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STUDENT SURVEY

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ONLINE

How do you feel about Al Gore becoming a MTSU professor?

INSIDE: Gore could have huge impact on MTSU community

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An editorially independent newspaper

SIDELINES

Middle Tennessee State University

MURFREESBORO, TENNESSEE

Volume 76 No. 46

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Introducing MTSU Professor Gore

Former VP on campus today to plan new class on community building

"And it's going to be good for Al to hear from students who are working at Pizza Hut, who are working at other jobs to make ends meet, who have their own ideas about how they want their lives to be."

- Bart Gordon
U.S. Representative

By Turner Hutchens
Features Editor

Former vice president Al Gore said last week that he intends to come to MTSU as a teacher next year.

Gore, accompanied by Secret Service agents, will be on campus today. He will meet with MTSU officials to discuss plans for his professorship.

"That's when we'll hopefully iron out the details," said Doug Williams, director of MTSU News and Public Affairs.

In addition to MTSU, Gore plans to teach at Fisk University in Nashville and Columbia University in New York.

The MTSU course, as well as the Fisk course, will be on the subject of community building.



Gore

"I've always wanted to try teaching," Gore told reporters last week, "and I'm particularly excited about teaching these

courses on community building because it's something new and to me it's very exciting."

"There will likely be involvement with students, on everything from families to the homeless," Williams said. "It will be dealing with what makes strong communities." He added that nothing is certain yet.

One possibility is that Gore will assume the John Seigenthaler Chair of Excellence in First Amendment Studies. Gore plans to teach a seminar on news and media in public policy at the Columbia Graduate School of Journalism during the current semester.

"It wasn't hard to convince him at all," said U.S. Rep. Bart Gordon, who was instrumental in convincing Gore to come to

MTSU.

"His father was an alumnus, and his official papers are there at the Gore Center," Gordon said. "It was just a matter of laying out to Al that MTSU would be very happy to have him."

"He was well aware of MTSU, as his father went here, and it is the largest college in what was his district as a senator."

"His first preference is the presidency, then to be a teacher and a journalist," Gordon said of the former vice president. "He'll be a hog in sloop down there."

Gordon said that while Gore's prominence would give a great boost to MTSU's image, he will also have much to offer the school as a hands-on teacher.

"In Al's case, he will be very engaged in developing the curriculum," said Gordon. "A lot of times with big names there will be someone, a ghost writer, who writes their books for them and their speeches. Al has written every word of his books himself, and most of his speeches."

Gordon said that the learning experience would likely be a double-edged sword.

"It's going to be good for the students to interact with him, as a person who has been at the world and been at the seat of power for, really, the last decade," Gordon explained.

"And it's going to be good for Al to hear from students who are working at Pizza Hut, who

See Gore, 3

Lending a helping hammer



Photo by Kristy Dalrymple | Staff

Staff members from the MTSU Student Affairs Office put hammer to nail while beginning work on the latest Habitat for Humanity project Thursday. The house is located on Bridge Avenue in Murfreesboro.

MTSU community sponsors Habitat for Humanity house

By Lisa Thomason
Staff Writer

MTSU students, faculty and staff are volunteering their time and energy to build a Habitat for Humanity House for a Murfreesboro family.

The Habitat for Humanity program builds houses for families who might not otherwise be able to afford a home.

The program has been in Rutherford County since 1982 and has built 32 houses in that time, said Habitat for Humanity representative P.J. Almon.

Every home is titled with the name of its particular sponsor. The MTSU house marks the first time a school has built a house in Rutherford County.

"We're really excited about having MTSU involved," Almon said.

According to Debra Sells, dean of Academic Support Programs and director of Housing and Residential

Life, the idea for the MTSU house was developed by Bob Glenn, vice president for Student Affairs.

Construction on the house, located on Bridge Avenue, began Jan. 25 by members of the Student Affairs division. On Saturday, members of the Chi Omega sorority along with Student Affairs staff helped erect another wall for the house. Barring bad weather, construction will take place every Saturday, and the home should be completed by the end of June.

No skills are necessary to become a volunteer with the program.

Instruction occurs on site, yet Almon said that the houses are "typically better built than those built by people who do it for a living; everyone is more cautious."

Almon explained that families must apply to receive a Habitat house by completing forms similar to a credit application. Family income must fall

within a specific range based on the family's size and composition. The family must be able to make interest-free mortgage payments on its home, but there is also a maximum income level that cannot be exceeded.

Beneficiaries must also build up "sweat equity," hours spent volunteering on the actual construction of the house. Almon said that Habitat is "a charity program, yet people have to demonstrate they can manage a budget and have some control over their situation."

The Habitat for Humanity program is financed through donations from contractors, local businesses and other charities, as well as through the repaid mortgages of its beneficiaries.

"Every time [a family] pays their mortgage, they help pay for another house to go up," Almon said. "It kind of feeds on itself."

Organizations interested in working

on the house can sign up to volunteer by contacting Maggie Prugh, the coordinator of Student Development and head of Student Organizations and Community Service. Her office is located in Keathley University Center, Room 306.

Sells commented that while most of the January and February dates are filled, volunteers are still needed to work Saturdays in March, April, May and June.

"Organizations need a minimum group of six, or at the most 10," Sells said. "If they have fewer than six, they will need to double up with another organization."

Habitat's goal is to build five houses a year in the Rutherford County area. The five houses currently planned will all be built at the Bridge Avenue location. For more information about the Habitat for Humanity program, call 890-5877. ♦

Police nab suspected dormitory burglars

By Matthew Kelly
Police Reporter

MTSU police arrested two students Thursday for their alleged involvement in a November dorm burglary in which nearly \$4,500 worth of property was stolen.

The arrests culminate a months-long investigation, bringing the total number of suspects now charged in connection with the incident to four.

Christopher G. Martin, 21, of 4414 Woodmore Place in Chattanooga, Tenn., and Michael D. White, 22, of 2709 Citico Ave. in Chattanooga, Tenn., were each charged Thursday with two counts of aggravated burglary.

The arrests followed a search of the Nicks Hall room shared by both individuals. Electronic equipment was found that matched both the make and model number of items taken in the burglary, according to MTSU Police Lt. Darrell Collins.

Police did have a search warrant, Collins added, but White gave officers permission to search the room.

White was arrested subsequent to the search. Martin turned himself in to the Rutherford County Sheriff's Office later that day.

The Nov. 18, 2000, burglary to another Nicks Hall dorm room resulted in \$4,455 worth of property being stolen. Among the items taken were a 25-inch television, a VCR, a portable telephone, a Compaq computer system, a stereo receiver and a Sony PlayStation.

Two individuals were previously arrested in connection with the burglary, according to Collins.

"A Crime Stoppers tip came in, and out of that two arrests were made," Collins said. "One was a female student. The other was a male non-student."

Rachel Baldwin, 18, of 814 Shady Bluff Trail in Clarksville,

See Burglars, 3

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CAMPUS BRIEFS

Compiled By Pam Hudgens - Assistant News Editor



Photo by Matthew Kelly | Staff

A fire Saturday night at Gentleman Jim's Bar & Grill on East Main Street adjacent to campus, caused an estimated \$60,000 to \$80,000 worth of damage, according to owner Jim Baldwin. He hopes to re-open the bar in three to six months. No one was injured in the blaze. Fire officials are still investigating the cause of the fire.

