The athletic department has done everything possible to get the students out to the games. They've given away shirts, food, pompoms, little plastic footballs and money, yet students would still rather sit in their fifth floor dorm rooms of Cummings Hall and play Playstation than to get out and support their Alma Mater.

Granted, football was a little depressing; however, other sports are doing a lot better winning games and making MTSU look good. Consider, for instance, this year's basketball teams; no, we haven't won every game, but we sure have given every single game our best.

Both our teams have winning records, and the games we have lost this season had scores that were closer than ever.

The season is almost over. MTSU still has five very competitive home games coming up to end this season. The men, who have an overall winning record of 12-9, play Denver Feb. 14 at 7 p.m., Western Kentucky Feb. 26 at 7 p.m. and Florida International March 1 at 7 p.m.

The women, whose conference record is 5-3, play Arkansas State Feb. 19 at 7 p.m. and Arkansas-Little Rock Feb. 21 at 2 p.m.

Students, let's get out to these games and support our teams. Show your true Blue spirit at these last few home games. Hope to see you there.

Steven Helton
Junior

Agriculture business and
agriculture education

Paul Fulcher
Freshman

Business
Administration
major

Space program too optimistic

As a rule, election year invariably inspires a fresh rash of cynicism – on both sides of the aisle.

The Democratic Party has increased its jabs at President George W. Bush's pre-emptive strike against Iraq. In the meantime, Bush stands by his decision concerning conflict in the Middle East.

On top of that, he's proposed a space plan that has both Republican and Democratic jaws dropping all over the country.

Why is Bush making this a priority? Is it because it's an election year, or does Bush have a blatant disregard for the budget crisis? Or is he just being optimistic?

People can be grouped into two categories: optimists and pessimists. Believers and cynics. The "glass is half full" people and the people who are always waiting for their chance to bring the dreamers back to reality.

I've always thought I was one of the optimists, and I've always been filled with a mild contempt for cynics. I see them as being more naive for their narrow-mindedness than the believers they love to ridicule.

But another thing I've realized in my college years is that opti-



Think About It

Lindsay Palmer
Staff Columnist

mism doesn't have to be blind.

I love Bush's space program. His concept of lifting the national morale and of reaching slowly but surely to new frontiers fills me with a sense of excitement, not only for the United States, but also for the world as a whole.

Bush claims it's no longer about beating other countries and encourages an international effort. He also claims his endeavors will cost less than the NASA missions of the 1960s.

I love these specific ideals, but my optimism is different from Bush's because I understand the need to be realistic. The prospect of spending less money than NASA spent 40 years ago on something that will take even longer is pretty bleak.

But before we go on this clichéd tangent about how it's all a ploy for re-election anyway and how he's robbing the taxpayers blind,

why don't we consider finding another way to accomplish the same goal?

Maybe the decision should be taken out of the hands of the government.

Privatizing NASA could take the burden of money off the shoulders of the government and taxpayers alike. It could take the political wind out of NASA's proverbial sails.

NASA administrator Sean O'Keefe claims NASA will keep track of its financial situation by continually restraining its spending. However, in order to do this, NASA may have to resort to making second-rate decisions.

If NASA were run by companies with ideas on how to effectively fund the missions instead of politicians who have to fight for every penny, maybe we could actually accomplish something of value without hurting the nation's financial situation.

Putting NASA in the hands of a corporation opens the floor for all sorts of corporate politics. Initially, the idea of a corporation first landing on the moon instead of a nation disgusted people. Space was deemed public property.

Where does that leave us? We can either release our public property into the foul hands of capitalism, or we can let the government slowly increase that NASA budget.

Space exploration may be the key to finding out who we really are. It may be a chance to answer some of our most burning questions, or it might only give us access to vague clues that rouse more questions. The truth is, human beings will never stop asking questions.

Whatever the case, there is reason to support NASA and the goals set for sending another man to the moon, using the moon as a stepping stone to more ambitious missions and eventually getting a man or woman on Mars.

If Bush can't get the money, we should look for another way.

In this situation, as with all things in life, we can either knock it before we've tried it ... or we can simply try. ♦

Lindsay Palmer is a senior mass communication major and can be reached via e-mail at lnp2f@mtsu.edu.

