

THURSDAY
February 5, 2004

43 50
Rain



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MUSIC

Grammy time

Predicting winners
and criticizing the Academy

In [flash], inside



The university's
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student newspaper

SIDELINES

MURFREESBORO,
TENNESSEE

Volume 79 No. 57

New record label will make students execs

By Meagan Kirby
Staff Writer

MTSU students will now have the opportunity to become a record label executive before they graduate from college.

The recording industry department is starting up its own record label, under the direction of Pamela Browne, a RIM professor and entertainment lawyer.

A six-member executive board made entirely of students will run the label, which is being called "RIM

Records" until a new name is selected.

There will be a president and five vice presidents under him or her. Each vice president will represent a different division of the label such as marketing, promotions, talent scouts, distribution and legal affairs.

Right now, a faculty advisory committee is running the label. This committee has asked students to submit applications for positions.

Questions on the application are geared toward finding out why a student is applying for a particular position and that student's vision for the

FOR MORE INFO

Applications for label positions
are now being taken.
Call 898-2578 for further details.

position. The committee will select the president and the vice presidents from these applications.

The committee plans to have the student executive board selected within the next two weeks, and plans to have the board select their staff the following week. The label should be set up

and running in four to six weeks, or as soon as final approval is given.

"We will distribute the CDs on campus, but we also have plans to distribute to the entire mid-state region," Browne said. "We also hope to sell our records through a big chain like Tower Records."

The board will set the cost for the CDs, and the money raised will go back into funding the label.

Browne and the committee plan to partner as much as possible with the other departments. For example, some art majors may get the chance to design

the cover.

The student executive board will pick the music for the album by soliciting submissions from artists and bands.

Four or five finalists will be selected and a showcase will be held to determine the winner. The board will also decide if the label will be for MTSU students and alumni only or for anyone, regardless of student status.

Browne has experience producing student labels. She transferred to MTSU last fall from Belmont

See Label, 2

Ready for competition



Photo by Kyle Seaman | Staff Photographer

Senior Jimmy Moore and freshman Erol Ozsever have been selected to compete as national finalists in two upcoming guitar competitions. Moore's competition will be held March 27, while Ozsever's is March 11.

Guitarists contest-bound

Freshman, senior
will represent
MTSU this spring

By Timothy Hall
Staff Writer

Two MTSU guitar students are tuning up for a couple of guitar competitions this spring.

Senior Jimmy Moore and freshman Erol Ozsever were selected as national finalists in the Music Teachers National Association Collegiate Artist Guitar Competition and American String Teachers Association Guitar Competition, respectively.

"This is considered one of the most prestigious classical guitar competitions, and I am very honored to be the Southern representative for it," Moore said. The competition was open to performers ages 26 and under.

"I started playing guitar back when it was still hip to play guitar solos in rock

songs," Moore said. "When I started playing the guitar, the first song I learned how to play was Ozzy Osbourne's 'Crazy Train,'" he said.

While he was performing a gig alongside Moore in Miami, William Yelverton, the director of guitar studies, offered Moore a graduate assistantship in Murfreesboro. Moore accepted.

"Under Dr. Yelverton, I've been able to participate in a lot of competitions," Moore said. Since being here, Moore competed in and won the 25th Anniversary Beethoven competition in 2002, and the Tennessee Teachers Music Association's Classic Guitar competition a few years ago.

Like most people who are following their passion in life, Moore said he enjoys looking back at his roots.

"As a kid, I would read older editions of guitar magazines and see who taught who," Moore said. "Now that I am playing classical guitar, I've got longer nails and am discovering new playing techniques every day."

One of those new techniques is his

own interpretation of the famous Spanish piece, "Concierto de Aranjuez." Moore is scheduled to perform that very work alongside a pianist at Wright Music Hall on Feb. 21 at 8 p.m. during the Tennessee Music Festival.

Moore also plays a lot of Bach's music on the six-string classical guitar. Moore said that it wasn't until Segovia started in the last century when some of Bach's music began to be played on the guitar.

"It is very different and very difficult to make it work," Moore said. "I've also played music that Bach wrote for the violin on my guitar."

Moore has a personal collection of more than 600 classical guitar albums, some of which include foreign artists. He said he maintains the collection because, as an artist, he always tries to see how other people play the same piece.

When he isn't buying new albums, Moore is performing and teaching.

"You can't improve your style with one without the other," he said. "No

See Guitar, 2

Baily to receive excellence award

By Meagan Kirby
Staff Writer

A longtime supporter of the advancement of women's status on campus will be honored tomorrow by the Association of Faculty and Administrative Women.

Carol Ann Baily, who served as interim director of the June Anderson Women's Center last year, will receive the King-Hampton Award for her work in the women's center from January to August 2003.

According to Mary Anne Guiliano, JAWC secretary, Baily entered the position at a shaky time. The center has since hired a new full-time director, Susan Trentham.

"When Dr. Baily first came in, everyone was really uneasy about where the center was going and what was going to happen," Guiliano said.

Guiliano said she was worried that things would change under Baily's leadership.

"We wanted to know if we were still going to do the programs we had done for many, many years and how everything was going to go," Guiliano said. "Dr. Baily came in and really put everyone at ease and explained to us that business was going to continue as usual. Programs were going to continue, she was going to be there for support, and felt we were capable in doing our jobs and that we didn't need constant supervision."

When Baily took over as interim director, she also worked as the director of the Adult Services Center.

"She was a mentor, she would oversee things, she would give her input, but she really let us spread our wings and fly with our ideas," Guiliano said.

"She was a mentor, she would oversee things, she would give her input, but she really let us spread our wings and fly with our ideas."

— Mary Anne Guiliano
JAWC secretary

Some of Baily's accomplishments and activities include being an adviser for Women for Women, a feminist organization on campus. She also helped start the Southern Girls Rock 'n' Roll Camp last summer. The camp drew about 70 girls and about 60 volunteers from MTSU.

At the end of the week the girls in the camp put on a concert.

Baily also helped the JAWC with their Helped Assault Awareness Week Programs. She supported the clothesline project and helped get the Take Back the Night march and rally moved back to the Keathley University Center Knoll.

"We really accomplished a lot with her," Guiliano said. "Being as we were between directors, we did not know how we were going to see our future, and she was wonderful in the helping of getting the new director."

The King-Hampton Award is given to a person who has "contributed significantly to the improved status and equality of all women at MTSU." The Association of Faculty and Administrative Women present it each year.

"It's a pleasure to be honored for work that you enjoy," Baily said. "I'm very happy and gratified to be honored."

The award luncheon will begin tomorrow at 11:30 a.m. in the Hazlewood Dining Room in the James Union Building.

"She came in an interim director and as far as we are all concerned, she left a friend," Guiliano said. ♦



Photo by Seth Holland | Staff Photographer
Raider Republicans member Jason Eaves scopes out potential new members.

Raider Republicans prepare for upcoming elections

Conservative group to sponsor
'Support Our Troops' week

By Kristin Hall
News Editor

The Raider Republicans, the MTSU student organization for Republicans, is preparing for the upcoming presidential elections, after being inactive for a year.

Justin Owen, president and junior political science major, said that he contacted the orga-

nization's adviser, Bill Ford, in November to start up the group again.

So far, the Raider Republicans have 82 members registered and held an introductory meeting Tuesday night to invite more students.

"There are many new faces that I haven't seen before or that haven't been affiliated with the organization before," Owen

ELECTION COVERAGE

♦ The Raider Republicans are sponsoring "Support Our Troops Week" Feb. 16-20. See page two for a full schedule.

♦ The College Democrats will host a Webcam chat with Dennis Kucinich. See story on page two.

said.

One new face at the meeting on Tuesday was Valerie Rosenblatt, an undeclared

freshman, who attended the meet-and-greet because she had a friend who was a member.

Another new member, Paul White, sophomore biology major, just transferred to MTSU from Texas and saw a notice for the meeting in *Sidelines*.

"I am trying to get familiar with the Republicans here on campus," White said. "Hopefully I can help make a difference."

Owen said the support for President George W. Bush on campus is scattered, but unification is one of the goals the

group is working toward.

"We have a 23,000-student campus," Owen said. "There is no reason that half of them can't be conservative or Republican. We've just got to find them and bring them together and have one unified message."

The group's Web site, raider-republicans.com, has helped draw in new members who can register online.

Owen said there are a lot of issues in Bush's platform that

See Republicans, 2

'There is No Eye' exhibit



Photo courtesy of John Cohen

There is No Eye, photographs by John Cohen – including this shot titled “Woody Guthrie” – are on display until Feb. 26 in the Baldwin Photographic Gallery in the Learning Resources Center. Cohen will give a lecture presentation with a screening of his film, *The High and Lonesome Sound*, tonight at 7 in the State Farm Lecture Hall of the Business and Aerospace Building. A reception and book signing will be held in the Baldwin Gallery following the lecture.

Kucinich to address students via video

By Kristin Hall
News Editor

Students for Environmental Action and College Democrats are cohosting a night of environmental discussion and a live videoconference Saturday with Democratic candidate Dennis Kucinich.