Staff member joins Geier implementation project

Wendy Thompson, formerly university counsel and assistant to the president at MTSU, has joined the Tennessee Board of Regents central office staff as special assistant to the Chancellor for Geier implementation. This position was mandated by a stipulation of settlement in the Geier lawsuit. Thompson will be on a leave of absence from MTSU for the duration of the Geier project. Thompson holds a degree as Juris Doctor from the University of Cincinnati and is a member of the bar in Florida and Tennessee. ♦

Stones River Chamber Players to perform

The Stones River Chamber Players, MTSU's ensemble-in-residence, will present its first concert of the year Feb. 4 at 3 p.m. in the music hall of the Wright Music

Building. The concert will feature MTSU School of Music faculty members Stefan Petrescu on violin, Benjamin Shapira on cello, Todd Waldecker on clarinet, Eric Applegate on double bass, Jerry Perkins on piano and vocalist Stephen Smith. The ensemble will include works by 20th century composers Arthur Foote, Morton Gould and Paul Shoenfield as well as "Trio in B-flat Major" by Beethoven and two Neapolitan songs. The concert is free and open to the public. For more information, call Tim Musselman at 898-2493. ♦

Professor receives national certification

Robert Blair recently earned the highest professional credential in the field of teaching — National Board Certification for the 1999-2000 school year by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. He was the only teacher from Middle Tennessee to receive such a distinction for that year. This year 12 more teachers in Tennessee received the certification, bringing the total NBPTS-certified teachers in the state to 35.

There are only 9,524 such certified teachers in the United States. The certification is a voluntary process achieved through a rigorous performance-based assessment that can take as long as a year to complete. In Blair's case, it took more than 200 hours of concentrated work from beginning to end. ♦

Gospel Music Extravaganza on the way

Recording artist Lorraine Morris-Brown will perform at the Gospel Music Extravaganza Feb. 3 at 7 p.m. in Tucker Theatre. The event is sponsored by the local chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity and is part of African-American History Month. William Richardson will accompany Morris-Brown on piano, and individuals from Rutherford County and surrounding areas will also perform. Morris-Brown performed at the 23rd Annual Dove Awards and sang at the Alabama Music Hall of Fame Awards in 1997. The extravaganza is free and open to the public. ♦

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Online university provides unconventional learning

By Lindsey Turner
Staff Writer

The Age of Convenience is well upon us. People buy, sell and trade online and through the mail every day. But what if one could earn a degree from a university that existed entirely on the Internet?

The United States Open University is making this a possibility. Much like MTSU's distance learning program, the USOU offers college credit that can be earned via the Internet and mail.

In addition to offering credit, the university currently offers 11 degrees on both the graduate and undergraduate level.

The USOU is the "sister institution" of the Open University in the United Kingdom. Founded in 1971, the Open University has become the United Kingdom's largest university with an enrollment of over 200,000 students.

OU was specifically designed to cater to older, working students. In fact, two-thirds of students are between the ages of 25 and 44, and nearly all OU students maintain a full-time employment status throughout their academic careers.

With those demographics in mind, the USOU was established to meet the needs of working adults in America.

The USOU operates very similarly to any other university. It has academic policies, grading scale, late-submission rules and many more things charac-

"The ability to study at a time that is convenient for the individual is a big plus, especially for me since I have three young children. I am able to get the education I have always wanted without sacrificing time with my family."

Lori Hughes - student

teristic of most other universities.

Despite existing entirely online, the university insists that it is committed to high academic quality. To ensure this, each degree program has a Program Board of Studies that evaluates course materials and determines their validity and necessity to the course. The university also encourages students to provide feedback about any concerns they may have over the course of their enrollment.

Currently, USOU offers a somewhat smaller selection of courses than the United Kingdom's Open University, with new courses and degrees being introduced into the catalog each semester. However, the concept of an online university is catching on fast here in the states.

For most students, it is convenience that makes the USOU so appealing.

"The ability to study at a time that is convenient for the individual is a big plus, especially for me since I have three young children," said Lori

Hughes, a student. "I am able to get the education I have always wanted without sacrificing time with my family."

For students in the United Kingdom, extremely lenient admissions requirements made the OU an attractive option. The USOU's admissions policy isn't quite as lenient, but nevertheless operates on an equal opportunities premise that admits those who are serious about succeeding both in academia and life.

Once enrolled, the student receives all course materials in the mail. Each course combines a variety of learning materials such as CD-ROMs, audio and videotapes, textbooks and software.

In addition to manual study aids, students will receive passwords to course Web pages on the Internet. From those pages, students can obtain assignment calendars, structured study timetables and access to their classmates and personal associate faculty member.

The personal associate faculty member is much like an

adviser. They are teaching experts who provide guidance, support and feedback throughout the term, and can be contacted by phone, e-mail or computer conferencing.

The student is responsible for studying on his or her own time and then completing assignments via e-mail. The personal faculty member reviews the work and provides feedback and a traditional grade.

Examinations are periodically given, and it is necessary that they be monitored. Usually, a site near the student's home or place of work is chosen for the exam, and a faculty member of another university acts as a proctor.

Unfortunately for some students, transferring credit from the USOU to another university may be a problem. The USOU has not yet been accredited, and many universities are reluctant to accept credit from non-accredited universities.

However, the USOU is a candidate for accreditation. According to the Middle States Association, "Candidacy for accreditation is a status of affiliation with a regional accrediting commission which indicates that an institution has achieved recognition and is progressing toward, but is not assured of, accreditation."

The status of USOU's accreditation or any other information can be obtained by visiting the university's Web site at www.open.edu.

Gore: Prepares for class

Continued from 1

make ends meet, who have their own ideas about how they want their lives to be."

While there has been some discussion of Gore teaching at Vanderbilt University, where he graduated with a bachelor's degree in journalism, it appears that will not be the case in the foreseeable future.

Vanderbilt spokeswoman Beth Fortune said that though there were no plans for Gore to teach there, he would be wel-

come to do so if he were so inclined.

As for the future of Gore as a political figure rather than an academic figure, the future is still uncertain.

"I'm not considering anything political right now, but I haven't ruled out thinking about such things later on," Gore has told reporters. "The only decision I've made about politics is not to make a decision until I've had more time for reflection and rest." ♦

Burglars: Students facing aggravated burglary charges

Continued from 1

Tenn., and Gary E. "Nutt" Alexander Jr., 21, of 112 Greenwood Lane in Oak Ridge, Tenn., were both arrested in December.

Baldwin is charged with one count of misdemeanor theft and one count of felony theft. Alexander faces two counts of aggravated burglary and a charge of criminal impersonation.

An ongoing investigation led police to develop Martin and White as additional suspects, Collins said.

So far \$3,000 worth of property has been recovered. Collins believes it is unlikely that the remaining property will be found, because the items may have already been sold to pawn shops or disposed of by other means.

In addition to their arrests, both Martin and White face the possibility of university sanctions.

"The resulting action could be a temporary or permanent removal (from the university)," said Gene Fitch, associate dean of Student Life. "Minimally I would think they would be looking at being removed from campus housing."

The university always looks at the individual circumstances surrounding a situation, and this case will be no different, Fitch said.

"It doesn't make sense to leave someone on campus who is stealing from other students," Fitch added.

Martin and White are both due to appear in Rutherford County General Sessions Court March 7. Alexander is scheduled to appear before the same court April 4.

Baldwin had her first court appearance last Wednesday, but court officials were unable to advise about the outcome of her hearing at press time. ♦

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OPINIONS

4 ♦ SIDELINES

Monday, January 29, 2001

Murfreesboro, TN

From the staff

Gore could have huge impact on MTSU community

Well, unless you've been under a rock, we're sure you know that Al Gore will be here this week to discuss a possible teaching position.

Everyone seems to be excited about having a prominent public figure come to teach on our campus.

It's definitely going to bring more attention to the university.

More importantly, Gore's presence on campus will give students a chance to see him as a "real" person, not just an image.

Students may have the opportunity to express how they feel about various issues to the man who, one day, may be president.

MTSU is always pushing toward community building and making the campus more like a real community rather than just a place where we all come to get an education.

With Gore-teaching a community building class, students may be more willing to get involved on campus and within the Murfreesboro community.

Most of the campus organizations are involved in community service projects throughout each semester.

Having Gore teach community building can add another dimension to what they're doing.

He could provide students with tools needed to effectively build community on campus, Murfreesboro and their own hometowns.

What some of us may be wondering about though, is exactly how much access we will have to the man who was almost the president of the United States.

Will he be wizzed to class surrounded by the Secret Service and wizzed right back out?

Or, will students actually have a chance to talk to him.

What about those of us who can't take his class? Will we be given the opportunity to interact with him? Who knows?

