

WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 19, 2003

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Rain



This week's poll question at
www.mtsusidelines.com
Have you secured a job
after graduation?

Tennis' team gets the blues in Mississippi



In Sports, page 6

An editorially
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newspaper

Middle Tennessee State University SIDELINES

FRANKFORD,
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Volume 78 No. 69

Campus Briefs

Willy Stern to speak about reporting

Nashville Scene reporter Willy Stern will discuss investigative reporting today at noon in the back lobby on the second floor of the Mass Communication building. Stern's topic will be "20 Tips for Investigative Reporting That You'd Never, Ever Hear in Journalism School."

He has won numerous awards for his work and is a former staff writer for *Forbes* and *Business Week*. He is also an adjunct professor at Vanderbilt University, teaching courses in investigative reporting and information gathering.

The event is sponsored by the Student Journalists Association. Free pizza and drinks will be provided.

Women's Center to sponsor free legal clinic

The June Anderson Women's Center is sponsoring a free legal clinic on Feb. 27 at 7 p.m.

It is available to all MTSU students, faculty and staff. Appointments to speak with an attorney can be made by calling JAWC at 898-2193. Space is limited.

Horse show slated for this weekend

The Tennessee Livestock Center will host the MTSU Intercollegiate Horse Show Friday through Sunday beginning at 8:30 a.m. For more information, call 898-5575.

Wind Band Conference to be held Thursday

The annual Wind Band Conference will be in the Wright Music Building in the Music Hall beginning tomorrow, running through Saturday. For more information, call 898-2493.

Conference to focus on adult learning Thursday

The Adult Learning Conference will take place on tomorrow and Friday in the James Union Building. For more information on location and time, contact the Adult Services Center at 898-5989.

MTSU Collage taking submissions, due Feb. 28

Collage, MTSU's literary publication, will be accepting submissions of art and writing until Feb. 28.

The staff is currently seeking primarily visual elements, including photography, sculpture, paintings, 3-D art and computer-generated art, but will still be accepting written works.

For more information, call the Student Publications office at 898-2815.

Solidarity to sponsor anti-war demonstration

MT Solidarity will be sponsoring, in conjunction with the National "Book Not Bombs" Student Strike, a student demonstration on March 5.

For more information on the national day of protest, go to <http://www.nyspc.net>.

Lambda to hold SpringOut events

Mother of Matthew Shepard featured speaker

By Lindsay Palmer
Staff Writer

The gay and lesbian community of middle Tennessee is keeping busy this spring with several events slated to take place on the MTSU campus and surrounding areas.

The MTSU Lambda Association will be hosting

MTSU's first gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender awareness event called SpringOut, scheduled for the week of March 31-April 4.

This gay and lesbian awareness campaign is actually an experiment of Lambda's, according to Lambda president Gene King.

For the past several years,

Lambda has been focusing on protests and on adding the phrase "sexual orientation" to the MTSU nondiscrimination laws, according to King.

When the nondiscrimination policy was finally reworded in the fall of 2002, Lambda decided to revamp its focus, King said.

"We're moving on to other

issues," King said.

Now Lambda's goal is to promote more gay and lesbian tolerance on campus.

"We want [students] just to keep an open mind and remember that we're a collegiate group," King said.

The SpringOut event will start with a pride information fair March 31, according to Will Langston, Lambda adviser. Several gay- and lesbian-friend-

ly businesses and organizations will be handing out various types of information at the fair.

The second event will be a film night, which has yet to be scheduled, according to King.

Tolerance activist Judy Shepard, mother of Matthew Shepard, a man murdered in an anti-gay hate crime in Wyoming, is scheduled to speak

See Rights, 2

Graduate sings, writes



Since her graduation from MTSU in May, Serena Matthews has been pursuing music and writing new material to prepare for the release of her first studio album to hit stores next year. See Living, page 4, for complete story.

Photo by Jenny Cordle | Chief Photographer

Blues survives cultural erosion

Regional music important, says English professor

By Kristin Hall
Staff Writer

The U.S. Congress has proclaimed 2003 as the year of the Blues.

This year is the 100th anniversary of when William C. Handy, a black composer, first heard the songs of the Mississippi Delta.

W.C. Handy, as he is better known, brought the blues to international attention with his songs, "Memphis Blues," "Beale Street Blues" and "Loveless Love."

Handy and the importance of regional music in American culture were the topics of Monday's honors lecture by English professor Charles Wolfe.

"The blues itself became one of the most potent creative forces in American culture," Wolfe said.

The Public Broadcasting Service will present a yearlong series of documentaries, concerts, a radio series and rare archived footage to celebrate the blues. In addition, companion pieces to the broadcasts will include books, digital videodiscs, a compact disc box set, soundtracks for the documentaries and a compilation album.

See Honors, 2

Professor writes on healing powers of music

Life experiences soothed by tunes

By Jesse Lee Campbell
Contributor

MTSU journalism professor David Eason revealed many personal stories from his past in his recently published article, "That Same Lonesome Blood."

He has a remarkable story to tell about his life and the way he used music to find peace amidst the noise of life.

Unlike traditional articles written by scholars, Eason's article was featured in the "Best Music Writing of 2002" anthol-

ogy after first being published in the *Oxford American* magazine music issue.

The story begins with his childhood and continues until 2000.

Throughout the many tough obstacles Eason faced in life, from his father's death to his mother's addiction to drugs, to Eason's own alcoholism and divorce, he always had a passion for music, and it became his hideaway.

"Even as a child, music was the entertainment in our

house," Eason said.

Eason describes his childhood as superficial because his father was a pastor, and many times it was hard to live the perfect life they were supposed to.

"Our life was orchestrated to avoid criticism about our clothes, our car, our grammar, our manners, our intelligence, the state of our souls," Eason described in his article.

After Eason's father died, he pursued the ministry for a few years in college but soon found himself expelled from a Memphis State dormitory for having beer in his room.

Eason struggled through a marriage to his now ex-wife Barbara as they shared a strong love for music and found security in each other's arms.

"We were the best of companions, but underneath it all we were wedded to a sense of loss," Eason wrote.

Eason also writes about his obsessions with dying.

"I spent the summer of our departure obsessed with dying. It filled my dreams, night and day. I distracted myself by planning my funeral. The songs

See Eason, 2

Cambridge prof to chronicle Gore Sr.

Editor's Note: Monday's edition of Sidelines contained a factually incorrect story. Sidelines regrets the errors and presents a corrected version below.

By Kristin Hall
Staff Writer

One of MTSU's most famous graduates is the topic of an extensive biography, primarily using research from the Albert Gore Sr. Research Center.

Anthony Badger, the Paul Mellon Professor of American history at Cambridge University, was chosen to write the biography of Albert Gore Sr.

Badger has a long background of interest in topics such as 20th century history and Southern politics and

has written three books on the New Deal.

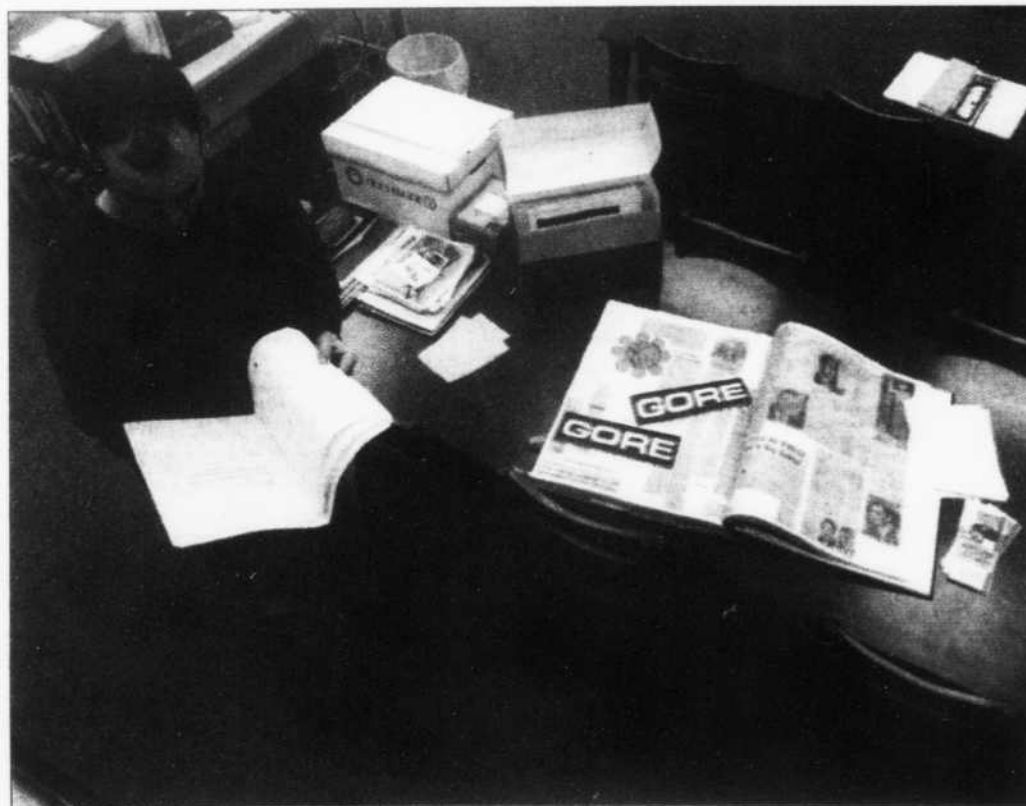
"We are tremendously fortunate to have a scholar of Dr. Badger's international stature researching and writing the biography of Albert Gore Sr.," said Lisa Pruitt, the director of the Gore Center.

The Gore Center became the authority for research on Gore after he left the U.S. Senate in 1970 and donated all of his papers to the university.

In 1993, the Gore Center was built in the Learning Resources Center and serves as a repository for local and regional historical documents.

Full-time research assistant Michael Martin aids Badger in this

See Gore, 2



Michael Martin, full-time research assistant for Tony Badger, shuffles through one of the hundreds of folders in the Albert Gore Sr. Center yesterday.

Photo by Jenny Cordle | Chief Photographer

Honors: Music reflects landscape Gore: Research continues

Continued from 1

"If you don't know much about the blues, this year it's coming at you like a high-ballin' freight train," Wolfe said.

Wolfe added that regional culture manifests itself in many ways, such as dialect, tastes in food and especially music.

Since the growth of business chains like McDonald's and Wal-Mart, many people have come to think that distinct traditional cultures have started to erode, Wolfe noted, but he does not agree.