The event will take place 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Learning Resources Center, Room 221.

“He will be there to address the environmental issues that

we present and then give his stance on them and then answer any questions about him,” said Melissa Shelby, SEA member.

Kucinich is currently running on a platform to toughen environmental enforcement, provide tax incentives for businesses that reduce pollution and increase America's dependence on sustainable energy sources.

“I think it will be interesting to hear his opinions,” Shelby said.

Kucinich is a congressman from Ohio and served as the

mayor of Cleveland in the late 1970s. In 2003, he was awarded the Gandhi Peace Award and supports a universal health plan for Americans.

“He's strong on Indian sovereignty and water rights,” Shelby said.

“He's strong on environment and building our communities in such a way that we're ecologically sustainable and compatible.”

SEA and College Democrats do not endorse specific candidates. ♦

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Guitar: Moore plays gigs, gives lessons, spends four hours each day practicing

Continued from 1

matter how hard the times are, there is always an opportunity to perform because people are always getting married or having some form of celebration. And there's always someone who wants to learn how to play the guitar.”

During Moore's senior year at Florida State College, he met his wife, Christina De Vieles. After they started dating, they decided to learn a few songs, and that led to where they are today. Jimmy and Christina are now in their own husband-and-wife duo, with Jimmy on guitar

and his wife singing.

“We don't have kids yet, just our music,” he said.

Moore said that he practices his guitar no less than four hours each day. He spends his time teaching people – ranging from ages five and up – how to play either the acoustic or classical guitar. Moore also plays at Rossie's Italian Restaurant in Smyrna on Friday nights from 6 until 9 p.m.

Moore is headed to Kansas City, Mo., on March 27 for his competition, and \$3,000 is the top prize. He isn't worried about the performance.

“It's like that scene in ‘Happy

Gilmore’ where even if he comes in last place, he's excited because he still gets some money,” Moore joked.

Erol Ozsever's competition is on March 11 in Dallas, Texas. Ozsever, who was not available for comment before press time, is MTSU's first national finalist in the String Teacher's Association competition, which is open to performers ages 18 and under.

“This is a major honor for both of these young guitarists,” Yelverton said. “It's also very historical for our music department.” ♦

Label: Browne has production experience, including time spent at Belmont's label

Continued from 1

University, where she was the associate dean of music business. There, she co-produced an album with Fisk University for the Jubilee Singers. That album is now up for a Grammy.

Belmont University has had a successful student record label, Acklen Records, for more than 10 years now.

“The student record label

here has given students a lot of good opportunities,” said Jennifer Kirk, a junior music business major at Belmont. “Students get to participate in showcases, a student advisory board and have been receiving good internship and job offers as well.”

This is what Browne hopes will come out of RIM Records.

“Students are really excited because this is going to give

them a real world experience and hopefully open doors for them with internships and other jobs,” she said.

Later in the semester there will be a contest to create a name for the record label.

For more information about the label or getting involved, call Browne at the recording industry office at 898-2578. ♦

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS WEEK SPONSORED BY RAIDER REPUBLICANS FEB. 16-20

ALL WEEK

Raider Republicans will have a table set up at Keathley University Center distributing ribbons to commemorate American troops, provide cards for names and pictures of troops to be placed around the KUC, and collect food and supplies to be sent overseas.

FEB. 16

Opening rally with military official as guest speaker
Business and Aerospace Building, State Farm Lecture Hall, 6-7 p.m.
Free pizza and refreshments

FEB. 17

Raider Republicans general meeting
BAS State Farm Lecture Hall, 7-8 p.m.
Bimonthly meeting of the organization, open to all members

FEB. 18

“Get Out the Vote” voter registration drive
Keathley University Center, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Raider Republicans will turn in voter registration forms for free

FEB. 19

“Kiss a Troop” fund-raiser
KUC, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Raider Republicans will be taking donations in return for a Hershey's kiss. All proceeds will go to benefit families of local war victims.

FEB. 20

President's Day Banquet with Sen. Lamar Alexander
Stones River Country Club, 7 p.m.
Annual banquet of the Rutherford County Republican party. Tickets are \$35 for the banquet.

Republicans: Campus group supports president's policies on economy, security

Continued from 1

affect and interest students and young people.

“His economic policy is popular because when college students get ready to find a job, they want to get out in a growing market,” Owen said. “I know that jobs haven't risen as much in the past, but the economy as

a whole has grown more than it has in 20 years.”

Rosenblatt supports Bush because of management of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks and White agrees with Bush's decision to go to war in Iraq.

Owen has been following the Democratic candidates in the primaries and their campaigns, but predicts that the

Democratic Party will not be unified under one candidate.

“They've attacked each other so much that when it comes down to whichever candidate, its going to be hard for the other candidates to stand behind him,” Owen said. “I think that's going to be tough for the party as a whole.” ♦

Is your group doing something? Tell ‘Sidelines’ ahead of time.
898-2336 or slnews@mtsu.edu

Omega Phi Alpha

National Service Sorority

Omega Phi Alpha is now accepting new members.

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STATE AND LOCAL

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Thursday, February 5, 2004

SIDELINES ♦ 3

Summers' court date set for March

By Nona Kempton
Staff Writer

The first-degree murder case against a Christiana woman accused of murdering her seven-year-old son last month was continued until March 24 after the judge assigned an attorney to the case.

Rachel Summers of 112 Ebb Court in Christiana has been charged with murder after police found her son, James Lee Harper III, dead at the home Jan. 19. Summers was arrested two days later.

Detective Dan Goodwin of the Rutherford County Sheriff's department said that no details as to the cause of death or other evidence of the crime will be released until testimony has been given at trial.

Summers appeared in

Rutherford County criminal court for a preliminary hearing Wednesday morning.

Judge Ben Hall McFarlin assigned Murfreesboro attorney Greg Reed to the case after Summers said that she did not have a lawyer and could not afford one.

Before assigning Reed to the case, McFarlin said that the public defender's office has a conflict of interest in the case and could not represent Summers. Circuit Court Clerk Eloise Gaither said later that the public defender's office was representing James Harper, the victim's father and Summers' former husband, on another matter.

Summers next court date was set for March 24. She remains in custody in lieu of a \$200,000 bond. ♦

Bill could add Bonnaroo tax

By Jason Cox
State and Local News Editor

Coffee County will have the authority to impose a privilege tax on large events like the Bonnaroo Music Festival pending the approval of the state House and the governor.

The private act, which would assess five percent of the price of admission in the form of a privilege tax above and beyond the normal sales tax, passed the Senate 33-0 but was delayed in the House due to concerns that the bill might be unconstitutional.

The state attorney general's office issued a memorandum stating that the tax as written could be unconstitutional. The memo cited an attempt by the city of Jackson to enact a restaurant tax, but there has not been an opinion written directly pertaining to the Coffee County act.

A vote on the bill was delayed, Rep. Donna Rowland (R-Murfreesboro) said, because the potential constitutional problems were unclear and that members of the General Assembly was waiting to see what opinion the attorney general released directly pertaining to this private act.

Ashley Capps, president of A.C. Entertainment, cited a study conducted by MTSU that said the event has brought more than \$7 million to the region and that the promoters pay for excess services provided by the county.

However, county mayor Ray Johnson has said that the event overall does not make much

money for the county. He estimated that the festival had a direct positive impact of \$100,000 on the county's finances last year out of a total budget of nearly \$40 million.

"We don't make anything off the Bonnaroo festival," Johnson said. "We get some money off the sales tax on the tickets that's split among the county, city of Manchester and city of Tullahoma.

"Bonnaroo does pay for [police and fire] overtime, but the county tax-payers pay for the full week's pay and all of the benefits, furnishing cars, furnishing the control center," Johnson continued. "And that way, I doubt whether we make anything for the county. So therefore, since they were here and because of the inconvenience to the other citizens of the county, I felt like — and the commission feels like — since the vote was 19 to 1, that we ... ought to be able to see some revenue off of it."

However, despite the fact that Bonnaroo is the only event Coffee County has hosted in several years that had an attendance of more than 50,000 people, Johnson insisted the tax is not directed at Bonnaroo specifically.

"It was written up as a privilege tax," Johnson said. "It's definitely not a tax on just Bonnaroo."

He said that the county attorney and a group at the University of Tennessee had assisted the county in writing the resolution in such a way that it met constitutional requirements.