Although there are many specific details that we have no clue about, it's probably safe to say, that if used effectively, Gore will make a huge impact on the MTSU community of MTSU.

Just drop out already

Having pressed through no less than 13 years of study in Tennessee's public schools and making it through three semesters in our state's public universities, I have stumbled upon yet another rationalization for my slacker's attitude toward my education.

I suppose that the government wants to give me the best education possible for a reasonable amount of money. I suppose I want to receive the best education possible for a reasonable amount of effort. Far be it from me to make the government feel bad because it didn't provide a challenging learning environment where a student feels compelled to excel.

Sure, I suppose I could have worked too hard, and I would have learned too much, and our adequate public institutions would have to tell me to look elsewhere for further education. Let's not delude ourselves, this is not Harvard, and I won't act like it is.

"Book smarts" seem useless in the real world.

I know its job experience and talent that will get me a job after graduation. I'll surely gain more skill while

Bathroom Stall Graffiti

Nick Fowler



Staff Columnist

on the job than I'll ever learn in college.

Quite frankly, I'm not even sure why I'm still in college. I can't even figure out why everyone else is here. Surely, you people have better things to do. I get up every morning and go to class with other students who don't want to be there. We only know we are in class studying some supposed important theory on this or that, which no one feels is of any relevance. The students study it because it is required of the university. I'm sure the professor only studied it because he must teach it to us.

It all seems rather circular and senseless. So says the slacker inside my mind.

I realize the faulty logic of the argument, but it is nonetheless compelling. Why not quit?

It seems college is the thing to do. We show up for four years, they give us a degree and a job. We make money and spend it on pretty things we don't need and prop up the empty economy for a few more years.

I could hope for education reform that will create an education system where individuals value secular knowledge and are eager to give back to the community after they have completed their education. But let's not be silly. We'll continue being resentful that we have to take courses that do not directly relate to our majors.

Perhaps we should quit. You should all come with me. We'll call it a revolt against ancient institutions, which would have our money and spirit.

We'll call it quits and go out into the real world.

Oh dear I, if we go out into the real world, we have to get real jobs. Never mind then, back to my studies. I'll give just enough effort and learn just enough. Seems fair enough. ♦

Y2K was the year of the butterfly

Ahh, Y2K. It was the year of the butterfly. A year filled with the typical controversies of popular culture. But there was so much more behind the scenes that most people didn't know about. And for those who missed a week, a month, or maybe even the whole year due to a spontaneous comatose illness, I figured I'd lend a hand in your memory recovery.

[Warning: do not be fooled by writer's kind demeanor. For his real purpose is to poke fun, denounce the current state of government, and demonstrate his otherwise jaded sense of perspective.]

Where was I, oh yes, your recovery. We began the year off very nobly. By nobly, I mean sunk to new lows. It was actually about six months before Jan. 1, Y2K.

There was a secret meeting of media giants in Geneva. The players: Various minds from around the world, the heads of all major news services, along with the CEOs of AOL, the head of the CIA, and, of course, Oprah Winfrey. The plan: to fuel the economy with a master marketing scheme that could be traced to no one, but would make everyone rich. After days of arguments, a smaller but much cuter participant made a suggestion that would change the world.

Frankly My Dear

David Sargent



Staff Columnist

The suggestion: to market time itself. The savior: Macaulay Culkin. Yes, the same boy from the movie *Home Alone* that delighted audiences around the world. The catchword "Y2K" was agreed on. Then the CIA suggested the scheme should center around a mythical computer virus appropriately named the "Y2K Bug."

The idea was to create mass hysteria which would cause millions to spend needless dollars on pointless Y2K-proof products. This would supposedly prevent such disasters as all the world's vacuum cleaners rising up and attacking their owners on Jan. 1.

What, you don't believe me? I'm pretty sure it happened just like that, though. Fine, I'll move on.

News in the entertainment industry included successful album releases by obscure artists like Kid Rock, Limp

Bizkit, the Backstreet Boys and Lit. Once again, proof that lack of artistic integrity, self-respect and thought still sell after all these years.

We also saw the further advancement and growth of the information frontier. The Internet grew wildly, offering infinite ways to find virtually anything thinkable (yes, even the perfect mullet).

And, of course, we ended up the year witnessing a most horrible tragedy. The first male in recorded history was impregnated. The gentleman's name is Chad. The conniving culprit was a retired shuffleboardist from Florida named Mel. Mel's only defense was that he was under the influence of Metamucil at the time, but the country will never forgive him for his devious deed on Nov. 7.

Though many still mourned for the paper-thin Chad, it was soon time for the commercial favorite, Christmas, and all was forgotten.

But the most important and splendid event of the year, and the last thousand years for that matter, was the introduction of the new millennium. However, the event was approached with such reverence that no one dared defame it as much as the least important event of the millennium, Y2K. ♦

SIDELINES

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Letters to the Editor

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Scribbling Mob makes women look small-minded

I have to make a comment on the publication that was put out on campus recently — all done by women. I just want to say a few things here... I hope men don't think that all women think that way. Some of the poems and stories were just as bad about men as a sexist slur about women can be. Also, paying too close attention to barriers, such as racism or gender bias, can only make those barriers bigger and stronger. I think that publications such as that one are making women everywhere look really small minded, and I wish those women who worked on that publication would try for once to think about how they feel and why they feel that way — maybe they need counseling.

K. Christensen
not a feminist

Publication provides different perspectives

Dear Editor,

As I opened a copy of *Sidelines* while quickly shuffling to class, I happened to glimpse an editorial concerning *Scribbling Mob*. After reading the poorly written editorial, I was outraged. This individual's view is both badly justified with phrases such as "just plain perverted" and highly distorted. *Scribbling Mob* is an outlet for both men and women to express themselves through art and literature containing feminist themes. A dictionary definition of "perverted" is "corrupt." I fail to see the corruption that lies within the pages of this publication. I might also mention that the assistant editor is a male, adding male perspective and influence. Taxpayers' money is going toward a publication that offers an outlet of self-expression for students and a fresh perspective on our campus. A part of college is being exposed to new ideas and perspectives. *Scribbling Mob* is a unique and enriching publication, and I'm certain it will continue to be published at MTSU for years to come!

Callie Butler

Scribbling Mob is not perverted

Letter to the Editor

On the MTSU campus there are only two literary magazines, *Scribbling Mob* and *Collage*. For a student body of 17,000, that's a little slim. Now, I'll be the first to admit that *Scribbling Mob* has had its problems, yet it is a magazine that has published some beautiful, important and thought-provoking work. If you don't appreciate it — don't read it. Before you call a literary magazine perverse, why don't you learn how to write first, and learn an adjective besides "perverted." By the way, the co-editor of *Scribbling Mob* is a man.

Sincerely annoyed by ignorance,
Maya Nitis

Thanks to Moore for new outlook

To the Editor,

I'm writing in response to the letter "Don't Dis The Music," a letter to the Editor concerning a piece on an interview that included myself (Wednesday, Jan. 17 "Sex and Salutes with Slack") and the two other rock stars in my musical group.

I would just like to say to J. Moore, I am a fellow major rock fanatic and can't help but openly cringe when one genre act starts "dissing" on another. Your earnest criticisms were at first perplexing, but after some much-needed reflection I have re-evaluated my role in this musical society. In fact, I've already begun "giving props" to those groups I would normally scoff at.

In the meantime while I'm worrying about being a real ROCK STAR, I'll be sure to look into the "if you wanna be a real musician, be one" philosophy. I know it might sound cliché, but it really is starting to mean something to me now that I've heard it a hundred times everywhere I go. It might as well be on the radio.

In closing, I'd like to thank *Sidelines* for our little piece and J. Moore for taking the time out of the day to make me and everyone else think a little bit more.

Sincerely,
Chris Spoltore
rein01a9@frank.mtsu.edu

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INTERESTS

Murfreesboro, TN

Monday, January 29, 2001

SIDELINES ♦ 5

Artist takes another look at our perceptions

By Nathalie Mornu
Staff Writer

Frogs, fish and butterflies. One might guess that Marta Slaughter is majoring in biology. In reality, the art major uses these as motifs in her paintings.

