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# SIDELINES

March 6, 2013

EDITORIALLY INDEPENDENT



More than a glorified jukebox: Rick Ross spins through school



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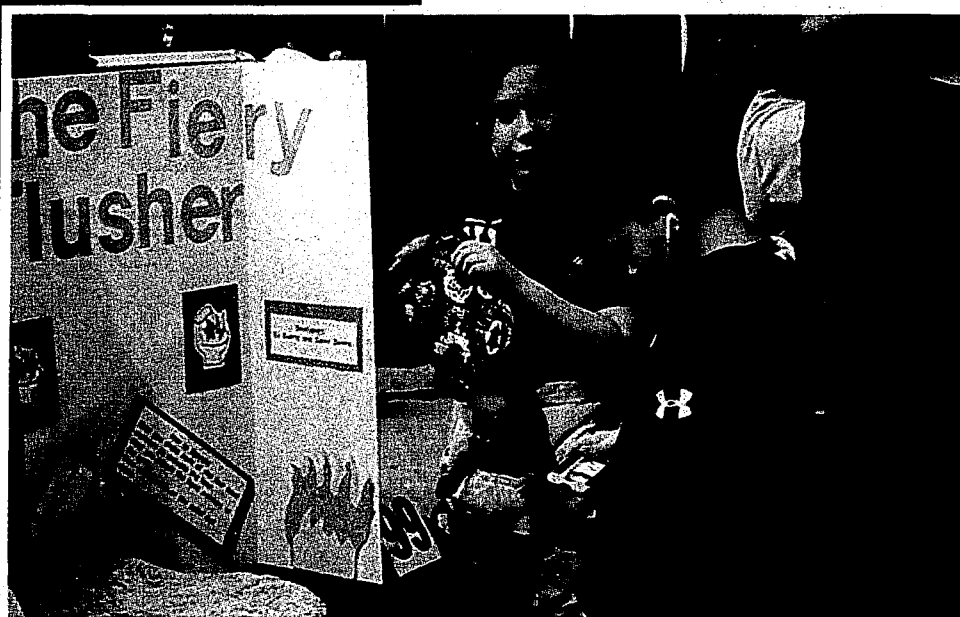
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220 fourth, fifth and sixth graders from across the midstate came together in the Murphy Center to show off their inventions for the 2013 Invention Convention. Photo by AJ Netherland.

Cover photo courtesy of Alan Wieme.

Visit us at [www.mtsusidelines.com](http://www.mtsusidelines.com)

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# Students recognize eating disorders through awareness week

By Kimberly Barker  
Staff writer

To Write Love On Her Arms hosted "National Eating Disorder Awareness Week," an event designed to inform students and combat eating disorders throughout the last week of February.

MTSU's TWLOHA, which formed in spring 2012, is devoted to helping students affected by depression, self-injury, addiction and suicide.

"The idea behind 'Eating Disorder Awareness Week' is to try and promote a positive self-body image and for people to believe in themselves," said Morgan Hunlen, a freshman aerospace major who has been an active member since August.

TWLOHA put up mirrors in the Student Union last week and asked students to write

one characteristic they like about their image on the mirror.

The next day, members promoted the "Love Your Body Pledge," a written contract students signed promising to love themselves and their body.

On Thursday, "Freedom Day," students wrote their stories on notecards and posted them on a board in the SUB to share their experiences.

Elizabeth Gordon, a junior psychology major, is TWLOHA's president and founder of MTSU's group.

She started the chapter to combat eating disorders and to find treatment. She battled anorexia and found reason to persevere in the the group.

"I was at my very sickest during my four-year battle with anorexia, and I had nothing to live for," Gordon said.

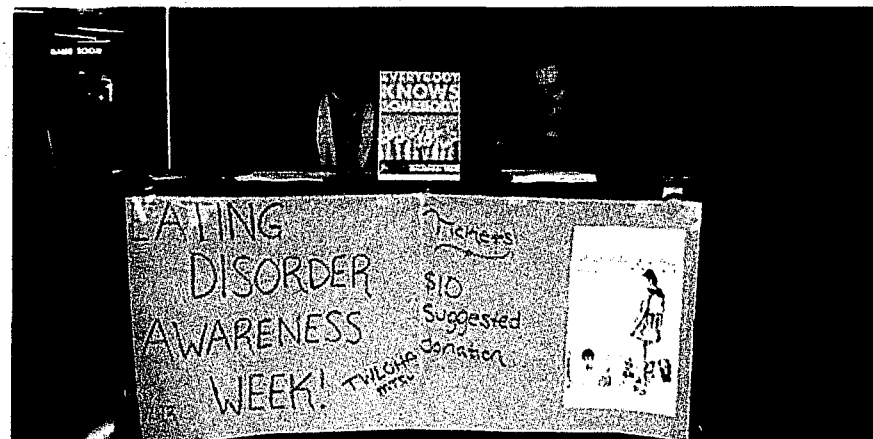
"I didn't want to get better because I didn't see any purpose to my life. But when I found TWLOHA, I realized that this was something I could do. I could recover, and I could work to help others with similar issues get the help they need."

She has maintained recovery for more than 18 months.

The organization hosted "Strut Your Stuff" Saturday night with recording artist Teddy Geiger performing.

All donations went toward treatment and recovery.

"Personally, I want to make a change at MTSU," Gordon said. "We live in a society where it's not okay to tell others that you aren't okay. It's not okay to talk about these issues because there is so much stigma attached. I want to create an environment on



Celecita Williams, left, and Hailey Lawson, right, man an information table about eating disorders for TWLOHA. Photo by Kimberly Barker.

campus where people aren't afraid to tell their friends that they need help and where people aren't afraid to ask for help or support when needed. I think my biggest mission is just for people to feel okay talking about these problems instead of suffering in silence."

TWLOHA will host more events throughout the semester. The organization will make "Insecurity Balloons"

March 19 – students write their insecurities on balloons, blow them up and pop them to symbolize the ability to let them go.

TWLOHA will celebrate its 7th anniversary March 29 and will have tables with resources on suicide and mental health and information about the group.

They will also host "Fears Vs. Dreams," placing a whiteboard

where students can write their biggest fears/dreams to remind them of the importance of their story.

The group is also participating in the "Black Flag" event April 16, where 1,100 black flags are placed on campus to symbolize the 1,100 students who die from suicide annually to give students a visual perspective. ■



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# Summit plans for higher minority student retention rate

By Mamie Nash  
Contributing writer

The university announced it intends to improve its retention rate of minority students – namely its 39.9 percent African-American rate – through curricular reconstruction and a re-emphasis on self-reliance among students.