See Bonnaroo, 4

Looking out for farmers

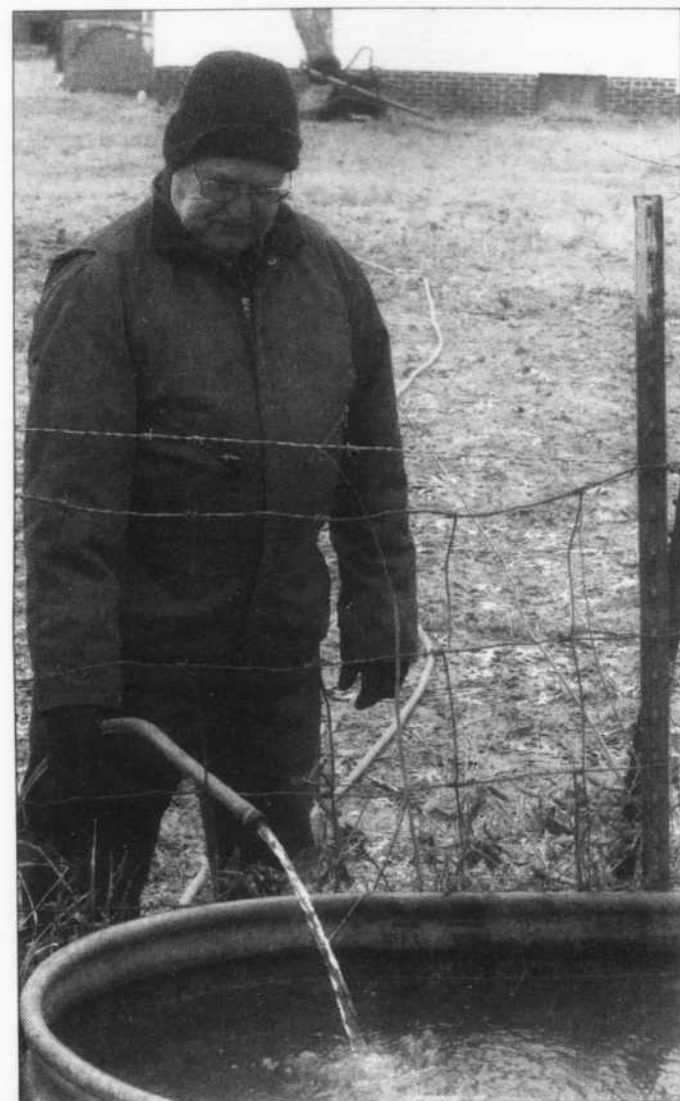


Photo by Micah Miller | Photo Editor

(Top) Local farmer Charles Miller begins his day on his tractor. A bill that has passed the U.S. House would provide permanent Chapter 12 bankruptcy protection for farmers. A bill passed in 1986 made such protection temporary. That bill expired on Jan. 1, 2004.

Bankruptcy protection could be permanent under bill

By Linda G. Selby
Staff Writer

The House of Representatives approved a measure last week to permanently put in place Chapter 12 bankruptcy protection for Middle Tennessee's family farmers.

The Chapter 12 protection for farmers expired on Jan. 1, 2004 which is why the new bill was enacted and passed Jan. 28, according to a press release from Rep. Bart Gordon's office. The bill now heads to the Senate for consideration. Modeled after Chapter 13 bankruptcy rules, Chapter 12 was first enacted in 1986 on a temporary basis. The National Farmers

Union had asked the House leaders to immediately pass legislation to extend Chapter 12 bankruptcy provisions for an additional six months, retroactive to January 1, 2004.

The Bankruptcy Code provides that only a family farmer with "regular annual income" may file a petition for relief under chapter 12. 11 U.S.C. §§ 101(18), 109(f). The purpose of this requirement is to ensure that the debtor's annual income is sufficiently stable and regular to permit the debtor to make payments under a chapter 12 plan. Allowance is made under chapter 12, however, for situations in which family farmers may have income

that is seasonal in nature. Relief under this chapter is voluntary; thus, only the debtor may file a petition under chapter 12.

"Farmers are the backbone of this country. They keep this nation well fed, as well as most of the rest of the world. But the dynamics of this nation's farm economy have hurt many farmers," Gordon said in the press release.

According to the U. S. Department of Agriculture, commodities valued at approximately \$2 billion were produced by Tennessee's 90,000 farms in 2002.

"A farm is defined as a place producing \$1,000 or

more from agricultural products during the year," said Harley W. Foutch, Agribusiness and Agriscience at MTSU. "By that definition, Tennessee has 90,000 farms. There are about 4,000 farms with sales of \$100,000 or higher in Tennessee, 17,000 farms producing between \$10,000 and \$99,000 and the rest produce under \$9,999. Major crops include hay, soybean, corn, cotton and wheat."

"In terms of exports of Tennessee agricultural commodities, we export \$610 million in products including \$90,000 in soybeans, \$82,000 in tobacco, \$100,000 cotton

See Farmers, 4

City being sued over unlawful arrest by former officer

By Nona Kempton
Staff Writer

Several Murfreesboro residents are suing the city and the police department for civil rights violations after being unlawfully arrested and threatened by a former Murfreesboro police officer last year.

The lawsuit, filed in federal court last week, seeks unspecified general and punitive damages for an incident last January when Alvin Randolph, then a lieutenant with the Murfreesboro Police

Department and a city school bus driver, attempted to force residents and bystanders on East Castle street to board a bus he was driving.

The suit charges that Randolph and other Murfreesboro police officers violated four of the plaintiffs' civil rights by arresting them without cause and using excessive force. The suit also alleges negligence on the part of the city and the police department for not properly training and supervising the officers.

The attorney for the plain-

tiffs, Tim L. Bowden of Goodlettsville, said that he hopes that a settlement can be reached with the city before the case goes to trial.

"Before the suit was filed, sometime late last year, I spoke with Larry Trail (the attorney representing the defendants) about the possibility of mediation for this, and he seemed to be receptive," Bowden said.

Larry Trail, who is also a state senator from Murfreesboro, could not be reached for comment.

Chris Shofner, public infor-

mation officer for the city, said he couldn't comment on pending litigation.

According to the lawsuit, the incident occurred on the afternoon of Jan. 21, 2003, when Randolph drove a school bus onto Castle Street and began to order people to board the bus. When Tarvarius Martin and Marcus Tigg failed to comply with his order, Randolph called for backup and several police officers arrived on the scene.

The suit continues to say that, under orders from Randolph, police arrested Tigg

and Martin for "failure to obey an officer." After Martin was in handcuffs, Randolph struck him in the head with his police baton. Martin was later treated for injuries sustained from the blow.

The suit alleges that Randolph then ordered that two other bystanders, Doris Tigg and Jeffrey Peebles, be arrested. He then threatened John and Teresa Smith, who had stepped onto their front porch to observe the incident. Randolph pulled his weapon and aimed the gun at John Smith, while

ordering the couple back into their house.

The suit claims that the other officers should not have obeyed Randolph since he was "acting in an erratic matter." The suit also claims that despite evidence Randolph may have been under the "influence of alcohol or other intoxicating agents" at the time of the incident, the other officers "did not question or resist Randolph's orders."

Randolph was placed on paid leave of absence the following

See Cops, 4

Basketball

ROUND UP

By David Hunter.
Staff Writer

District races are heating up in local boys' and girls' basketball action.

Tuesday night, all four Murfreesboro high schools, Oakland, Siegel, Riverdale and Blackman all either took steps forward or backward in securing positions in District 7-AAA.

At Oakland High, Lady Patriot Taran Hayes was the hero again. Hayes had 19 points in the fourth quarter to give Oakland a 41-39 victory over White County. White County came in first place in the district. Hayes did not miss a 3-pointer or a free throw in the final quarter, going 7-of-7 from the stripe, and 4-of-4 from downtown. Hayes led all scorers with 26 points. The win improves the Lady Patriots to (16-4, 8-3), while White County falls to (18-6, 9-2).

In the boys' game, White County 60-44 defeated co-leader Oakland soundly. White County's John Gribble led the way with 22 points as White County shot over 50 percent for the entire game. The loss drops Oakland to (15-5, 9-2), while White County is now (12-12, 3-8).

However, the loss did not hurt the Patriots in the standings as the other leader in boys' district 7-AAA, Riverdale, also lost at home to Cookeville 52-42. Taylor Stearnman was the top scorer for the Cavaliers with 19 points. The Warriors only scored 22 points in the first three quarters. Riverdale is now (18-6, 9-2), while Cookeville goes to (13-11, 4-8).

In the girls' game, Cookeville's Cara Reed did not hit a shot with two seconds to play, and the Lady

Warriors picked up the one point victory, 43-42. Reed still had 24 points to lead all scorers, while Anne Marie Lanning scored 16 to lead the Lady Warriors. Riverdale is now (17-7, 6-5), and the Lady Cavaliers drops to (16-8, 8-3).

Blackman traveled to Warren County and brought home two victories with the scores almost matching. The Lady Stars defeated Warren County, 56-48, while the boys' won their game 55-48. Blackman's Nikki Hughes had 21 points to lead all scores in the girls' game, while Ben Sneed had 15 tops for Blackman in the boys' game. The Lady Blaze is now (13-9, 7-4), while Warren County is (11-8, 4-7). On the boys' side, the Blaze is now (14-8, 8-3), and Warren County falls to (7-14, 0-11).

The newest school in Murfreesboro, Siegel High made history on the road as the Lady Stars got their first ever district victory with a 51-46 win over Lebanon. Jones was feeling sick all thought out the day leading up to the game. The Lady Stars improves their record to (6-16, 1-9), while Lebanon is now (3-18, 1-10).