Marriage takes maturity

I don't know why everyone I know is suddenly getting married. But they are.

A few weeks ago I flew to Rochester, N.Y., to attend a wedding. I saw many old friends there in addition to the bride and groom, and it was great to spend time with them.

It was a beautiful wedding. It was fun to be with friends. It was great to eat all that food.

It was nauseating being one of the only people there who didn't come with his fiancée.

For some reason, nearly all of my friends who came to this wedding are engaged to be married this summer. And it's not just the friends that came to Rochester. I come home to find wedding invitations lying on the kitchen table from other friends getting married soon.

Each wedding has its own unique sparkle of joy and interest, but the sheer volume of marriages taking place this year is making me wonder if there isn't just something in the water.

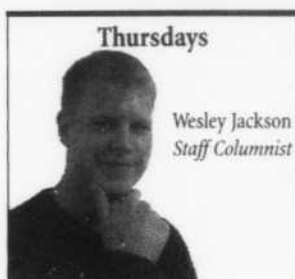
Lots of people seem to have gone wedding crazy.

With everyone jumping on the marriage bandwagon, I have to admit I'm a skeptic of all the love that seems to be floating around.

Have all these people really found "the one"? Or are they just getting married because it's the latest trend?

I'm not getting married anytime soon, even though many of my friends are. Is something wrong with this picture? Have I missed something here? How do I know what girl will be "the one?"

A few friends who are



Thursdays

Wesley Jackson
Staff Columnist

in serious relationships have patiently listened to my questions and have given me some pretty good answers.

But they're different answers than I was looking for.

One of the best pieces of advice has been that marriage and romance are less about finding the right person. It's more about yourself becoming the best person you can for whoever you end up marrying.

It's time to sit back and be a *Shallow Hal*-type critic, pretending to look for "just the right girl." It's hard to think about being the right person rather than looking for the right person.

Another memorable piece of advice is that, for us boys, we're called to be men in a relationship – not nice guys. Often it's easy to be superficially pleasant, non-confrontational, passive, syrupy, sappy Hallmark guys. Nice and shallow.

Are we boys ready to grow up and be men? Financial responsibilities await. Family responsibilities. Job responsibilities. Do we have the maturity to handle it?

This is not chauvinism. It's nothing against the ladies.

I'm saying we boys need to have the maturity to stop treating the women we're in relationships with like our moms. There's nothing sadder than the

nice guy who has to have his girlfriend or wife do everything for him.

We guys need to grow up and be men.

Amid all the responsibilities of a relationship, I'm tempted to think relationships just aren't worth the trouble. After seeing what my friends had to do in preparation for the wedding in Rochester, a lot of us thought eloping was the best plan for our own weddings.

If I never got married it would probably be for the same reason that I never went and lived in Germany, like I've talked about, or for the same reason I never learned Latin, or never wrote the book I've talked about writing.

They're all difficult, inconvenient, expensive, time-consuming things. Just like relationships. Doing any of the above involves hard work. But so does anything worthwhile.

That's another big lesson I've learned. The time and difficulty of a romantic relationship and marriage responsibilities shouldn't drive us away from our own wedding. A lifelong romance is hard work, but it's also one of the greatest joys this life has to offer.

These ideas temper my initial reactions to the stacks of wedding invitations.

I'm sobered to think of the commitments my friends will be making this year, but I'm encouraged that they're ready for the challenge, ready to love their spouses well. They know it's worth it. ♦

Wesley Jackson is a junior English major and can be reached via e-mail at wj2b@mtsu.edu.

We'll miss you Wes Clark.
You were our No. 1.

slopinio@mtsu.edu

Rain brings out rude behavior

It's an old legend that people act funny on the night of a full moon.

That may well be, but I'm here to submit a more frequent changer of moods, catalyst for odd behavior and general irritation to men: the rain.

Last Thursday we had a horrible downpour of rain, lacking the usual Murfreesboro "stop and start" quality, and chances are if you were out in it, you witnessed some strange sights – or maybe not.