"Despite the fact that America is becoming somewhat culturally homogenous, there are still plenty of individual examples of regional culture that have persisted," Wolfe said.

Music is one of the prime examples of enduring regional culture, Wolfe said, because it is integrated so heavily into the history and geography of a culture.

Wolfe uses a technique called cultural geography to examine how the physical environment impacts a culture, specifically

through the outlet of music.

"Eighty percent of the great Delta blues singers come from a radius of about 60 miles around the small town of Clarksdale, Miss.," Wolfe said.

Wolfe said there is a fertile triangle where West Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee meet that produced a huge number of early country and bluegrass musicians.

"The steel mill culture of Birmingham, Alabama became a center for African-American gospel quartet singing," Wolfe said.

Wolfe, who calls these phenomena "cultural crop-circles," explained how the music reflected the landscape of these small cities and towns.

"The Delta blues music is very loosely structured. It has long irregular lines, a free-wheeling vocal style and odd mixtures of guitar and voice," Wolfe said. "Could this have something to do with the flat, open, unstructured Mississippi Delta?"

"Could the vocal precision and mechanical timing and

exactness of the black gospel quartets in Birmingham have something to do with the steel mills and the factories where most of them worked?" Wolfe asked.

"Whatever the case, the tie to the sense of place was strong and not easily overcome," he said.

In an ironic twist, many great regional performers eventually moved away from their hometowns to places like Nashville and Memphis to record their albums.

The nature of their music changed once they moved away from home, but the specific regional tone still underlay the music.

"Tradition after all is a sort of trap, a paradox," Wolfe said. "You want to pay homage to the past, and yet if you're a really good musician, you want to add something to that music of your own."

"Creativity is a natural force, and it grows best in a natural environment," Wolfe said. ♦

Continued from 1

project.

"It's kind of unique to have such a major collection that is not at a flagship university," Martin said, emphasizing the importance of the donation, considering that MTSU is not the largest university in Tennessee.

The funding for the biography project, the majority of which goes to providing transportation and acquiring research material, came in the form of a donation made by Samuel Fleming, a Nashville banker and political supporter of Gore.

"His gift of \$100,000 was matched by memorials donated upon Sen. Gore's death in 1998," Pruitt said.

Although the center began raising funds in 1998, Badger did not start the research until 2001.

"Usually a book of this magnitude takes five or six years," Martin said.

Martin explained that the research stage will continue throughout the process of writing this comprehensive biography.

Badger has presented lectures about ideas he formulated during research and receives feedback and criticisms from the audience.

"Coming up in April, he's

going to be one of the major speakers at the Organization of American Historians conference in Memphis," Martin said.

This trial and error stage helps to clarify the writing and focus of the biography, Martin said.

"That's basically the stage we're at now," Martin said. "A bunch of the research is done, but it's still ongoing. And the writing process has begun."

Martin said that the next stage will be interviews with people who knew Gore, although it is difficult because so many of his peers have died.

The purpose of the interviews is to fill in the gaps in the research, mostly after he left politics in 1970.

Gore served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1939 to 1953, and in the U.S. Senate from 1953 to 1970.

During his political career, he introduced the Interstate Highway Act to the Senate in 1956 and was considered for the Democratic vice president slot the same year.

Gore was the first congressman to serve in the Army during World War II, and as a senator was a sharp critic of the United States' involvement in Vietnam.

"One of the reasons he was voted out of office was because he was unwilling to bend on the issues of right and wrong,"

Martin said.

One of Gore's steadfast positions was his refusal to sign the Southern Manifesto of 1956, which criticized the Supreme Court decision of *Brown v. Board of Education*.

Gore and fellow Democratic U.S. Sen. Estes Kefauver rejected the document that attempted to reverse the decision to integrate public schools.

"Despite his long political career, he doesn't seem to be much of a politician in the way we think of politicians now," Martin said.

"He wasn't willing to give up what he thought was right for votes or for power, and that's something that I admire."

In addition to the Gore biography, the Gore Center is a partner of the Library of Congress for a project to interview veterans of 20th century wars such as World War II, the Vietnam War and the Korean War.

"What we're trying to do now is go around and find as many World War II veterans in the area and interview them," Martin said.

According to a press release, the Gore Center has conducted oral history interviews with approximately 70 veterans.

"Basically, they're trying to capture on tape the story of the average, everyday GI," Martin said. ♦

Rights: Volunteers needed for dinner

Continued from 1

the third event April 2.

According to King, Shepard is not solely a gay rights activist, but also speaks for all kinds of tolerance.

The fourth day of SpringOut will focus on themes devoted to homosexuality and religion.

The final event will be a charity drag April 4.

Lambda is encouraging students to participate in this event and hope for campus involvement, according to King.

"We need student organizations on campus to volunteer a person [to participate]," King said.

All of the money raised by

this event will go to the Lambda Victory Fund that supports Lambda's various GLBT issues.

Besides the events scheduled for the MTSU campus, the Human Rights Campaign in Nashville is also planning its annual Tennessee dinner.

The dinner is scheduled for March 1 and will be held at the Loews Vanderbilt Plaza.

"We've sold over 600 tickets," said Keith Merrill, HRC Tennessee Dinner co-chairman. According to Merrill, 600 tickets is double the amount that was sold two years ago.

"The HRC has dinners all across the nation," Merrill said. "That's the largest way of raising money."

The keynote speaker is Allan Gillmour, the vice chair and chief financial officer of the Ford Motor Company.

"He's the most senior openly gay person in corporate America," Merrill said.

While the dinner has sold out, volunteers are still needed to help with the event.

The HRC needs volunteers to help run the silent auction, a fund-raiser that will take place at the dinner.

For more information on volunteering for the HRC Tennessee Dinner, contact Keith Merrill at 386-3705 or Deidre Duker at 292-0920. ♦

Eason: Song writer brought solace for prof

Continued from 1

were the most important things," Eason wrote.

Eason is a long-time fan of singer/songwriter Steve Young, who writes songs like "Seven Bridges Road." His songs were recorded by acts like Dolly Parton and Waylon Jennings.

Young's soulful tunes and deep lyrics acted as a kind of therapy throughout Eason's

most difficult times, and he wrote about Young in his article.

"I drank more and looked for solace in my records. I found my greatest comfort in a new album Steve Young had recorded on RCA. It portrayed him as one of country's new breed of outlaws," Eason wrote.

Only a few years later, Eason found himself seeking a way to connect his love for music with academic work.

He moved to Nashville and began researching music on the downtown streets. A few months later he was offered a job at MTSU and found a place that fulfills his need for music and allows him to manifest his talents in teaching.

At MTSU, Eason teaches journalism to both undergraduate and graduate classes.

"I have to work to remember to include the human element of life into my classroom," Eason said.

He also said that he applies his moral values in the classroom.

Eason has written a few academic articles, but this was his first published personal writing.

"Academics don't generally write like this," Eason said. "This is the most personal thing I've ever written."

Eason does a lot of his research in smoky bars talking to uniquely talented people mainly about Southern music.

"I write a lot about Southerners who drink and sing," Eason said. "I can relate to people who have a strong passion for the music."

Eason recently finished writing an introductory essay for a photographer in Nashville. The photographer has a collection of photographs taken of Broadway Avenue in downtown Nashville.

"I went and spent a lot of time talking to the characters that have been down there forever," Eason said.

He did research at the Country Music Hall of Fame but spent much of his time with those people who have performed for 25 years in the bars.

Eason holds degrees from Lambuth College, the State University of New York at Albany and Southern Illinois University.

Prior to MTSU, he worked for many newspapers and has taught at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and the University of Utah. ♦

Sidelines is now accepting application for...

Editor in chief

[1855-60, Amer.] *ed'itor*, *n.* **1.** a person who directs the work of a newspaper, magazine, or other publication. **2.** a person who directs the work of a group of writers or artists. **3.** a person who directs the work of a group of people in a business or organization. **4.** a person who directs the work of a group of people in a government or other institution. **5.** a person who directs the work of a group of people in a church or other religious organization. **6.** a person who directs the work of a group of people in a school or other educational institution. **7.** a person who directs the work of a group of people in a hospital or other medical institution. **8.** a person who directs the work of a group of people in a prison or other correctional institution. **9.** a person who directs the work of a group of people in a military or naval institution. **10.** a person who directs the work of a group of people in a government or other institution. **11.** a person who 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From the Editor in Chief Mistakes provide room for learning experience



Lindsey
Turner
Editor in Chief

It's no secret that many if not most people think of student newspapers as playpens for semi-serious journalism students just itching to see their name in print — nothing more.

Student journalists struggle against this stigma every day — during interviews with less-than-cooperative sources, while overhearing peers and superiors scoff at their efforts and while reading letters to the editor from belligerent readers.

Of course, in the case of this newspaper, the illusion of the just-for-fun newspaper couldn't be farther from the truth.

As members of the journalism community, *Sidelines* editors and reporters strive to uphold the same ethical and stylistic standards as major national newspapers while still maintaining a distinct student voice.

Unfortunately, *Sidelines* experienced a serious breach of those ethics in a story Monday ("Al Gore Center to chronicle Gore Sr.," Feb. 17). According to the story's sources, the article contained numerous factual errors — far too many to print a single correction. For this reason, we at *Sidelines* have decided to run another story to address these gross inaccuracies ("Cambridge prof to chronicle Gore Sr.").

Sidelines, along with every other student newspaper in the world, lives a complicated dual existence. We're here to provide the campus with news and

events that affect the university community, but we're also here so that young reporters, editors, photographers, illustrators and designers can learn the basic tools of the trade so they develop more quickly and thoroughly into solid members of the journalism community.

This setup leaves the door wide open for mistakes, which happen occasionally among a group of inexperienced learners.

However, inaccuracies of the proportion in Monday's story are unacceptable in this newspaper and will not be tolerated.

Sidelines regrets publishing the story Monday, and we have seized the opportunity to teach other reporters the absolute, unquestionable importance of accuracy.

Incidents such as these are beyond frustrating for young editors. Each day is an exercise in building credibility. Anyone in this business can tell you that week after week of good, accurate stories can pass, but that one bombshell of a story can detonate and cause your readership to question your credibility. And, as professor David Bishop will tell you, if you don't have credibility, well, you don't have much of anything.

If you often inaccuracies in stories, please do us the service of letting us know so we can address them quickly.