In the boys' game, Lebanon had control during the entire game with a 72-57 victory over the Stars. Jeremy Moore had 18 points to lead Lebanon, while Jimmy Oden was the top scorer for the Stars with 16. The Stars drops to (13-9, 5-6), while Lebanon goes to (14-10, 6-5).

This Friday, all four schools will be in action and against each other. Oakland goes to Blackman, and Riverdale visits Siegel. As always, both games will be a boys'-girls' double header. Tipoff is set for 6:30 p.m. at both locations. ♦

Randolph: Quit police department

Continued from 3

day after causing a disturbance at the police station during a morning roll call.

All four people who were arrested were charged with disorderly conduct and released on bond. All the charges were dropped two days later. Each one received a hand-delivered letter from Murfreesboro Police Commissioner Bill Jones apologizing for the incident and offering to reimburse them for bail money.

Randolph was subsequently charged with four counts each of false imprisonment, official oppression, reckless endangerment with a weapon and one count of aggravated assault for the incident. According to criminal court records, Randolph

pleaded no-contest in August to the false imprisonment and reckless endangerment charges. He was sentenced to supervised probation, ordered to resign from the police department and to stay away from the victims. The charges of official oppression and aggravated assault were dismissed.

Bowden said he waited to file the civil suit until after the criminal charges had been resolved.

"We have evidence that the city knew he [Randolph] was having some issues before this happened," Bowden said. He also said that the police department has been helpful in providing videotapes of the incident from the squad cars and recordings of 911 calls from other witnesses. ♦

Bonnaroo: Vote reset for Feb. 11

Continued from 3

For his part, Capps said the tax would represent the largest tax of its kind in the country, and that Bonnaroo had had a positive economic impact on the county.

"I'm really not privy to the county's finances," he said. "I know that the festival pays for all of the services that we use. And we certainly want the event to have a positive impact on Coffee County ... There's a tremendous amount of money spent in Coffee County that wouldn't be spent otherwise."

Capps also said the method in which the tax would be collected could be disastrous for promoters. For example, he

said, if Bonnaroo were to, for any reason, be cancelled after tickets were sold, the organizers would have to issue refunds but the county would still collect the tax, representing a very large loss for the organizers.

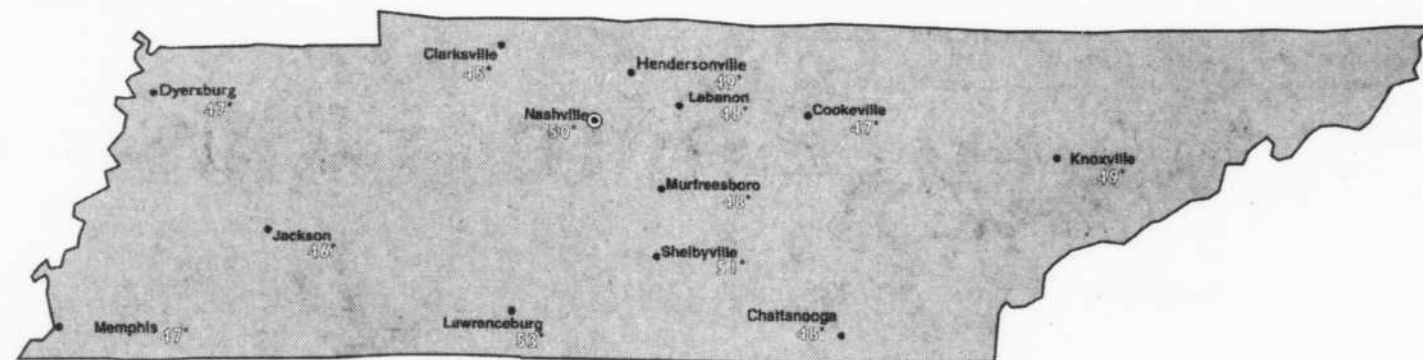
"It certainly adds a burden," Capps said.

Christina Barber, a staff member of bill sponsor Sen. Jerry Cooper (D - Morrison), said that Cooper's sponsorship of the bill represents nothing more than an informal obligation by a state legislator to sponsor a private act when the governing county passes a resolution asking them to do so by a two-thirds vote.

The bill has been reset on the House calendar for Feb. 11. ♦

Tennessee Weather – Thursday's Highs

From the Associated Press



Friday



47° ▲
42° ▼

Saturday



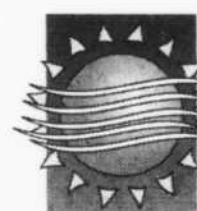
39° ▲
30° ▼

Sunday



40° ▲
24° ▼

Monday



45° ▲
24° ▼

Tuesday



44° ▲
31° ▼

Tom Seigenthaler dies of cancer

Staff Reports

Thomas Patrick Seigenthaler, chairman and founder of Seigenthaler Public Relations, died Tuesday from cancer.

Thomas Seigenthaler, 65, grew up in Nashville, attending Father Ryan High School and studying fine arts at the University of Tennessee. After working as a commercial artist, he moved to a job in communications management in retail sales promotion, advertising and public relations.

After serving as the Southeastern vice president of W.G. Borchert Public Relations of New York, he opened his own firm in 1972 in Nashville.

Seigenthaler was also active in the Nashville community. He was a founding member of Character Counts Nashville and was a member of the Board of Directors of the Society of International Business Fellows.

He served on the Metro Human Relations Commission under then-Mayor Phil Bredesen and was the vice

chairman of communications of the Nashville Chamber of Commerce board of governors in 2000.

His brother, John Seigenthaler, is the chairman emeritus of The Tennessean and the John Seigenthaler Chair of Excellence in First Amendment Studies at MTSU bears his name.

He is survived by his wife, Veronica Strobel Seigenthaler, brothers John Seigenthaler and Bob Seigenthaler; sisters Ann Murphy, Alice Valiquette and

Joan Miller of Nashville, and Evalyne Pace, of North Bonneville, Wash.; daughters Katie Seigenthaler, Elizabeth Seigenthaler Courtney, Amy Seigenthaler and Maria Seigenthaler; sons-in-law Matt Hayes, Richard Courtney, Tim Pierce and Steve Ross; grandchildren Marcella McGee Hayes, Mary Catherine Strobel Hayes, Thomas Lawrence Hayes, George Matthew Seigenthaler Hayes and Annabelle Elizabeth Seigenthaler Roses. ♦

TENNESSEE

news briefs

By The Associated Press

Edwards, Clark
head to Tennessee

Democratic presidential candidates John Edwards and Wesley Clark were wasting little time turning their attention to Tennessee after Tuesday's round of seven primaries and caucuses.

Edwards, the North Carolina senator, and Clark, the retired Army general from Arkansas, planned to hit the ground running Wednesday morning with rallies in Memphis geared to the Tennessee primary Feb. 10.

The Clark campaign scheduled a two-day blitz that would take the former NATO commander to Jackson, Camden, Clarksville and Nashville yesterday, and to Lebanon, Manchester and Chattanooga today.

Edwards' campaign promised to have its candidate in Tennessee every day through the primary. Virginia also holds a primary Feb. 10.

"We are definitely the optimists," Elizabeth Edwards said Tuesday of her husband's campaign. "We never even considered the possibility that he is not going to be successful."

Perennial hopeful Lyndon LaRouche of Virginia, another candidate in the Democratic primary, scheduled a news conference in Nashville to call for "Franklin Roosevelt-style economic recovery plan" akin to a "Super Tennessee Valley Authority."

Edwards has spent the most time campaigning in Tennessee and Clark has spent heavily on TV advertising.

They trailed Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry slightly in a Mason-Dixon Poll of likely primary voters conducted Jan. 28-29 for *The Tennessean* and *The Chattanooga Times Free Press*. Kerry's support was measured at 31 percent, Clark at 22 percent and Edwards at 13 percent.

Kerry, who last visited Tennessee in April, will be back before the primary, though no dates are set, state campaign

spokeswoman Kathy Roeder said.

"We still have two more states to vote before Tennessee does," she said, referring to Michigan and Washington on Saturday. "Sen. Kerry takes Tennessee seriously. He takes all the states seriously. He is visiting all of them, not running a regional campaign."

HCA profits fail
to meet expectations

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — HCA Inc. reported on Tuesday that fourth-quarter results swung to a profit, but the performance fell short of Wall Street expectations, pushing the stock lower.

In quarter-ending Dec. 31, 2003, net income totaled \$317 million, or 63 cents a share, compared with a net loss of \$102 million, or 20 cents a share, a year earlier. But one-time charges that included settlement of fraud charges by the federal government and gains on sales of facilities lowered the earnings per share to 58 cents.

Analysts surveyed by Thomson First Call had been expecting 60 cents per share from the nation's largest for-profit hospital company.

Shares of HCA fell \$1.26 to close at \$45.04 on the New

York Stock Exchange.

The nation's largest for-profit hospital chain said revenues for the quarter increased 11.4 percent to \$5.6 billion from \$5 billion in the same period a year ago.

The Nashville-based company also announced it was changing its dividend strategy, raising it to 13 cents a share from 2 cents.