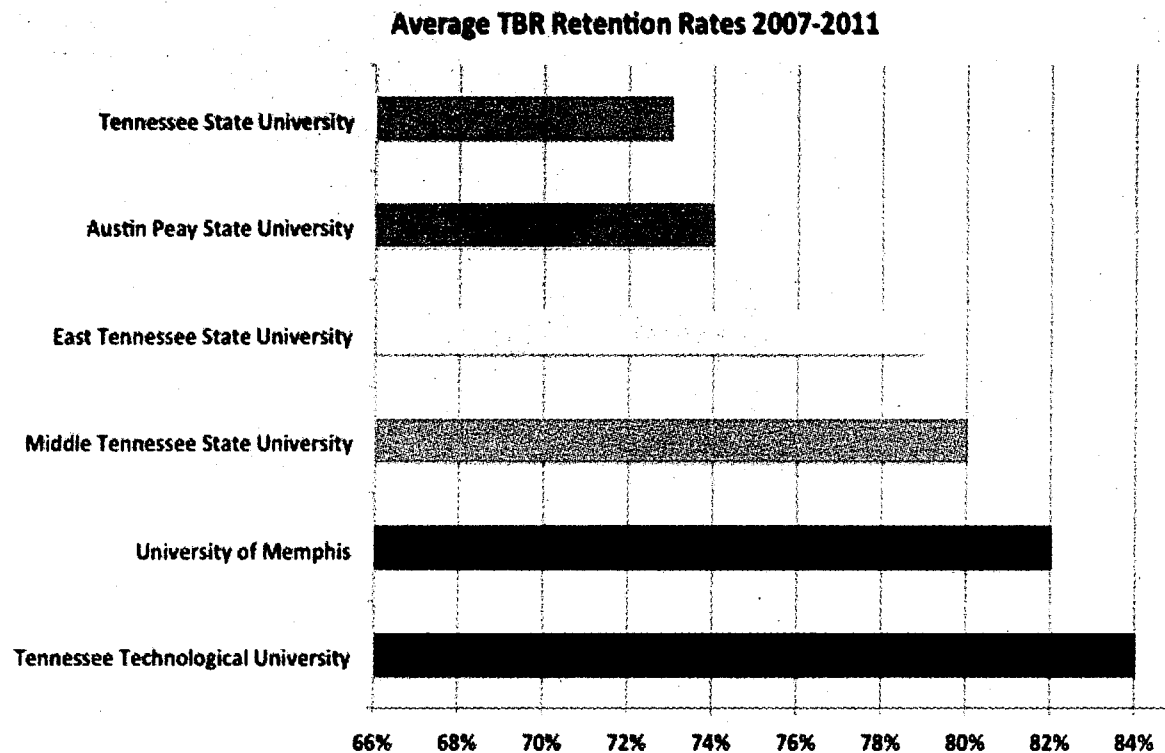
Freeman Hrabowski, president of the University of Maryland and one of *Times*' 2012 "100 Most Influential People" spoke on campus during the Feb. 25 Retention Summit to discuss college retention issues affecting universities across America.

"Course re-design is the name of the game for retention," Hrabowski said.

A disproportionately large number of top students have non-American roots or at least one foreign-born parent, according to Hrabowski. The University of Maryland has implemented new course regimens in several departments and focused on showing students how to be self taught.

"The hunger for knowledge, the belief that America is the land of opportunity and that you can achieve anything is what drives foreign students," Hrabowski said.

University President McPhee said the point of the summit was to observe the best practices and look at a comprehensive retention plan based on what the experts did



Tennessee Tech currently boasts the strongest retention rate in the state. Graphic by Quint Qualls.

elsewhere.

"Students have a responsibility for their success as well. They need to have their priorities straightened out, to be committed," McPhee said. "We can do all we can to help with student success, but students need to do their part. They might not have the skill or the experience needed, but they can learn."

MTSU has a 22-percent minority rate, but it is on the rise, according to Vincent Windrow, director of the Department of Intercultural and Diversity Affairs.

Hrabowski said African-American and Hispanic children are about four grades behind average middle-class white students, and test

scores for students of color are dramatically lower than the majority. Students who have low test scores may also require further preparation between high school and college.

"College means you look into the face of a student, and you get to know that person," Hrabowski said. "If staff believe retention is important, you'll see progress being made. People tend to be comfortable with that which is already in place, because it worked for them."

Hrabowski said that if a society gets to the point where we don't want to know the truth, then we have moved past the point of enlightenment.

MTSU take programs that work for other colleges under consideration for implementation, McPhee said.

Course re-designs

and additional hirings are also planned to aim classes at the majority and sub-groups of students.

Windrow explained

that an emphasis on school views and expectations are taken into consideration when MTSU faculty is hired.

"This is what who we are, this is what we do, and this is how we do it," Windrow said. "The person being interviewed could be a top-notch person, but not a good fit, and if it's not a good fit, then oftentimes when the decision is made to bring them in anyway, there's blowback from it," said Windrow.

MTSU's graduation rate is second only to Tennessee Tech, according to the Tennessee Board of Regents.

"It's cool to compare, especially when it's a good comparison, but I don't think we do what we do for the sake of looking good in comparison to someone else," Windrow said. "I think we do what we do because we believe we can do better by our students." ■

## CRIME BRIEFS

### WARRANT

**Nicks Hall**  
Feb. 28, 5:01 p.m.  
Authorities arrested Diamond Sharpe, 18, for an outstanding domestic assault warrant.

### ALCOHOL

**East Main Street**  
Feb. 28, 12:38 a.m.  
Authorities arrested Sommer A. Franklin and issued a citation for underage consumption of alcohol.

### ASSAULT

**Scarlett Commons**  
Apt. 6  
Feb. 26, 9:42 a.m.  
Complainants reported several males who were denied entry into their apartment in the early morning hours fired a gunshot at their door.

### ASSAULT

**James E. Walker**  
Library parking lot  
Feb. 26, 9:39 a.m.  
Authorities responded to a fight on an apartment shuttle bus.

According to a witness, the altercation appeared to be over messages sent and received over the Internet.

### DRUGS

**McFarland Health Services parking lot**  
Feb. 25, 7:18 p.m.  
Authorities arrested Ross Skeggs, 20, for simple possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia.

# 'Smithsonian of the South' soon rising in Murfreesboro

By Quint Qualls  
News editor

The MTSU Mineral, Gem and Fossil Museum will move to a larger location when Murfreesboro's first natural history museum opens its doors.

