



Photo by Andrea Cothorn | Staff Photographer
Sarah Wade, senior photography major, calls the above cat "Sparkles." The stray cats have made a recent appearance around campus, particularly the Photography Building.

Stray felines make campus appearance

By Andy Harper

Campus News Editor

From the James E. Walker Library to the Wood-Felder halls, groups of stray cats have been seen around campus.

"I get so angry at the people who throw disks or rocks at the cats," said Chris Comstock, senior photography major. "What kind of adult does that?"

The cats, according to Tom Jimison, photography professor, first frequented campus years ago when MTSU installed eight trailers located outside the photography building.

"The trailers were nice when they were first installed but got ratty as time went by," Jimison said. "Creatures started living under the trailers, like the cats. In fact, there used to be signs all around campus that said 'don't feed the cats.'"

The trailers were removed after Sidney McPhee became president

of the campus, Jimison said. The cats left after the trailers were gone, so the cats that frequent the campus today are possibly either cats new to the area or decedents of the trailer cats.

"We haven't received any complaints or work orders," said Brenda Dressler, executive aid for Facility Services. "We don't really know what we would do if we did get a call, I guess we'll cross that bridge when we get to it."

The cats have not bothered anybody, said Sarah Wade, senior photography major. The major concern shared among her peers is the health of the cats.

"A group of adults throwing crap at harmless cats infuriating me," Comstock said. "Ethics should be a class everyone has to take before they graduate."

While the cats have not seemed to cause a stir in the MTSU community, Rutherford County Pet Adoption and Welfare Services has received several calls on strays in the area.

"It doesn't seem to be an emergency situation on campus with lack of stray cats, but they are all around old houses and apartment complexes near campus," said Kim Lickteig, an employee of Rutherford P.A.W.S.

According to Lickteig, the best way to control the feline population is through a method called 'trap and release.'

"If you want to keep them and don't want them harmed or picked up by animal services, the best way is trap and release," Lickteig said. "However, P.A.W.S. will only set traps when weather condition is favorable."

Trap and release is when a person who is having problems with stray cats can either call animal control or visit a local hardware store for a live trap. The stray is caught, unharmed by the trap, and taken to a local veterinarian to be fixed.

See Kitties, 2

Refugees speak about experiences in Darfur

Students witness genocide first-hand

By Jaz Gray

Staff Writer

Refugees from southern Sudan who are enrolled at MTSU recognize education as the key to unraveling the genocide in Sudan and repairing the effects the killings have had on Sudanese youth.

Muorcol Acut, a senior economics major, came to Tennessee after fleeing his refugee camp and asking for the protection from the U.N. The United Nations had previously made arrangements with the United States, that allowed him to be welcomed into the country as a Sudanese refugee, he said. Acut made the trip alone because both of his parents died during the first war in Sudan and his only sibling, a brother, still lives in Africa.

Rebecca Guet, a sophomore chemistry major, was born in Ethiopia after her parents escaped Sudan during the war. She and her family traveled from refugee camp to refugee camp until she was given the opportunity to come to the United States. Her father later died in Ethiopia.

Guet, along with her brother and sister, filled out paperwork to leave the camps and live with family in the United States.

"Our uncle [was] here, that's how we came to Tennessee," Guet said. "He told us to go ahead [and fill out the forms] and, when we come, we [can just] live with him."

Guet said that immigration to the U.S. allows the hopeless, such as children without parents and widows raising children alone, an "opportunity to do something" to help themselves.

The original conflict in Sudan was between northern Sudan and southern Sudan, between Muslims and Christians, Arabs and blacks, the wealthy and the poor, Acut said. Northern Sudan, which controls the oil industry and houses the Sudanese government, allowed militia to ruthlessly attack the southern region.

"During the early 90s, the time when Saddam [Hussein] was in Sudan, he also brought some Afghanistan people and some radical Muslims, and they fought against the south with the government," Acut said.

Although the leaders of southern Sudan tried several times to end the conflict themselves, no substantial change occurred until a peace agreement lead by the U.N. was signed in 2001. It was agreed that in six years, southern Sudan would be able to decide for themselves whether they wanted to be united with

the north or have a separate government, Guet explained.

"This time [the government] handled it better," Guet said.

Just as the conflict between northern and southern Sudan ended, however, a new conflict began between northern Sudan and Darfur, in western Sudan.

The government, in using a number of inhuman tactics to spread the Arab culture and continue economic inequality, is supporting those who identified themselves as Arabs, called "Janjaweed."

Countries around the world have voiced their support of Darfur, but many Sudanese argue that there has been much more talk than action.

Acut said that certain countries in the international community are skeptical about addressing the political problems for Sudan, because they fear it would have a negative recourse on the economy of their respective nations.

"The only countries that seem serious are the United States, Canada and other South African countries," Acut said. "Most in Europe and China have [their own] interests."

Acut said that the people of the southern Sudan and Darfur are "looking for a solution that is reasonable" and as countries cease to act, the people of Darfur cease to live.

"Even if we can't go back, [we] can open up an organization to help the children back home ... something to keep them busy" said Guet.

The goal of the Sudanese refugees attending MTSU is to not only get an education, but to use the knowledge they gain to help uplift their people. Guet said that they can help sponsor libraries, gyms and even schools.

"There are a lot of people who can't read or write because they never had an opportunity to go to school," Guet added. "Even if they tried to start school, war would happen and they would have to run away."

Acut said that although some in Sudan have lost hope and do not see the connection between getting an education and overcoming their circumstances, he has goals that he is determined to accomplish.

He said his dream since early childhood has been to make life better for the Sudanese people. When Acut feels he has enough knowledge, he plans to go back to southern Sudan and teach in a college or university.

"[Education] is the only thing that I [saw that

See Sudan, 3

Theft damages Coke machines

By Christin Pepple

Staff Writer

Several vending machines around campus have been broken into, causing Rutherford County Crime Stoppers Inc. to offer a cash reward of up to \$1,000 for information that could lead to the arrest of the person or persons who are responsible.

"It is a felony, these burglaries, and obviously we would like to apprehend the people responsible as soon as possible," Major Clyde Adkinson said. "Obviously, we are offering a reward upon arrest of the individuals."

In several of the cases, the culprit or culprits drilled the locks on the various machines in order to gain entry to them for the money or Coca-Cola products they contained.

Other times, such as the break in at Nicks Hall, the front of the machine was smashed to pieces.

"As far as we know, only money was taken from the machines, but until Coca-Cola has done a full evaluation of the damage, we will not be able to say for sure whether any products were taken," Lieutenant Matt Foster said.

These felonies have been committed on the second and third floors of Kirskey Hall, the front of the machine was smashed to pieces. "As far as we know, only money was taken from the machines, but until Coca-Cola has done a full evaluation of the damage, we will not be able to say for sure whether any products were taken," Lieutenant Matt Foster said.

of Nicks Hall.

The first recorded break in was on Dec. 14, 2006 and continued in a marathon of vandalism through Jan. 10.

"These crimes are very specific, and because of that, we believe it to be the work of one person. We have a pretty large campus, and we need to realize that people breaking in and stealing equipment and vandalizing property are a reality. And because of its size, it is nearly impossible to catch the people in middle of committing the crime," said Chief Peaster of the MTSU campus police.

Students around campus had varying reactions to the machines that have been disabled because of the severe damage done to them.

"Maybe the people are just thirsty. I don't know. It could be just late-teen angst meets really refreshing Cola, you know? I guess they see a machine and decide to risk federal charges for a Diet Coke," said Neil McCormack, freshman and electronic media communications major. "I mean, vandalizing anything on campus is pretty bad but Coke machines? Come on guys."

Chance Phelps, senior and actuarial science major thinks that perhaps the vandalism can make campus officials realize what a waste of time they are.

"I don't think it would be a bad thing for the campus to remove them altogether. They are ridiculously overpriced. It's a \$1.25 for a soda when you can just walk off campus and get the same thing



Photo by Andrea Cothorn | Staff Photographer
Numerous Coca-Cola vending machines around campus have been subject to money theft during a spree from December to January.

for \$.99," Phelps said.

"They could get in a lot of trouble over something as trivial as vandalizing Coke machines. That is pointless," said Haley Bower, sophomore and fashion major.

Ian Doerr, freshman and recording industry management major, laughed when he was informed of the vandalism.

"Those crazy 'Coke' heads, always breaking into stuff," Doerr said.

See Vending, 2

No threat to signs in city, officials say

By Josh Daughtery

Staff Writer

A letter sent by the American Civil Liberties Union regarding various cities' sign ordinances will not effect Murfreesboro residents.

Following last November's elections, the ACLU received several complaints regarding sign ordinances, said Hedy Weinberg, executive director of the Tennessee chapter of the ACLU. The complaints stated that individuals were not able to express their political views with the limited sign ordinances of their city.

The sign ordinances also limited the number and size of the signs a person could display, Weinberg said.

"A number of signs could not be posted 30 days before and seven days after [an election]," Weinberg said.

The letter drafted by the ACLU regarding the sign ordinances was sent to around 20 cities in Tennessee, Weinberg said. Brentwood and Smyrna were two of the cities that received the letter. However, Murfreesboro was not on the distribution list.

"The posting of political signs allows an individual to support his or her candidate," Weinberg said. "Restricting the posting of political signs violates a person's constitutional freedoms."

Brentwood is currently in the process of changing its sign ordinance to allow more freedom regarding political signs.

"We're doing away with the old policy," said Roger Horner, Brentwood City Attorney.

Horner said that under the

changes, the sign ordinance will state there is no difference between a temporary sign and a political sign. An individual will be able to have up to 20 square feet of temporary signs on their property with a sign size of not more than eight square feet and maximum of five signs.