As much as we hate hearing when one of us has screwed up, it's only right that we address the problem.

Please call me at 898-2337 or e-mail me at sleditor@mtsu.edu if there are factual problems with stories. ◆

Minority indifference or mere ignorance?

By Mateo Bueno
Guest Columnist

With the following I wish to briefly explain the true causes behind the war that's about to take place and later critique the indifference that the Latino, black and Asian communities have expressed toward this urgent issue.

In case some might be confused about the reasons for this war, I'll quickly refresh your memory. Experts from several fields have singled out two main reasons for the coming invasion of Iraq led by the United States with a strong British support: economic interests (oil control) and politics and public relations for upcoming elections.

After Sept. 11, 2001, President George W. Bush promised to capture the men who attacked the nation. Due to difficulties and possible incompetence, Osama bin Laden wasn't captured, and the attention had to be turned to a different enemy before the 2004 elections. If a country was not attacked and "terrorism" not challenged, Bush

would be seen by the public as weak. No other country would be a better target than an undeveloped one with a weak army, infrastructure, education and health care (mostly due to previous sanctions). Above all, the world's largest oil supply is found under their soil.

This past Saturday, approximately 10 million people took over the streets around the world to protest this fabricated and unjust war against Iraq. The largest turnout were seen in Rome (2.5 million), Madrid and Barcelona (2 million) and New York and San Francisco (1 million).

Members from other organizations and New Brunswick residents gathered at the train station to take the 10 a.m. train to New York City. With a government desperately trying to quiet the opposition, the march in the city was prohibited. Police officers turned their horses against the crowds, and more than 100 people were injured, including eight officers. Scenes of police brutality weren't far from those seen in footage from

the 1960s.

I was amazed at the lack of Latino, black and Asian support at an event that was protesting an oppression that we minorities have faced in the past. Although greater diversity was still in New York, it was seen a predominantly white crowd protesting.

It shouldn't be difficult for us to empathize with a country that will be exploited for oil in the same way that our nations of origin have been exploited for raw materials. Chile's democratically elected President Salvador Allende was assassinated in 1973 by a Central Intelligence Agency operation to place Augusto Pinochet in power in order to privatize the Chilean copper industry. Guatemala suffered a similar invasion in 1954. Cambodia, the ex-Belgian Congo and several African nations have gone through similar violent interventions.

Although Hussein is no Allende or Patrice Lumumba, a military intervention in Iraq is inspected for, especially if inspectors haven't found

any proof of potential danger.

Saying that the future war isn't a racist war is similar to saying that the atomic bombardment on Hiroshima and Nagasaki wasn't racist. The current U.S. administration clearly doesn't find the lives of the Iraqi people as valuable as the lives of Anglo-Saxons, since 300,000 assassinated Iraqi civilians (the number killed at the Gulf War) was considered a "reasonable" price to pay for oil domination.

For some strange reason, perhaps indifference or mere ignorance, many Latinos and minorities in general fail to understand that war for oil won't end in Iraq. South America will be the next target as troops already stand in Colombian soil, and the CIA has already financed a coup in Venezuela.

The American imperialist power that has manifested throughout Latin America's history continues to manifest itself in Africa and the Middle East. Nelson Mandela said it best in his speech in Johannesburg, South Africa: "Who is the United

States to think they can be the policeman of the world [when] they have committed the worst atrocities in history?"

Undemocratic terrorism that our country has supported in the past against our nations of heritage, and continues to support against other nations, it's our responsibility to show our disdain toward a racist and inhumane war.

I invite all minority leaders to use their organizations for more educational and activist purposes. In future events, lead your organization and show your discomfort with the current administration. Let them know that they won't be receiving your vote if they continue their racist and fascist policies abroad.

Let them know that you are an educated African American, Asian American or Latino and that an attack on Iraq, or on any country, won't be a democratic one. ◆

Mateo Bueno is a junior marketing major at Rutgers University in New Jersey.

Why big guns? 'Cause we can

Thoughts While Driving



Gary
Morrison
Staff Columnist

I hope I get a chance to comment on this subject before the liberal, anti-gun media has a field day with it. Last week, Smith & Wesson introduced the most powerful production revolver in the world: the .50-caliber Smith & Wesson 500 Magnum. I can hear Tim Allen grunting now.

Smith & Wesson has outdone itself again. The creators of the .357-caliber Magnum, as well as Dirty Harry's famous .44-caliber Magnum, have raised their own bar. Weighing in at four pounds, the 500 is a full pound heavier than Dirty Harry's .44, and almost three times as powerful. Wait... I think I can hear it — the pathetic cries of "Why? Why do we need this gun?"

I'm glad you asked. If you ask a gun enthusiast why we have a

new, more powerful handgun, you'll probably get the same look as you would if you ask a car enthusiast why we have faster and faster Corvettes: the blank stare of dumbfoundedness.

Being a gun enthusiast myself, I crossed the line and wondered quietly, "Damn, why do we have a production line .50 caliber?" Then it hit me: for the same reason we have street legal cars that can exceed 160 mph and for the same reason the nouveau riche in Green Hills have Humvees to get groceries — because we can.

It's pure and simple. We don't necessarily need any of those things — or do we? Does a Humvee hold more bread and milk than a Volvo station wagon? Does a Corvette get you to work significantly faster than the Volkswagen Beetle? I believe that the extremes set the norm, and change, for better or worse, is unavoidable. If we harken back to the early 1980s, we can remember Madonna wearing her underclothes as outerclothes. Now it's not uncommon to see a

girl wearing a camisole as a shirt (an example of positive change). Look at Michael Jackson's plastic surgery as an example of extreme change for the negative.

Even Hollywood stars can say, "At least I haven't had as much as Michael." The point is, once an extreme is broken, the norm adjusts accordingly.

Maybe I'm too American.

Maybe I hold too many values that justify the condescendingly French attitude that Americans are arrogant and self-righteous and must be controlled and censored by most of Europe.

Maybe so, but I'd much rather be able to get into my Humvee or Corvette to go buy a .50-caliber revolver because I can then go to get into my Peugeot and drive to Home Depot to buy duct tape and plastic to cover my windows in fear of a dirty bomb. ◆

Gary Morrison is a graduate student in English and can be reached via e-mail at gwm2c@mtsu.edu.

Gaining U.N. support diplomatic solution

Yesterday's Tomorrow



John Miller
Staff
Columnist

As the United States grows closer and closer to war, one must reflect on how the nation came to this point. Some trace it back to the 2000 election. But, if you look at the Republican presidencies of the past 25 years or so, a common thread runs through them all: war or armed conflict.

The major cause for war is that Saddam Hussein harbors chemical, biological or nuclear weapons that he could sell or give to terrorists like al Qaeda.

Until Colin Powell's speech before the United Nations, the world hadn't heard anything about specific al Qaeda activity in recent weeks. The Secretary of State alluded to ties between al Qaeda and Iraq but didn't offer information that I would view as linking.

However, if the 16-minute tape recently released is indeed authentic, it confirms ties between Iraq and bin Laden.

In addition, it's the most convincing evidence that bin Laden is still alive.

This begs the question: Is the Bush administration justified in declaring war on Iraq? The first place to look is at the American public. Bush, being the representative of the people, should do what's best for the nation. The American public doesn't always understand all of the factors that contribute to a president's decision. This, however, doesn't mean he shouldn't place

weight in what the public views as right.

The United States should then look towards the United Nations. Their purpose is to resolve international problems peacefully. If the United States chooses to undermine the United Nations, what's to stop other countries from doing so as well?

Without the United Nations, there's no basis for international law. Countries can elect to abide by whichever laws and treaties they choose. If we decide to circumvent the United Nations and attack Iraq without international support, what's to stop North Korea from invading the south or Pakistan and India from declaring nuclear war on each other?

The United Nations is designed to explore all options available. This doesn't mean the international community should not use force in the event that all other possibilities have been exhausted.

By gaining support from the United Nations, we'll avoid jeopardizing relations with many of the world's important countries. In addition, in the event of war, other countries will share in the economic and military costs.

The United States should allow weapons inspectors more time. Doing so would take a step toward a diplomatic solution.

Even if Iraq doesn't disarm peacefully, by showing the international community we're willing to look at the situation from every angle, we could build a global coalition. ◆

John Miller is a senior pre-law major and can be reached via e-mail at jcm2r@mtsu.edu.

Letter to the Editor

Lesbian minister undermines her message

To the Editor:

It always seems so convenient when some liberal political reform is about to happen, some "renegade" church decides to come out of the closet ("Renegade church has high hopes for minister," Jan. 27). The Rev. April Baker may feel some relief in her exposure, but it isn't the Southern Baptist Convention she should fear. She discards the Bible in such a way it only pulls the rug from under her feet.

Her church will never gain respect from Christians as long as the Bible states that homosexuality is an abomination. The fact that she also hid her true nature in order to gain a respectable position as a pastor also undermines her authority. Why couldn't she find another church to promote her scripture-twisting?

Baker's hypocrisy also places doubt upon her message. The Christian who believes the Bible to be 100 percent true can be sure that the good news of Christ's death and resurrection is as true as the condemnation of those who prefer to reduce God's kingdom to a "heaven on earth."

Stephen Brace

Experiencing
bathing suit ride-up?

E-mail us at
slopinio@mtsu.edu.