"The MTSU museum is frankly just out of space," said Alan Brown, museum director and geosciences lecturer. "I've got people with vast collections, but there just isn't a place for them right now. Once we have a full-on natural history museum, we have a lot of stuff lined up."

The project nears completion with the final hurdle of finding a suitable building and location for the museum.

Last year, Brown and his associates formed the nonprofit corporation Middle Tennessee Natural History Museum and gained tax-exempt status from the IRS.

The next step, he said, is marketing and fundraising.

"We've said publicly that we intend to become the 'Smithsonian of the South,'" said Lewis Elrod, president of the new museum.

"I'm about to head to Washington, D.C., to talk with the Smithsonian about becoming an affiliate where we can have some of their resources on display. I had it confirmed that they have no more than 1 percent of their collection on display at any one time."

According to Elrod, the project has two goals: to become a major educational attraction for the public and to become an economic hub for the community.

He said that Murfreesboro lies within a day's drive of approximately 60 percent of the nation's population.

"We're going to have a working paleontology lab where people will be able to watch real dinosaur bones being cleaned and prepared and set up in displays," Brown said. "There isn't any place you can see that stuff anywhere close to here."

The team collected an array of fossils, ranging from a woolly rhino skull to a mastodon skull.

Brown and the university's geosciences department gained national attention a couple weeks ago when a Smyrna woman found a 450-million-year-old



The Mineral, Gem and Fossil Museum resides in Ezell Hall, but it will soon move to a larger location. Photo by Whitney Proper.

coral fossil and brought it in for analysis.

The find drew interest to Middle Tennessee's rich prehistoric history from across the country, but, according to Brown, the find is not that uncommon.

"The significance is more of a curiosity to the general public. As a geologist in Middle Tennessee, they're

not that uncommon here," Brown said. "I think most people just don't realize how old the rocks are around here. Most of the rocks around here are 450 million years old. If someone with my experience went out, I'd say I would probably be able to find one in a day or two."

Brown said that

Middle Tennessee was once covered by a shallow sea and had topography similar to that of the Bahamas today.

Around this period, the first coral specimens began to develop — some of which became fossilized when minerals began to replace their cell walls.

Elrod is confident that the museum will

soon see realization, having invested so much of his resources and time in it.

"I'm just putting money into it. I won't be taking any out," Elrod said. "I'm just a guy who wants to see his dream in action and not necessarily profit from it." ■



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# Guns and fishing lures: Murfreesboro Outdoors considers ban

By Stephen Jetton  
Contributing writer

Customers patiently wait in line as the deer heads and fish hung on the walls watch their every move. The store aisles are filled with fishing equipment such as lures, fishing rods and bait. At the back counter is an entire section of the store set aside for gun sales.

The line at the front counter moves forward at Murfreesboro Outdoors, a local hunting and fishing supply store located on Northwest Broad Street. A sign sits below the cash register, boasting a bold black marker message that reads: "Obama is going to ban all plastic baits so you better stock up now!"

Store owner Randy Bolin laughs at a sign.

"It's just a joke," Bolin says.

The 48-year-old man stands behind his register, and his smile fades into a serious face as he begins to speak on gun control.

"It's absolute nonsense," Bolin says. "Guns don't kill people; it's the people behind them."

Bolin, who founded Murfreesboro Outdoors in 2000, predicts that the ban would "greatly affect gun sales" for his business, but it would not affect it as greatly as what he calls "pure gun stores."

Murfreesboro Outdoors firearm salesman Burt Daugherty says that the majority of its gun sales are handguns that are bought for self-defense. He says



Joe McCrary and his six-year-old daughter, Isabella, look for hunting coveralls at Murfreesboro Outdoors on NW Broad. Photo by Emily West.

sales of handguns are three-to-one compared to other guns they have in the store.

Bolin admits his business sells guns ev-

ery day, and a large majority of guns sold are handguns that would be taken off shelves if the ban passes due to magazine capacity.

He says some of his "long guns," or rifles, would also be banned, but his business doesn't sell as many "black guns," or assault rifles.

Murfreesboro Outdoors sells mainly hunting and fishing equipment.

Lee Maxwell, a friend of Bolin's and a regular at Murfreesboro

Outdoors, says he owns two assault rifles that would be illegal if the ban passes, but he says it wouldn't change how he uses his guns. Max-



Stuffed wildlife line the wall above the gun counter. Photo by Emily West.

ell mostly uses them for plinking, which is a form of target practice.

"If I ever go out West, I can go prairie dog hunting," Maxwell says. "Other than that, they stay in my gun safe."

Maxwell bought one of his assault rifles at a different store and the other from an individual.

"It doesn't matter if they sell them in the stores or out on the street," he says. "If somebody's wanting them, they are going to find a way."

Tim Verner, a 49-year-old sporting good sales representative who sells to Murfreesboro Outdoors, says the ban would affect his business greatly because he is seeing a spike in sales due to talk of the ban.

"People are really scared that the ban will

come through," Verner says.

Consumers are buying the would-be banned guns and more ammunition out of fear that a ban or high tax will be proposed. Verner, who has 40 accounts throughout Tennessee and Kentucky, says his rep group sells a high capacity .22 semi-automatic rifles that would be banned.

Verner owns various types of banned guns, and says that for an average customer it is very hard for to get their hands on assault weapons. He says these weapons have become scarce within the past five years.

Bolin says even customers who don't like guns are buying these certain types just to "cash in" on resale. He explains that people are buying guns for \$800 and selling them

for \$1800.

"All the gun shops are feeling the crunch now," Bolin says. "For me, its very hard to get my hands on those types of guns unless I want to pay entirely too much for them."

Bolin points out that every gun could be considered an assault weapon. He says that a machete could be considered an assault weapon – even a bucket filled with rocks could be an assault weapon.

"If you give them an inch and let them take one gun, that opens the door for them to just keep going and going," Bolin says. "They aren't going to stop at that; they never will." ■

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## DJ Rick Ross: The art of scratchin' and survivin'

By Jay Powell  
Features editor

The trend of sneaking out to clubs at night to drink, dance and listen to music continues to draw crowds to provide an escape from the perils of daily life.

The history of the disc jockey stretches back to the late 19th century. Not long after the invention of the phonograph cylinder by Thomas Edison in 1877, America was introduced to radio.

During Prohibition, swing became the nation's most popular form of music. The genre's increasing popularity spawned some of the first discotheques and underground nightclubs, often requiring a secret initiation or password for admittance.