Out of the 18 to 20 letters the ACLU received, eight very positive responses, Weinberg said.

Sign ordinances are constitutional as long as they are content neutral and reasonable, said Larry Burriss, professor of journalism. A city cannot allow a person's yard to be cluttered with signs, but they cannot say you cannot have any signs either.

"What the city has to do is balance public safety and public need versus free speech," Burriss said.

According to the City of Murfreesboro's sign ordinance, temporary signs may not exceed three per lot at any one given time.

If a person goes over the amount of allotted signs for their property then the city could go to the home owner and discuss the issue with them, said Amelia Kerr, Sign Codes Inspector for the City of Murfreesboro.

Around elections the city tries to allow freedom of speech when it comes to signs in a person's yard, Kerr said. Most of the time it is the campaigners that put the excess number of signs in the person's yard.

The city will take away the signs for the homeowner if they do not want to call the candidate to have them removed, Kerr said.

"The only time we go and take a sign is if it's in the right away," Kerr said. ♦

Victim pursues purse snatcher across campus

By Josh Daugherty
Staff Writer

Purse thief at Recreation Center becomes cross campus chase.

On Jan. 30 at approximately 4:44 p.m., a black male, in a red and white jumpsuit, reportedly stole the purse of Aubree Johnson, junior elementary education major, at the Campus Rec Center, according to police reports.

Johnson, who works at the

Rec Center, was setting up a promotional table in the lobby when a man picked her purse up from the table and put it under his arm, Johnson said. He then proceeded through the turnstile when Johnson confronted him at the door.

"I asked him 'Can I have my purse back?'" Johnson said. "He turned around and looked at me for a second then ran."

Johnson said she kicked off her shoes and proceeded to run after him in the direction of

Scarlett Commons. While she was running, she managed to call the police and notify them of the theft.

She lost track of the perpetrator in the Commons courtyard, Johnson said.

Johnson gave a statement at the police station and picked the suspect's photo out of an ID

book, she said.

Campus Police have identified the suspect and are in the process of issuing an arrest warrant, said Investigations Sgt. Matt Foster. The suspect is an MTSU student and will be charged with theft. To avoid incidents such as this, Foster said, students

should take precautions.

"My first advice is to keep track of your stuff and keep it secure," Foster said. "[Also] contact the police immediately."

Foster said he does not advise chasing after the perpetrator.

"The police said it was really dumb [to chase him] and to never do that again," Johnson said. "I was not trying to catch him and tackle him. I was just trying to keep an eye on him."

Johnson said she was glad she chased him because it helped the police. However, she advises against chasing someone into a secluded area and trying to stop them.

Since the purse snatching, Johnson has had her driver's license replaced, the locks on her apartment changed, and canceled her credit card, she said. She also lost an I-pod Nano, a prescription medication, and her student ID. ♦



Johnson



Photo by Andrea Cothran | Staff Photographer

Students leave food for the stray cats outside the Photography Building.

Kitties: "Spay and neuter"

Continued from 1

"The problem lies with cats who remain untreated," Lickteig said. "Cats reproduce three times a year in four month increments. Typically, before weaning is completed for one litter, the cat is already pregnant again. Litters usually consist of six to eight kittens and after six months, the female kittens are usually pregnant."

Besides having pets spade or neutered, Lickteig said leash laws need to be taken more seriously.

"Leash laws don't necessarily mean you have to keep your animal on a leash, though that is the most ideal form of control," Lickteig said. "Especially for cats, people laugh at having cats on leashes, but what the law really means is having your pet within your control."

When walking dogs, the owner should either have the dog on a leash or voice trained. The same rules apply

for cats, which should only be kept outside if they do not wonder off the owner's property. Otherwise, cats should be kept inside.

"The other part of the law is to help reduce the overwhelming population," Lickteig said. "We have a big problem with people not respecting neutering or confinement."

A major source of unaltered animals comes from people giving animals away in store parking lots, Lickteig said. Only one in ten people who receive animals through this method get their new animals altered.

"I'm not sure where the cats came from and I know the one has had four litters since I've been a student," Comstock said. "But it really sucks that they aren't nurtured or spade because so many animals die everyday." ♦

IFC Greeks rush into spring Recruitment begins next week for MTSU fraternities

ByChristin Pepple
Staff Writer

Weeklong fraternity recruitment begins next Tuesday, when potential members will examine the eleven MTSU fraternities.

Spring Rush is primarily for the Interfraternity Council fraternities and will include a Fraternity Showcase, open house days, Smoker Night and finishes off with Bid Day.

Although spring is considerably smaller than Fall Rush, Nathan Haynes, junior marketing major and IFC Vice President of Recruitment in charge of the week, believes that it is no less important.

"The Fraternities are always trying to grow, so any recruitment done is helpful," Haynes said. "Spring Rush is generally smaller because we attract so many new members through Customs before the fall semester, but we are doing several things this semester to get anyone's attention who is interested in joining."

Before the recruiting week begins, mass e-mails were sent out, Facebook fliers were posted, yard signs were put up and Pipeline announcements were posted. Pre-Rush

preparation also includes a registration application available on the Greek Life Web site.

The specific requirements for each fraternity vary, but the primary requirement is a 2.3 grade point average. Other specifications are left up to each separate fraternity.

On Tuesday, Feb. 6 the fraternities will set up tables in the James Fraternity Building to entice the candidates to join their organization. It is open to all potential new members.

Wednesday and Thursday are the days where all potential members can tour any Greek house they wish. Each fraternity has varying events planned throughout the two days for potential candidates.

"All the events, which are planned independently by the fraternities, have to be approved by the Greek Life office before Rush starts," Haynes said.

Friday and Saturday are considered the most important days because of Smoker's Night and, finally, Bid Day.

"You will remember Smoker and Bid Days for the rest of your life," Haynes said. "Those two days really change your life because major decisions are made."

Smoker Night is an event each fraternity

hosts to candidates they exclusively invite. It is a formal evening which gives the chance for invited candidates to mingle with the brothers of the fraternity hosting it.

"After Smoker Night, Bid Day begins," Haynes said. "All the candidates meet in the Keathley University Center theatre, and through a collaborative process where the candidates pick which fraternity they would like to be a part of, the candidates become new members. Afterward, the candidates that were chosen run down to the KUC knoll and meet their brothers."

The only IFC fraternity that is not participating in Rush week is Sigma Nu.

The other eleven fraternities participating are Beta Theta Pi, Alpha Gamma Row, Sigma Chi, Pi Kappa Alpha, Kappa Alpha, Pi Kappa Phi, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, Sigma Phi Epsilon, Tau Kappa Epsilon, Sigma Pi and Alpha Tau Omega.

"It's something that will change your life forever despite all the stereotypes that fraternities have suffered through," Haynes said. "Anyone who wants to be in a fraternity needs to apply and then come and participate in Rush week." ♦

Vending: "Machines vandalized"

Continued from 1

and we are still trying to find the culprits of the vandalization," Foster said.

Adkinson stated Crime Stoppers has a tips hotline that anyone can call into anonymously.

"To protect the identities of the informants, we do not use any

form of caller identification to guarantee the safety of anyone who wishes to come forward with information," Adkinson said.

The tips hotline is only available to be answered Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Any crimes that could be considered a felony can be phoned to the hotline. In case of an emergency on campus, the

campus police or the Rutherford County police should be called at either 615-898-2424 or 911.

"It is a challenge that we face to cover all the areas that we have to and also commit resources, which we are certainly trying to do to catch the person who is doing this and answer all the other problems and requests from other people on MTSU," Peaster said.