A campus can really clear out fast when it starts to flood. You might suddenly find yourself standing alone, cold and wet, in the center of a yawning chasm previously filled with bustling students.

Those are the times when it seems like everyone else's radar is working much better than yours – but I digress.

It goes without saying that in rain, all pretenses of courtesy disappear.

Everyone hates you with a mighty vengeance, rushing to mow you down in their big shiny car (if you're on the road), or (if you're in a car) throw themselves in your path.

It's designed to put you in touch with your mortality, something to tell the grandkids about in years to come:

"There was this one day when I had elementary physics, medieval literature, yoga, a tuna sub and a near-to-death experience."

"Really, Grandma?"
"Yes. It all started when this bike swerved around a corner, being chased by the Aramark van ..."

People also have an intriguing tendency to appear and disappear at will during heavy rain.

There's always some poor schmuck standing just outside a school building with his umbrella, staring mournfully at you, and

And So It Goes



Sarah Crotzer
Staff Columnist

you think, "Hey, this guy's going to share."

Just as you look back, he's gone. He's a sort of rain mirage, the last hope of a very soggy head.

It gets worse, of course. People will slam doors in your face, spray water on you, get in your way, hog elevators and generally be as inconsiderate as possible.

My favorite part of Thursday was finding not one, but two different vehicles parked in such a way as to totally block the wheelchair accessible ramps on either side of the James Union Building.

These weren't people who needed the space, either; one had a U.S. Army license tag and the other had only one identifying label: a sticker naming the driver a member of Phi Sigma Pi, the National Honor Fraternity.

A friend of mine showed up to one class, soaked to the bone but on time, along with most of the other students.

The professor never made it, though, and no reason was posted or e-mailed. If you're sick it's one thing, but that's just stupid – unless, by chance, that professor happened to need a wheelchair ramp. Maybe we should license the use of emergency flares on campus?

A less explosive, more easily-adapted solution might be that everyone should try being a little more respectful and friendly during bad weather. ♦

Sarah Crotzer is a junior English major and can be reached via e-mail at saroz@aol.com.

Happy Valentine's Day to our copy editor, Marie.

Update

The Crossfire-type debate mentioned in Campus Briefs yesterday will not take place Monday. Tentative plans for Feb. 20 are under way. See Monday's *Sidelines* for more information.

SIDELINES

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MT Men's Basketball

Next Game Feb. 14
Denver
at Murphy Center
Tipoff at 7 p.m.

SPORTS

MT Women's Basketball

Next Game Feb. 15
Lady Raiders
at Denver
Tipoff at 2 p.m.

6 ♦ SIDELINES

Thursday, February 12, 2004

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Softball opens '04 season against Alabama State

By Katy Hamlett
Staff Writer

For most Tennesseans, the month of February means gloomy, wet weather.

But for the Middle Tennessee softball team, the month also carries a spark of anticipation for what looks to be a promising season for the Lady Raiders.

Last season, despite having to cancel eight games due to inclement weather, the Lady Raiders pulled off a 33-21 record, finished first in team batting in the Sun Belt Conference and snagged third place in overall conference play.

Though their regular-season SBC finish was the best in MT history, the rainy season left a bittersweet taste with the team.

The Lady Raiders fell to Western Kentucky University in the semifinals of the Sunbelt tournament, marking the first year that MT didn't compete in the championship game.

With 10 new players this season, the

Lady Raiders have worked during the off-season strengthening not only their muscles, but also team bonds. The team visited local schools in the fall, went caroling during the holidays and completed the Recreation Center challenge course three times during conditioning.

"We had a lot of fun," MTSU head softball coach Cindy Connelley said. "But it boils down to hard work. With 21 players on the roster, there's a lot of competition within the team at each position."

The two senior co-captains this season are shortstop Kristina Hieb and second baseman Courtney Mitchell. Hieb is the only current four-year MT player on the team, though last season a knee injury kept her from starting.

Though this will be her second and last full season, University of Arkansas transfer Mitchell has already left a lasting impression with the team. Mitchell was awarded SBC newcomer of the year for 2003 and is the first MT softball player to make first-

team all region.