"The company is signaling to investors that earnings growth isn't going to be as easy to come by in the future as it was in the past," said John Eade, an analyst for Argus Research in New York.

"That happens to multibillion dollar companies as they mature. This is a clear signal to investors that management wants to generate returns but may not do so through earnings growth and will focus on dividends."

Net income for 2003 totaled \$1.3 billion, or \$2.61 a share, compared with \$833 million, or \$1.59 a share in 2002.

Analysts surveyed by Thomson First Call expected the company to earn \$2.63 a share for the year.

For the year ended Dec. 31, 2003 HCA said revenues increased 10.5 percent to \$21.8 billion from \$19.7 billion in 2002. ♦

Farmers:

Continued from 3

and \$82,000 in wheat," Foutch said. "The average size of Tennessee farms is 130 acres. The total land mass in farms is 11,700,000 acres."

"We need to keep in place fair protections for the Middle Tennessee farmers who work so hard to grow the crops and raise the livestock that feed us," Gordon said in the release. ♦

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Tennessee State Fairgrounds

Teaching Opportunities, Networking, On-site Interviews

Free tickets available from the MTSU Career Center

KUC 328, BAS S123, or Jones Hall 158

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SIDELINES ONLINE
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From the Editorial Board

Bonnaroo tax shows officials' greed

Coffee County's proposed privilege tax is just another way for the powers that be to be a buzzkill by trying to cash in on everyone else's fun.

For the past two years Coffee County has hosted Bonnaroo, the music festival that attracts tens of thousands of visitors to Manchester, Tenn., when they normally would have no business in the town.

If the tax passes, an added 5 percent tax would be applied to ticket prices, the highest tax of its kind. The tax would apply to all events with an expected attendance of more than 50,000 people.

County major Ray Johnson insists the tax is not intended for just Bonnaroo, but we don't believe there are many events held in Coffee County that attract the kind of crowd needed for the proposed tax to apply.

This tax is ludicrous. It's apparently not for Bonnaroo, just for any event held in Coffee County that more than 50,000 people want to go to.

At least the state House showed some sense in raising concern that the bill was unconstitutional. As yet the state attorney general hasn't issued an opinion on the tax.

If Coffee County wants to make a profit off of events like Bonnaroo, they should enforce their sales tax instead of creating a whole new tax.

There are tons of ways to make money at an event like Bonnaroo. Any event that takes place for several days on a large piece of land with a potentially large amount of drugs is bound to have a lot of thirsty people. Someone could make a lot of money on sales of bottled water and other concessions, not to mention the ridiculously high sales tax that would apply.

On Feb. 11, the bill will be presented again, and hopefully the legislature will shoot it down. Bonnaroo is listed in national magazines and attracts crowds from across the United States to an otherwise unknown Tennessee town.

Getting greedy and trying to cash in on an event of that caliber is only going to drive people away. ♦

Correction

In Wednesday's *Sidelines*, Phi Mu Alpha was incorrectly identified as a co-ed fraternity. The organization is actually a male fraternity. *Sidelines* apologizes for the error.

Letter to the Editor

Darwinism survives

To the editor:

I was deeply saddened to hear of the impending demise of Darwinism ("Darwin headed for extinction," Jan. 29). After spending the past four years working on a double major in anthropology and biology, Wesley Jackson's article ripped the foundations of my goals and dreams right out from under me. So why is an English major announcing the destruction of the glue that ties the whole of biological science together? Maybe he knows something that my professors left out of their lectures. Maybe it's a conspiracy. Maybe the countless scientists who study evolution are all deluded or lying.

Personally, I choose to believe that Jackson has simply been misled by the battle cries of the uninformed anti-evolutionists. He floundered through the usual cast of characters which included a lawyer, two mathematicians, a chemist, an author and a linguist (though Chomsky would most likely take issue with Jackson's blatant misrepresentation of his work). Interestingly, but not surprisingly, there were no biologists referenced in his attack on evolution.

Contrary to what Jackson would have us believe, the fact that evolution has occurred, is occurring and will continue to occur is not disputed in biology. Rather, the mechanisms by which evolution happens (theories) are constantly being debated and reworked. Theories do not become facts; they attempt to explain facts. That is the nature of science. We can see evolution in microbial resistance to antibiotics, plant/insect resistance to pesticides, the presence of vestigial structures, recapitulation, genomics, etc. As the renowned biologist T. Dobzhansky said, "Nothing in biology makes sense, except in the light of evolution."

While we've moved on to unlock many secrets of the world, all they have done is given their tired, old ignorance a shiny new name: intelligent design theory. For anyone unfamiliar with this pseudoscience please check out the lecture on March 10 at 7 p.m. in the State Farm Lecture Hall of the Business and Aerospace Building, where Massimo Pigliucci will present a talk on "Four More Reasons Why Intelligent Design is Not Science."

Mark Whitten
Senior
Anthropology, biology double major

Another Bush term harmful

As a woman, a feminist, a daughter and granddaughter, a sexual being, a college student, a working girl and an American, I know I can't afford another four years with George W. Bush as commander in chief of the country I call my own. As a woman with a keen interest in politics, I worry about a leader that disregards my needs and the needs of millions of women around me.

I'm worried about the grandmothers of this country on Medicare and their suffering as a result of the new healthcare plan created by Bush for our seniors. I'm worried by the ease with which he disregards the suffering this plan will bring to the lives of millions of seniors, men and women alike.

I'm worried about the changing landscape of sexual and reproductive freedoms as our president invests millions into "abstinence only" programs that fail to educate on issues of contraception and healthy sexual expression. It troubles me that the ineffective nature of these programs is disregarded



Wit and Wonder

Callie Elizabeth Butler
Staff Columnist

in an effort to veil sexuality, thus thrusting uneducated, ignorant youngsters into a sexually-charged world. Mostly, I worry about the growing number of girls facing unwanted pregnancies due to lack of knowledge and understanding of their own bodies.

I'm worried that, in his State of the Union address, Bush announced economic growth and tax cuts but didn't mention any efforts on the part of his administration to bridge the gender wage gap or help single mothers, who make up a large percentage of the impoverished, trying to provide for their children. I'm worried he has forgotten the disadvantaged women within the country he's sworn to protect.

I'm worried that while Bush places great emphasis on marriage, he doesn't endorse the idea of marriage and legal benefits for all couples. He leaves behind thousands of couples, disqualifying them based on gender preference.

It troubles me that as heterosexual couples enter marriages with numerous legal benefits when half of these couples will ultimately divorce, homosexual couples are left behind, even those already in long-standing, healthy relationships that have stood the test of time. And I worry as our president punishes single Americans who, for various reasons, choose not to marry, addressing these people as oddities unworthy of government incentives.

I'm worried about dissolving educational funding and opportunities that leave students at all levels of education at a disadvantage, a reality our president is not adequately addressing. As a present-day college student, I constantly feel the effects of budget cuts and financial binds that effect each of

the thousands of students shuffling around me. I watch thousands of children being left behind and worry about the future damage that generations of tomorrow will face when entering the doors of schools around the nation.

I know another four years with Bush at the helm of our country will leave millions of Americans at a great disadvantage. I'm ready for a leader who thinks about me when making decisions, who considers the students, who thinks of my mother and grandmother, who makes decisions that will benefit my future children, who will help me if I lose my job, who respects my right not to marry or to have a partner of the same gender, who wants to address sex education and who works to better the lives of all who live in this country. Most of all, I just want to stop worrying. ♦

Callie Elizabeth Butler is a senior mass communication major and can be reached via e-mail at ceb2k@mtsu.edu.

Study shows students overpay for textbooks

I approached the counter of the bookstore with a feeling of dread in the pit of my stomach.

I think I spent somewhere between \$350-400 on textbooks this semester. I looked at my three bags of books and thought, "Wait a minute. I own that book already. Oh wait. Not the sixth edition. I only own the fifth. Why can't I keep my old book?"

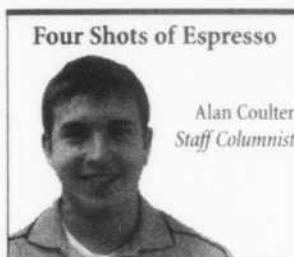
I'm sure all of Norton's friends only want to look out for the welfare of my education and not the depths of my pockets.

Actually, I didn't believe that, and neither did a group of students in the Pacific Northwest.

Middle Tennessee students may owe a thank you to the students of the University of Washington.

The Washington Student Public Interest Research Group proved what every college student already knew - textbooks cost too much. WashPIRG has conducted a study to prove this.

According to KOMO 4 News of Seattle, Wash., this study, known as "Rip Off 101," analyzed many editions of the same textbooks and found only minor changes in the edi-



Four Shots of Espresso

Alan Coulter
Staff Columnist

tions. In a math textbook, only some numbers were changed in the exercises without adding any real content differences. The cost difference didn't match up to the amount of different material.

WashPIRG found the target of this major academic rip off was the college United States, and they weren't happy about it.