Crime Stoppers would be glad to take information from anyone who

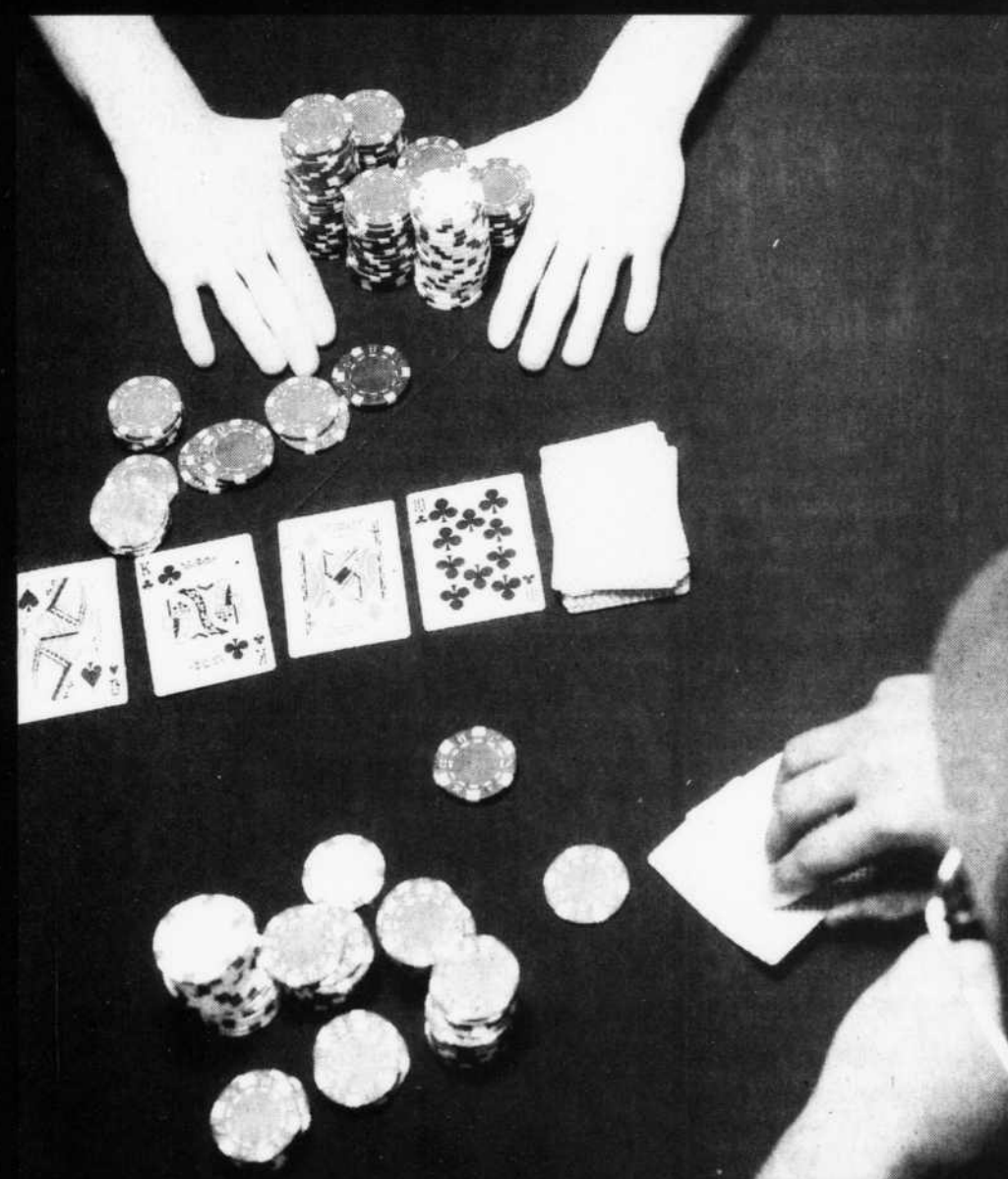
knows anything about these crimes. If anyone is seen working on any vending machines with a drill or a hammer, Crime Stoppers requests they be notified, even if the person working on the machines are wearing uniforms.

"We are hopeful that we might get a tip or two from anyone who even suspects something might be happening out of the ordinary. We would appreciate any calls," Peaster said. ♦

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Sudan: "Students educate."

Continued from 1

could] add more substance to my life," Acut said.

When Guet visited Ethiopia, she said a lot of the young girls had already gotten married and had children and it saddened her to think of their future, since the youth already struggle to support families.

"You will find someone who is twenty-something and still in the second grade because they have the will to still be able to read so that at least they can teach their children," Guet said.

The prospects for success are so great in the United States that sometimes Americans can become numb to their fortune, Guet added.

"Because we have everything in our hand [here], [we don't] appreciate what we have," she said.

Acut said that since MTSU is open to the international community, it is very important for students to know what the international students' lives

look like.

"One day an MTSU student may find him or herself in that country," he said, "if you have a background of that country and the people there it will be easier and smoother for that person to go through that life."

Acut said that in Sudan, there are numerous problems such as "water sanitation, no clean water, poverty, no hospitals, money, education, infrastructure, roads, [and] not enough awareness [about illnesses]." But he believes that each person has the ability to lend their talents and their resources to making a change, however small, to the condition of the Sudanese people, he said.

"If you are good at something, find a way to offer that," Acut said.

Both Acut and Guet belong to MTSU's Sudanese support group, Southern Sudanese Student Organization. ♦

CRIME BRIEFS

Thursday, Jan. 25 – 12:18 p.m.
Gore Hall
Theft under \$500
Caller requested an officer to come and take a report in reference to her debit card being stolen from her room.

Thursday, Jan. 25 – 11:46 p.m.
Womack Lane, Apt. E
Vagrancy
Caller advised of a previous altercation with husband regarding children. Caller advised that husband would in en route to take children.

Friday, Jan. 26 – 4:09 a.m.
Sims Hall
Burglary
Caller requested a theft report in reference to missing bedding. The caller advised that he had gotten back from a party around 3 a.m. and found his bed sheets missing. The caller's roommate advised he did not take sheets and that no one had been in the room to his knowledge.

Friday, Jan. 26 – 10:37 a.m.
Business and Aerospace Bldg.
Theft under \$500
A student called saying she lost her wallet on campus.

Friday, Jan. 26 – 1:33 p.m.
Wiser-Patten Science Hall
Theft under \$500
Female called advising her purse had been stolen. The caller also

reported that her Zip drive and MP3 player was also in her purse.

Friday, Jan. 26 – 2:50 p.m.
Greek Row
Vandalism
Caller advised someone ripped off his side-view mirror and his antenna.

Friday, Jan. 26 – 11:41 p.m.
Blue Raider Drive
DUI
Andrew Farraris of Memphis, Tenn., was charged with 1st offense DUI and felony possession of schedule 1 drug.

Saturday, Jan. 27 – 2:36 a.m.
Scarlett Commons, Apt. 1
Drunkenness
Christopher Rhodes, David Chamberlain Jr., and Nicholas Chamberlain all from Franklin, Tenn., were charged with underage consumption of alcohol. Elliot Montgomery of Franklin, Tenn., was charged with vandalism under \$500, underage consumption and public intoxication.

Saturday, Jan. 27 – 1:26 p.m.
Gore Hall
Burglary
Officer advised that he received a report of theft of property from a dorm room, but had no further information.

Sunday, Jan. 28 – 12:32 a.m.
Gore Hall
Vagrancy
Bridgette Mallory of Nashville, was charged with Criminal Trespassing.

Sunday, Jan. 28 – 1:50 a.m.
Clement Hall
Alcohol
Jordan Murphy and John Hammett were charged with underage consumption.

Sunday, Jan. 28 – 2:22 p.m.
Scarlett Commons, Parking Lot
Vandalism
Subject advised that her vehicle was vandalized at some point during the night. She stated that her windshield was smashed in and there were footprints on the hood and driver-side window. The vehicle had been sitting in the parking lot since October and been involved in an accident off campus.

Sunday, Jan. 28 – 7:46 p.m.
McFarland Health Services Lot
Accident
Caller advised that an unoccupied vehicle had been hit.

Monday, Jan. 29 – 7:45 a.m.
Soccer and Track Field
Traffic
Debbie Nichols with construction called advising someone had run into the construction gate at the track. She advised

that Jeff Lackey, the project manager, would be standing by his cell.

Monday, Jan. 29 – 3:57 p.m.
Murphy Center
Theft under \$500
There was a theft from the concession stand.

Tuesday, Jan. 30 – 12:21 p.m.
MTSU Campus
Traffic
Subject called to advise that someone had hit her vehicle yesterday and left a note. She wanted to file a report.

Tuesday, Jan. 30 – 1:21 p.m.
Scarlett Commons, Apt. 9
Theft over \$500
Subject came to the station to fill out a report in reference to a stolen guitar.

Tuesday, Jan. 30 – 4:44 p.m.
Recreation Center
Theft under \$500
A black male in a red and white jumpsuit, who was last seen in light colored khakis, and possibly in a red vehicle with two white males, took a victim's purse and took off on foot towards Scarlett Commons.

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OPINIONS

From the Editorial Board

No solutions for Darfur; United Nations useless

Darfur has been Africa's and the United Nations' hot potato for some time, but as the diplomatic stalemate between Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir and the U.N. Security Council over whether to send an additional 22,000 peacekeeping troops into the region continues, the international community has found itself between two equally bad options.

On the one hand, the United Nations could agree to have its members send in additional troops, instead of simply suggesting that they send troops if they can. In a part of the world where government power can be determined by how big a leader's army is, however, a U.N. peacekeeping force – the biggest army of all – would be seen not as aid, but as an invading force. The Sudanese would be further distanced from other nations, and would be less inclined to work with the African Union, the United Nations and the international community in general in both receiving and giving aid.

However, the other option of leaving Sudan's government to put an end to the violence on its own is equally disagreeable, especially as the government allegedly supports the Janjaweed. With little reason to protect the people of Darfur, pulling troops out and ending humanitarian efforts in the region out of respect for Sudan's sovereignty would essentially leave everyone in Darfur helpless.

The United Nations can sit up above and pass resolutions conforming to its vision of a perfect world. In reality, though, where leaders can dismiss these decrees with a wave of a hand or a machine gun, the United Nations is as powerless as the Student Government Association to see any real results come from their decrees.

Ultimately, Darfur and Sudan are another face of the same problem faced in every other country that someone has tried to intervene in: when you play in changing other countries, no matter what choice you make, someone loses.

War's opponents skew truth to ensure victory

During his State of the Union Address, President George W. Bush outlined his new strategy for Iraq. Bush concluded that an additional 21,500 troops on the ground in Baghdad and the Al Anbar province – immediately west of Baghdad – would alleviate most of the problems in that area.

What opponents of this plan are ignoring is the fact that these soldiers will only be sent to within a 30 mile radius of Baghdad and the Al Anbar province.

Opponents of the new strategy – and the war in Iraq in general – are conveniently leaving out the fact that these troops are only going to these two regions of the country to secure neighborhoods and towns that insurgents have recaptured.

My approval with Bush's strategy in Iraq has been on the decline for some time. Former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld took the business approach to war, doing more with less, and that has not worked.

It is necessary to use overwhelming force in situations such as these, and it appears that strategy will be utilized. I approach this new plan with great optimism.

Two things Bush said during his State of the Union Address really stood out. "This is not the fight we entered in Iraq," Bush noted, "but it is the fight we're in."

He also reminded Congress, "Whatever you voted for, you did not vote for failure."