"She's an All-American candidate and a very talented player," Connelley said.

Leading off MT's potent batting lineup is senior Katie Thompson, first-team junior All-American. Thompson transferred to MT from Neosho Junior College in Oklahoma two years ago and will see her first full season of playing time this semester.

On the mound the team has three returning pitchers, sophomores Muriel Ledbetter, Jennifer Dorais and Leora Brannon. The team also has four new pitchers, including freshmen Ashley Frizzell, Trish White and Brittany Herald.

Crystal Bobo, a junior transfer from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville, will be starting the first game for MT this Sunday.

"I told the girls we're going to take the season one pitch at a time, one inning at a time and one game at a time," Connelley

See Softball, 7



Photo courtesy MT Media Relations

MT freshman Candis Littrell sets to stop a ground ball during practice. MT finished the 2003 season 33-21.

Attitude instead of accolades

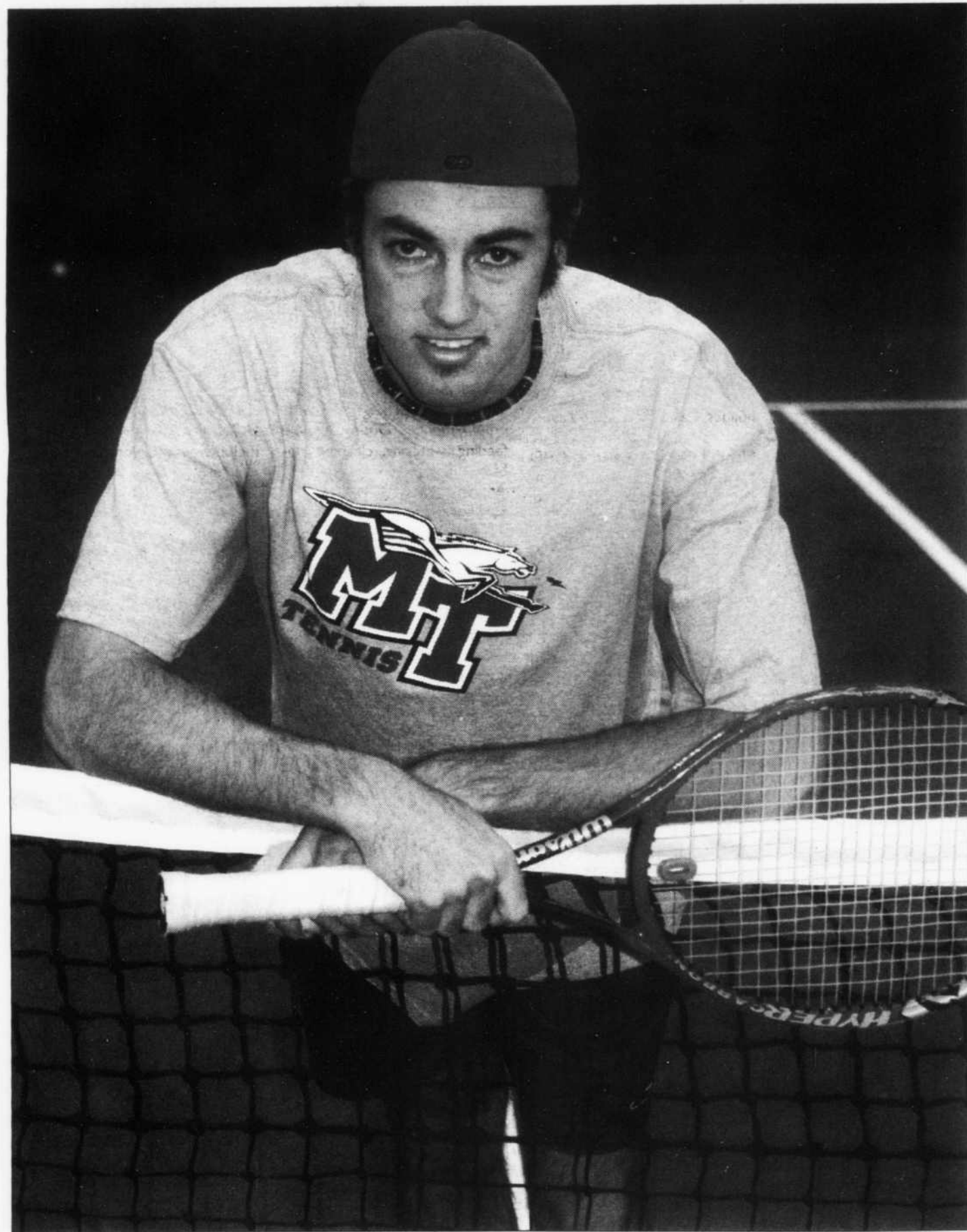


Photo by Seth Holland | Staff Photographer

MT senior Kirk Jackson focuses more on being a team player than being star of the tennis team.

Jackson just wants to be known for leadership

By Mark Emery
Staff Writer

Senior Kirk Jackson, a Melbourne, Australia, native, traveled across the world to play tennis for Middle Tennessee. He was recruited by MT head men's tennis coach Dale Short and already knew about the program and its success.

Before even coming to college, Kirk had a chance to play in the 1999 Junior Australian Open. Kirk said he lost in the first round to a guy who is now ranked No. 25 in the world, but after that he decided to continue his tennis career at MT. He said the best part about playing in it was that he got some of the same luxuries as the professional tennis players. He got to sit next to Anna Kournikova and Patrick Rafter, athletes he had always looked up to.

His record of 60-54 in singles and 57-37 in doubles shows how solid of a player he has been. In his sophomore year, he teamed with Daniel Klemetz and earned First Team All-Sun Belt Honors in doubles. In his junior year, he and Klemetz

were ranked as high as No. 10 in doubles.

This year he and co-captain Trevor Short, the only other senior on the team, are currently ranked No. 30 in doubles.

Kirk doesn't want his statistics to be the main factor of what people remember about him.

"I want people to say I was a team leader and a fighter," Kirk said.

Short believes that Kirk has been that and much more.