One textbook costs \$30 less in Canada and \$50 less in Great Britain. To most students, this is a huge difference, since the average college student spends close to \$1000 per academic year on textbooks.

Students who attend schools that operate in academic quarters instead of semesters seem to be hit harder by the prices.

The UW students have contacted the textbook companies studied, but none responded.

Textbook publishers know we must have the

textbooks to pass the classes.

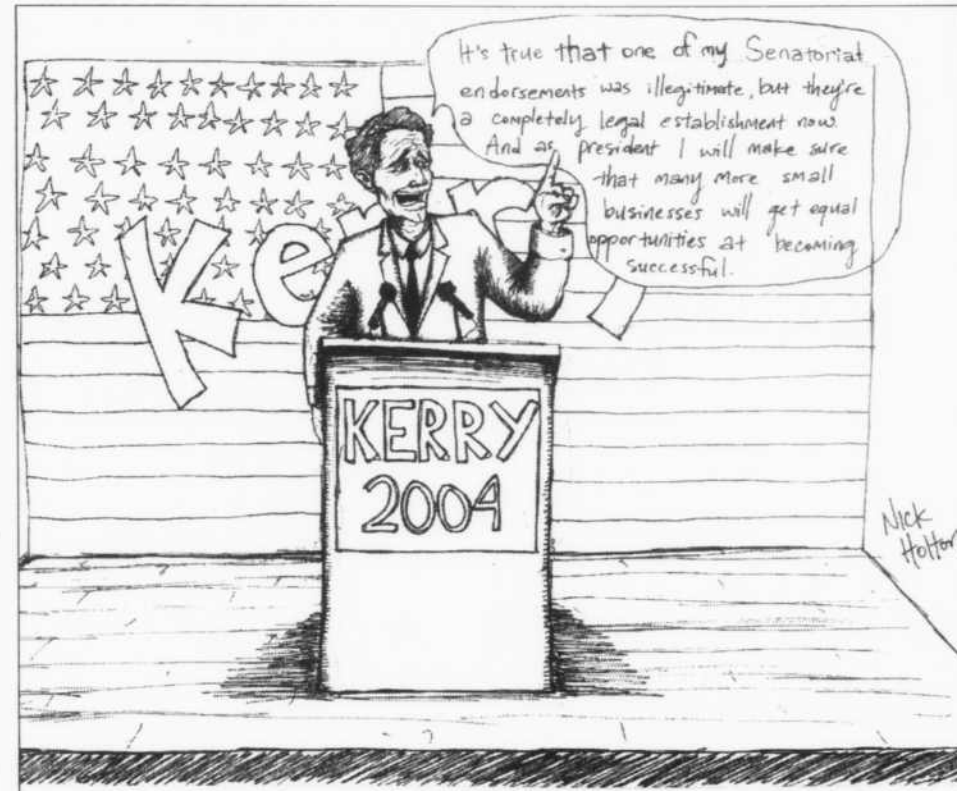
Some of my friends have tried getting ahead of the game by going to Half.com or Ebay to enter ISBN numbers. The books usually show up late, but the savings tend to be worth it.

The public acknowledgement of the textbook problem may bring publishers to their senses. It's not like the publishing companies are attacking the rich elite. They're stealing from students who barely make it off of Ramen noodles and Chex mix.

But the government may actually be on our side for once. Sen. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) and Rep. David Wu (D-Ore.) have introduced legislation to end the tyranny of textbook pricing.

Contact your local, state and national legislators, and tell them how you feel. Otherwise, the cycle will continue, and none of those books you bought will be worth anything after finals week. ♦

Alan Coulter is a senior English major and can be reached via e-mail at ajc2h@mtsu.edu.



Giving blood proves rewarding experience

Giving blood seems like such a simple thing to do. So why won't enough people give blood to keep enough on hand?

All it takes to give blood is time. By taking that small amount of time from your day every few months, you could be saving lives.

There is currently less than half of the needed blood supply on hand. So what would it take for you to donate?

I know someone who was recently in an accident. He lost a great deal of blood and is lucky to be alive. He wouldn't be if doctors weren't able to use donated blood.

People get hurt everyday. Others have serious illnesses that require blood transfusions. It's important that everyone who can give blood does.

Doctors save lives everyday, but they can't do it alone. When people give blood they are enabling doctors to save lives.

We could all make excuses for why we don't give blood, but the reality is we could all find the time. We have to take an active role in keeping up the blood supply and not letting fears keep us from helping people.

Giving blood once isn't enough. Donors should give blood as often as possible. A donor can only give blood if it has been 56



Sandi's Logic

Sandi Van Orden
Staff Columnist

days since that donor's last blood donation.

Donating blood should become a priority for us all. It's an easy way to give back to the community and help our neighbors in a time of need.

Think about it the next time you hear the sirens of an ambulance or see a car accident on the road.

Donors will never know who received their blood donation, but they will know they helped someone in need.

Most people can give blood. The basic requirements are the donor must be at least 17 years old, weigh 110 pounds and be in good health.

There are things that could keep you from being eligible to donate blood. The easiest way to find out if you're an acceptable donor is to visit the Red Cross' Web site at www.redcross.org.

There will be a blood drive on campus March 2. Take the time to give blood. You never know when you'll need it. ♦

Sandi Van Orden is a junior journalism major and can be reached via e-mail at slv2e@mtsu.edu.

Laws based on Christianity

It has become brutally apparent to me that the laws governing this country are flexible and can be molded to fit someone's personal agenda. This flexibility has been thrown into sharp focus by a story.

"On the Road," a short story by Langston Hughes, revolves around Sargeant, a homeless black drifter during the Great Depression. He fights with white cops and townspeople and brings down a church and its stone Christ and crucifix. Sargeant then walks down the road with the stone figure of Christ, which says, "They have kept me nailed on a cross for nearly two thousand years."

I'm a Christian and not ashamed to let the whole world know it. Separation of church and state has been taken out of context. The idea of a school system without God, without values, is scary. There's a whole host of issues that run along the same line of not wanting to hurt feelings.

This is the country of religious freedom, and that's part of what makes us the greatest nation, but this country and this government were founded on Christian values. The Constitution only states that Congress has no power to establish a national religion, but the phrase "constitutional separation of church and state" doesn't appear. It appears in the former Soviet Union's laws. I wonder what happened to them. ♦

Jason Brunner is a sophomore history major and can be reached via e-mail at yankee_dragon@yahoo.com

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MT Men's Basketball

Next Game Feb. 7
Blue Raiders
at Florida International
Tip-off at 6 p.m.

SPORTS

MT Women's Basketball

Next Game Feb. 7
Florida International
at Murphy Center
Tip-off at 2 p.m.

6 ♦ SIDELINES

Thursday, February 5, 2004

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Tennis squad defeats in-state rival Mocs

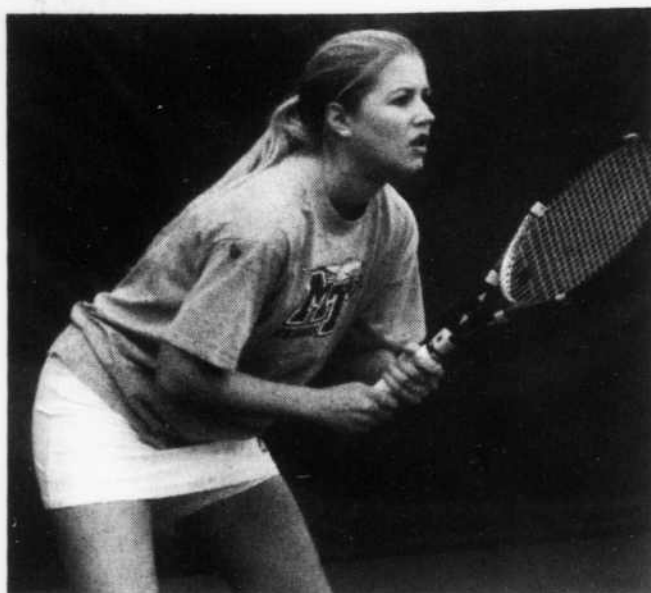


Photo by David Maxwell | Staff Photographer

MT junior Jennifer Klaschka waits to return a serve against Tennessee-Chattanooga on Tuesday.

By Colby Sledge
Assistant Sports Editor

The Middle Tennessee women's tennis team survived a close match against the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga Tuesday night and defeated the Lady Mocs 4-3.

MT head coach Randy Holden was happy with the victory over a team he felt may have been underrated coming into the match.

"I knew they were going to be tough," Holden said after the final match. "I told our girls it was going to be a dogfight. UTC has gotten a lot better."

The Lady Raiders came into the match with a 3-0 all-time record against the Lady Mocs, but with three singles matches remaining the teams were tied 2-2. MT took the doubles point when No. 31 Manon Kruse and Carlen Venter defeated UTC's Cynthia Oulevay and Saskia van Velze 8-5.

MT's Jennifer Klaschka and Laura McNamara earlier defeated Lucie Barney and

Catherine Allen 8-1 to take the No. 2 doubles match.