Both of these statements ring true. Of the 77 Senators who supported the 2002 resolution of war, 31 of them were Democrats – including Senators Harry Reid, Charles Schumer and Dianne Feinstein. Roughly 40 percent of Democrats in the House approved a similar resolution.

It seems that those Democrats who gave Bush authorization to invade Iraq are now singing a different tune. It would appear to most logical Americans that those in opposition to the war actually hope for failure. In speeches and at rallies, anti-war protesters call for an end to the conflict, but do not call for the conflict to be resolved.

Protesters in Washington, D.C. last weekend shouted "Pull Out Now!" over and over. I can only imagine the mothers of these pro-



Hurt Pride
Matthew Hurtt
Staff Columnist

testers shouting the same thing just prior to their conception.

What Democrats and other opponents fear from this troop surge is success. If this new strategy works and the 21,500 additional troops secure Baghdad and the Al Anbar province, Bush walks away from Iraq smelling like roses. Success in Iraq spells failure for the Democrats in 2008.

The modus operandi for opponents in Iraq is the dissemination of false information.

The conflict in Iraq is restricted to Baghdad and the Al Anbar province. The rest of the country is returning to normalcy.

Opponents continually suggest that the entire country is experiencing civil war, and that is simply not the case. The strategy, though, is to repeatedly state something that is not true until the general public believes it is fact.

Opponents also liken the war in Iraq to the failure of Vietnam. The only commonality between Vietnam and Iraq is the opposition to the war by Left.

Pulling out of Iraq before we secure the country will leave Iraq in the exact same state in which we left South Vietnam.

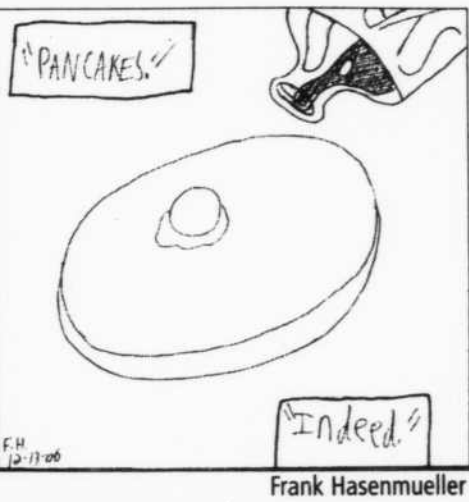
As far as casualties go, there is no comparison to the number of lives lost in Vietnam and the number of lives lost in Iraq, so opponents of the war in Iraq should quit trying to compare the two.

As General Nathan Bedford Forrest once said, "War means fightin' die tin' means killin'."

People die in war – that is just how things work.

As the Democrat-controlled Congress threatens to cut funding for the war, let us remember that the cost in lives and money should reflect the value of freedom in conflicts like this.

Matthew Hurtt is a junior liberal arts major and can be reached at mch2x@mtsu.edu.



Search for happiness, not for riches

If this week's news from Associated Press reporter Seth Borenstein is any indicator, the debate on global warming is hardly over. Instead, the grounds seem to have simply shifted, as climate scientists convene in Paris to debate not whether sea levels will rise this century, but whether it will be by inches or feet.

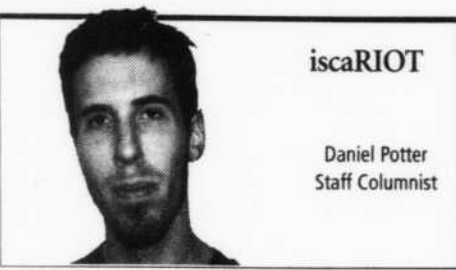
Even so, after the White House's glacially slow acknowledgement of the issue's reality, and with the American auto industry finally beginning to adapt to the need for hybrid vehicles, the real changes necessary to mitigate this catastrophe remain far off.

When such changes do materialize, they will not be the result of any committee's vote, nor will they be embodied by a new product. Rather, such changes will be part of a radical shift in the culture of an entire generation, permeating every inhabited corner of the globe.

The American lifestyle today epitomizes what author Daniel Quinn termed "the culture of maximum harm," in which success and happiness are seen as functions of material wealth and accumulated status symbols. Despite abundant evidence that wealthy people are no more satisfied with their lives than those who live more frugally, our culture idealizes conspicuous consumption at the expense of the environment.

This is the sort of reasoning that makes an admiral ambition of driving a Hummer. Sure, it's unnecessary, but everyone who sees you in it will assume you're friends with Warren Buffett, since you can afford to put gas in it.

This is the same reason pollution in China



iscaRIOT
Daniel Potter
Staff Columnist

has dramatically intensified in recent years, even as the country industrializes and its economic prosperity closes in on that of its Western peers.

Currently, Quinn estimates only roughly 10 percent of the world lives in the luxury afforded by the culture of maximum harm. However, those 10 percent are regarded with envy by the rest of the world, who hold out hope that one day they too can waste tremendous resources to fill their lives with hollow status symbols.

As long as we believe and reinforce the false notion that such conspicuous consumption is acceptable, not only will it be impossible to fully abandon such destructive behavior ourselves, but similar tendencies will increase worldwide, and devastating environmental consequences such as rising sea levels are inescapable.

As I mentioned before, a profound cultural shift is necessary for us to avert massive environmental disaster, and this will not result from any particular political maneuvering or business strategy. Rather, an alternative vision must be propagated worldwide, advocating an ambition outside the scope of material excess,

resulting in a transition perhaps more significant to mankind than the industrial revolution.

Indeed, it is like the industrial revolution, Quinn notes, in that it will likely be facilitated by the combined brilliance of many great minds, all sharing the same drive to improve lives by building on the advances of others, despite the absence of any central authority directing them.

No doubt, this is a great endeavor, but hardly hopeless. As noted before, in spite of all its excess, the present culture of conspicuous consumption never really seems to fulfill us, the privileged few. After all, if material wealth could complete us, wouldn't we stop needing it at some point? Because of this, I expect we humans will find something more valuable to pursue instead – Something like, oh, say, our species' long-term survival.

Although it may sound like an impossibly large undertaking, I am optimistic about this change – It is visible in microcosm each time one of us chooses a definition of "success" other than profit or material gain. To college students this is particularly relevant – Now is a good time to recognize vocational decisions shouldn't be based solely on what nets the greatest sum with the least effort.

In this regard, to save the world, we need to look for what makes us happy, not what makes us rich.

Daniel Potter is a senior journalism major and can be reached at dgp2h@mtsu.edu.

Letters to the Editor

Commissioner 'fights' for preexisting right

To the Editor:

One cannot be more pleased than to know that Rutherford County Commissioner Mike Sparks has been able to have printed and placed in private businesses and homes copies of Ten Commandments. This is as it should be – the exercise of our protected Constitutional right to exercise free speech within home and business. The placement of hundreds, even thousands of copies of the Commandments, has always been a possibility for those who wished to do so.

For Sparks to assert that the "ACLU has done us a favor by taking \$50,000 of the taxpayer's money..." so this can be done is outrageous and insulting since that right already existed – and is protected.

Commissioners who voted to post the Commandments against the recommendation of their legal counsel cost the taxpayer \$50,000. And Sparks sees this as dollars well-spent because it inspired the display of the document in the above mentioned places. So much for he and others on the Commission who purport to be protectors of the public's tax dollar.

Lon Nuell
Professor, Art Education

Tunnel educates, dispels misconceptions

To the Editor:

This letter is in response to the submission by the Editorial Board in regards to the Tunnel of Love. ["Forget Tunnel of Love, hello Tunnel of Horrors," Jan. 29] The Tunnel of Love does not start until Feb. 13, and if the person who wrote this editorial attends the event they will learn that it in fact does not promote "abstinence only" education.

The editorial states "While we applaud MTSU's effort at bringing a sensitive issue into the light, images are not enough." This erroneous conclusion is irresponsible. The Tunnel of Love is a comprehensive event and the images section is just one of the major prongs. Abstinence is the only 100 percent method of preventing unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. While we endeavor to provide abstinence-related education each year at the Tunnel of Love, we are keenly aware that approximately 70-75 percent of MTSU students are sexually active.

The Tunnel of Love provides educational resources to individuals to adequately protect themselves from unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. While condom use is not a complete guarantee of protection against STDs, to discount its effectiveness in protecting individuals against STDs is irresponsible and a disservice to society. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention under the Department of Health and Human Services, "Latex condoms, when used consistently and correctly, are highly effective in preventing transmission of HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. In addition, correct and consistent use of latex condoms can reduce the risk of other sexually transmitted infections that occur via bodily discharge and genital ulcers. While the effect of condoms in preventing human papillomavirus (HPV)

infection is unknown, condom use has been associated with a lower rate of cervical cancer, an HPV-associated disease."

Finally, the editorial stated that individuals do not have to have intercourse to contract STDs. How can the editorial board be so unprofessional and reckless by making such a statement? Doesn't the phrase sexually transmitted disease indicate a medical condition as a result of sexual activity? A specific pathogen could invade the body as a result of unprotected sex or through intravenous drug use. However, disease conditions as a result of the latter mode of infection do not fit the medical definition of a sexually transmitted disease. The Tunnel of Love specifically addresses disease conditions as a result of sexual activity, and makes no claim that infection of pertinent pathogens occurs only through sexual activity. Also, the common cold virus is not a sexually transmitted disease. Are you referring to the herpes virus?

I highly recommend that MTSU students and faculty try to attend the Tunnel of Love in February. It is a very educational experience and may bring to light facts of which many people are unaware or misinformed.