DJing evolved to the point that it spilled into the college curriculum. If someone was interested in learning to scratch and mix, he or she can go to school and get started in a few short weeks. DJing became a large draw for college students and fostered a reputation that demands it be taken seriously as an art form.

DJ Rick Ross used his experiences to open doors and pursue a master's degree in audio production at MTSU. He has been spinning since he was a teenager, but his love for mixing and remixing stretches back to his childhood in Chicago.

"When I was a kid — five, six years old — I was always playing the radio,

playing with the little equalizer and bass and treble adjustments, always messing with my mom's little hi-fi system and driving her crazy," he says.

Growing up in Chicago, Ross was drawn to the B-96 Mixmasters, a popular group of DJs who also had a local radio show.

"Listening to just the way that they would put songs together and piece the songs together, that intrigued me, but I wasn't really like, 'Oh, I'm going to be a DJ.' A couple years later I was like 13, 14, and I was listening to a lot of house and progressive, trance, hardcore and all kinds of electronic music," he says.

Back then, music was still mostly available on vinyl and CD, and the luxury of logging into iTunes to download a song didn't exist. Ross bought records and save money for what he thought was going to be a new car — until he discovered the insurance rates for a 16-year-old male driver.

"So I scrapped the idea of getting a car for a couple years," he says. "I bought the turntables, started just mixing at home after school and doing little parties with my friends, and it really just sort of took off from there."

As graduation approaches, Ross is anxious for the day when his work becomes a full-time profession.

"I'll finish my master's in May, God willing. It would be



Rick Ross juggles work as a DJ and his graduate school courseload, keeping a foot in each world. Photo courtesy of Alan Wieme.

glorious," he says.

He is part of a graduate program at MTSU called MRAT. The program specializes in studio recording and mastering.

"It's a three-year master's, which is very uncommon and very taxing on my life," Ross says.

Despite juggling the workload as both a DJ

and a student, Ross keeps a positive attitude and possesses the kind of work ethic required for a demanding profession. It takes a particular kind of person to sit behind a mixing board for hours, listen to a song over and over a hundred times and not go completely crazy.

"Audio engineers are very ... different

people," he says.

A good DJ has a strong record collection. An even better DJ plays an instrument and knows a thing or two about music theory. Debate as to the validity of DJing and if a DJ should be considered a musician or nothing more than a glorified jukebox has always existed.

Should a person who spins records as a DJ deserve the same respect as a person who has spent years honing their craft on an instrument? According to Ross, it's 50/50.

"I read about this all the time in different magazines and blogs. *Rolling Stone* loves to overexaggerate in the media," he says. "They



## COVER STORY

like to sensationalize that debate ... and I think that some DJs are and some aren't."

Ross says that the musical element to DJing lies in the arrangement.

"A lot of times what I'll like to do is have an instrumental of one song and the a capella of another song and blend them together and do a remix or a mash up, if you will. I would definitely say that there is some musicianship going on there versus the mouse clicking a song on a playlist."

However you consider them, most professional DJs working these days are also producers or have a background in sound recording. The more knowledgeable the DJ, the more likely they will succeed, according to Ross.

Another key element is networking. Ross has his own website, DJRickRoss.com. He is also a member of Scratch Events, a company based out of New York that picks from a pool of DJs and finds them jobs for weddings, parties and business functions. Although it is a little more subdued than a normal club gig, it is another source of income and sometimes an unexpected learning experience to Ross.

"I did an Arabic graduation party in Franklin," he says. "I went and set up, and I was just mixing the songs the way that felt right to me, and I'm just listening to the music, not the lyrics as



Ross's future is uncertain as far as specific employment, but one thing is sure: he will be spinning for decades to come. Photo courtesy of Alan Wieme.

much since they were in Arabic. They ended up dancing all night. They loved it ... and did not want me to leave."

He got a call from the graduate's mother two days later, requesting he make a CD of his mixes that night. He had introduced the family to something they had never heard before.

"It was different. It was a cool learning experience, but definitely one of the strang-

est things I have ever done," he says.

Ross hopes that after graduation he can spend more time working with bands as a producer, building on to his studio at home and spending time with his girlfriend, Rachel.

"As long as I have all of my thesis, research is done," he says. "I'm researching and documenting different genres of electronic music and

how they are produced, and then I'm producing songs in those different genres as well. So I am researching and reading and writing as well as composing and mixing and mastering the tracks."

Like most jobs in the music industry, the role of record producer is changing, and it is getting harder for new graduates to find jobs in big name studios. This is why he does most of

his work on his own.

"It's just a very shrinking, shrinking, shrinking industry," Ross says. "So there are less and less studios that are open 24 hours a day like there used to be, and they have less staff and less full-time staff engineers."

Ross plans to enroll in a summer internship in Nashville after he graduates to increase his network. After that,

the future is uncertain.

"It's been kind of grim," he says. "I've talked to people that have graduated from the undergraduate program and a lot of them end up working at electronics stores and not really applying the stuff because there's not a lot of jobs out there. Even people with a master's degree, it's hit and miss." ■

# Newly opened Grimey's Too close for customer comfort

By Becca Andrews  
Editor-in-chief

Grimey's Too sounds like the real-life representation of my desert island packing list — books, vinyl and coffee.

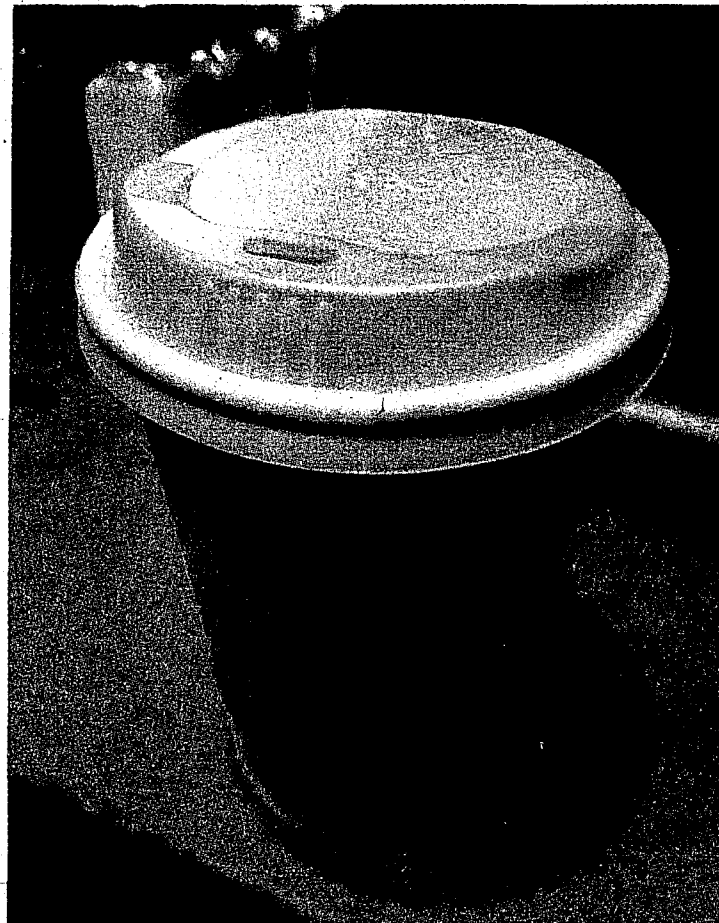
Only one thing stands in the way of the famed record store extension being my favorite place in America: getting to know its customers more intimately than I ever wanted to know a perfect stranger.