"He is energetic, enthusiastic, competitive and a good team player," Trevor said. "He is the kind of guy the guys on the team want to be around."

"He's one of my best friends," Short said. "He's a guy who can cheer you up, a good leader and a good fighter on the court. If it came down to a deciding match, he is the one I would want it to come down to."

If anyone thinks Kirk doesn't play with heart, they haven't talked to his coach or any of his teammates. Both Dale and Trevor said Jackson is the spirit and heart of the team, and as he goes, the team goes. This is further demonstrated in the way

he and Trevor handled the tough 0-2 start this year.

"We got together and tried to figure out how to bring more energy to the team," Trevor said. "We both felt that there wasn't enough energy and decided to get the rest of our teammates together and talk to them."

The most difficult part of Kirk's tennis career at MT has been trying to deal with injuries. Dale said Kirk has been injured the past couple of years but despite that he has been a good fighter and team player.

The injuries also play a part in the fact that Kirk will not try and continue his tennis career after college.

"I'm going to stay in the [United States] one more year," Jackson said. "I am going to Colorado for about six months and then move to New York and intern somewhere in finance."

With more than half of the season to go, Kirk hopes to lead the Blue Raiders to the Sun Belt Championship. This would be the clincher in a four-year career of quite a competitor. ♦

Short questionable against Virginia Tech

By Colby Sledge
Assistant Sports Editor

After two victories last Saturday, one would expect Middle Tennessee head men's tennis coach Dale Short to be pleased with his team.

After Tuesday's practice, however, Short had every reason to be concerned.

Trevor Short, MT's No. 1 singles player, suffered pain in his knee in warm-ups Tuesday and has not picked up a racket since. He received a cortisone shot yesterday but will be questionable for this weekend's matches against Virginia Tech and Georgia Tech.

Trevor has suffered multiple knee problems during his time at MT, including breaking a bone under his kneecap and having tendons and ligaments cut in order to allow the knee to move more freely.

"Over the past three and a half years, he has spent a lot of time in the rehab room," Dale said.

Dale expects to know more by late tomorrow or Friday, but the team is hoping the injury is nothing more than some sort of inflammation.