Tara Prairie
Vice Provost for Research and Dean of the College of Graduate Studies

Columnist should respect others' opinions

To the Editor:

I am writing this letter in response to Christin Pepple's article entitled "Leave Radical Revision to Professionals." [Jan. 25] I find it very ironic that Pepple, who suggests opinions should be left up so professionals, has taken it upon herself to write an opinion on this matter. I highly doubt Pepple is a professional. I found her threat of using duct tape and a large stick on people who have opinions very amusing. Following that logic, are we then supposed to apply her method to everyone who is not a professional? I can't imagine Pepple would appreciate being taped up and bludgeoned – well, unless she's into that sort of thing.

Who defines professional, anyway? Certainly, our founding fathers were no more professional than the next group of rebels, and they managed to break away from the strongest empire in the world. People who share their opinion work to create change – there is no requirement for reactionaries, except for the willingness to stand up for what you believe.

I am surprised to find such hostility from Pepple toward people who share a common bond among all of us. That common bond is the fact that we all share an opinion – maybe not the same one, but an opinion none the less. I can only hope that as she progresses through her college experience, she learns to stand firm in her convictions. I also hope that she realizes that her opinion is no more or less valid than anyone else's.

Besides, I can't imagine she would be talking about anyone on campus in her column – as she does not know those people who routinely call for social or political change.

Brian Petraitis
Junior, College of Mass Communication

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FEATURES

MTSU makes strides toward equality

By Sarah Lavery
Features Editor

Martin Luther King Jr. had a dream.

A dream that today he would probably be happy to see realized.

However, at universities across the country, students chose to commemorate Martin Luther King Jr. Day by dressing in gang apparel and Afro wigs, carry malt liquor, handguns, fried chicken and mockingly dressing up as Aunt Jemima.

"That is what you get when people are not aware of the importance and reverence of honoring the history of African Americans," Ralph Metcalf, director of Multicultural Affairs at MTSU says. "People want to say we live in a color blind society. But some people are privileged."

Aside from the inevitable programs and activities, Black History Month does not garner much individual recognition anymore.

The United States, it seems, has become so sure of its ability to boast an equal playing field to all races, that it has completely transcended the days of racial inequality. Therefore, the month dedicated to remembering the history of blacks is usually overshadowed by more "exciting" holidays.

Each year, members of the MTSU and Murfreesboro community strive to make it a month that lives up to its name.

The MTSU Office of Multicultural Affairs will host the Ethnic Minority Student Leadership Conference during the month of February in an effort to promote cultural awareness, understanding and a sense of belonging for all MTSU students.

This year's conference, with the theme of "To Whom Much is Given, Much is Required," will feature nationally known economist, author and political consultant Dr. Boyce Watkins.

Watkins, assistant professor of finance at Syracuse University, is a

financial expert, prominent social commentator and educational motivator, providing advice to millions in numerous national media outlets such as ESPN, Fox News, MSNBC, USA Today, Forbes, Family Circle, and many others.

At 6 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 3, the Seventh Annual Gospel Concert will kick off the month's events in the Tucker Theater.

Even more, a variety of workshops striving to promote cultural consciousness and diversity will be offered, ranging in topics from servant leadership, purpose, economics and political activism.

"[Blacks] have so little opportunity to get this history anywhere else," Metcalf says. "If you did not do the research, you would think the history began with slavery. But African people lived long before they were enslaved. A lot of stories need to be told; there have been so many [black] contributions to the greatness of this nation that very few people know [about]." Outside of campus, the Theatre at Patterson Park on Mercury Boulevard hopes to provide a complete cultural experience for Black History Month with several scheduled events. Art Classes from 4 to 6 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays, which are free and open to the members of Patterson Park Community Center, will focus on interpreting and appreciating famous black artists.

Even more, the Jaha African Dance Company will celebrate African culture and offer a show not found everyday in Murfreesboro. They will perform Feb. 2 from 7 to 9 p.m. with free admission to the public.

The Theatre at Patterson Park will also host a weekly movie night featuring movies centered around black culture on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. on Feb. 13 through March 6.

Finally, RoyEl "Futureman" Wooten, a three time Grammy Award winning musician, will join



Senior Ethan Tufts, Junior Andrea Cothorn, Sophomore Nida Shirazi, Junior Sheila Kappler and Sophomore Laurence Winston hang out on campus. Black History Month isn't just about honoring the many contributions blacks have made to the United States – it's also about promoting diversity.

Black Mozart for a concert Feb. 21 at 7 p.m. for \$10 admission.

Wooten, a member of the famous musical Wooten family and percussionist for Bela Fleck, incorporates young musicians into his string quartet to give the classics a modern zest.

The responsibility to honor Black history does not lie solely in the hands of the black community. Instead, the true goals of the month can only be realized if the entire community takes strides to achieve equality.

"Everyone assumes [America] is fine, [that] we are all equal," Metcalf says. "But in a capitalist society [like America], where economic equality is not promoted, we are never going to be completely equal. Others have a 200 year lead, and just like that we are all supposed to be equal? For 200 years, African Americans were enslaved. Now they are expected to be caught up. And we are still playing catch up." ♦



Senior Brad Ballard, public relations officer for the Multicultural Office, and office worker Jasmine Jackson, Sophomore, help organize the month's festivities. The Multicultural Office works tirelessly to promote diversity and equality at MTSU.

Spring fashion calls for casual sophistication

Incorporate spring style into winter warmth, fashion professors say

By Sara Lunnings

Contributing Writer

With temperatures in the 30s, students across campus are finding themselves wrapped up and retreating from the cold.

Meanwhile, retail associates are finding themselves unwrapping swimwear and flip-flops to fill up racks that once held winter merchandise.

Since the excitement over winter fashion is dead and we are nowhere near bikini weather, it somehow seems appropriate to discuss the season retailers seem to forget about but is hopefully coming. It is time to talk about spring fashion.

Before getting into the actual silhouettes and designs for spring, it is essential to start with the colors in which we will soon dress ourselves.

Designers flock to New York City every September to present their spring fashion lines during Olympus Fashion Week, and it is no coincidence that most of the garments that prance down the runway seem to come from the same color palette. The Pantone Color Institute forecasts the color trends for upcoming seasons and provides inspiration and direction as far as 24 months in advance. Designers use these forecasts as a guide throughout the design process.

The forecast for this spring is a gentle and subdued palette. Look for colors such as silver peony, golden apricot, opal gray, strawberry ice, sky blue, tangerine and green sheen. Think of it as a set of earth tones mixed with metallic sherbet colors.

Designers are either too tired to find fresh new influences or in love with past decades, illustrated by another '80s trend. This time around designers are using geometric prints and metallic fabrics. They are digressing from simple designs made from fluorescent colors and leaning more towards the slinky, chic metallic shift dresses. Look

for these knee length dresses which display large geometric shapes and lines across the front. Another new look is the graphic dresses. If geometric shapes and lines do not fit student's tastes, imagine a screen-printed Andy Warhol type image that extends from the neck to the knees.

With new colors come new and fresh ideas, but this doesn't necessarily mean that fashions from previous seasons are completely tossed aside. One look being carried over into the spring is the tent dress. Some students on campus have picked up on this look already and embrace this wide, full, waistless dress that hangs loose from the shoulders. The silhouette is the same, but new colors and accessories are being used to freshen up the entire look. This type of dress can be seen in different lengths, some hitting above the knee and some falling just below. It is also paired with calf-length sheer tights. Pitch the thick cotton tights, and go for sheer translucent tights that have a softer and more delicate feel.

On the more serious side, sophistication and sexiness are coming together. Pencil skirts are being paired with extravagantly detailed jackets. Look for raglan-sleeved jackets, which don't have shoulder seams. Instead, the top of the jacket flows down onto the arm. This is not the only style when it comes to jackets. There is the trapeze topcoat, which flows away from the body and hangs down from the shoulders. The trapeze coat is ideally paired with a pair of short shorts that are invisible when the coat is closed. The look is sophisticated when the jacket is buttoned up and sexy when it is open.

Paired with or without a jacket, short shorts will be hot and appreciated when warm weather finally comes around. Shorts that have stitching, pockets and details, or a fitted pair of trousers that stop mid-thigh and end with a two-inch cuff will be popular for the spring.

While some pieces will have to wait for warmer weather, there are others that can be worn now and carry over when spring comes around. Invest in a one-shouldered shirt or blouse. Go for the one-shouldered top instead of a dress, so you can pair it with pants now and wear it with shorts when appropriate.

Another spring trend that can be altered for winter weather is a higher waist. New spring designs include high waisted shorts and pants worn with tees or tanks and accompanied with sandals. Replace the tank with a long-sleeve shirt and hold off on the sandals and go with a dressy pump for now.

Luckily winter will not interfere with the innovative trends in accessories. Whether it is hot or cold, wet or dry, adorn yourself in cocktail rings, large hoop earrings, clutches, chain purses and charm bracelets. This is the new charm bracelet. Do not hunt down the one you received for your thirteenth birthday. The new charm bracelet is replacing the keepsake charms with gemstones and solid gold pieces. One idea from last spring that will be prevalent this year is layered necklaces. There is one change that will take you from last year to chic. Instead of chunky beaded necklaces, layer thinner necklaces which creates an overall more delicate look.

Unfortunately some trends just have to wait for the warmer weather such as high wedges, skirts and dresses with tiered layers, t-shirt dresses and mini dresses.