Upon entering the shop two doors down from the original Grimey's, I was greeted by a friendly, older hipster with a genuine grin behind the counter and the post-punk sounds of New Order's third studio album, *Low-Life*, spinning on a record player to my left.

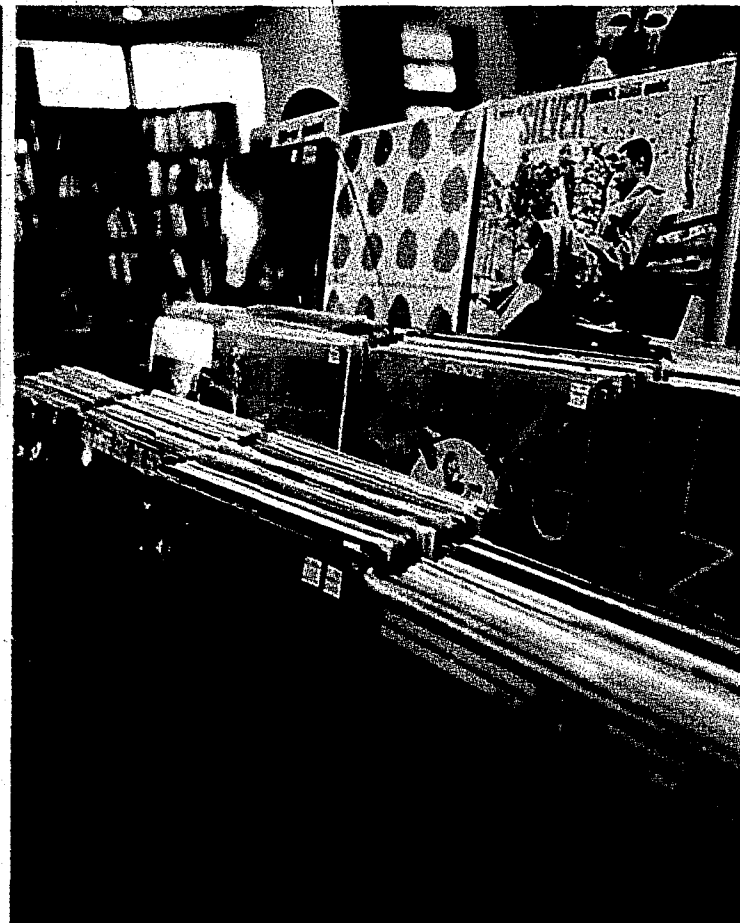
The front room is spacious and feels like a larger version of your favorite East Nashvillian's dream home.

Ceiling-high wooden shelves host hundreds of books on music, from Keith Richards' biographies to reference books about women in country music. Two tables display best-sellers and staff picks, and a magazine rack holds the latest issues of *Nylon*, *The New Yorker*, *Rolling Stone* and *Bitch Magazine*.

The back half of the front room is also reasonably arranged and is dominated by carefully marked crates of records that sit on tables in the middle of the area. Scattered across the store are vinyl cuts from the likes of Johnny Cash, The Kinks,



Left: Frothy Monkey's coffee sizes seem small for their inflated prices. Photo by Becca Andrews. Right: The front room is spacious and is stacked with vinyl, books, DVDs and CDs. Photo by Jaclyn Edmonson.



Chuck Berry, The Who, Jimmy Hendrix and more. Rows of CDs and concert DVDs line the side walls, and the back walls are crowded with books that belong to all the weird genres your curiosity has always thirsted after — “drugs,” “booze & dope,” “tattoos,” “sex,” “cults,” etc. Comfortable

chairs are tucked in the corners of the room for those who want to sit and stay a spell.

The back right corner of the front room has open shelves that give wanderers a peek into the Frothy Monkey portion of the store. The local business is a popular Nashville stop

for the caffeine fiends of Music City, and the smells from this branch that filter through the tiny windows into the rest of Grimey's Too are pleasant.

However, upon taking the sharp right into the back hallway to get my fix, I discovered what I originally thought to be a coffee shop was more like a coffee closet. I exchanged uncomfortable, muttered, “excuse me, sorry's” with fellow patrons and awkwardly ambled up to the counter to place my order. Even the three male baristas looked slightly squished behind the espresso machine.

When I can count the freckles on the nose of someone I don't know, there's a bit of a personal space issue at hand.

While I waited on my drink, I stared wistfully out the window at the expansive porch being pelted with snow.

My small soy chai latte was flawless in composition, but perhaps instead of calling it a “small,” they should classify it as “microscopic.” The so-called small held about six ounces of caffeinated goodness, but compared with Starbucks' 12-ounce “tall,” at more than four dollars per teacup, I'll

be grabbing my coffee elsewhere.

After I shimmied my way out, I slid into an adjacent room that held wall-to-wall books. The partnership with Howlin Books is the life source behind this venture. More ducking and careful avoidance of face-to-face contact with complete strangers was made worth it to browse the selection.

All the greats were there alongside less-orthodox choices. It's a bibliophile's paradise: Faulkner, Hemingway, Kerouac, Miller, Patchett, Al Gore ... the selection is mind-blowing. This critic couldn't resist a collection of

Fitzgerald's short stories, published prior to “Gatsby,” priced at \$7 — totally worth it. Two rooms slightly bigger than the coffee area are arranged exclusively with books. The final small section is home to more records and has a shelf above the jazz albums for books about the genre.

The staff is friendly, the selection is stunning and the concept of marrying such compatible products is brilliant.