SIDELINES

Middle Tennessee
State University
1301 East Main Street
P.O. Box 8
Murfreesboro, TN 37132

Editorial: 898-2337
Advertising: 898-2533
Fax: 904-8193
www.mtsusidelines.com

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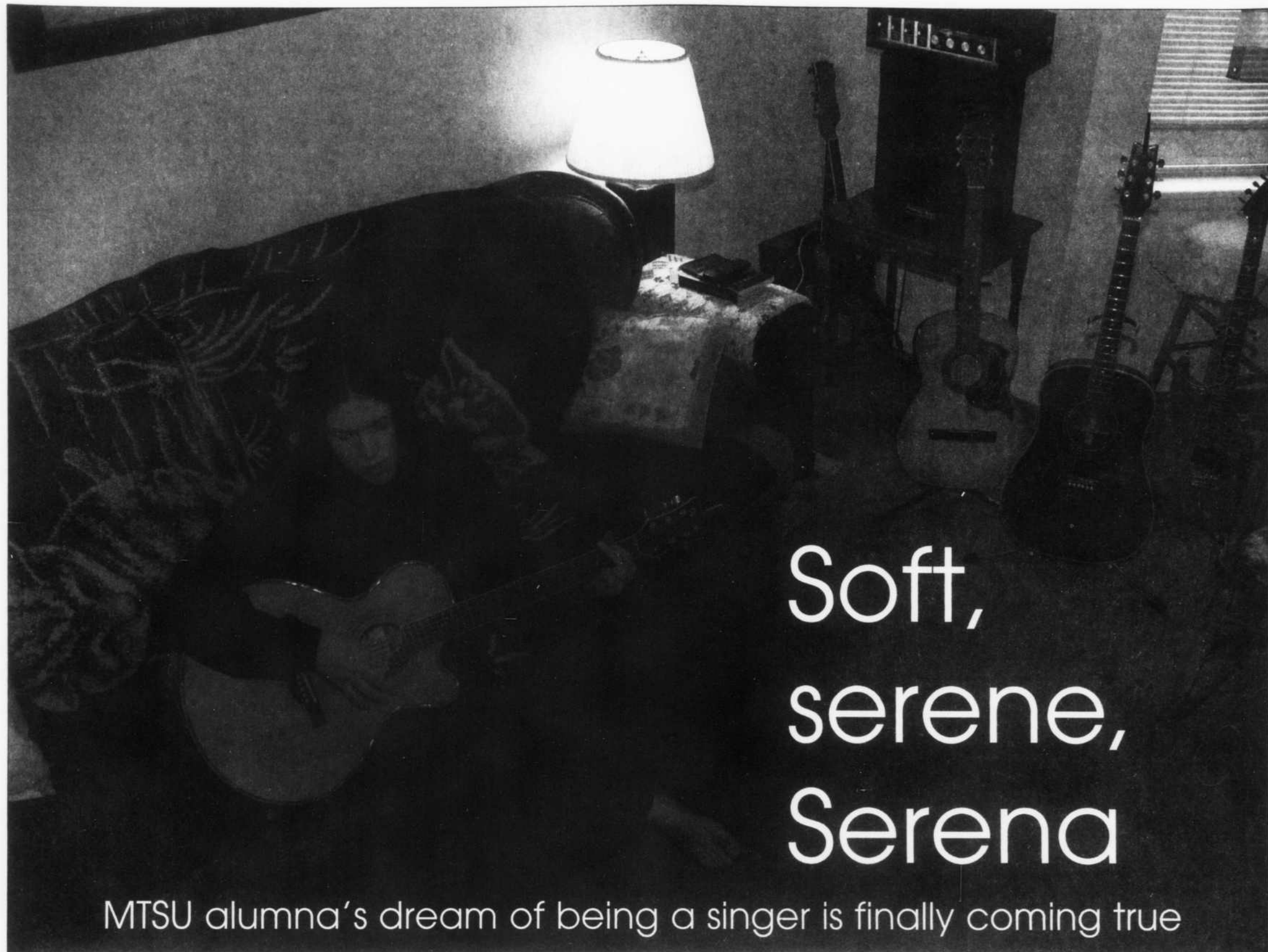
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Sidelines welcomes letters to the editor from all readers. Please e-mail letters to slopinio@mtsu.edu, and include your name and a phone number for verification. *Sidelines* will not publish anonymous letters. We reserve the right to edit for grammar,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

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Soft, serene, Serena

MTSU alumna's dream of being a singer is finally coming true

Photo by Jenny Cordle | Chief Photographer

MTSU graduate Serena Matthews practices on her couch next to her husband's makeshift studio as she sings one of her own creations, "Here in the Blue." Although Matthews graduated with a degree in photography, she says singing is still something she wants to pursue. You can find out more on her Web site, www.serenamatthews.com.

By Callie Elizabeth Butler
Assistant News Editor

Serena Matthews' musical beginnings can be traced back to one place: the basement of her parents' house in Byrdstown, Tenn., her father's playground, which is the fertile soil of her budding career.

Matthews and her sister tumbled downstairs to the family's basement excited to sing their favorite songs. Regular favorites were clips from a cherished "Barbie and the Rockers" cassette, singing the words of their coveted plaything. Her father, Danny Matthews, often joined the girls with his guitar, singing songs such as "Will The Circle Be Unbroken," by the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, a favorite among the trio. These basement concerts marked the beginnings that carved her love for music and her pursuit of this dream. She credits activities with her family

for her success as she continues to establish herself as a musician.

"There never seemed to be many times when there wasn't some kind of music playing somewhere in the background in our house," Matthews says. "My dad's playground was our basement, and it was filled with music."

Matthews is a rising musical talent in the Nashville music scene, playing open mic nights and other events. Recording artist Jewel's Web site, Soul City Café, which aims to help rising musicians, recently began featuring her work.

"At first, I thought it was a joke when I came home to find a message on my answering machine from one of Jewel's representatives saying that they had a nice surprise for me and would like to talk to me," Matthews says. "I thought it must be a telemarketer or one of my friends playing a prank on me. I called the number anyway, just in

"When you listen to one of Serena's recordings, you immediately buy into her voice."

— Ken Calhoun
Soul City Café creative director

case, and it resulted in the feature at the Web site. I still can't really believe they selected me."

Soul City Café primarily features artists entered in the Soul City Café Music Quest, a competition to select

artists to headline Jewel's upcoming tour. Matthews did not qualify to enter due to an ineligibility of Tennessee residents, but the representatives, deeply impressed by her talents, chose to feature her on the Web site anyway.

"When you listen to one of Serena's recordings, you immediately buy into her voice. The arrangements and melodies are simple in a way that feels true," said Soul City Café Creative Director Ken Calhoun. "You feel like you really have access to something essential and real."

But getting to this point required a great deal of work, inspiration and dedication.

Matthews' interest in music during her early years remaining confined to basement performances and singing patriotic songs before her classmates. A fear of public speaking and performing locked her here until after high school.

However, her high school years marked the development of her songwriting. During her junior and senior years, her interest in poetry and short

See Matthews, 5

Dance in the Madhouse

Chamber players "dance" for MTSU

By Melissa Coker
Staff Writer

A small group of musicians known as The Stones River Chamber Players gathered Thursday night to entertain MTSU students with various selections by American composer David Leisner.

The evening began at 7:30 p.m. with a brief description of each work, given by the composer himself. The title of the evening's program, "Dances in the Madhouse," comes from a painting by a similar name.

"I composed this piece for the woman in the painting," Leisner says. The woman was locked up in an institution, but she was dancing as if that didn't matter one bit.

"Dances in a Madhouse" inspired Leisner to write this work.

According to artistic director Jerry Perkins, the Stones River players originally set out to perform only one work by Leisner but liked it so much that a whole program was eventually planned around his talent.

"Dances in a Madhouse" was composed in 1982 and includes four enveloping selections: "Tango Solitaire," "Waltz for the Old Folks," "Ballad for the Lonely" and "Samba." These play out beautifully with

no more instrumentation than William Yelverton on the guitar and Deanna Hahn's mastering of the flute.

Other selections included 1987's "Extremes," 1990's "Jazz Terrain" and the world premiere of "Of Darkness and Light," written specifically for the night's performance.

This work included poetry by Wendell Berry for which the commission was made possible by MTSU's Committee for Research and Creative Audiences. It was a peaceful and instrumental evening. The jazz and other pieces featured Don Aliquo on the saxophone, Charlene Harb on the piano, Todd Waldecker on clarinet, and Dewayne Pigg and Deanna Hahn having almost a musical conversation using the oboe and flute.

Leisner has been regarded as one of America's leading classical guitarists. His superb musicianship and provocative programming have been applauded by critics and audiences from around the world. He has been acclaimed as a "triple-threat performer" by *The New York Times* and a "serious, exploratory and imaginative musician" by the *Boston Globe*.

The Stones River Chamber Players are an ensemble in residence at MTSU.

The more than a dozen players divide into various configurations to accommodate a wide variety of repertory. In addition to four concerts on campus

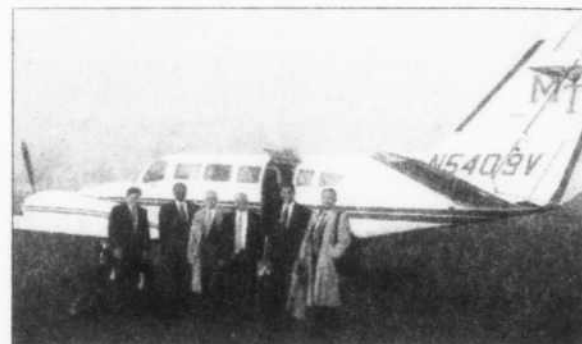


Photo acquired

The Stones River Chamber Players, who traveled to the Classical Music Center in Cincinnati, Ohio, last October, prepare to board the university plane.

each season, the group also tours throughout the Southeast and performs live over Nashville's public radio station WPLN. They are set to tour Germany, Switzerland and France throughout the month of May. They will play again in Wright Music Hall on April 6 at 7:30 p.m. when they present "The Cutting Edge."

The program is free and open to the public. For more information, please call 898-2493. ♦

Dear Annie

Broken-hearted sympathizes with 'Losing Faith'

Dear Annie,

I am writing this in response to the letter on Feb. 5 sent by "Losing Faith." I know what he is going through. I spent three years of my life giving everything to a woman. I gave her a house, a new vehicle, a spectacular diamond and all the love in my heart. Then, just a few months before our wedding date, she called the wedding off; I still don't know why. All I know is she wanted me out of her life forever. I did nothing wrong; I would have gone to the ends of the earth for her. I moved to Nashville so we could be together and have a future. I left with the things I brought into the relationship. She kept the house and car. We never had any arguments of any kind during our three years together. My whole life revolved around her, only to come home one night from work and be told it's over with no explanation. She was totally unwilling to work things out. She was so cold, so cruel and so mean. Almost the exact same thing happened to me back in 1991, and I made a promise to myself to never let anyone in again. Sure, I was 21 at the time and really didn't understand the situation I was in. As soon as I let my guard down and let someone in, it happened again. She knew my past because I was totally honest with her. She swore she would never do anything like that to me, and she was not that type of person. She said not all women are that way, but guess what? She was worse. It's been almost a year now. Sure, I am still bitter. I feel as if I have a reason to be. So now I am just concentrating on finishing my degree this summer, riding my bike and spending time with my dogs. They really are man's best friend. Thanks for listening.

— Given Up

Dear Given Up,

It sounds like you did get a raw deal, and I think your feelings are justified. I also agree that taking a break right now and focusing on other things is a good idea.