In the end, recurring themes include minimization and softness. It is time to tone things down, lessen the bulk in your jewelry and reduce the weight in your clothes with a more sheer and smooth look. Just take the trends and looks from above, add a little bit of your own personal flair and you will be ready to dress for spring. ♦



Graphic by Dana Owens | Editor in chief



Photo by Sarah Lavery | Features Editor
Sophomore dietetics major Jamie Germain (above) and sophomore biology major Payal Gupta (below) manage to look chic despite the biting cold.



SPORTS

Lady Raiders continue dream season

By Cody Gibson
Staff Writer

The historic season for the Lady Raiders continues as Middle Tennessee faces South Alabama on Saturday February 3rd in the Murphy Center.

Middle Tennessee will bring their undefeated conference record and the Sun Belt's Player of the Year thus far to face South Alabama, who brings in a .500 record it will be an interesting match-up.

The game should be a contrast in styles between both teams, as the Lady Jaguars like to slow down the game and play defense.

The evidenced by the South Alabama's 58 points per game the team is scoring. Yet, Middle Tennessee will most likely continue their high-pressure defensive ways.

The Lady Raiders are averaging 77 points per game. Head coach Rick Insell attributes the defensive success to his team's desire and tenacity.

"The team does that in practice everyday," Insell said. "You play like you practice, and we really go at it hard. We've been tired. Maybe we got a little bit of that out of us during the road trip. Thank goodness we're home."

Eight players on the Lady Raiders are averaging over five points per game, and three average double digits.

This shows the balance Middle Tennessee has exhibited on offense. The biggest individual improvement according to Coach Insell is the play of Krystle Horton, who has progressively gotten better after a slow start offensively.

"What do you say about Krystle Horton?" Insell

said. "She's all over the floor. I don't know what got into her. I've never seen anybody make a change like she's made. If she continues to play like that, we are going to go far. She defends their best player inside and out on the perimeter, she's going in and getting eight to 10 rebounds a night."

In contrast, South Alabama is led by Whitney Woodward and Monique Jones.

Woodward is averaging over 15 points per game and has been a key contributor in the Lady Jaguars offense. In conference play she averages 16 points per game against the SBC.

Woodward is dangerous from three-point land averaging over two per game.

Jones has been averaging 12 points per game while taking care of the ball. The team overall has struggled from the field shooting under 37 percent.

Jones is currently ranked second in the conference in three-pointers making 2.14 per game.

Middle Tennessee will have their work cut out for them against an underrated South Alabama team that has a lot to prove in conference.

The last time these two teams met, Middle Tennessee beat South Alabama 93-58 on Dec. 14, 2006. Now Middle Tennessee has a 16-game winning streak on the line.

MT defense forced 29 turnovers from USA offense, with four Raiders tallying up double digits numbers Chrissy Givens scored 29 points, Brandi Brown had 17 points. Rounding out the group was Amber Holt with 16 points, as Horton netted 10 points for herself.

Tip-off is scheduled for 3 p.m. on Saturday Feb. 3.



Photo by Jay Richardson | Staff Photographer

Junior Lakria Boyd forces the Louisiana-Lafayette defender back as she gets set to take a shot.

MT Ice Hockey Club beats Top-ranked Vols

By Seth Lake
Contributing Writer

Entering last Friday night's meeting in Knoxville against top-ranked Tennessee, the MTSU Ice Hockey Club knew they need to play their best to knock off the Volunteers.

Powered by a five-point night from junior Brad Peterson, two-goal efforts from junior Mike McGoldrick and freshman Ryan Lux, and an outstanding 38 save performance by freshman goaltender Dustin Smith.

The Blue Raiders (10-9) overcame two and three goal deficits to tie the score at the end of the second period.

They utilized three goals in the last six minutes to overcome one last deficit en route to an 8-6 upset of the Volunteers (19-1).

"One of the keys heading into the game was to stay composed for a full sixty minutes," MT head coach John Latreille said. "I told them to keep pushing forward no matter what happened and they responded with a 'never say die' attitude that really helped lead us to victory tonight."

Down by a 3-1 score after the first period, team captain senior Ryan Latrielle gave the Blue Raiders life at the start of the second period.

When he scored off the rebound of a Peterson shot to bring Middle Tennessee back to within a goal of tying the game 3-2 just 4:15 into the period.

Tennessee scored two shorthanded goals to reopen a three-goal lead. The Blue Raiders rallied to tie the score on a pair of goals by McGoldrick and a tally from Lux with just 0:36 seconds remaining in the period to tie the score at the end of the second period.

Trailing by a goal late in the third period, senior Josh Kemp was able to force a defensive-zone turnover by the UT defense.

Resulting in Lux's second goal of the night on a wrist shot off a pass from junior Mica Fleming to tie the score at 6-6 with 6:00 remaining.

Revitalized by the goal, the Blue Raiders continued to apply pressure on Tennessee and were rewarded a 5-on-3 power play late in the game.

Senior Jeff Deluca took advantage of the situation redirecting a Peterson slap shot past Tennessee goaltender Mark McHugh for the game-winning goal with 2:49 remaining.

Peterson sealed the victory with a breakaway goal with 0:50 remaining in the game for his team-leading 20th goal of the season.

"I was very pleased with the effort put forth tonight from our entire team," Latreille said. "We got solid contributions from our whole lineup, and whether they were credited with a stat on the score sheet or not, each player was responsible for helping us defeat Tennessee tonight on their home rink."

"I can't say enough about these guys. I would go to bat for them anytime because I know they would do the same for me. You give each player a part of the pie and it gives them ownership of each game," Latreille said. "When I told Eric Porth that I would be starting Dustin Smith in nets Saturday night he looked at me while circling the team logo on his wind suit with his finger and Smith said 'It's all about the team coach! A 'team' that's who we are."



Photo courtesy of Blue Raiders Ice Hockey Club

Senior Josh Kemp is getting ready for the face-off with UT.

All for one and one for all."

Despite beginning the season with only nine players on the roster, the Ice Hockey Club persevered through the fall semester to en route to a 6-7-0 record at the midpoint of the season.

The Blue Raiders began the spring semester on a roll last weekend with two convincing victories over Clemson University.

They extended their winning streak to four games heading into the game against their in-state rival at The Ice Atrium in Knoxville.

"We were sitting in the locker room with nine players at the beginning of the season

See Ice Club upset, 8

Middle Tennessee men's team falls to ETSU

By Colby George
Contributing Writer

On top of being upset by Eastern Tennessee (4-1) Blue Raiders Tennessee (1-1) had an ankle injury to one of their top two players, Marco Born. He is expected to miss five or six matches.

"I hope to play tomorrow against Kentucky, at least. I plan on only playing doubles, but if I feel good, I will play singles," Born said. "I feel I am walking and playing on one leg, and unless I get better, I will only be 50 percent going into the match tomorrow."

With the team coming into the match already shorthanded with their star recruit Rich Cowden out. They will now be searching deeper into their bench to find players to step up and win.

"It is hard to swallow seeing [Born] sitting on the bench with ice on his ankle," head coach Dale Short said "We are already short on players, and without him, we are going to need to put more emphasis on doubles, working with it in practice and seeing what

we have to work with."

The Raiders who are currently ranked 31st will probably see their ranking drop a few notches after not only losing Born but losing 4-2 to ETSU team.

"As I have been saying for a while now, rankings are nothing the ETSU tennis team, should be a top 30 team but they are only 66th," Short said. "I am not trying to take anything away from them, but we had them where we wanted them going into Born's match we should have beat them 4-3."

Before Born was hurt, he and Andreas Siljestrom held onto their No. 16 ranking in doubles by defeating Felix Insaurralde and Lisandro Picardo, 8-6.

Shortly after the duo of ETSU, Sebastian Serrano and Enrique Olivares defeated Morgan Richard and Marc Rocafort 8-5 in the second doubles match of the day.

In singles play, Siljestrom defeated Insaurralde, 6-3, 6-1, at No. 1. Rocafort defeated Serrano,

See MT tennis, 8

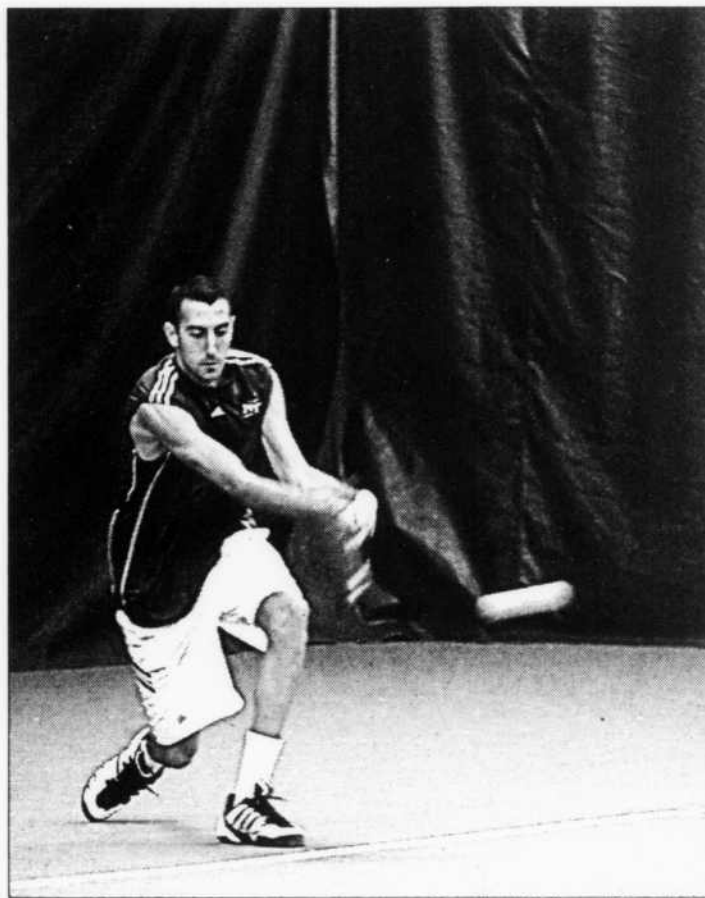


Photo by Chris Barstad | Photo Editor

Marc Rocafort returns a serve from his opponent as the tennis team falls to ETSU.