The only thing holding Grimey's Too back from being a smashing success are its sweat-inducing small spaces. ■

# Spend spring break in bed, not at the beach

By Aly Steiner  
Contributing writer

Some students want to go on vacation to the beach and stay out late every night for spring break.

That sounds tiring. How about sitting in your room for a week, immersing yourself into other worlds and not showering for a few days instead? By the time school starts back, you'll feel refreshed, relaxed and ready to finish the semester.

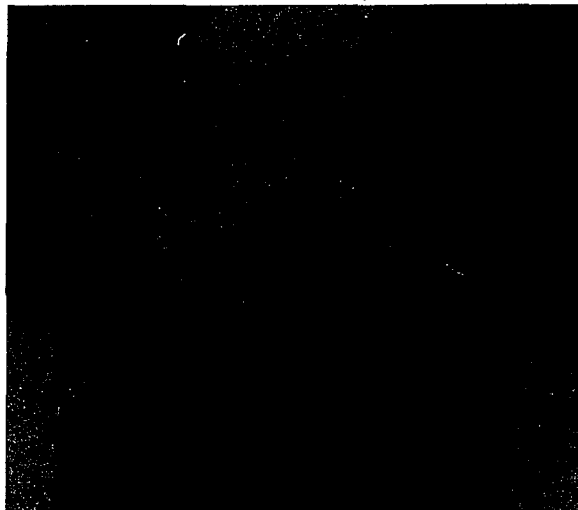
**The Grey – 2011, R:**  
Available on Netflix and Redbox

"The Grey" follows the story of a plane crash in the wastelands of Alaska that forces a group of six oil workers, led by a skilled huntsman (Liam Neeson) to fight for their lives.

After the most epic plane crash scene you'll ever see, these men are put through trial after trial, testing their survival skills as they battle the harsh weather. But things take an even more terrifying turn when they are followed by a pack of hungry wolves. Watch Liam Neeson fight to the end against the bitter adversities of Alaska.

**Supernatural – 2005-2011, TV-14:** Available on Netflix

This action-packed TV show details the lives of two brothers, Sam and Dean, who investigate paranormal activity and fight off evil that secretly plagues the earth. They



Give in to your Netflix addiction over spring break. Photo by Matt Masters.

travel all over the country in their sexy 1967 Chevy Impala they inherited from their father, who raised them to be "hunters."

Together, they battle anything and everything from werewolves to vampires, shape shifters, demons – you name it. Encompassing comedy, romance, sci-fi, etc., it has something to offer everyone.

**Ted – 2012, R:** Available at Redbox

Written and directed by Seth McFarlane, this movie is about John Bennett (Mark Wahlberg) and his magical teddy bear (McFarlane) that he wished to life as a child.

Now in his thirties, John and Ted still live together and have a close friendship. Things get complicated when John's girlfriend, Lori (Mila Kunis), wants to take their relationship further.

They have been together for four years at this point, and she's fed up with Ted getting in

the way of John accepting adulthood. It takes the help of his smoking, drinking teddy bear for John to truly become a man.

This film is hilarious from start to finish, and it's one you can't bear – pun intended – to miss.

**Jeff, Who Lives at Home – 2011, R:** Available on Netflix and Redbox

Jason Segel and Ed Helms star in this comedy as two brothers who have grown apart throughout the years.

One stays home with mom, and the other is moderately successful but dealing with a bad marriage. One day, they are brought together by their mother and end up adventuring all over town. The slacker is convinced he's run into his "destiny;" his average brother is convinced his wife is cheating. It's one of those feel-good, happy-ending films.

**V/H/S – 2012, R:** Available on Netflix

and Redbox Horror movie fans, this one's for you. V/H/S is about a group of low-life criminals who break in and wreck

someone's home in search of a rare VHS tape. Instead, they find stacks of terrifying videos next to a rotting corpse. The

movie consists of a few different horror stories: crazy succubus attacks, paranormal activity, abductions and more. Beware, this is a graphic and intense horror movie, but a great one – if you can make it through to the end. ■

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## RANTS AND RAVES

**March 6**  
Acoustic Evening  
featuring The Prophet  
Nathan  
Student Union Food  
Court  
6 p.m.  
Free

THE PROPHET  
NATHAN  
ZADOK THE PRIEST EP

What's better than free food and entertainment? Nothing, but let's be realistic, that isn't going to happen. Buy some food and treat yourself to an evening full of great music, no charge. The university is hosting another night of the biweekly acoustic sets in

the Student Union.

This week's guest is future-rock duo, The Prophet Nathan. The band began as an experiment between friends James Olivia and Charlie Hareford, but it grew into something more.

Olivia and Hareford create music that sounds

like hard, experimental rock, combining heavy drums, strong guitar riffs and lighter, Radiohead-esque progressions all in one.

The Prophet Nathan has released three EPs and will release a new EP in early 2013.

**March 7**  
Green Day's "American Idiot"  
Andrew Jackson Hall at  
TPAC  
505 Deaderick St.  
Nashville  
7:30 p.m.  
Ticket prices vary  
(\$15-\$60)

american  
IDIOT

A long list of iconic titles could pop into your head when you hear the word Broadway. You might think "Phantom of the Opera" or "Annie."

Now hear this: Broadway. Green Day. Three words that should never be uttered in the same breath. However, some-

one decided the black clad, eyeliner-sporting group of wannabe misfits deserved a play based on their music.

"American Idiot" is supposed to be a production about the tragedies of war. It's actually an excuse for aspiring stars to belt out Green Day's

music – if you can call it that. One character does join the army, but even there he romances his nurse.

If you're recovering from yesterday's party and this somehow sounds good to you, sober up. You're not spending two pennies on this.

**March 8**  
Dennis and the Menace  
Three Brothers Deli  
and Brewhouse  
223 W. Main St.  
Murfreesboro  
8:30 p.m.  
Free

Dennis and the Menace

Despite what their name implies, classic rock party band Dennis and the Menace are anything but a nuisance.

The band of fellas, who made a name for themselves performing at private functions, college parties, nightclubs and barbecues, is coming

to Murfreesboro.

Dennis and the Menace formed in South Georgia seven years ago by Will Aspinwall, Darin Harlow, Dennis Robinson and Scott Thibodeau. This party-ready group is the only band in their region sponsored by Jagermeister, so you know these

guys bring a good time with them wherever they go. At any event they perform, the audience can expect to hear its favorite songs covered, but with a twist that is uniquely DATM.

Don't miss this opportunity to witness these guys at work.