However, I don't think you want to stay bitter for the rest of your life. It sounds like you're a really great guy. It would be a shame to deny the nice girls an opportunity because some evil girls ruined their chances.

If I understand your story correctly, you had two bad relationships, and you have no idea why they treated you this way. As far as you know you were perfect, right? Well, maybe you were and maybe you weren't. I think it would only be fair to give an honest evaluation of your past relationships. As we've learned this semester, there are always two sides to every story. Sometimes we ignore red flags that appear in our relationships signaling trouble.

You said that you were young when one of the girls hurt you. We often make immature mistakes, but the beauty of it is we can learn from them. Surely you've learned something from these relationships besides feeling like all women are evil.

My advice is to keep playing with your dogs and focusing on your needs right now. Just don't sweep what happened to you under a rug and make blanket statements about women. I wish I could change your "given up" attitude to "I got a raw deal." Please remember, I'm always here to listen.

Please e-mail your questions to DearMtsuAnnie@aol.com

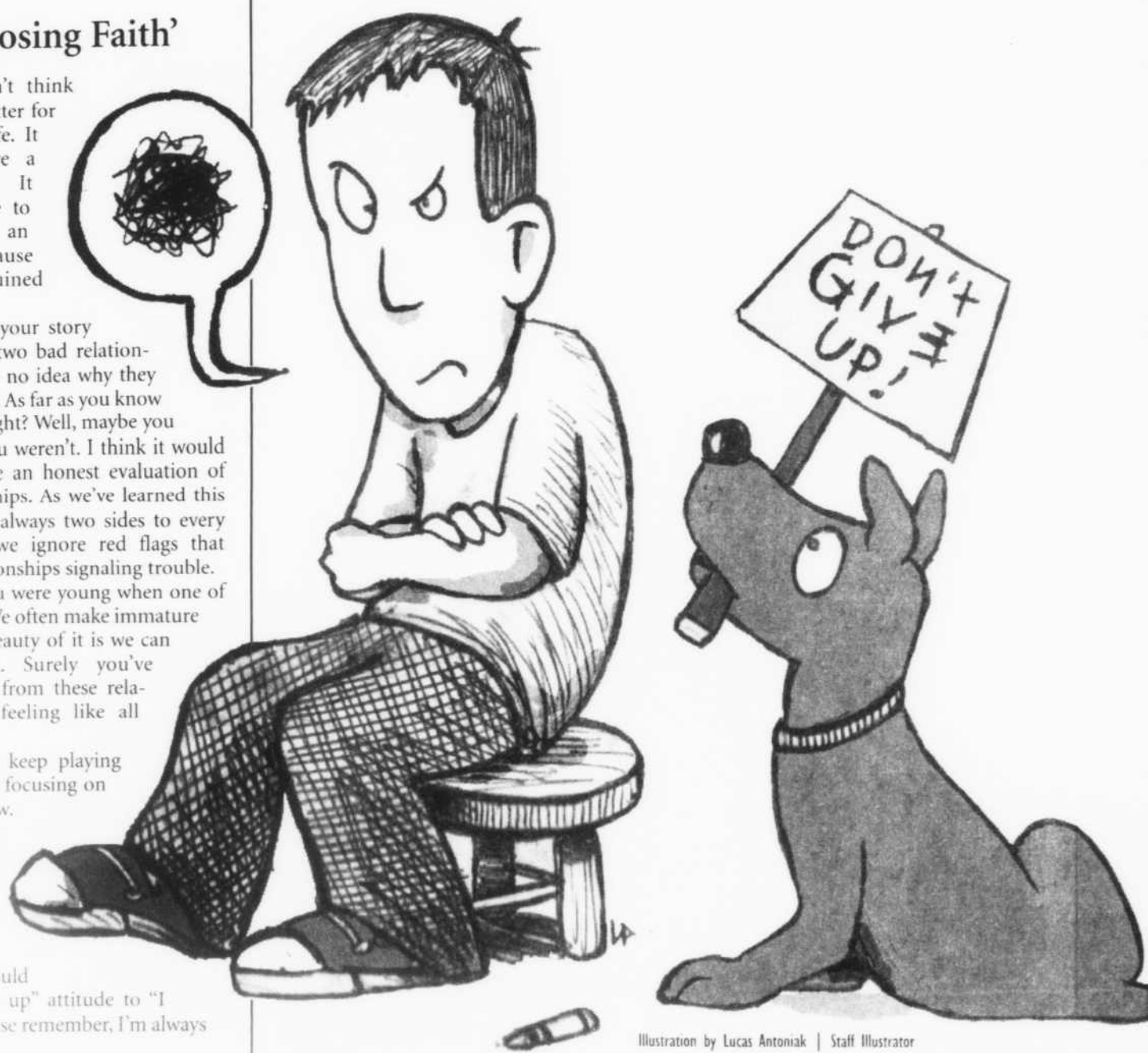


Illustration by Lucas Antoniak | Staff Illustrator

Matthews: Activism shines through songs

Continued from 4

story writing morphed into a lyrical talent as she began composing ballads.

"I didn't begin songwriting until the latter years of high school when I began to take an interest in my dad's guitar," Matthews says.

"Before that, the only music I was interested in playing myself was [the] piano."

Her entrance into college marked her musical transformation, due greatly to meeting her husband, Jeff Hightower.

"Things really began rolling for me as a songwriter [in college]. He had an acoustic guitar, a beautiful black Washburn," Matthews says. "I picked it up one day and started playing it, and it was the most beautiful sound. I was hooked."

Matthews was unsure of her future, moving from a major in geology to English and finally transferring to MTSU to pursue a degree in photography.

Music followed her there. She bought a guitar and continued writing songs on scraps of paper, determined to keep her musical dream alive as she continued to educate herself. Yet she still remained locked in a fear of public performance, singing only for close family and friends.

"'Backstreet Café' was the first song I ever recorded. I actually wrote that one in between classes one day at MTSU," Matthews says.

In February 2000, Matthews encountered a Web site, www.mp3.com, and began posting her music there, using the service as a starting ground.

"I used this really cheap microphone to begin with," Matthews says. "The production quality was very poor — lots of pops and dead air."

Gradually, after submitting her Web site to multiple search engines, she began receiving e-mails from people asking for live show information. She created a compact disc on the Web site as well, then began marketing her music.

"Strangely enough, people were spreading the word online and offline about my music," Matthews says.

"E-zines were contacting me for interviews and online features. It was all such a strange, new and exciting experience for

me."

With Matthews' success on many Web sites, she began to open up to the possibility of performing for an audience.

"All those fans really gave me the confidence I needed to sing offline," Matthews says.

Her first experiment in live performance came at the Bluebird Café singing backup for her husband. She became entranced by the clapping, the cheers and the joy of the audience. Since then, she's done many open mic performances but continues to focus on writing and constructing an album.

Matthews encountered a number of financial constraints but remained determined to graduate and did so in May 2002.

"Since graduating, I've been working as a freelance photographer and have also been self-employed working in digital photo restoration and enhancement. I also design album covers and Web sites," she says.

However, most of her dedication remains focused on her music.

Matthews felt a strong drive to integrate activism into her music, transforming issues that personally move her into notes. She also uses her resources and public appearances to further causes she believes demand attention, such as animal cruelty and Native American rights.

"My songs aren't much related to aspects of any kind of activism in a very direct way, but I think that when I am feeling stressed, angry, hurt or worried about things in the world that I wish I could change, those emotions fall out into my writing," Matthews says.

"For me, music is a very good stress reliever and a good means of sending messages to the rest of the world."

Matthews, believing that activism requires an active voice, began writing songs, such as "Savage Land," that deal directly with the social issues she feels deeply passionate about.

"I hope when people hear they remember not to forget what happened not so many years ago to the Native Americans under the orders of the man whose face is on our \$20 bills, which, in my opinion, seems inappropriate," Matthews says.

Matthews released her independently produced album, *Dreams For The Broken*, last year, which came as a musical response and coping tool after the death of her grandmother, another inspirational family member and close friend.

"Although many of the songs are quite melancholy, I do truly try to send a message of hope to my listeners. 'Jumping Broken Fences' is the first song I wrote after she passed away," Matthews says. "It's about overcoming hard times, which is what the [song's] title means."

The Internet serves as Matthews' key tool in spreading her music and publicity. Her songs soared in popularity online, becoming available on a variety of Web sites.

This provides a wide variety of audiences and music critics worldwide access to her lyrical talents, and as a result, Matthews received numerous reviews of her work, which have all been quite complementary of her efforts.

"I would dare say that her simple arrangements offered online are so classic that to see her live and to own her complete set of recordings would be a great investment in serenity," says folk writer Chapman James in a review of *Dreams For The Broken*.

Matthews is currently at work on her debut studio album, which she hopes to release in early 2004. She is in the early process of recording the songs and designing the album art.

"After I finish the album, I'm very anxious to really get out and do the live show scene to promote CD sales," Matthews says.

"To this date, I've never had a paying gig, nor asked for one, but I'm crossing my fingers that will change."

As acclaim and popularity of her music continue to grow, Matthews credits those around her, particularly her husband and family, for continually supporting her and inspiring her to chase a dream that is slowly becoming a reality.

And part of her will always remain that little girl in a dusty basement alongside her sister singing as her dad's fingers strum the strings of his faithful guitar. ♦



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SPORTS

6 ♦ SIDELINES

Wednesday, February 19, 2003

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Blue Raider baseball program acquires experienced assistant coach

By Angela Hall
Staff Writer

Middle Tennessee welcomes Andy Haines as a new baseball assistant coach for the 2003 season.

Haines has spent the past two seasons assisting at Olney Central Junior College in Olney, Ill., the same place he played two years of his college career. He coached 14 players there who received Division I scholarships. He coached under Dennis Conley, who played at the same university as Haines and has been at Olney for 22 years. Last season, they finished fifth in the Great Rivers Athletic Conference with a record of 39-19.

Haines saw his first collegiate coaching action in a summer league in Bloomington-Normal, Ill. There he coached the Twin City Stars, who were part of the Central Illinois Collegiate Summer League.

He was awarded Coach of the Year in 2001 while coaching in the Northwood Collegiate League. He

assisted the Waterloo Bucks in Waterloo, Iowa.

Haines got action coaching in the Minor League assisting the Dubois County Dragons in Huntingburg, Ind. They became a team in 1999 as part of the Independent Frontier League. The dragons played in League Stadium, which was used in the filming of *A League of their Own*. His team won the Division title and advanced to the playoffs.