The senior has a solo exhibit of about a half dozen paintings opening tomorrow at 4:15 p.m. in the Cube Gallery, on the second floor of the Keathley University Center. The show, named "All In a Row," will run through Friday, Feb. 9.

Much of Slaughter's work explores the ephemeral quality of remembering.

"It's about memory," she says. "How it can be filtered over time. It's hazy."

Remembering, Slaughter says, can bring about false perceptions of both reality and identity. Memory can be altered to become unrecognizable.

"What interests me about memory is how it can be distorted. There are so many facets to remembering. Memories never clear."

Along with other art students, Slaughter paints in a cramped space in the ROTC Annex. Her area, lit by a fluorescent light, is jam-packed with canvases finished and not finished, little figures she has sculpted, altered transparencies and equipment she uses to create her art.

Slaughter points to specific canvases to show some of the techniques she uses to convey or provoke memories.

In one, she's made a transparency of a frame, which is a beach

scene, from a home movie and projected it, enlarged, onto a canvas. After tracing out the scene, she paints it, but it has blurred so much due to the enlarging that identifying the image is difficult.

In several other paintings, she's used a Pepto-Bismol hue that is reminiscent of bubble gum, candy and childhood. She's also, at times, used chalkboard paint, to invoke the memory of days spent at school.

The frog motif, Slaughter explains, derives from Kermit on Sesame Street. The frog image satisfies her, because it is an animal with human characteristics.

Many of her paintings also include people. She uses 1950s-style illustrations and old photos to evoke a nostalgic feeling.

"Lately," she adds, "I've been taking photographs from family albums and using them in paintings."

Along with memory, Slaughter explores religion, family and relationships in some of her work.

She also has a deep interest in cultural identity. In one painting, the left half is layered with black and spots of white. The other side is an exquisitely rendered portrait of two young Vietnamese girls with inscrutable expressions. The children were neighbors of Slaughter's.

"It's like a homogenization of cultures," Slaughter says, recalling a visit to their house.

Sitting beside a statue of Buddha, the girls played with a Santa Claus doll. The girls' impenetrable faces suggest ambiguity, some mystery for the viewer to solve.

Slaughter gives few direct explanations of her work.

"I like my paintings to be not so overt," she says. "I think subtlety can be a good thing."

"I'd like the viewer to come away with their own meaning," she adds. "I can suggest form and color, but they bring to it their own memories and their own experiences, and that ends up mixed with what they see."

Slaughter visited the Philippines, her mother's native land, about a year ago. The city of Manila inspired perhaps her most unusual canvas.

"It's like everybody lives on top of each other," she says. "It made me think more about population and children. It was just too much."

Her contemplations resulted in a canvas covered in small piles of dried anchovy heads, affixed to the canvas by wax colored with earth-toned pigments. The fish represent Slaughter's connection to her mother, whose traditional diet is high in seafood.

She uses wax for the texture it creates, and because it glazes over and visually softens the paintings beneath it.

"Wax is tied to preservation, but at the same time it glosses and adds many layers," she adds.

Waxing philosophically and poetically in her artist statement on the exhibit, Slaughter writes, "Memories are vignettes...they are just sliced snippets of distanced time and space...this cloudy dialogue of the mind can bring about filtered perceptions of both reality and identity." ♦

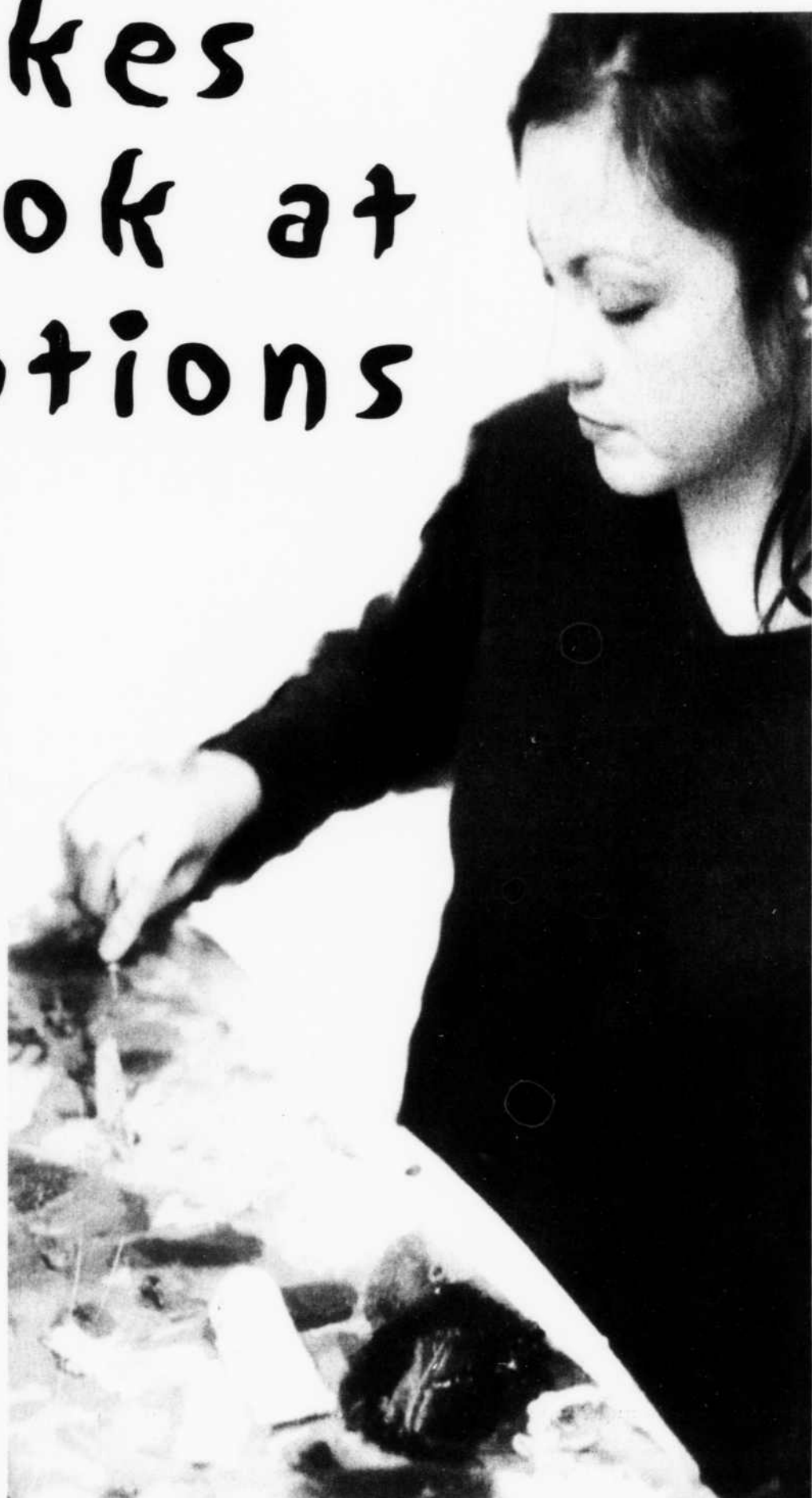


Photo by Jenny Cordle | Staff Photographer

Marta Slaughter removes unwanted paint off the board she uses as a palette. The paint hasn't yet dried, so she can scrape the glob with a palette knife

Wonder Boys light up the screen

By Keith Ryan
Cartwright
Staff Writer

Often times, a novel doesn't translate well onto a Hollywood movie screen. *Wonder Boys*, however, transcends that notion - in spite of the high-profile presence of Michael Douglas.

Known for the unforgiving yuppie he plays in blockbuster hits like *Fatal Attraction* and *Wall Street*, Douglas sheds the Armani suits of past characters for a more stripped down character study in *Wonder Boys*.

An unbridled contender for this year's Oscar, the story of *Wonder Boys* works for one reason. It goes a long way in showing just how complex relationships can be.