**March 9**  
JEFF The Brotherhood  
Exit/In  
2208 Elliston Place  
Nashville  
8 p.m.  
\$15



Some bands are gifted with the ability to capture the essence of rock and roll. JEFF The Brotherhood is not one of these bands.

Although their track record is impressive, having toured with artists like Best Coast and The Greenhorns over the

10-year span they have been a band, it would be difficult to consider the music of brothers Jake and Jamin Orrall "rock."

It's never good to hear any band, particularly a band from Nashville, sing in a manner that sounds like a failed attempt to imitate The Beatles. With

lyrics like, "I got a bag of ice, I got a six pack," and a chorus line that is literally just "It's so hot in this tiny room, so so so hot," it is difficult to take anything this band does seriously. Take your \$15 to the movies instead.

**March 10**  
The Doldrums  
Mercy Lounge at The  
High Watt  
1 Cannery Row  
Nashville  
9 p.m.  
\$8



When was the last time you went to a concert and danced until you got in your car and left? Sound like fun? You should definitely be at Mercy Lounge when Canadian-based electro-pop sensation Doldrums take the stage.

Doldrums is the alias

of Airick Woodhead, the driving force behind the groovy sounds on the records. Woodhead provides both the vocals and the music.

His music is similar to bands like Passion Pit and his touring partner Grimes – not for relaxation. During Doldrums'

live performances, musicians take the stage to reproduce electronic-based songs. Audiences come away amazed that live performers could create the fast-paced rhythms normally created on a laptop. Lace up those dancing shoes, and get yourself to the show.

# Set off for spring break with a handpicked playlist

By Kelsey Griffith  
Staff writer

Just in the nick of time, spring break is here. It's time for road trips and long overdue parties. Whether you're taking a stay-cay or escaping the 'Boro, you need a playlist to get you started. Take a deep breath. Put your twerk pants on.

**1. "Party" – Beyonce ft. Andre 3000**

With a funky bass line, 80's-like synthesizers and three-part harmonies, Queen Bey will get you ready to party. The last verse is by Outkast's Andre 3000, who contributes a bouncy flow and clever lyrics. "We like to partay!"

**2. "Gin And Juice" – Snoop Dogg feat. David Ruffin**

You already know. Dr. Dre produced the beat. Sip, laid back, with your mind on your money and your money on your mind.

**3. "What I Got" – Sublime**

"Life is too short, so love the one ya got ... Lovin' is what I got," Sublime sings over a pretty guitar riff and scratching vinyl. Go ahead — roll your windows down.

**4. "Panama" – Van Halen**

Through Eddie Van Halen's epic electric guitar solos and David Lee Roth's clean, screeching vocals, this song must be played for a good time.



Album art courtesy of Facebook.

**5. "Road Trippin'" – Red Hot Chili Peppers**

Perfect for road trips, this acoustic tune with violin and cello segments will guide you when you're on the road. "Now let us drink the stars, it's time to steal away/ Let's go get lost right here in the USA."

**6. "You Don't Know How It Feels" – Tom Petty**

That memorable harmonica intro with a slow, solid drumbeat is a perfect theme for your spring break. "Let's get to the point/ Let's roll another joint/ Let's head on down the road/ There's somewhere I gotta go."

**7. "Pour It Up" – Rihanna**

This hit by island superstar Rihanna has a catchy vocal melody and big bass that will tempt you to make it rain all over the place. "Pour it up, pour it up/ That's how we ball out."

**8. "Wild For The Night" – A\$AP Rocky**

**ft. Skrillex**

This collaboration with up-and-coming hip-hop artist A\$AP Rocky and Grammy-winning brostep producer Skrillex brings out the party monster in us all. "I'm goin' wild for the night/ F#%\* bein' polite," is chopped and layered over an intense electronic beat.

**9. "Doses & Mimosas" – Cherub**

This electro-pop tune about escapism via substance abuse will make you dance and give the finger to your haters (sidnote: Cherub performed their first live performance at the James Union Building).

**10. "Aloha" – Two Fresh ft. Purpl Monk, Miyagi**

Produced by Two Fresh with verses by Nashville-based hip-hoppers Purpl Monk and Miyagi, "Aloha" has a tropical feel, smooth piano pieces and chiming xylophone sounds. Pina colada, anyone?

**11. "Real Life" – Tan-lines**

This wavy song is unique and blends Caribbean-sounding vocals, African percussion, synthesizers and indie guitar chords. "It was a past-life thing/ It

wasn't anything at all."

**12. "Rollup" – Floss-tradamus**

This trap song will get the party started with a deep bass line, heavy snares and cosmic noises. Twerk city.

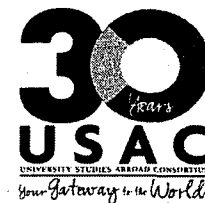
Wasn't that a nice celebration? Listen every Wednesday from 2-4 p.m. on my radio show, *The Plus Side*, on 88.3 WMTS.

Happy spring breaking! ■

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# Come on, baby, don't fear the sequester

By Alex Harris  
Opinions editor

"The whole aim of practical politics is to keep the populace alarmed (and hence clamorous to be led to safety) by menacing it with an endless series of hobgoblins, most of them imaginary." -H.L. Mencken, 1918.

The sequester is upon us – another in a recent series of budgetary "hobgoblins" in which politicians menaced the American public. In the last couple of years, the nation has been subjected to political fear-mongering due to the debt ceiling, the fiscal cliff and the sequester. Our debt ceiling limit is expected to hit at the end of March.

The budgetary crisis of the sequester comes out of the debt ceiling talks of 2011, and is intended to be so undesirable that it would coerce Congress to take real efforts to cut spending. Shockingly enough, they were unable to come to a compromise, and the automatic cuts were scheduled for the first of the year and put off yet again in the solution to the fiscal cliff "crisis."

Despite earlier promises to veto any attempt to avoid the sequester, President Barack Obama campaigned heavily for the need to avoid these cuts. He suggested that if Congress refused to come to a compromise on this deal, it could result in hundreds of



Alex Harris

thousands of jobs lost from the economy, longer lines at the airports and layoffs of first responders and teachers.

"If Congress allows this meat-cleaver approach to take place, it will jeopardize our military readiness. It will eviscerate job-creating investments in education and energy and medical research," Obama said in a speech at the White House. "It won't consider whether we're cutting some bloated program that has outlived its usefulness or a vital service that Americans depend on every single day."