He was then awarded the All-Ohio Valley Conference catcher as a senior at Eastern Illinois, where he played college ball from 1999-2000. Prior to that, he played two seasons at Olney Central followed by one year at Kentucky Wesleyan University.

Haines earned a bachelor's degree in Physical Education/Sports Management with Community Health as a minor. Haines decided after his junior year in college he wanted to coach.

"Everyone has aspirations about playing in the Big League," Haines said.



Haines

"The enjoyment of coaching is when you help the individual player, the player gets better and eventually helps the team. That is where the pride comes in."

— Andy Haines,
MT baseball assistant coach

For him it was between that and coaching.

Haines first became familiar with MT when he played against the Blue Raiders in college.

"I had much respect for their program and when the graduate assistant job became open, I went for it," Haines

said.

According to head coach Steve Peterson, MT was very proud to get Haines on their staff.

"He will bring a lot to the game," Peterson said. "He joins us with lots of previous experience." Haines will work with the catchers and hitters, and

accompany Peterson as the first base coach.

"He has developed a repour with the players," Peterson said. "He doesn't show a big ego and doesn't force his ways upon the program."

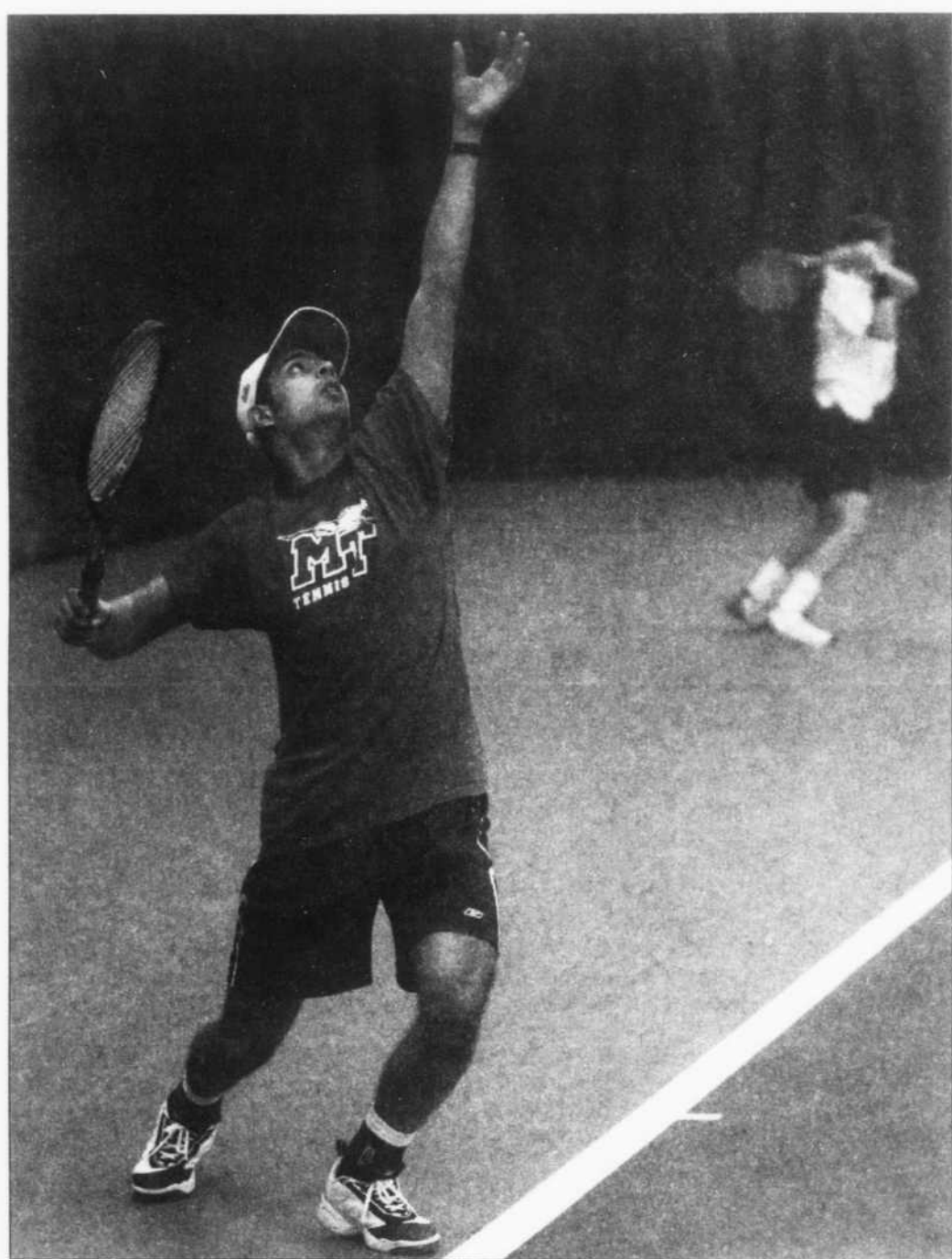
"The enjoyment of coaching," Haines said, "is when you help the individual player, the player gets better and eventually helps the team. That is where the pride comes in."

He has also admitted that he believes he made a good decision to come to MT and this has been a huge stepping stone in his career.

Haines, along with the rest of the Blue Raiders hope to be competitive as a team while they will swing for a Sun Belt Conference championship. They will also hope to make it to the NCAA tournament. The Blue Raiders were picked fifth out of nine teams in the 2003 Preseason Coaches Poll.

The Blue Raiders will host their opening day with a three game series this weekend versus Jacksonville State that will begin on Friday. ♦

Tennis team gets the blues in Mississippi



File Photo

Sophomore Rishan Kuruppu earned the only singles win for MT against Ole Miss.

By Osby Martin
Staff Writer

The fifth-ranked Ole Miss Rebels (4-0) won the doubles point and the match (6-1) over No. 51 Middle Tennessee (1-5) Sunday. The Rebels extended their winning streak to 20 straight matches after winning the doubles point.

The Rebels then got three consecutive straight-set wins to take the match with the other three matches not completed. The 34th-ranked Catalin Gard defeated No. 92 Kirk Jackson, 6-3, 6-2, at No. 2 before No. 18 Paul Ciorascu defeated Greg Pollack, 7-5, 6-4, at No. 3. No. 24 Alex Hartman secured the match with a 6-4, 6-1 win over third-ranked Daniel Klemetz at No. 1.

The Blue Raiders' only win of the match came at No. 5, where Rishan Kuruppu won 4-6, 6-3, 10-6 over Patrick Chucru in a super tiebreaker. The other close call for MT was at No. 6, where Anant Sitaram fought hard before falling to Karim Alayli 6-4, 3-6, 10-8 in a super tiebreaker.

MT must now focus on the task at hand, which is a visit from No. 14 Alabama, which is 9-0 and off to its best start ever. The Crimson Tide begins a four-game road swing starting today in Murfreesboro. The match will be the last for the Crimson Tide before they start

conference play.

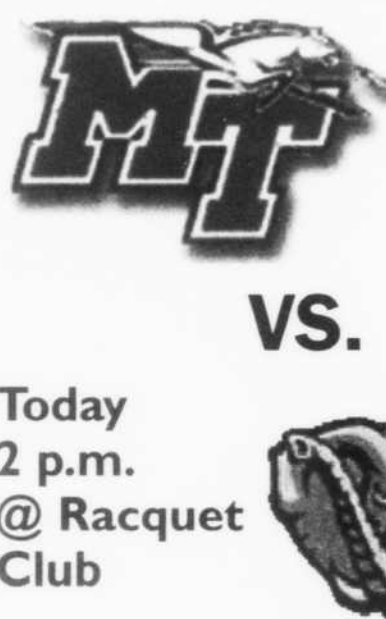
Lately, the Crimson Tide have been labeled the cardiac kids in winning their last two matches on the final contest of the day. They defeated both Georgia Tech and Florida State 4-3, fighting through a few match points to get the victories.

"I am very proud of the undefeated season," Alabama head coach Billy Pate said. "However, we have an exceptionally narrow focus to take on Middle Tennessee, and our streak will be in jeopardy if we don't come out ready to play."

"Obviously, our players are looking forward to a rematch since the 2002 match ended the season for our squad," Pate said. "I've got a tremendous amount of respect for Dale Short and his team, and I know this match will be a challenge for us, especially on the road."

Thirty-ninth ranked Max Belski leads the Crimson Tide at the No. 1 spot with a record of 5-2. He started the season at 0-2, losing one match due to an injury. Lately, he played wonderful tennis, dropping only one set in his last five matches.

Also for the Crimson Tide, Chris Gostek is undefeated at the No. 3 spot and has only dropped one set all season. Christian Broderson is also unbeaten at the No. 5 spot. The match is set for 2 p.m. today at the Racquet Club. ♦



Today
2 p.m.
@ Racquet
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Lady Raiders put together dynamic duo

By Michael Rutledge
Assistant Sports Editor

It takes two to make a thing go right.

The Middle Tennessee Lady Raiders softball squad thinks they have the perfect formula for success in 2003 with team captains Stacy Preator and Kip Phillips. This season will be no ordinary season for MT's co-captains as the Lady Raiders added 13 new players this year.

"They are both outstanding seniors with a lot of pressure on

them," head coach Cindy Connell said. "But, I couldn't be more pleased with their leadership."

Preator and Phillips helped jump-start the Lady Raiders to a sweep of 2002's Middle Tennessee Fall Classic. This



Preator

year, against tough competition including the country's ninth-ranked squad team, the Lady Raiders pulled out an early season victory in last weekend's Sunshine State Tourney against Iowa State.

Making her debut in blue at the Sunshine State Tourney, Courtney Mitchell stepped out as one of the top newcomers. Mitchell, a University of Arkansas transfer, grabbed four hits, including a double, and scored four runs.

"I think the addition of the

new players did nothing but propel our team into a new dimension of offense and defense wise for the best."

Phillips said. "But, anytime you have 13 new



Phillips

Florida State burns MT in Sunshine State Tourney

By David Lawrence
Staff Writer

The Lady Raider softball team (1-3) rebounded on the final day of the Sunshine State Tournament to earn a split on Saturday.

MT won its first game of the season against the Iowa State Cyclones, 3-1. The Lady Raiders rebounded with a strong showing, beating ISU, 3-1. Stacy Preator threw a complete game, giving up four hits

while striking out eight. Dani DeCamino nailed two of the team's three runs by going one for three at the plate.