As Graddy Tripp, a college English professor suffering from writers' block, there are a few underlying parallels to Douglas' past characters. Tripp is having an affair with the college chancellor, Sara, played by Frances McDormand, and she becomes pregnant.

Adding to the dilemma, is the fact that Sara is the wife of Walter Gaskell, head of the English Department.

There's also the subplot in which Hannah (Katie Holmes), an undergraduate student in one of Tripp's classes, has an insatiable crush on Tripp.

Tobey McGuire's portrayal of James Leer, whose infatuation with

celebrity death leads to more fiction than non-fiction, has raised his own acting stock.

Wonder Boys is one of two Douglas driven movies expected to receive a nomination later this month, *Traffic* obviously being the other.

But, at the time of *Wonder Boys*' initial release in theaters, much of Hollywood was brimming about the performance of Robert Downey Jr., who just last week received a Golden Globe for his work on the television drama *Ally McBeal*. At the time, Downey had just been sentenced to prison for repeatedly violating his parole.

Ironically, Downey, who received an early release last November, may find himself back behind bars before the Academy Awards and unable to celebrate what could very well be his best performance since Chaplin.

Although *Wonder Boys* is likely to receive a nomination for Best Picture, realistically speaking, it has a better chance at taking home the Oscar with "Traffic," "Gladiator" and "Erin Brochovich" as the front-runners.

Nevertheless, *Wonder Boys* - director Curtis Hanson's first film since his Oscar winning *L.A. Confidential* - is a must see, especially considering the KUC Theater only charges \$2 for admission. Dollar for dollar, this could very well be the best buy of the semester. Especially when it's compared to farces like *The Ladies Man* and *Little Nicky*. ♦



Photo Provided

Students get an edge on business

by Jamie Lawwell
Staff Writer

Finding a job is a common concern for college students nearing graduation. Some find that building a resume with eye-catching experience can be a challenge when time has been reduced by a balancing act between work and classes.

Now, at MTSU, a group of Public Relations students have decided to embrace this challenge and change that. Several students in the College of Mass Communication have established a student-run public relations firm to provide others with the chance to get the edge on their peers who will be competing in the same job market.

The firm, EDGEway Communications, was developed by five dedicated students who were looking to further their experience in public relations beyond what internship opportunities could provide.

"It was something that had interested me since I first heard about the opportunity in the fall of '99 at a public relations conference in California," says J. Brooks Christol, president.

Other colleges, such as Brigham Young University and Florida International, already had established student-run firms comprised of more than 60 members each.

After learning about this new opportunity, Christol brought the idea back to MTSU and began recruiting other public relations students to participate.

"The birth of the firm came about in what some would consider an unusual way," says Christol. "We were approached by a fellow student who had started a magazine and needed some promotional work done. At hearing his request, we all realized that it was the right time to initiate this firm idea."

That is exactly what the group did. The five students developed EDGEway Communications in March 1999, while sitting at a table in MTSU's Woodmore Cyber Café. They estab-

lished the name based on their parent organization, Public Relations Student Society of America's (PRSSA), newly acquired motto. They also developed a mission statement, motto, bylaws and other agency criteria needed to become a solid organization.

Soon after, the group began planning for their client, Music & Ministry Magazine.

"Many questioned whether or not MTSU and the PRSSA chapter were strong enough to support a student-run firm," says Christol.

Despite the doubts, the group worked hard and established the first student-run public relations firm to be affiliated with MTSU.

For example, the firm is working with Best Business.Net, a web page design company in Nashville, to raise public awareness for the company and enhance media relations.

"Our purpose is to offer clients the fresh ideas that we have and the energy to implement those ideas," explains Jamie Lawwell, senior vice president.

"EDGEway Communications has been an integral part of making Best Business.Net an effective web design and computer sales company," says J. Bernard Sheffield, Best Business.Net's CEO. "They have developed our press releases, press kits, and marketing strategies which has enabled us to gain a greater market share in a short amount of time."

"Not only do the clients benefit from our services, but we learn more about the industry that we work for as well," Lawwell explains.

Students who become partners not only add experience to their resumes, but are given the opportunity to work with diverse clients and establish a network of peers and professionals who will be able to help them in career choices.

"The networking possibilities are exciting. The partners in the firm can form relationships with their future employers, and it gives them the opportunity to show off skills sometimes not possible in an internship,"

Christol says with a smile.

Through the firm's working relationship with clients such as the United Way of Bedford County and the United Way of Rutherford County, the account managers have established additional relationships with numerous agencies and organizations that both United Way agencies fund.

Because managers must first be members of PRSSA, they too can benefit from the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA), the parent chapter which offers mentoring opportunities and guidance when needed.

EDGEway Communications is counseled by an advisory board comprised of professionals from the Nashville area, so members of the firm can benefit from relationships established with nationally known agencies such as: Katcher Vaughn and Bailey, Dye Can Mol & Lawrence and Gaylord Entertainment, among others.

"We are grateful for the guidance," explains Christol. "Despite our ambition, we are still aware that we are students and we will make mistakes."

Becoming a partner in the firm allows each member to learn from success and failure as a team. It forms unity and produces a team working environment for members to be creative, excel and learn from each other when things go wrong.

"It allows me to express my creativity and learn from my failures," says Mike Koentop an account manager. "Many internships only let students get a taste of the business without the fear of failure."

Christol says, "EDGEway is just like jumping into the pool and touching the bottom. We provide the creativity and implementation."

This creativity has been very successful in working with Micheal Thompson, CEO of Music & Ministry magazine. The firm was asked by Thompson to design and plan a promotional event for the release of Music & Ministry's premiere issue.

See EDGEway, 6

Student Activities

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ON CAMPUS

Compiled By Leslie Fike - Assistant Copy Editor

Monday, January 29

The MTSU fencing club (www.mtsu.edu/~fencing) practices every Wednesday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Basketball court No. 6 in the Rec. Center. The practices are geared to students of all skill levels. For information, contact Stuart Bernstein at 898-5998 or e-mail at sbernist@mtsu.edu.

The KUC Cube Gallery exhibits paintings and sculptures by Martha Slaughter through Feb. 9.

The Spring 2001 Honors Lecture Series "Careers" is in Peck Hall 109A at 3 p.m. The speaker is Dr. Henry Butler, physician. For information, contact the Honors College at 898-2152.

Wednesday, January 31

The Business Professionals of America Competitive Events are in the KUC Theatre at 8 a.m. For information, contact Vincent Smith at 898-2192.

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Call 898-2193 for more information

EDGEway: Working it

Continued from 1

"The firm was extremely excited to take me on as their first client and was happy to help begin the necessary planning. I was excited to see the magazine promoted at Public Relations Night last spring semester," says Thompson.

Along with *Music & Ministry Magazine*, the firm has many potential clients on the spring agenda.

According to Christol, the firm has taken on six clients for the 2000-2001 school year.

"The future is very exciting for the current members of EDGEway Communications," stresses Christol.

Account manager, Jennifer Koontop explains, "So far everything has gotten off to a great start, but with the growing number of clients we need more students to join the team."

The firm is looking forward to working with existing and potential clients throughout the year such as, *Music & Ministry Magazine*, Hardin Sponsorship, May Praise, United Way of Bedford County, United Way of Rutherford County and the Humane Alliance.

"We extend partnership to other areas within the university, especially advertising and RIM majors," boasts Christol.

EDGEway members believe opening the firm to all students will create a well-rounded experience for everyone. Being a part of the

firm can open windows of opportunity and give individuals the experience needed to obtain the edge before entering the work place.

Teresa Mastin, assistant professor in the school of Journalism at MTSU and PRSSA adviser, agrees that EDGEway is important for several reasons.

"First, it gives students real-world experience, which will place them steps ahead of other entry-level candidates when they enter the job market. Second, and perhaps most importantly it shows that the students who become involved with the firm have the type of initiative it takes to become a successful communications professional."

With this in mind, the eight current EDGEway Communications members continue to embrace the outside world to gain experience.

"Like other students, we work, have families, and deadlines to meet with classes. However, we just keep reaching for the edge in hope that our efforts will make a difference for the clients that we serve and provide us with the experience needed before entering the job force after college," says Lawwell.