The most popular jobs, programs and spending are usually first to be threatened by politicians and government officials when proposals of budget tightening occur. No department head or agency official wants to have the budget cut, even if there is room to do so. Because popular programs are most likely to elicit emotional responses from voters, they are the ones threatened.

No one ever suggests cuts to programs

we don't actually need, such as the production of the M1 Abrams tank or the building of drone bases across Africa. (The most recent of these being in Niger, in support of the French effort to put down the rebellion in Mali.)

Additionally, the entire fleet of F-35 fighter jets, the Pentagon's most expensive weapon program at an estimated cost of \$400 billion, was recently grounded when a crack was found in an engine blade on one of the jets.

Air traffic controllers, employees of the Transportation Security Administration, food inspectors and other government employees are threatened with layoffs and furloughs, meaning a reduction in performance in these "necessary" areas of federal involvement that tend to affect our day-to-day lives.

In late 1995, the federal government of the United States shut down due to disagreements in the federal budget between the republicans in the House and President Bill Clinton. For two separate periods – at a total of 28 days – the unnecessary federal employees were furloughed, and the president and Congress eventually came to an agreement.

The government then resumed. During that time the nation did not collapse, and the result was a few years of balanced budgets with a productive economy.

Does it really make sense that a small cut –

at the largest estimate less than 3 percent of the budget – from a budget with a deficit as large as ours is, would be as destructive to our economy as the popular consensus makes it out to be?

The budget "cuts" are hardly draconian. The series of cuts over the next decade account for a reduction in only about \$1 trillion of total future spending. As of this moment, the impending "draconian cuts" amount to around two-and-a-half percent of the overall budget, and less than 10 percent

According to government officials, the cuts are automatic, across the board and cannot be shifted from the more necessary programs and agencies. However, it seems likely that the departments and agencies are broad enough that once the initial cuts are made in the whole department, they could look for and eliminate any extraneous spending, and shift that funding to more popular and necessary areas.

Some aspects of these cuts may be painful and produce inconveniences, but we find ourselves at

produced it.

Our national debt stands at around \$16.5 trillion. That is 16,500 billions. These cuts are minimal. If these small cuts are really the disaster they've been portrayed as, we're in more trouble than we think.

As long as we continue not to be serious about making cuts to our deficit, we're essentially just stealing from our future selves. One day the bill will come due, and we'll all pay up one way or another. Eventually, the government will have to admit it cannot afford to do

“Does it really make sense that a small cut – at the largest estimate less than 3 percent of the budget – from a budget with a deficit as large as ours is, would be as destructive to our economy as the popular consensus makes it out to be?”

of the deficit.

However, even this is untruthful, according to Congressional Budget Office estimates, we're only looking at a reduction in spending of \$44 billion for 2013, or one-and-a-half percent of our budget, with additional cuts to occur in the future. This amounts to a little less than a week's worth of overall government spending.

a point where it is necessary that something be done about our spending levels. This is the most serious step that has been taken toward actual spending reduction.

The sequester has been wrought by our politicians' habit of kicking the can down the road time and time again. They voted for and signed the bill that

everything.

These cuts are not enough and will not be enough until our budget is balanced – something we were once able to do.

These cuts, disastrous or not, are the first in a long series of steps down the path of what we deserve for the poor choices of the last decade-plus. ■

## SPORTS

# Underclassmen help turn women's tennis season around

By Sam Brown  
Staff writer

Middle Tennessee women's tennis improved to 5-5 on the year after a victory Saturday over UT-Martin at Nashboro Village for its fourth win in its last five contests.

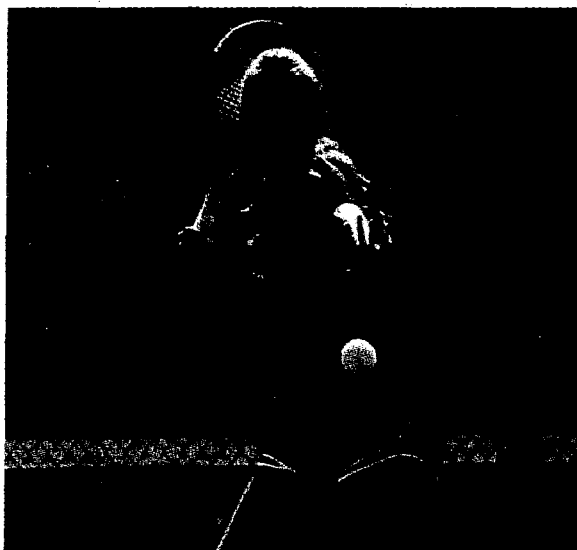
"The team performed well," Shelly Godwin, head coach. "We had a little bit of a layover — about 10 days off — so we were anxious to get back out to compete and be on the courts. They put in a good week of practice, and they came out ready."

The Blue Raiders defeated UT-Martin 6-1 and were undefeated in all three doubles matches. After a slow season start, the women's tennis team has strung together wins thanks in part to the timely maturation of its young squad.

"The younger players have developed a lot [and] they've really carried our team," Godwin said. "They've just done a good job of being sponges, really. Whatever we teach, they learn, they try to put it into play. We have a freshman playing the No. 2 role, and that's a big role for her. She has done a good job."

The freshmen and sophomores' improved play was needed after the Raiders started the season 1-4. Godwin said the changes come by handling their schedule one day at a time.

"Right now we are really just taking things match by match," God-



Freshman Inna Constrantinide is among the underclassman impacting the women's team. Photo courtesy of MT Athletic Communication.

win said. "We're young ... We're really not looking forward; we're not looking behind. Just one match at a time, who our next opponent is and what we need to do each week to prepare for the weekend."

An aspect of the game that Godwin said that needs adjustment is playing matches as a team that functions together and supports one another rather than an individualist mindset.

"One thing we have been working on is just the way we compete, and the way we compete as a team, which can be difficult because this is an individual sport," Godwin said. "The team is learning what it means to compete together during a dual match and a lot of that is because of our youth. They're learning it for the first time."

The underclassmen make up a majority of the team. Only three of

the tennis players are upperclassman, and the underclassman give reason to hope for a future in MT tennis.

"They give encouragement just by the experience they are getting," Godwin said. "Right away, at a young age, they are getting great experience in the lineup playing every week and they just compete."

Godwin is proud of the way her team competed, and said that as long as they continue to compete and use what they learn in practice, she will be happy with their performance.

"They come out every weekend, and they compete like they want to win," Godwin said. "So even if we haven't won every match up to this point, they want to win and they compete to put themselves in that position. That's really all I can ask for." ■



# taste

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