In the second game of the first day, the ninth-rated team in the country, the Florida State Seminoles, shut out the Lady Raiders, 11-0. MT was completely dominated in the game against the nationally ranked Seminoles.

The next day, the Lady Raiders were back again to face FSU, and once again, victory eluded the team. Despite a strong showing

in the first inning, the Lady Raiders simply weren't able to maintain the lead, and the team lost, 6-3.

In their first game of the season, the Lady Raiders went up against the Iowa State Cyclones. Despite the Lady Raiders' best efforts, ISU rallied back and won the game 3-1.

The Lady Raiders start a four-game stand at home today, facing East Tennessee State University. The game begins at 2 p.m. ♦

Tyson fight will take place

By Tim Dahlberg
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Mike Tyson suddenly changed his mind Tuesday, saying his bout with Clifford Etienne is back on.

The unpredictable former heavyweight champion chartered a private jet to Memphis, Tenn., and planned to fight Etienne as scheduled Saturday, manager Shelly Finkel said.

"He woke up today and called and said, 'I want to do it,'" Finkel said. "He's leaving today."

The decision came less than 24 hours after Tyson's camp called off the fight.

The about-face was the latest in a series of twists bizarre even by Tyson's standards.

It got even stranger when Etienne said later he was so disgusted that he would not fight. Cooler heads prevailed, though, probably because Etienne will earn close to \$1 million for the fight, his biggest payday ever.

"Everything is going to be fine," Etienne's promoter, Les Bonano, said. "The fight is on."

Tyson's representative said they were prepared to replace Etienne if he balked.

"He's going to fight, and if he doesn't, we'll replace him," Finkel said.

Tyson's handlers waited days for him to give them some sort of signal on his willingness to fight. They decided to cancel the bout after the boxer missed a flight to Memphis for

See Tyson, 8

Sun Belt Conference Women's Basketball News & Notes

Arkansas-Little Rock Trojans

The Trojans snapped a five-game losing streak with a 96-31 victory over Morris Brown College. UALR set a school record with 23 steals against the Wolverines. UALR leads the series 3-0 and has won each game by an average score of 93-42.

Freshman Andrea Stone had her best week as a Trojan, averaging 9.7 points per game and shooting 7-of-13 from behind the three-point line. Stone set her career-high with 14 points and six rebounds against Morris Brown on Feb. 10.

Freshman Tamara Humphrey posted her first career double-double with a career-high 17 points and 15 rebounds against Morris Brown. Humphrey also shot a career-high 66.7 percent (8-of-12) from the field. Roberta Sarti (11 points, 11 rebounds) and Eplunus Brooks (15 points, 11 rebounds) each posted a double-double against Western Kentucky on Feb. 13.

Eplunus Brooks and Mediha Skoro were honored before the Middle Tennessee game during a Senior Night pre-game ceremony on Feb. 15.

Brooks scored 16 points and pulled down 11 rebounds in her final home game in the Trojan Fieldhouse. Skoro sat out the game with the flu.

Sophomore Samantha Watt, out since Jan. 4 with stress fractures in both feet is out of her walking boots and may see action before the end of the season.

Florida International Golden Panthers

Florida International remained in second place in the East Division as the Golden Panthers split a pair of games with South Alabama and New Orleans. FIU dropped its first-ever conference game to USA, 70-68, on Thursday.

In the loss, sophomore forward Milena Tomova dropped in a career-high 19 points despite suffering a broken nose in practice three days earlier. In the win over New Orleans, senior guard Mandy Shafer poured in 25 points – the third highest total of her career – pulled down eight rebounds, dished out four assists, plucked three steals and blocked one shot.

Shafer also nailed a key three-pointer with 1:02 remaining to push the game out of reach of the Privateers. Also against UNO, senior forward Cormisha Cotton posted the 21st double-double of her career with 17 points, 16 rebounds and five blocked shots. With those 17 points, Cotton moves into 10th place among FIU's scoring leaders.

Junior point guard Ivelina Vrancheva fell just short of a double-double, notching 18 points and nine assists. Vrancheva has

2003 Sun Belt Conference Women's Basketball Records

East Division

	Sun Belt Games				All Games				
	W	L	Pct.	Stk.	W	L	Pct.	Stk.	L5
Western Kentucky	10	2	.833	W7	16	8	.667	W8	5-0
Florida International	7	3	.700	W1	16	7	.696	W1	3-2
Middle Tennessee	8	4	.667	W4	15	10	.600	W4	4-1
Arkansas State	4	7	.364	L2	9	15	.375	L2	2-3
Arkansas-Little Rock	0	11	.000	L12	5	19	.208	L2	1-4

West Division

	Sun Belt Games				All Games				
	W	L	Pct.	Stk.	W	L	Pct.	Stk.	L5
South Alabama	8	4	.667	W5	16	8	.667	W5	5-0
New Mexico State	7	4	.636	W1	13	10	.565	W1	3-2
New Orleans	7	5	.583	L1	10	14	.417	L2	3-2
Denver	6	5	.545	L3	12	13	.480	L3	1-4
North Texas	4	7	.364	W1	9	13	.409	W1	1-4
Louisiana-Lafayette	1	10	.091	L4	5	17	.227	L3	1-4

had nine assists in four of the last five contests. FIU continues to dominate its opponents on the boards, averaging 9.0 more rebounds a game than the opposition and ranking nationally in that category.

The Golden Panthers lead the Sun Belt with 5.8 blocked shots per game in conference contests. Up next for FIU is a date at league-leading Western Kentucky. The Lady Toppers are the only team in the Sun Belt to have a winning record against FIU.

North Texas Lady Eagles

The win by North Texas over Denver snapped the four game Lady Eagles conference losing streak, which was the longest in six years for North Texas. The 90 points posted by North Texas is a season-high, and the 58 points scored by the Lady Eagles in the second half was the most scored in a single half this year. Kim Blanton has now scored more than two points four times this season.

Heather Trout tied her season-high with four three-point baskets against Denver. The Lady Eagles come from behind win was the first time that North Texas has won all season when trailing at the half. Erika Bobo had perhaps her best all-around game of the year against Denver with 13 points, nine assists, eight rebounds and four steals.

Western Kentucky Lady Toppers

The Lady Toppers ran their winning streak to

eight game with wins at Arkansas-Little Rock and Arkansas State over the weekend. WKU is now on its longest winning streak since the 1992-93 Lady Topper rattled off ten in a row, a streak that ended in the NCAA East Regional semifinals.

WKU played its final scheduled road game of the season Saturday night in Jonesboro. With the victory, Western improved to 7-6 away from home, and has won its last four road games. WKU will conclude the regular season with a three-game homestand, then welcome the rest of the league to Diddle Arena for the conference tournament.

Western's victory at Arkansas-Little Rock ensured the Lady Toppers of their 21st consecutive winning season. A Lady Topper club has not finished .500 or worse since the 1981-82 team went 12-15.

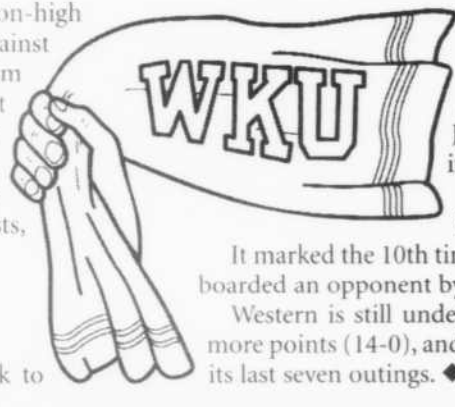
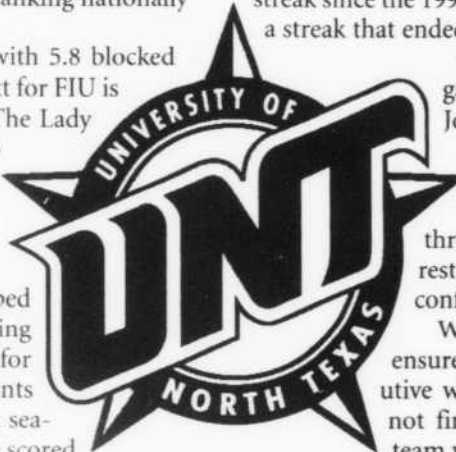
WKU remained perfect against Arkansas-Little Rock after its 77-67 win Thursday night. Western has now won all eight meetings between the two schools.

Western won just its fifth game ever over Arkansas State at the Convocation Center Saturday night. The Lady Indians still hold a 7-5 advantage in the all-time series in Jonesboro, but WKU has left victorious in its last two trips to ASU.

WKU out-rebounded Arkansas State 45-29 Saturday night.

It marked the 10th time this year the Lady Toppers have out-boarded an opponent by double figures.

Western is still undefeated this season when scoring 70 or more points (14-0), and has scored 80 or more points in five of its last seven outings. ♦



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120 Career

Gear Up Institute. Objective: To work with at risk adolescent youth in a four week college preparatory program. Qualifications to include: Bachelors degree preferred or senior status with a minimum of 95 undergraduate hours earned in Child Development and Family Studies, Psychology, Secondary Education, or Sociology/Social Work. Pay commensurate to education and experience, additional compensation for travelling is available for persons willing to ride with students to and from Nashville daily. send resume to Box 86

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150 Apt. for rent

Duplex right across from MTSU library. 216 Airport Ave. 2 bd, living, dining, kitchen with appliances and hook-ups for W/D. Hardwood floors, no pets. \$500/month. Matt Ward 849-2223 ext.288, leave msg. Apt. for rent @ Univ. Courtyard. Rent \$385. Dep. \$300 but I will pay half. Move in immediately. Lease ends July 31, 2003. Call 907-2261 or call forbreth@comcast.net. Room for rent. Male preferred. 1 bedroom with private bathroom in a 2 bedroom apartment. Move in anytime after exams. \$425 includes, furniture, appliances, shuttle service to school. Ground floor at Sterling Apartments. Call Nick at 423-503-6187 with any questions.

Hurry! Hurry! One bedroom for rent in a two bedroom apt. Rent before Dec. and pay only \$385, includes everything: water, phone, cable, and bedroom items. Lease ends July 31st. Call 308-9700.

Have an apartment to rent? Why not list it in Sidelines?

155 House for rent

Murfreesboro area. 4BR, 2.5 BA, Completely Separate Master Suite with BA. Den with Rock Fireplace, DR, Hdwd, C/H/A, new carpet & paint. Large deck with fenced backyard. \$1,275 mo. \$1,275 deposit. 615-453-2884, 615-545-9296.