If doctors think the injury is more severe, Trevor will have an MRI done next week.

The injury could not have come at a worse time for the

Blue Raiders, who will play perhaps their two toughest opponents this weekend.

"Both teams are a hair better than what we have played," Dale said.

"Plus, we're playing on the road. We'll have to play our best tennis to go 2-0 this weekend. I would certainly not be disappointed with a 1-1 split."

No. 55 Virginia Tech is coming off a 5-2 victory over North Carolina State University Feb. 8.

The Hokies played the University of Virginia last night, but results were not available at press time.

The Hokies are led by senior Andreas Lauland, who was 3-1 at No. 1 singles as of Tuesday.

The Blue Raiders defeated Virginia Tech 5-2 in 2002, the last meeting between the teams.

"It's a good measure to see where we've gone and where they've gone the last two years," Dale said.

Kuruppu The team did

receive Kuruppu this week, as Rishan Kuruppu was named the Sun Belt Conference men's tennis Player of the Week. Kuruppu defeated the University of Louisville's Jeremy Clark 6-3, 3-6, 6-2 to give the Blue Raiders a 4-3 victory in their early match last Saturday.

Kuruppu then defeated Belmont University's Matt Fitzpatrick 6-3, 6-1 in MT's 7-0 victory over Belmont last Saturday night.

The Blue Raiders' match against Virginia Tech starts at 8 a.m. Saturday. MT then takes on Georgia Tech in Atlanta Feb. 16. ♦



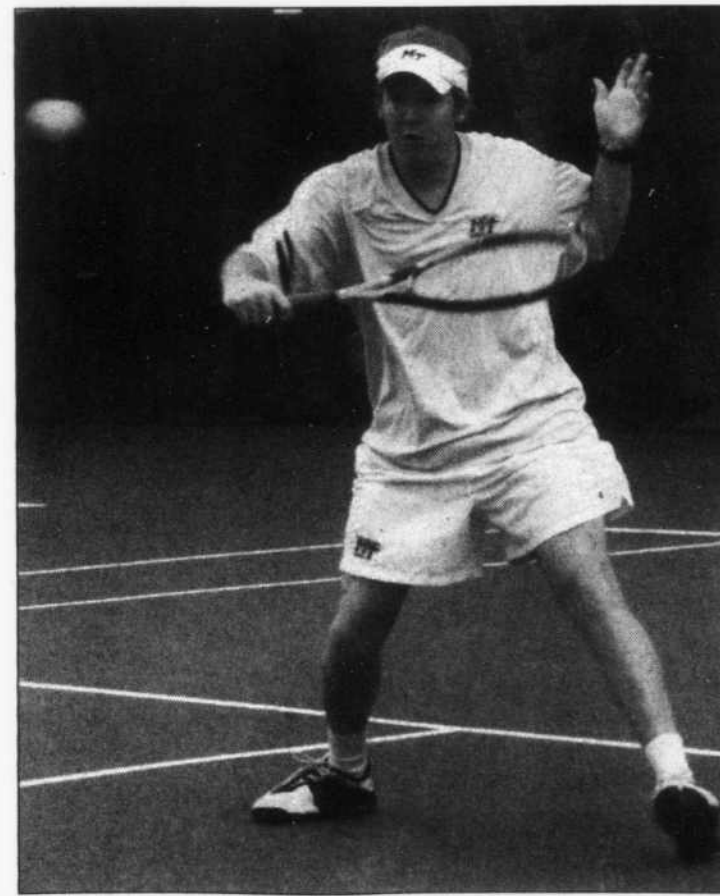
T. Short



Kuruppu



D. Short



File Photo

Blue Raider Trevor Short hits the ball back to an Indiana player Jan. 24. MT lost to the Hoosiers.

Softball: Open season at home

Continued from 6

said. "We want to keep that kind of intensity, knowing the season stretches from February until May."

MT's first softball game of the season will take place at home, this Sunday against Alabama State.

"Home openers are always exciting," Connelley said. "It's nice to be in front of a home crowd and to

watch the spark and rhythm of the team unfold."

As for the state's unpredictable February weather, forecasters are predicting a comfortable 50 degrees and overcast skies.