Lady Mocs Charlotte Goude and Beth Flanagan defeated Jacqui Williams and Ana Maria Cibils 8-5 in the No. 3 doubles match.

In the No. 2 singles match, Klaschka quickly defeated Oulevay 6-0, 6-0. The No. 4 match also featured a shutout, but McNamara found herself on the wrong end in a 6-0, 6-0 loss to van Velze.

McNamara was visibly upset with herself during the second set, often hitting balls well beyond the baseline.

After going down 5-0 in the second set, McNamara yelled, "I quit!" and tossed her racket into the air.

"She [McNamara] is confident, she's hitting the ball better, it's just a matter of dealing with the pressure," Holden said afterward.

Venter also lost 6-3, 6-3 to Barney in the No. 3 singles match to even the team match at 2-2. At that point, Cibils was up a set against Catherine Allen in the No. 5 match, and Emily

Vest was down a set to UTC's Bethany Everett.

Meanwhile, Kruse and Goude were playing the match of the night in the No. 1 singles match. Kruse won the first set 6-4 and was on serve with the second set tied 5-5. Kruse, who battled a wrist ailment this season, took the point to lead 6-5 as the women switched sides.

Kruse forced deuce point against Goude, who previously had fought off match point. With Cibils and Everett leading in their respective matches, the winner of the No. 1 match would most likely secure the team victory as well.

Kruse took the deuce point and then drove a winner down the left sideline to win the match 6-4, 7-5.

Cibils then closed out Allen 6-4, 6-3 and Everett finished Vest 6-2, 6-2 to account for the final score.

The Lady Raiders' next match is Saturday at Mississippi State University. Match time is 1 p.m. ♦

Lady Raiders host Lady Topppers

By Brad Jameson
Staff Writer

Lady Raider basketball returns to Murfreesboro Thursday when Middle Tennessee takes on Sun Belt Conference opponents Western Kentucky University and Florida International University in the first two games of a three-game conference homestand.

The Lady Raiders (14-5, 4-2 Sun Belt) are only half a game behind Arkansas State (5-2 Sun Belt) in the SBC East Division. MT started the SBC season with two straight losses to Arkansas State University and the University of Arkansas-Little Rock.

The women's team then won their next four SBC contests, the most recent being their 72-57 win at the University of Louisiana-Lafayette.

In Thursday's game against WKU, MT players will be given the opportunity to avenge their 86-83 loss to the Lady Topppers in the 2003 SBC Tournament Finals.

WKU is currently struggling with a 9-11 record (3-3 SBC) and is 2-7 on the road this season.

Sophomore guard Tiffany Porter-Talbert leads the Lady Topppers in scoring and steals, averaging 15.6 points per game and 43 total steals. She is second on the team in rebounds, averaging 8.1 per game, and third in assists, with 45 for the season.

WKU senior Leslie Logsdon is second on the team in points per game with 14.8. She is also second in assists and steals with 60 and 33, respectively. Logsdon has also scored 48 of the team's 78 three-pointers.

Freshman Carla Bartee leads the team in rebounds with 8.8 per game and blocks with seven total. She is also third in points scored with 10.7 per game. Junior Camryn Whitaker leads the team in assists with 74.

FIU is currently holding on to an 11-10 record (5-3 SBC), and, like WKU, is 2-7 on the road this year.

Junior forward Milena Tomova is first on the team in points, scoring 17.1 per game.



MT guard Patrice Holmes takes a shot against Alabama Jan. 8. MT won 65-61.

She also leads the team in rebounding, pulling down 8.3 each game.

Her 51.6 percent shooting is the best on the team, as are her 42 blocks (second place on the team has 7) and her 33 steals. She is also third in assists with 24.

Senior guard Ivelina Vrancheva is the only other member of the team with

double-digit figures in points per game, scoring 10.2. She leads the team in assists with 124 and in turnovers with 85. She is second in rebounds with 5.0 per game.

The Lady Raiders are 8-1 at home so far this season but 0-2 against SBC East teams.

MT is led by junior guard Patrice Holmes, who leads the team in scoring with 16.5

points per game, rebounds with 6.9 per game and assists with 4.4 per game. Freshman Krystle Horton is second in scoring and with 13.6 points per game and in rebounds with 6.1 per game.

The Lady Raiders take on WKU Thursday at 7 p.m. and FIU at 2 p.m. Saturday. ♦

Avenging SBC loss not a simple task

By Jon Leffew
Staff Writer

After dropping two straight Sun Belt Conference games to New Mexico State University and the University of Louisiana-Lafayette, the Middle Tennessee men's basketball team will travel to Bowling Green, Ky., on Thursday to take on the Western Kentucky Hilltoppers.

MT will look to avenge last year's loss to the Hilltoppers in the Sun Belt Conference tournament, which cost the Blue Raiders a chance to appear in the NCAA tournament.

Both teams stand at .500 in the conference, as last week's losses dropped the Blue Raiders to 3-3.

Four players who average double figures in points lead the Hilltoppers, who stand at 4-4 in conference play.

Nigel Dixon, a six-foot eleven-inch, 320-pound center from Orlando, Fla., is leading the team in rebounds with 9.7 per game and is second in points with 15.3 per game.

"He may be the biggest and most agile guy in college basketball right now," MT head coach Kermit Davis said. "But we're going to front him and do the best we can."

According to Davis, the best way to guard Dixon may be to send him to the free-throw line.

"He's only shooting 43 percent from the line, so we'll probably be fouling him a lot," Davis said.

In addition to Dixon, the Hilltoppers have three guards who average double figures.

Mike Wells leads the team with an average of 15.5 points per game, while Anthony Winchester (15.0) and transfer Antonio Haynes (12.4) are also in double figures.

"They've got a nice inside-outside attack with these guys, and they've all played well," Davis said.

Despite the Hilltopper's impressive offensive attack and MT's two straight losses, Davis feels his team will be competitive on Thursday.

"We've had a good couple of days practicing, and Western Kentucky is a tough place to play," Davis said. "But I think we've shown that we're a pretty good road team, so we're looking forward to it."

The Golden Panthers stand at 0-7 in the conference, dropping all seven games by an average of 18 points.

They have lost nine straight games, the last to Western Kentucky at home by 13 points.

Two players are currently averaging double figures in points per game for the Golden Panthers, as an injury cut short the team's leading scorer's (Junior Matias, 14.8 points per game) season six games into the year.

Carlos Morban (13.1) and Marcus Robinson (10.4) lead an FIU offensive attack that averages 57.3 points per contest.

After this weekend's games, the Blue Raiders will travel to Denton, Texas, to take on the University of North Texas before returning home to the Murphy Center on Feb. 14 to take on the University of Denver. ♦



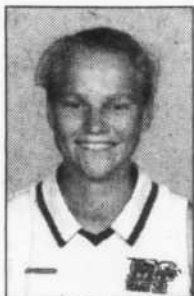
Davis

Tough road match ahead for women

By Colby Sledge
Assistant Sports Editor

After a home victory, the Lady Raiders head to Mississippi State University Saturday afternoon in their second match against a Southeastern Conference team in two weeks.

Middle Tennessee (2-1) will look to improve on its 1-7 all-time record against the Lady Bulldogs. Two years ago, however, the Lady Raiders shut out MSU in Starkville, Miss., 7-0, a win MT's Manon Kruse called "one of the best matches ever" in an interview Monday.



Kruse

The Lady Bulldogs are currently 2-0, with their last win coming by forfeit from the University of Louisiana-Monroe Jan. 24. MSU will play the University of South Alabama today as part of a seven-match homestand.

MSU is led by sophomore Anastasia Kugakolova and senior Marcelle Hirt. Kugakolova, the No. 1 singles player for the Lady Bulldogs, is currently on a two-match losing streak dating back to the fall season. Last season, MSU finished 7-14 overall and 1-10 in the SEC.

Although his team hasn't had much success against MSU, MT head coach Randy Holden isn't concerned with his team's play on the road.

"Any time you win a tight match or a tight game, it gives you some confidence," Holden said after MT's 4-3 victory over the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga

Tuesday. "I guarantee you we will play a lot better next time ... for some reason we play looser on the road."

For MT, Manon Kruse was named Sun Belt Conference Player of the Week by virtue of her 3-0 singles record last week, including a victory over No. 23 Aibika Kalsariva of the University of Kentucky Jan. 24. Kruse is ranked No. 54 in the nation.

Lady Raider Jennifer Klaschka is also undefeated in singles play, having won all three of her matches at the No. 2 singles position. Klaschka and teammate Laura McNamara are also undefeated in doubles play.

MT takes on MSU at 1 p.m. at the A.J. Pitts Tennis Centre. In the case of inclement weather, the match will be moved to the McCarthy Gymnasium on the MSU campus. ♦



Photo by Steve Cross | Chief Photographer

MT guard Tommy Gunn lays the ball up against SBC foe Louisiana-Lafayette Jan 31. The Ragin' Cajuns won 74-64.

Photo courtesy English.com

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Men's tennis looking for first victory

By Colby Sledge
Assistant Sports Editor

The Middle Tennessee men's tennis team will continue searching for its first win of the season Saturday in a double-header against the University of Louisville and Belmont University.