The students feel the experience of the firm is leading them in the right direction and preparing them for life after graduation.

For more information on joining PRSSA and EDGEway Communications, contact President J. Brooks Christol at jbc2c@mtsu.edu or Senior Vice President Jamie Lawwell at jlawwell@bellsouth.net. ♦

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for an appointment beginning in February 2001 and ending in December 2001

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SPORTS

Ghosts of New England haunt Murphy Center

View
from
the Top

Michael Edwards

Commentary

No one went home the same. It was a battle for supremacy.

It was the battle of the sororities Thursday night in the Murphy Center, during the halftime of the Lady Raiders' basketball game against Louisiana Tech.

What looked at first to be a token event to get students to come to games, quickly turned into simply the most exciting

thing to happen in that building since I saw the American Gladiators there on my 10th birthday. "Ice" didn't show up, but there was no lack of competition.

In a relay race, the sororities dribbled to one end of the court and back, tagging the next competitor when returning to their line. The winner was forced to complete the incomprehensible task of making not one but two lay-ups, one on each end of the floor.

One turned out to be a Chi Omega rout, which quickly changed as Kappa Delta was on hot pursuit of the leaders. The tension mounted, and fans began picking their winners, and placing their bets. Just kidding, NCAA, no one was gambling on this. Or were they?

One player after another

began to set into their pace after about thirty feet from the starting line. Delta Zeta and Alpha Omicron Pi got their second wind too early in the race, at about the first foul line, and fell out of the lead lap quickly. They brought up the rear.

Chi Omega maintained a large lead, but the Kappas began to close the gap even more than they had before.

There's a rumor that they hired a former East German swimmer who goes by the name Helga. The NCAA is investigating. With four laps left, the Chi Omega lead had been cut to about 15 feet, and dwindling quickly.

Meanwhile, like a snake in the grass, Alpha Delta Pi or Alpha Data Pi as the Murphy Center announcer said, lurked from third place.

With three laps left, the Kappa deficit was down to about 10 feet. After tagging a new runner, the Kappa Delta runner was literally on the heels of the Chi Omega runner.

As they neared the turn, the Kappa began to stumble and no! Could it? No. The ball bounced off the leg of the Kappa Delta runner and off the court giving the Chi Omega squad the lead.

But wait! The Alpha Delta Pi team passed the Kappas also. Kappa Delta fell to third, just ahead of the other two squads who were comfortably into their respective last place trots.

Onward, the Chi Omega's confident anchor runner, Beth Parsley put on cruise control and made the final lay-up winning the \$250, which is going to their favorite charity, Up 'Til

Dawn.

Alpha Delta Pi placed, and Kappa Delta with the Bucknerish choke finished a disappointing third.

"I was just nervous," Parsley said with the glow of a champion, as she stood proudly before her team.

The Chi Omega confidently mentioned they had just found out about the event the previous day, and had no time to train.

Luckily, their squad had already gelled from intramural basketball season, and had the chemistry, which propelled them to victory.

The edge Parsley said went to them because the other girls were in jeans, which is what the girl who lost the game for the Kappa Delta was wearing.

Chi Omega member Shelley

Andersen boasted, "We thought we'd just win the money and leave."

The winning team consisted of members Jensen Overton, Jess Williams, CJ Collett, Britney Denny, Britney Campbell, Michele Harper, Andersen, and of course, Parsley.

Summing up the sororities' performances, interim athletic director Boots "slippers" Donnelly said, "Some of them need to work on their ball-handling and their conditioning."

Head women's basketball coach Stephany Smith acknowledged the presence of a great student crowd after the game.

"I came in at the half and saw a lot of blue. I regret not going over there and thanking the student body for their support." ♦

Victory: Lady Raiders blast Privateers Saturday, 82-51

Continued from 10

Television cameras were also present at the game as College Sports Southeast carried the game.

Both teams came out slow in front of the Murphy Center crowd. Neither team had much success putting the ball in the hoop for the first couple of minutes. The Lady Raiders managed to hang with the Lady Techsters for about eleven minutes.

After that Louisiana Tech started making shots and the Lady Raiders could not buy one.

In fact the Lady Raiders failed to score from the floor between 7:27 of the first half and 16:15 in the second half. Four free throws from the charity stripe were all the Lady Raiders could muster.

Meanwhile the Lady Techsters pushed their lead from eight points to 31 points.

"I felt good about the way that it see-sawed for about the first ten or twelve minutes of the game before they got on a run," Lady Raider head coach Stephany Smith said. "We were obviously a little nervous about all of our shots the first twenty minutes of the game."

Coming out of the locker room the Lady Raiders were still cold until the 16:15 mark. They managed to put some shots together and cut the lead to 21, but that is as close as they would get.

"If they'd been making shots it would have

been a totally different game," Louisiana Tech head coach Leon Baramore said.

"The reason we didn't make more shots is because they caused us problems defensively and because we just had jitters," Smith said. "We didn't knock down shots because we were a little bit nervous."

Ayana Walker led all scorers with 22 points and 13 rebounds for the Lady Techsters. Amber Obaze had 13 points and teammates Brooke Lassiter and Cheryl Ford each recorded 12 points.

The Lady Raiders came into the game ranked 14th in the nation in field goal percentage. They were held to just 29.2 percent by the Lady Techsters. Louisiana Tech also outrebounded the Lady Raiders 57-32 and outscored them in the paint 42-12.

"They were more athletic than us. They were taller and could jump. They were quick and all that stuff. They're a great team," said junior Jamie Thomatis.

Thomatis joined the 1,000 point club with 15 points in the game. The only other Lady Raider to score in double-digits was Joanne Aluka with 10.

"It was a very disappointing loss tonight, but give Louisiana Tech a lot of credit. They have an excellent basketball team," Smith said.

"This is what the Sun Belt is all about. It's a great league and very competitive. You have to play perfect basketball every night if you expect to win." ♦



Photo by Kristy Dalrymple | Staff

Coach Stephany Smith covers strategy during a time-out against Louisiana Tech.

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SIGNATURE _____



Streak: Blue Raiders paced in Louisiana by smoking 'Gunn'

Continued from 10

Walker led UNO in the second half as well, going 9 of 15 from the field and finishing with 21. Seniors Clyde Ellis, Curtis Wilson and Ben Adams also scored in double figures for the Privateers.

Martinez finished with 14 points and Wilkes played a strong second half, constantly breaking the Privateer's press. Gunn also scored 17 points, though many of his second half points were after the game had been decided.

"They may be 10 points better than us, but if we could make a few shots and eliminate a couple of mistakes then we

would have had a chance to win the game," head coach Randy Wiel said.

The other bright spot for MT was their three-point shooting, hitting 7 of 17 from the field, including 5 of 11 in the second half, to finish at 41.1 percent.

The Blue Raiders only converted 10 points off 17 UNO turnovers, while the Privateers scored 21 on 19 MT giveaways.

The Blue Raiders must now go to the Little Rock, Ark. to play a make-up game with UALR (10-7), coached by Porter Moser, on Monday.

The game was originally set for Dec. 28, but cancelled due to the heavy winter storm that struck Arkansas two days earlier.

Thursday, the Blue Raiders played Louisiana Tech in Ruston, La. in the first game of their most recent road trip.

Middle Tennessee never posed a serious threat to Bulldogs, losing 75-55.

The Bulldogs were paced by sophomore Antonio Meeking and senior Gerrod Henderson, the only two La Tech players in double figures.

Meeking led the inside attack with 20 points and 12 rebounds while Henderson's shooting, ball handling and leadership abilities earned him a game high 21 points.

Freshman Tommy Gunn and junior Iiro Tenngren scored 15

points each. Junior Bryant Mitchell added 10. The rest of the team could only muster 15 points.

Louisiana Tech shot a blistering 56.6 percent from the field, mainly scoring in the paint, shooting a full 15 percent better than MT. The Bulldogs also outrebounded the Raiders 36-20.

"Louisiana Tech started small against us... and we were able to take advantage early," head coach Randy Wiel said.