I am Sportacus

J. Owen Shipley
Staff Columnist

Sportacus looks at Forty One (XLI)

Super Bowl XLI may end up being my favorite Super Bowl, but it won't have a thing to do with the game. This year, all my hopes ride on an upset victory of sports over sports writers.

Every year, around this time, the media has to find ways to call this game historic. They have two weeks of constant blogging, live telecasting and sports radio name-calling to put in the books with absolutely no news.

None, because, with the exception of the possibility of five or six Bengal's players being arrested during that period, nothing will happen.

After two weeks of searching for a story, it's almost a guarantee that Sunday won't feel like a football game.

So many angles will be created and argued that the game is destined to be covered like a presidential debate. Whatever happened to the biggest game of the year being about who wins?

So here I am, a sports writer, talking about the media's annoying habit of covering themselves in their post-ironic, self-aggrandizing fashion leading them to spend a full fortnight complaining about the stories everyone else is writing instead of writing something new. It's inescapable, even for me.

So, what is the story? Is it the first ever African-American coaches Bowl? Is it Peyton Manning's jinx? Is it a guy named Tank, who just got arrested for having more guns than Pakistan? Is it Rex Grossman?

I hope not. Half way through the fourth quarter of the AFC championship game, these stories were already being e-mailed to editors around the world. By the following Monday, they were already old news.

To be fair, Rex Grossman does qualify as a story. The guy's stats are more confusing than Chinese algebra. He posted seven games with a 100 or better passer rating and yet, had four games below a 30, two of which were below a rating of two. But the story has already been covered to death.

No, the real story is the possible end of two of the most nauseating stories in the history of sports.

Over the last decade, dial-it-in sports writers have needed Peyton Manning like Tony Soprano needs pasta. Have a hangover? Still drunk?

Haven't had any original thoughts since All in the Family was considered edgy? Have no fear-the Peyton Manning Story is here!

You know the story. The one they have been writing since he was a sophomore at UT. His family pedigree, his drive and his talent may give him super human potential but his big game record has made him the football equivalent of the French Military.

Stories about Brady, Belichick and the "cheating" Patriots secondary only took over for Wuerffel, Spurrier and the "cheating" Gators secondary. Coverage of his career has become as original as a form letter from the department of motor vehicles.

Perhaps even worse are the constant comparisons by even lazier sports writers, of every Chicago team capable of kicking a field goal to the '85 Bears. I won't even waste my time explaining why a team with one star Brian Urlacher can't be compared to Ditka's team. The team, which engineered one of the most lopsided victories in Super Bowl history, had Walter Peyton-the greatest of all time, Mike Singletary-the original Minister of Defense, Richard Dent-17 sacks in 85, and a man named "the Fridge". The 2006 Bears have the same uniforms.

My dream, my vision is a win so lopsided it kills two bad stories with one stone. If the Colts kill the Bears by the exact same score the '85 Bears won their Super Bowl, then each of those stories might actually die forever. The Bears will go back to just being a football team, and Peyton Manning will just be a quarterback again. You only need to win one Super Bowl to end the talk.

So instead of predicting what the outcome will be a Colts win by less than 14, I'm going to post the score I want to see: Colts 46, Bears 10. If that happens, maybe next year, we can just enjoy the damn game.

J. Owen Shipley is a junior English major. He can be contacted at Myspace.com/lamsportacus.

Lady Raiders keep on rolling



Photo by Jay Richardson | Staff Photographer

Freshman Brandi Brown was 3 of 5 from the field goal range as MT beat UNT 70-56 on Wednesday.

By Cody Gibson
Staff Writer

Just days after being named to the watch list for the Wade Trophy, Chrissy Givens again delivered a strong outing in leading the Lady Raiders to a 70-56 victory over the Lady Mean Green. This marked the 15th straight win, which is a school record.

Middle Tennessee only led at halftime by one point, 32-31. However, the Lady Raiders proved they are indeed the No. 19 team in America as they used a 20-2 run to begin the half.

This put the game out of reach for North Texas and they were unable to answer the run. Head Coach Rick Insell felt his halftime adjustments were necessary for the team to get in rhythm and take care of the basketball.

"We executed our offense early and we changed defenses on them and I think that gave them some problems," Insell told MT Media Relations. "We went to a point-drop and a contain trap instead of a hard trap up front so they couldn't take it to the basket."

Givens had 26 points on the day as she led the

way for the Lady Raiders. The shooting struggles continued in the first half as the Lady Raiders were only able to shoot 40 percent from the field.

This game marked the ninth road victory of the season for the Lady Raiders. Three pointers were also sparse for the Lady Raiders as they hit only 31 percent from behind the arc.

Amber Holt chipped in with 16 points and had six rebounds, Kystle Horton had another double digit rebounding since her defense was invaluable to the Lady Raiders.

Coach Insell is still a firm believer in Middle Tennessee's talent and ability to keep improving. However, he said he was very impressed with the effort shown by North Texas.

"MT doesn't take anybody for granted. North Texas is very athletic," Insell said to MT Media Relations. "They have lateral quickness. [Amber] Jackson is just deadly. She just did a great job. Right off the bat we let her get off. Then we [have] Chrissy Givens in foul trouble but I felt like we'd be alright. But they came out and really stuck us. They did a great job."

MT will host Denver on Wednesday at 7 p.m.

HOUSING REAPPLICATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR FALL 2007 / SPRING 2008

The Housing and Residential Life Office is now accepting housing reapplication forms from returning students for the Fall 2007/Spring 2008 academic year. Students are encouraged to reapply for housing as early as possible, particularly if they are requesting to move to a different location on campus next year, as new assignments are made by application date.

Students requesting to remain in their same location on campus next year will be given first priority to do so as long as their reapplication and \$300 prepaid rent deposit are received by the deadline. The reapplication deadline with priority for the 2007/2008 academic year is **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2007 at 4:00 PM.**

Students need to complete a reapplication form available in the Housing and Residential Life Office, pay the \$300 prepaid rent at the business office cashier windows in the Cope Administration Building, 1st floor, and return the reapplication form stamped "paid" to the Housing and Residential Life office in the Keathley University Center, Room 300, Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Students also have the option of reapplying for housing with priority online at www.mtsu.edu. The \$300 prepaid rent is paid by using a credit card, MasterCard or Visa, or by completing an online check. There is an additional \$19 nonrefundable service fee charged by the third party for processing the payment online. Please note that the amount of the prepaid rent deposit has increased to **\$300** for the Fall 2007/Spring 2008 academic year.

To obtain a **HOUSING REAPPLICATION FORM**, please come by the Housing and Residential Life office during office hours, 8AM to 4:30PM, Monday through Friday, in the Keathley University Center, Room 300.

****Summer '07 Housing Applications** are also available in the Housing Office. Reserve your summer space now by completing the housing application and submitting it with the \$125.00 prepaid rent deposit. It is not too early!!



For additional information or questions, please contact Housing and Residential Life during office hours at 898-2971.

Results from Saturday MT 7, UT Martin 0

SINGLES

1. Sufi def. Schoonees (UTM), 6-1, 6-4
2. Siljestrom def. Leavy (UTM), 6-4, 6-3
3. Parkison def. Belisa de Brito (UTM), 6-0, 6-0
4. Yusupova def. Wahl (UTM), 6-0, 7-6 (3)
5. Kommireddi def. Koomhof (UTM), 6-2, 6-2
6. Szabo def. Victoria Cann (UTM), 6-1, 6-2

DOUBLES

1. Sufi-Szabo def. Schoonees-Leavy (UTM), 8-6
2. Chemin-Siljestrom defeats Koomhof-de Brito (UTM), 8-2
3. Kommireddi-Parkison defeats Gunn-Wahl (UTM), 8-2

Results from Friday's MT 7, Tennessee Tech 0

SINGLES

1. Hala Sufi def. Amy Anstay (TTU), 6-1, 6-2
2. Ann-Kristin Siljestrom def. Margot Carter (TTU), 6-3, 7-6 (4)
3. Stephanie Parkison def. Marina Ruiz de Guana (TTU), 7-5, 6-0
4. Elvira Yusupova def. Evgenia Yartseva (TTU), 6-2, 6-2
5. Pooja Kommireddi def. Kay Ngiam (TTU), default - injury
6. Claudia Szabo won by default

DOUBLES

1. Sufi-Szabo (MT) def. Anstay-Carter (TTU), 8-7 (7)
2. Marlene Chemin-Siljestrom (MT) def. Ruiz de Guaba-Yartseva (TTU), 8-0
3. Parkison-Kommireddi (MT) won by default

Lady Raiders tennis briefs

By Clarence Plank
Sports Editor

Middle Tennessee women's tennis team won its second straight dual match, by sweeping all single and doubles matches to win 7-0 over UT-Martin on Saturday at the Racquet Club.

The Lady Raiders are 2-0 at the beginning of the tennis season.

MT won six singles matches, with Stephanie Parkison beating out Belisa de Brito, 6-0, 6-0.

Teammate junior Claudia Szabo defeated Victoria Cann 6-1, 6-2.

Sophomore Pooja Kommireddi beat Ernestine Koomhof 6-2, 6-2.