MT head men's tennis coach Dale Short is a little dismayed that his team has been unable to pick up a victory, but he isn't ready to panic yet.

"Hopefully we can pull out some close matches, because right now it's just a matter of confidence," Short said in a telephone interview. "My main focus now is that we learn from our mistakes and our losses and that we get better as the season progresses."

In the early match, the Blue Raiders

(0-2) take on the Cardinals of Louisville (3-3), who are currently on a three-match losing streak. Louisville most recently lost 4-3 at Michigan State University Jan. 31.

All three of Louisville's losses have come on the road.

"They [the Cardinals] know we're very similar [to them]," Short said. "I think we're going to be every bit as talented. We're just going to have to be able to pull out some close matches."

The Cardinals are led by freshman Damar Johnson, who was named the Conference USA Player of the Week yesterday. Johnson defeated No. 58 Tigran Martirosyan of the University of Kentucky 1-6, 6-3, 7-6 last week and is currently 3-1 in singles play.

"Damar is steadily showing that he should be a strong consideration as C-USA's top freshman," Louisville head men's tennis coach Rex Ecarma told uoflsports.com.

"I recruited him to be an impact player as a freshman, and he is definitely meeting my expectations. The sky is

the limit for Damar's future - he is a perfect fit for our system."

In the evening match, the Blue Raiders face Belmont, who features three players from South America: senior Michael Moretti of Caracas, Venezuela; sophomore Felipe Lima of San Paulo, Brazil; freshman Felipe Abreu, also from San Paulo.

Belmont plays in the Atlantic Sun Conference.

MT's top two players, seniors Kirk Jackson and Trevor Short, have been injured during the beginning of the season. Jackson and Trevor, who play doubles together, are a combined 0-6 this season.

"We know that Trevor and Kirk have not been healthy," Dale said. "They seem to be the healthiest that they've been thus far, so I'm feeling better that their best is still ahead of them."

The Blue Raiders face Louisville at 11 a.m. and Belmont at 6 p.m. Both matches will be played Saturday at the Racquet Club of Murfreesboro. ♦



Short

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Gunn looking up to nobody this season

By Katy Hamlett
Staff Writer

Over the past four years, the Middle Tennessee men's basketball team has seen dramatic changes in coaching, players and overall performance.

Despite program inconsistencies, senior guard Tommy Gunn has remained one of the team's most powerful shooters and motivators. Four years of conditioning and growth has made Gunn one of the most talented players in the Sun Belt Conference.

Cleveland, Ohio, born and Syracuse, N.Y., raised, Gunn's move down South four years ago was definitely a culture shock. But just as Gunn is known for a quick transition game on the court, he handled the cross-country move smoothly.

"It was hard, but it was a good transition," Gunn explained.

Even before arriving in Tennessee, Gunn was raising a few eyebrows up north. By his senior year at Corcoran High School in Syracuse, Gunn averaged more than 15 points per game and was named League MVP and Division All-Star.

"I don't know a lot about his background, but whoever was responsible for raising him did a good job with him," MT head coach Kermit Davis said. "He's been here for four years and been problem free. He represents what college basketball is all about."

As with any college level athlete, Gunn has not only learned to balance academic challenges with his personal life, but also deals with the rigorous practice and game schedules. Gunn's day begins at 6 a.m. with weight-lifting followed by classes until the team's 3 p.m. practice.

"On top of everything, I'm a night crawler, so I usually don't go to sleep 'til at least 2 a.m.," Gunn said. "Sometimes I have to take naps in the locker room."

Though his schedule is an impressive challenge in itself, Gunn's enduring intensity is most evident on the court. In the University of New Orleans game two weeks ago, Gunn stayed in the entire 45 minutes of overtime.

"All I could think about was getting that win," Gunn explained.

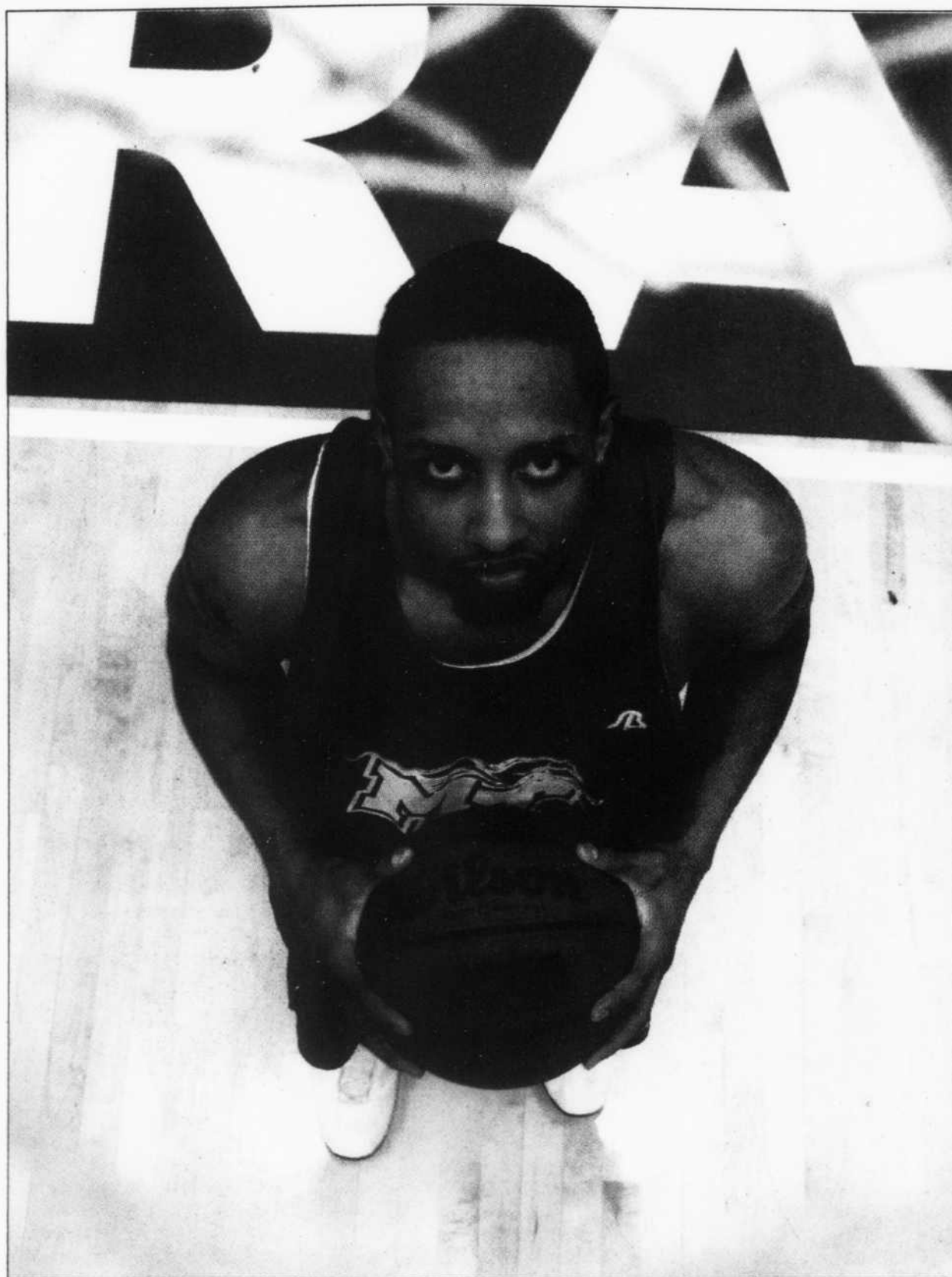
Gunn ended up leading his team to victory, scoring seven of the nine overtime points despite his four looming personal fouls.

Besides his aggressive playing style, fans may have noticed another trait that sets Gunn apart from the everyday player. On his right arm, Gunn displays a detailed tattooed portrait of his six-year-old daughter Katianna, which he gently rubs before shooting free throws.

"I just got it to show everyone my inspiration for being here," Gunn declares. "She's my motivation."

Katianna certainly is a powerful motivator, considering Gunn's impressive accomplishments. In 2002, Gunn received an honorable mention award for his performance in the Sun Belt Conference, followed up in 2003 by making First Team SBC, and this year hopes to be the first MT player in history to receive the honor for two years in a row.

"He's a guy who's made as much progress in a year and a half than anybody I've ever coached," Davis commented.



MT senior guard Tommy Gunn is averaging 17.3 points per game this season, his career best.

Gunn entered his senior year averaging nearly 16 points a game.

"He's a gunner," fellow senior Steven Jackson explained. "He shoots the ball all the time, but that's OK because he doesn't usually miss a lot of shots."

As Gunn's final basketball season at MT comes to an

exciting end, his legacy of leadership, scoring and hard work is beginning to solidify.

"He's really seen the program grow," Davis said. "He's going to leave here being one of the all-time greatest players in the school's history, and that's gotta be a nice feeling." ♦

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