"And the concession stand will be open!" Connelley declared.

MT's doubleheader against ASU will start at 1 p.m. Sunday. ♦

MT women welcome St. Louis

By Colby Sledge
Assistant Sports Editor

The Middle Tennessee women's tennis team returns to Murfreesboro to take on St. Louis University Sunday after two matches on the road.

The Lady Raiders, 3-1 prior to their match against St. Louis, will face a Billiken squad that has won just one match this season. SLU began its season with four 7-0 losses, all on the road.

St. Louis opened its home schedule last weekend with losses to Butler University

and the University of Memphis. The Billikens' lone victory came Jan. 31 against Louisiana Tech University.

St. Louis's match with MT will be the third in three days for the Billikens. St. Louis takes a road trip this weekend to Alabama to play the University of Alabama-Birmingham Friday and Birmingham Southern College Saturday.

Sunday's match is the Lady Raiders' only home appearance in a five-match stretch. MT defeated Mississippi State University and Georgia Tech last week, both by the score of 4-3.

Next weekend MT will travel to the University of Arkansas-Little Rock and the University of Memphis.

The Billiken roster features three freshmen, including No. 2 singles player Katerina Lozanova. Lozanova, who hails from Sofia, Bulgaria, won her last two singles matches in a 4-3 loss

to Butler and a 6-1 loss to Memphis.

Seniors Melissa Cutler and Rebecca Steer are the only returning players for St. Louis. Last season Cutler played at No. 4 singles and Steer played at No. 6 singles.

For MT, No. 54 Manon Kruse and No. 2 singles player Jennifer Klaschka are undefeated in singles play. Kruse and Carlen Venter are currently ranked No. 31 in the nation in doubles.

Sunday's match begins at 9 a.m. at the Racquet Club of Murfreesboro. ♦



Lozanova

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Very nice computer desk/stand for sale! Excellent condition, approx. 4' tall with raised levels for monitor, tower, and printer. \$40 obo. Contact Allison at (423)506-1197 or alc2q@mtsu.edu.

Men face high-speed offense

By Jon Leffew
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee men's basketball team will look to win its second straight game Thursday, traveling to Denton, Texas, to take on the University of North Texas.

After defeating the Florida International University Golden Panthers by one point last Saturday, the Blue Raiders will look to climb back above .500 with a win on Thursday.

The Mean Green started out conference play by going 4-1 in their first five games and currently stand at 5-4 in the conference, good enough for a second-place tie in the Sun Belt Conference's Western division.

Despite the success of the Mean Green, the Blue Raiders feel they can be successful in Denton.

Mike Dean, who hit the winning free throw to clinch MT's victory at FIU, feels defense will be a key factor in Thursday's game.

"I think if we go in and defend, especially after three good days of practice, that we will be successful," Dean said.

Defense could be tough in Denton, however, as UNT averages 72 points per game and is led by three different players who average double figures.

Shawnson Johnson, a 6-foot-9-inch, 250-pound senior forward from Shreveport, La., is leading the team in three different statistical categories. Johnson is averaging 12.8 points per game, 8.4 rebounds per game and 2.8 blocks per game, all team highs.

Despite these numbers, Johnson also leads the team in turnovers. This leads several other Blue Raiders to believe that defense will be a key for success on Thursday.

"If we can hold them to fewer than 40 percent from the field, like we've done on the road to most teams so far this season, then we can be successful," MT guard Bryan Smithson said.

MT will have to defend two other Mean Green offensive players.

Leonard Hopkins, a 6-foot-3-inch junior guard is second on the team in points per game with 12 points per game.

Jerome Rogers averages 10.9 points per game and also leads the



Photo by David McCombs | Staff Photographer

MT forward Keith Christmas goes up against University of Arkansas-Little Rock's Darius Eason Jan. 17. UALR won 68-66.

team in assists per game with 2.5.

On Saturday, the team will come home to Murfreesboro to host the Denver Pioneers.

The Pioneers are currently 5-4 in the SBC, tied for second in the Western division with UNT and New Orleans.