"After they brought in (6-10) Zach Johnson they began to shut us down and our inside game was virtually non-existent." ♦

RESULTS from the University of Kansas

Middle Tenn.
def. UALR 7-0

Singles:
Daniel Klementz (MT)
def. Pettigrosso 6-4, 6-3

Robert Gustafsson (MT)
def. Marra 5-6 (5), 6-4, (10-4)

Michael Staniak (MT)
def. Baca 6-0, 6-3

Trevor Short (MT)
def. Diez 6-2, 6-4

Mark Pellerin (MT)
def. Poutchinets 8-7 (5)

Kirk Jackson (MT)
def. Murali 8-2

Doubles:
Klementz-Staniak (MT)
def. Diez-Poutchinets 8-2

Pellerin-Short (MT)
def. Baca-Murali 8-2

Middle Tenn.
def. Louisville 4-1

Singles:
Daniel Klementz (MT)
def. Lien 4-6, 6-1, (10-8)

Robert Gustafsson (MT)
def. Kujndzic 6-5, 3-6 (10-8)

Oliver Foreman (MT)
def. Conley 6-3, 3-6 (10-5)

Carvalho (UL)
def. Michael Staniak (MT) 6-2, 5-6, (11-9)

Doubles:
Foreman-Gustafsson (MT)
def. Lien-Kujndzic (UL) 8-4

Jackson-Pellerin (MT)
def. Cantrell-Sivertsen (UL) 8-5

MT men take two in Kansas

Staff Reports

The Middle Tennessee men's tennis team had a good showing on the first day of action in Lawrence, Kan. at Kansas University winning both of their opening round matches.

The Blue Raiders defeated the University of Arkansas-Little Rock, 7-0 and the University of Louisville, 4-1, both higher-ranked teams.

The Blue Raiders dominated the first match against fellow conference foe UALR winning two doubles matches, then proceeding to win all six singles.

Daniel Klementz (6-4, 6-3), Robert Gustafsson (5-6, 6-4, 10-4), Michael Staniak (6-0, 6-3), Trevor Short (6-2, 6-4), Mark Pellerin (8-7 and 5), and Kirk Jackson (8-2) all took wins in the match.

The second match was little more challenging for the Blue Raiders.

Louisville, ranked 37th in the country, took all four singles matches into three sets, winning one - while the doubles play for Middle Tennessee continued its dominance winning 8-4 and 8-5.

The Blue Raiders ended their three-match road trip against Kansas on Sunday.

Results were unavailable at press time. ♦

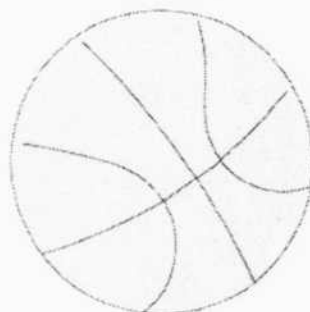
Intramural Basketball Schedule for Jan. 29 and 30

Monday, Jan. 29, 2001

League	Time	Place	Teams
MB/I	7 p.m.	RC C1	# 1 Stunna v. 86ers
MB/I	7 p.m.	RC C3	We Win v. Charlie's Angels
MB/I	7 p.m.	RC C5	Chat-Atlanta v. The Rebel's

Tuesday, Jan. 30, 2001

League	Time	Place	Teams
MB/II	6 p.m.	RC C1	The Chiefs v. Caucasian Invasion
MB/II	6 p.m.	RC C3	FUBAR v. Get Retarded
MB/II	6 p.m.	RC C5	Run-N-Gun v. The Underdogs
MB/III	7 p.m.	RC C3	Schardt Shockers v. Long Range Assassin
MB/III	7 p.m.	RC C5	Dores v. Reynolds Raiders
SOR/I	8 p.m.	RC C3	Chi Omega v. Alpha Omicron Pi
SOR/I	8 p.m.	RC C5	Delta Zeta v. Zeta Tau Alpha
CR/I	9 p.m.	RC C5	Brats v. Jabronees



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"Perhaps, too, as difficulties are of two kinds, the cause of the present difficulty is not in the facts but in us. For as the eyes of bats are to the blaze of day, so is the reason in our soul to the things which are by nature most evident of all."

Aristotle
Metaphysics Book II

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The Two Minute Drill

J.P. Plant

Assistant Sports Editor

Streaky Lady Raiders

The Lady Raiders have now gone 48 straight games with at least one three pointer after hitting four against New Orleans, Saturday.

Junior Joanne Aluka has epitomized consistency, hitting the double-digit mark for seven consecutive games while shooting better than 50 percent in each of those contests.

Jamie Thomatis has been hot from the free throw line as of late. The junior forward is shooting 83.9 percent (26 of 31) from the charity stripe in her last six games. Thomatis went 10 of 11 in the win against UNO.

11th and still counting

Thomatis also surpassed Holly Hoover for 11th place on the all-time scoring list with the 22 points against UNO. The junior now has 1,202 points and needs only 22 more to take over 10th place from former teammate Jonelda Buck.

Blue Raiders to be

National Signing Day for college football is scheduled for Wednesday Feb. 7. MT Media Relations is hosting a gathering for Blue Raider fans in the Gameday Room (between the weight room and north end-zone of Floyd Stadium) beginning at 11:30 a.m.

Hot dogs and hamburgers will be grilled outside the Gameday Room. Fans can stop by and have lunch, talk with members of the football staff and view the signee board, which will be updated periodically throughout the day. Parking will be available in the Greenland Drive parking lot.

Head coach Andy McCollum will hold a press conference to announce the entire class, which is already being described by many recruiting analysts as the best in school history and tops in the Sun Belt Conference. Eight members of the 2001 class will be in attendance for the press conference.

OSU players, staffers killed in crash

Two Oklahoma State basketball players and six staffers and broadcasters associated with the team were killed Saturday aboard a plane that crashed in a snowstorm while returning from a game in Colorado.

The pilot and co-pilot also perished in the plane that crashed about 40 miles east of Denver after taking off from Jefferson County Airport. The plane was one of three chartered by the school.

Aboard the plane were OSU players Nate Fleming and Dan Lawson, sports information employee Will Hancock, director of basketball operations Pat Nowes, trainer Brian Luinstra, student manager Jared Weiberg, broadcast engineer Kendall Durfey, broadcaster Bill Teegins, pilot Denver Mills and co-pilot Bjorn Falstrom.

OSU is scheduled to play at Texas Tech Tuesday night, but Big 12 officials are considering postponing the game due to the circumstances. Jared Weiberg was the nephew of Big 12 commissioner Kevin Weiberg. ♦

Lady Raiders rebound

Tough loss Thursday leads to big win over UNO Saturday

By Colleen Cox
Staff Writer

The Lady Raider basketball team bounced back from a disappointing loss against Louisiana Tech Thursday night to handily beat New Orleans 82-51 Saturday.

The game started out with an even match-up. Both teams took turns scoring as the game went back and forth. Around the seven-minute mark the Lady Raiders got hot riding a 21-7 scoring run into the locker room.

The Lady Raiders shot an even 50 percent for the half while holding New Orleans to 34.6 percent from the field.

"I know it was a see-saw battle for a long, long time and I don't know at what point things turned in our favor," head coach Stephany Smith said.

"There's one play I remember," said Smith, "We came back to our bench at a media time-out. We had about eight opportunities to score and didn't, but it didn't matter. We were diving after loose balls, going hard to the offensive boards, saving balls from going out of bounds and pitching them to our teammates. We were playing so hard. When you are playing that hard and with that much determination, good things have got to go your way."

The Lady Raiders came out of the locker room and continued to dominate. New Orleans never made a run, as it became a matter of just letting the clock run out.

"We had a well-rounded performance from top to bottom, inside, outside, good combinations. The effort was tremendous tonight," Junior Jamie Thomatis said.

Thomatis surpassed Holly Hoover for 11th place on the all-time scoring list with 22 points tonight. She needs 22 more points to move into 10th place.

Freshman Keisha McClinic finished with a career high 12 rebounds to go along with 14 points.