Senior Hala Sufi, who is ranked 47th in the nation in singles, beat Elizma Schoonees, 6-1, 6-4.

Ann-Kristen Siljestrom defeated Sara Leavy, 6-4, 6-3.

Rounding out the field sophomore Elvira Yusupova won the last singles match, 6-0, 7-6 (3) over Martie Wahl.

Over in double action Parkison-Kommireddi beat out UTM's Mary Beth Gunn-Wahl, 8-2.

Marlene Chemin and Siljestrom defeated Koomhof and de Brito, 8-2.

Sufi-Szabo beat Schoonees-Leavy, 8-6 for the final win of the events.

Lady Raiders sweep Tennessee Tech

In their home opener on Friday the women's tennis squad swept Tennessee Tech in double and singles matches.

Tennessee Tech defaulted some of its matches because they were short a couple of players due to injuries.

In doubles Szabo-Sufi defeated Tennessee Tech after falling behind 6-3.

They finish the match with a score of 9-7 after fighting back from a tie.

Chemin-Siljestrom won their first game 8-0 and the Blue Raiders won another by default.

In singles competition the Raiders swept all of the singles events and picked up win at No. 5 and No. 6 by default of TTU.

Sufi beat Amy Anstay, 6-1, 6-2. Yusupova beat Evgenia Yartseva, 6-2, 6-2.

Parkison defeated Marina Ruiz de Guana 7-5, 6-0.

Siljestrom beat Margot Carter, 6-3, 7-6 (4).

The Lady Raiders head to Ole Miss next weekend to play against the Lady Rebels on on Tuesday Feb. 6 at 2 p.m.

Track: Record breakers

Continued from 6

ished third in the weight throw and broke her own school-record by two inches, 56-8.

"It actually went really well. Brittany, I believe, set a school record in the weight throw and Melyn set a PR in the shot and ended up winning," Thomas said. "Brittany got second. I had my best throw, so far this season since I injured my back."

Stephanie Tamgho finished second in the long jump, while teammate Sarah Nambawa was sev-

enth in her first attempt. Nambawa also finished fifth in the triple jump and Tamgho was seventh.

Freshman Tenesha Hill finished in sixth place in the 60-meters and senior Shanna-Kay Campbell was fifth in the 200-meters. Hill competed in the 200-meters and finished seventh.

Senior Veronia Patterson finished in third in the 400-meters, followed by TraMayne Gillyard, who finished in eighth place.

Freshman Sangau Zamzam finished eighth in the mile run and finished eighth in the 600-meter. Nambawa was sixth in the 600-meters.

Iceca Epps was fifth in the 60-meter hurdles and the women's 4x400-meters team finished fourth.

Middle Tennessee travels to Bloomington, Ind., for the Indiana Invitational on February 3-4th. ♦

Coming out swinging

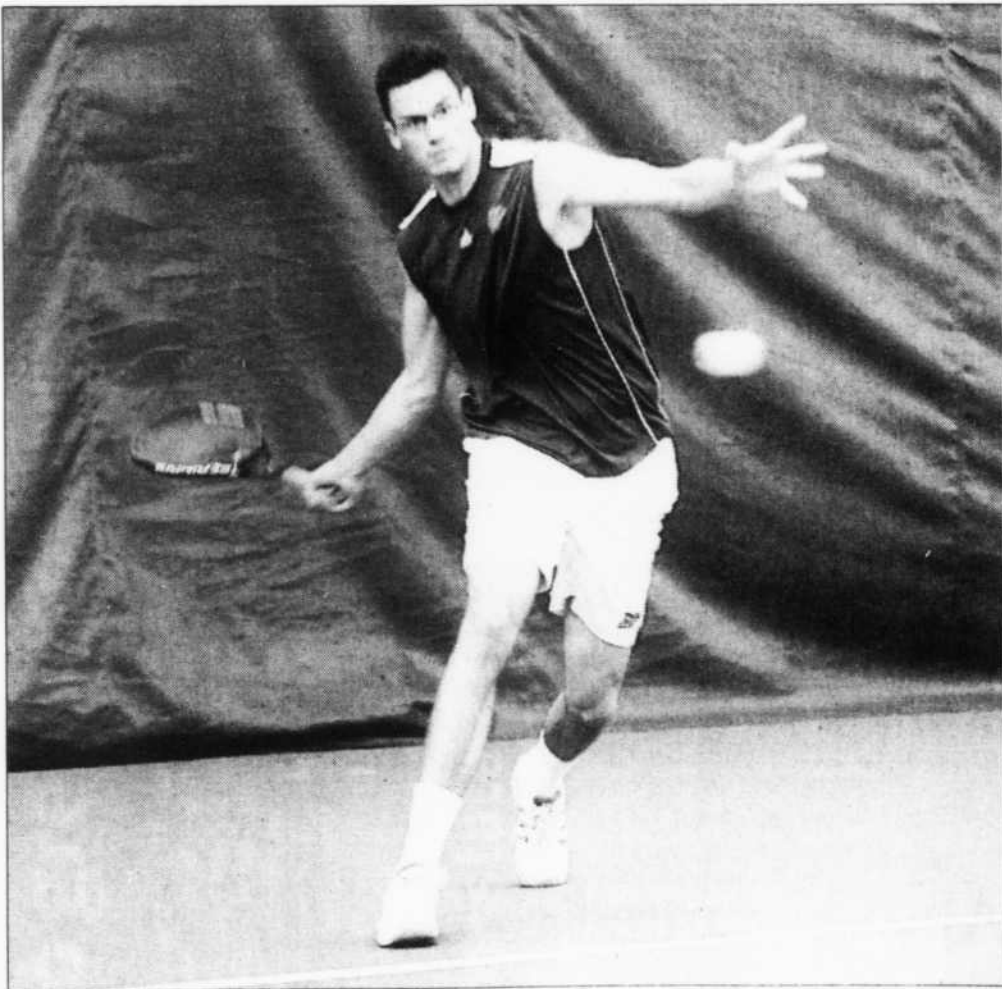


Photo by Chris Barstad | Photo Editor

Redshirt senior Marco Born is currently ranked 3rd in double and 88th in singles this season. Look for tennis preview on page 6.

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today!



Photo courtesy of Blue Raiders Ice Hockey Club
Senior Cody Smith drives down the ice before he passes the puck off to another teammate.

Ice Club upset Vols

Continued from 6

talking about going to play in a men's rec league and save money for next season," Latrielle said. "I remember playing Kennesaw State with three defensemen and less than two forward lines. We started 0-5 and were ranked 34th in the Southeast region, and now, we have come together to beat the No. 1 ranked Vols in Knoxville this weekend."

McGoldrick and Lux lead the team with two goals each. Peterson, Deluca and Latrielle each came away with a goal. Latrielle had four assists and Peterson added an assist to the mix.

The Ice Vols entered the meeting sporting with the No. 1 ranking in the Southeast region of the American Collegiate Hockey Association, and an undefeated home record having won their last 12 contests.

The Ice Hockey Club is home this weekend in Franklin at the Southern Ice Arena for a contest against the University of North Carolina at Charlotte beginning at 11:30 PM.

The Club returns to action next Saturday night Feb. 10 at 10:10 PM playing against Division II opponent Life University before finishing the road portion of their schedule with a trip to Cincinnati for a pair of games against the Bearcats.

The Blue Raiders will finish up their regular season with a pair of home stands featuring games against 4th ranked Georgia Tech and Vanderbilt University Feb. 23 and 24.

Back-to-back meetings against Northern Kentucky University Mar. 2 and 3.

After taking advantage of a late third-period scoring outburst Friday night to knock off top-ranked Tennessee by an 8-6 score, the Volunteers used a goal from Carl Wallin with just 3:16 remaining in the third period to defeat the Blue Raiders 9-8.

Tennessee lead 7-4 late in the second period before MTSU rattled off four straight goals to take an 8-7 lead midway through the third period. Three-point performances from freshman Jordan Quintana and Peterson lead the way in the scoring department and freshman goaltender Smith made 40 saves on 49 shots for the Blue Raiders.

"I was proud of our composure this weekend," Club President Cody Smith said. "We knew we had to play at a different level this weekend, and we rose to the challenge. Everybody stepped up their game from Dustin between the pipes to the last man on our bench. I really felt that everyone was focused, and we played a full sixty minutes of hockey in both games. This was a great start to the second half of our season and I'm excited about what the rest of the season holds for our team."

All Middle Tennessee students can get into the games for \$1 and non-students are \$3 over at the Southern Ice Arena in Franklin, Tenn.

For more information about the MTSU Ice Hockey Club, an their complete schedule, please visit <http://www.mtsuicehockey.com>. ♦

Sports: MT tennis

Continued from 6

defeated Insaurralde, 6-3, 6-1; at No. 1. Rocafort defeated Serrano, 6-3, 6-0. ETSU's Picardo tied the match at two after defeating Boiron 6-4, 6-3, at No. 5.

Coach Short hopes to have Born back to play against Kentucky and Chattanooga Jan. 31.

"If I knew that we were going to be this injured and short on players I would have never scheduled two matches in the same day," Short said. "We are hoping to have our team at 100 percent by the match against Washington on the 9."

"I trust my teammates and believe they will step up if I can

not play," Born said. "They are working hard in practice, so hopefully, they will be able to step up and win some matches they are not supposed to."

Born and coach Short both have faith in their bench players to step up more than they usually have to. If Born cannot go, the doubles partner for Siljestrom will be Morgan Richard, a sophomore who has yet to start.

The Raiders have a lot to work on with the injuries of two out of their top four players, but if the right players step up at the right time, they will make it through these next couple of matches. ♦

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