Led by two players who average double figures in points, the

Pioneers will look to become the fourth SBC team this season to defeat the Blue Raiders in Murphy Center.

Erik Benzel, a junior guard, leads the team with a 15.6 points per game average, while senior center Brett Starkey is second on the team in points per game (12.0) and first in rebounds (7.6). ♦

Horton, Lady Raiders host North Texas tonight

By Jerry Wilkinson
Sports Editor

The Lady Raiders will host Sun Belt Conference rival University of North Texas tonight at 7 p.m. in Murphy Center.

MT is hoping to extend their winning streak to two and improve their SBC record to 6-3. Overall, the Lady Raiders lead the SBC in outscoring their opponents by 8.1 points per game.

Last week, MT forward Krystle Horton was named SBC Player of the Week for her performances against Western Kentucky and Florida International University. Her improved play could give the team momentum before going into the Sun Belt tournament, which will be held in Bowling Green, Ky., March 6-9.

Horton scored an average of 22 points and was 66.7 percent from the field.

The Lady Eagles' overall record stands at 9-12 and 5-4 in the SBC. They have been outscored by their opponents by an average of 14.1 points.

The Lady Eagles are led by Kim Blanton, a 6-foot-1-inch senior out of Henderson, Texas. Blanton leads the team in scoring with 22.5 points so far this season and a field goal percentage of .431.

Last year, Blanton recorded a season high 8 rebounds against MT.

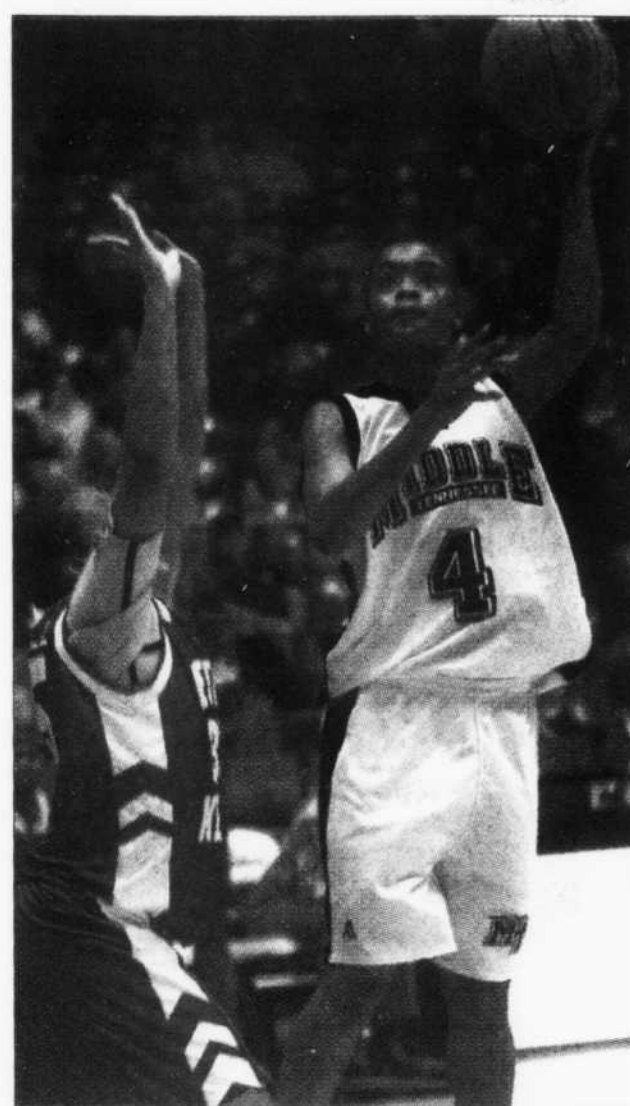


Photo by Micah Miller | Photo Editor

MT's Krystle Horton, a Murfreesboro native, was named SBC Player of the Week this week.

Offensively, the Lady Eagles may have some problems against the Lady Raider defense with MT recording 11.5 steals per game.

The Lady Raiders are in second place in the SBC

Eastern division, trailing Arkansas State University (7-2). UNT is tied for second in the SBC Western division with the University of Louisiana-Lafayette. ♦

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