"I just went out there and crashed the boards as much as I could tonight. I was able to come up with the ball," McClinic said.

Sophomore Joanne Aluka extended her double-figure scoring streak to seven games with 14 points.

The Lady Raiders evened up their overall record to 10-10 overall and improved to 3-6 in the Sun Belt Conference. The next game for the Lady Raiders is Thursday against Western Kentucky.

Last Thursday night the Lady Raiders suffered a disappointing loss at the hands of Louisiana Tech.

The game was perhaps the biggest in Lady Raider history and definitely the biggest of the year.

Louisiana Tech came into the Murphy Center ranked eight by the Associated Press and ninth by USA Today/ESPN. The Lady Techsters also brought with them a streak of 42 consecutive Sun Belt Conference victories.

See Victory, 7

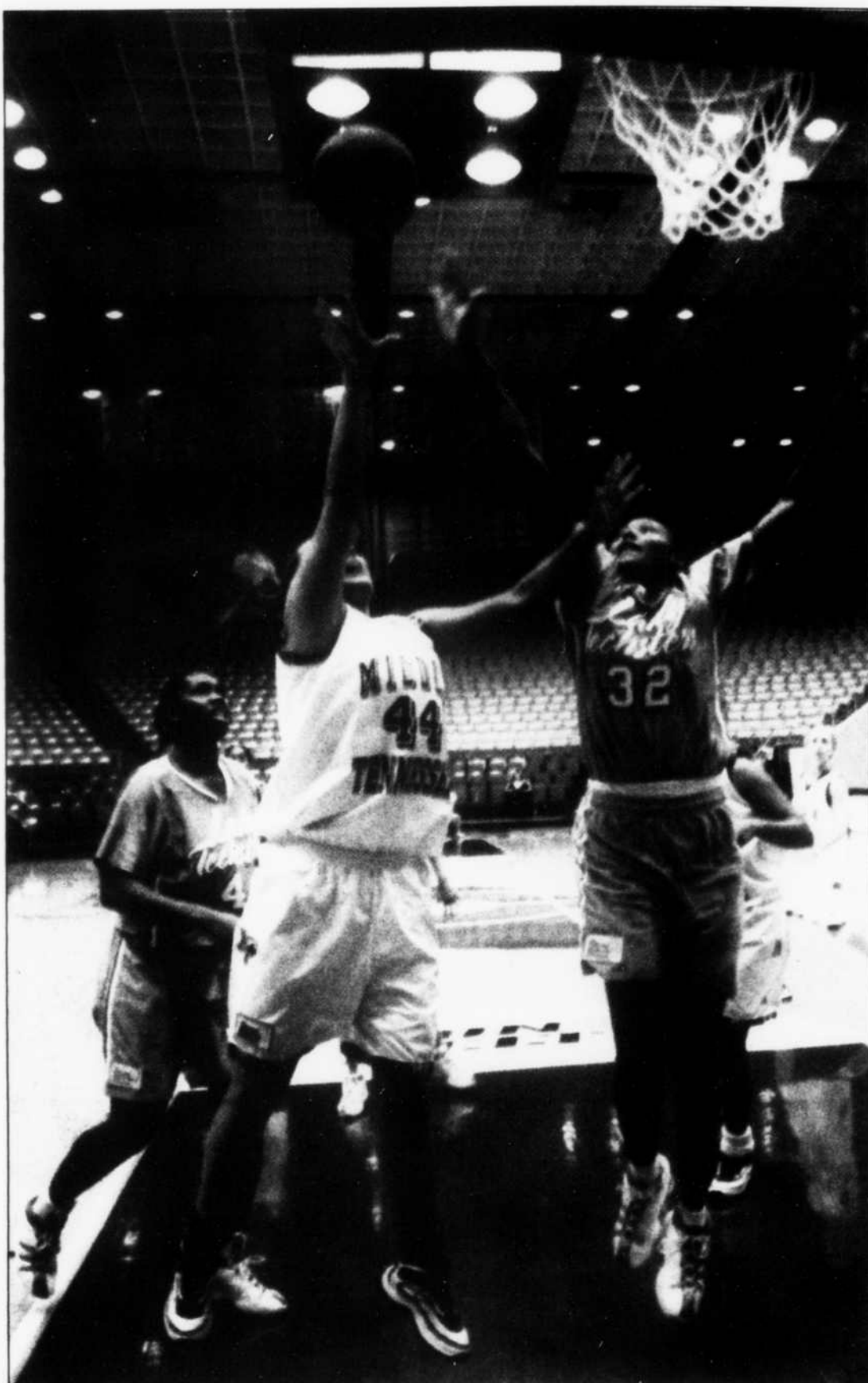


Photo by Kristy Dalrymple | Staff

Chrissy Davenport avoids the block of (32) Cheryl Ford Thursday night against La. Tech.

Throwing in the towel

Raiders chance of winning season almost impossible, losing streak stands at six

By R. Colin Fly
Sports Editor

The Blue Raiders trip to Louisiana yielded two more losses, as MT dropped to 5-13 overall and 1-7 in the Sun Belt Conference.

Middle Tennessee, who have lost six in a row, now must win the next seven in a row and the first two rounds of the Sun Belt Tournament in March to finish this season with a .500 record.

The New Orleans Privateers (12-7 overall, 6-2 in the Sun Belt) defeated Middle Tennessee 69-56 Saturday.

The game was one of streaks for both teams. After shooting a dismal 38 percent in the first half, the Blue Raiders were only down 26-22 at the break, even after giving up seven second-chance points and nine turnovers.

Freshman Tommy Gunn paced the Raiders attack in the first half with 11 points and a pair of rebounds, while senior Tory Walker of the

Privateers led UNO with 10 points.

In the second half, senior Freddie Martinez opened scoring with a three-pointer, cutting the lead to one.

However, after trading baskets, UNO extended the lead to 40-32 with just under 14 minutes to go.

Diminutive junior D'Marius Wilkes buried back to back three-pointers to cut the lead to two, then followed it up with a key steal and pass that sent senior Kevin White on a fast break.

White was fouled and stepped to the free-throw line with 10 and a half minutes to go. He hit his second attempt, but not his first. That missed free throw was the last chance MT had to equalize the score.

UNO closed the game down the stretch by going on a 21-9 run, putting the game out of reach for the Blue Raiders.

See Streak, 8

MT heads to Arkansas

By R. Colin Fly
Sports Editor

Middle Tennessee will make up a game against the UALR Trojans tonight at 7:05. The game, originally scheduled for Dec. 28, was cancelled due to inclement weather.



Moser

The Trojans, coached by Porter Moser, head into the game 10-7 and 4-4 in the Sun Belt Conference.

MT, on a six game losing streak, must rebound against a team that defeated them 77-56 just nine days ago.

The Blue Raiders will look to freshman Tommy Gunn to continue his strong play and will rely on junior Iiro Tenngren and sophomore Bryant Mitchell for an inside presence.

The Blue Raiders are 5-13 and in a tie for last place in the Eastern Division of the Sun Belt with a 1-5 conference record. ♦



MONDAY

■ **Men's Basketball**
Blue Raiders at UALR
Little Rock, Ark.,
7:05 p.m.

THURSDAY

■ **Men's Basketball**
Blue Raiders vs. Western Kentucky
Murfreesboro, Tenn.,
7 p.m.

■ **Men's Tennis**
Blue Raiders at Chattanooga
Chattanooga, Tenn., 3 p.m.

■ **Women's Basketball**
Lady Raiders at Western Kentucky
Bowling Green, Ky. 7 p.m.

SATURDAY

■ **Women's Basketball**
Lady Raiders vs. Florida Int'l
Murfreesboro, Tenn., 2 p.m.

■ **Men's Basketball**
Blue Raiders at Florida Int'l
Miami, Fla., 6:30 p.m.

SUNDAY

■ **Men's Tennis**
Blue Raiders vs. Purdue
Murfreesboro, Tenn.,
11 a.m.

■ **Women's Tennis**
Lady Raiders vs. Iowa
Nashville, Tenn., 11 a.m.