2 and 3 bedroom houses for rent. \$700 for 2 bedroom and \$855 for 3 bedroom. 5 minutes from campus. Appliances included. Call Neil now @ 482-1941.

Large 2-story house 3 miles from campus. 5 spacious rooms for students. Female students preferred. \$250 a month + utilities. Discounts available: \$50 off 1st month rent for the first lease. \$300 security deposit. Fully furnished, washer & dryer, dish washer, microwave, central H/A and Culligan drinking water. Call 898-2005.

Condo: 3 bed/ 2 1/2 bath near I24. 1,400 sq. ft. All appliances. Large master and kitchen, pantry, vaulted ceiling, laundry, garage, lawn care, pets, \$880. 615-423-6272.

160 House for sale

2054 Holbeach. Priced in the 90's and ready for you. Immaculate 3 bd/ 2bth, 1 car garage and fenced in back yard. For more information please call Meredith A. Kendall, ERA Pacesetter Partners, 1-800-527-2518 ext. 2921. Ask about the Ameridream Program.

165 Roommates

Roommate needed for small apt. \$255/month includes all utilities except phone and cable internet. Male or female. Small pets allowed. 896-3226.

Looking for 2 female roommates for a nice 3 bed/2 bath house near campus. \$360 a month per person, all

util., cable and internet included. Call Ashley at 474-0002.

Roommate needed for 3 bedroom apt. at SUH. Available at the end of fall semester. \$420/month includes washer/dryer, all bills (including cable.) I will pay you \$100 on move-in. Call 898-3588 or email jwh2q@mts.edu.

Roommate wanted: \$100 deposit, \$385 includes all utilities, washer & dryer, fully furnished. Call 615-907-3962 or 931-278-0043.

One bedroom avail. in 3BR apartment at Raider's Crossings. Furnished w/W/D, ethernet hook-up, premium cable. Walking distance to MTSU. Rent is \$420/m. Call Jesse at 615-268-4114.

Roommate wanted at Chelsea Place. \$295.00+ 1/2 util. call 896-3612.

Roommate needed to fill extremely large bedroom w/own bath in local townhouse. \$260/month + 1/3 utilities. 615-867-7775.

170 Subleasing

4 bedroom, 2 bath apartment. 1 or 2 male roommates needed at Sterling University Gables, poolside view. Furnished, free rent for February, 2 Excellent Roommates to live with. Lease ends in August. Call 494-3913 or 481-5600 as for Marcus Bell.

One male and one female needed to sublease 2 bdrms in a 4 bdrm/4bath apartment @ Univ. Courtyards. Will pay 1/2 of 1st months rent and security dep. Call 347-3956 or 347-3954 ask for David or Sarah.

Apt. for sublease at University Courtyard for summer. Last 2 weeks of May are discounted. June & July are \$339 a month. Includes all utilities, furnishings, private bedroom, share bath. Call Kelly @ 893-6354.

Female needed to take over lease @ Univ. Courtyard. Private bed/bath. \$365 a month, reg. \$385/5

minutes from campus. Call Leigh (615) 482-3090.

Female wanted to sublease 1 bedroom in 4 bed/2 bath apt. one mile from campus. Fully furnished. \$325 a month/Utilities included. call Amber at 615-758-3333 or 615-430-7333.

Male sublessee needed at Sterling University Gables starting in January. Rent is \$330 a month and I will pay you \$100 to move in! Apartment is fully furnished with W/D and has a view of the pool. Call 893-3118.

Apt. for sublease at Sterling Univ. Gables on S. Rutherford Blvd. 1 bedroom available out of 4. WD included, \$300 month. Move in after finals. Call Jacob at 931-286-0207.

I need a sublessee! \$485 per month includes everything, phone cable - full-size W/D, smoking is fine. Large 2b/2b apt. Male or female is fine. Call 218-7447.

Free 2 months rent, Free refrigerator and freezer w/lease agreement. \$370/month all utilities included. Sterling Gables (male) call 604-7400 or 289-0720 or go by Sterling and ask for 933C.

Sublease apartment. Nottingham Apt. Across from campus 2 bedroom 2 bath. email chrispytaul@yahoo.com.

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205 Other

Looking to start a band. Influences are mainly Radiohead, Smashing Pumpkins, Failure, Quicksand, and Hum. Let's see what happens! Call me at 896-3226 if interested.

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Classifieds are free to students. Stop by Sidelines in JUB 310 to fill out your classified form today!

MT hosts East Tennessee State in softball home opener today

By Grant Ellington
Staff Writer

Coming off a 27-30 season, the Lady Raider softball team will begin their 10th year of competition.

MT is picked to finish fourth in the Sun Belt Conference in an early coaches poll. Last year, the Raiders went to their second consecutive

SBC Championship, and they hope to make it three times in a row.

The team has seven returning players and 13 new ones.

"That is good and bad, or the bad and the good," head coach Cindy Connelley said. "I think it is important to mold together

as quickly as possible."

The Lady Raiders participating in various team-bonding exercises a few weeks after returning to campus.

With six freshmen and seven transfers, it will be up to senior captains Stayc Preator and Kip Phillips to quickly merge as leaders and be the key figures in the overall success of the team.

The Lady Raiders (1-3) will be returning home after a disappointing weekend trip to Florida where they lost their opening games to Iowa State, 3-1, and then blanked, 11-0, by Florida State.

However, the Lady Raiders split the second and final day of

the Sunshine State Tournament on Saturday, falling 6-3 to Florida State and then rebounding to beat Iowa State 3-1 in the final game.

Stayc Preator had an incredible performance, pitching a complete game, striking out eight batters while only allowing four hits. This marked Preator's 41st career victory at Middle Tennessee.

The Lady Raiders will play host in its home opener with a double-header versus the lady Buccaneers of East Tennessee State University (1-1) Wednesday at 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. ♦

Softball: Captains to develop team bonding

Continued from 6

players, the team is going to be very different, and we had to work hard as captains.

"We went out to the ropes course at the Rec Center to get that team bonding in the fall," Phillips added. "And now we are just reaping the benefits."

Phillips and Preator are also enjoying the success of their outstanding play early in the season. Against nationally ranked Florida State, Phillips banded out two hits and three RBIs.

Preator went one for one on the mound in the Sunshine

State and picked up the 41st win of her career.

Coming in to the 2003 season, Phillips and Preator both find themselves chasing history in the Lady Raider record book. Phillips, last years recipient of the Sun Belt Conference Sportsmanship Award, is currently fourth on MT's season hitting chart. The outfielder recorded 60 hits in 2001.

Preator is fourth in career shutouts with 57, five behind Jaclyn Story's 62. Preator is also second in career strikeouts, with 418, and in career ERA with a mark of 1.65. In 2001, Phillips also landed in the record books

with 22 stolen bases to grab a second place standing in the books herself.

Before MT took the trek to Florida, Phillips said she and fellow seniors Preator, Megan Cherinka and Erica Buhl talked about this year's team goals.

"We decided that we want to win every pitch this year," Phillips said. "If we play to win every time the ball is pitched, the outcome will fall in place."

The team seniors also said they want to create a positive attitude throughout the entire season, communicate between each other and, most importantly, have fun on the field. ♦

Tyson: Memphis bout set for Saturday night

Continued from 6

the second day in a row Monday.

The official word was that Tyson was too sick to fight. But even before he became ill Friday, Tyson left trainer Freddie Roach waiting for him at the gym for three straight days while still having time to get a large tattoo on the left side of his face.

Even Monday's news release announcing the fight was off had hedged on why, saying Tyson "reportedly came down with a severe case of the flu."

Tyson's change of heart not only stunned fight promoters, but it came as a real shock to Roach. Tyson called the trainer Tuesday morning to say he was going to fight.

"I told him, 'Mike, as your friend, I don't think you're ready for the fight,'" Roach said. "He said, 'I'm going to knock him out. Are you going to be with me?'"

Roach said he told Tyson he would be there if the fighter was going to Memphis to win. Tyson hasn't trained in a week.

"We'll get a couple days in, the best we can, to get him back [in fight shape]," Roach said.

Etienne hadn't been expected to present much of a problem for a fit Tyson. The former

champ was a 7-1 favorite against a fighter hand-picked by promoters for his willingness to stand in front of Tyson and trade punches.

Yet Tyson reportedly was unhappy over his purse for the fight, which at about \$5 million was large by most standards but small compared to the \$20 million or so he made in his June loss to Lennox Lewis.

The Showtime cable network had a big investment in the fight, which combined with a rap concert by Jay-Z was to be a feature evening of programming for the network and a chance to attract new subscribers.

After the fight was called off, Showtime executives decided to move an undercard headed by Olympian Jeff Lacy to Bally's hotel-casino in Atlantic City and televise it along with some interviews with Tyson and Etienne in place of the main event.

"We actually pulled off an amazing logistical task in 24 hours," Showtime boxing chief Jay Larkin said. "I assure you this is not a publicity stunt. We went to astounding gymnastics to pull this off."

Once the most fearsome heavyweight around, Tyson has shown little inclination to fight in recent years and has lost

three of his last nine fights, two by knockout.

Tyson fought an average of only five rounds in the last 5 1/2 years — and eight of those came while he was taking a beating in his fight against Lewis.

"Everybody should just throw up their hands and let this guy live whatever life he has. Forget about putting him in the ring," rival promoter Bob Arum said. "It's almost cruel now."

But Finkel said Tyson remains a big attraction.

"In the crazy world of Mike Tyson, one thing you have to know is Mike Tyson will always be in demand," Finkel said. "He's still a star — he's the star. He won't be hurting for places to fight."

The bout with Etienne has been planned both as a comeback fight and a tuneup fight for a possible rematch with Lewis.

Brian Young, one of the local promoters, said 10,700 tickets had been sold for the fight, but that ticket sales dried up over the weekend as speculation mounted that Tyson would not fight.

Young estimated he would lose about \$1.4 million if the fight didn't come off. ♦

Women's basketball to play on Saturday



File Photo

Middle Tennessee sophomore guard Patrice Holmes is expected to start Saturday afternoon against Florida International at 2 p.m. Holmes was honored the 2002 Sun Belt Freshman of the Year. Also, she is the only Lady Raider to start in every game last season. The Lady Raiders are one game away from second place in the Sun Belt Conference regular season race.



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