

MONDAY

FEBRUARY 14, 2005

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Rainy

Double dose of Murphy magic

In Sports, page 6

Do something different this valentine's day

In Living, page 5



Murfreesboro, Tenn.

An editorially independent newspaper

Volume 80 No. 55

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Student Government candidates announced

Candidates for Student Government spring elections were announced Friday. Paul Bryant Fulcher, a sophomore business major and Blake Pearson, a junior political science major, are running for president.

Clay Kennedy, a senior geosciences major, is running unopposed for executive vice president and speaker of the senate.

Meagan Flippin, an undeclared sophomore, is running for vice president of public administration and affairs. Jon Harper, a junior liberal arts major, and Apryl Clark, a sophomore mass communication major, are running for election commissioner.

Elections will be held March 1 - 3.

Photography society takes couples pictures

MTSU's photography society is offering Valentine's Day pictures Monday from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Photography Building.

Pictures will cost \$3 for one 4-inch by 6-inch photo or \$5 for two 4-inch by 6-inch photos.

Philosophy Club hosts lecture and film

Paideia, MTSU's philosophy club will host a lecture by philosophy department chair Ron Bombardi, Tues., Feb. 15 from 6 - 8 p.m. in the State Farm room of the Business Aerospace building. The club will show the film, *eXistenZ* at 8:30 p.m. in the Keathley University theater. Both events will attempt to help students understand the philosophical overtones in everyday life.

Tennessee Guitar Festival continues

MTSU's McLean School of Music is hosting classical guitar concerts as part of the Tennessee Guitar Festival.

Three nationally known artists will perform this week: Stephen Aron on Tuesday, Feb. 15 and the Hanser/McLelland Duo on Wednesday, Feb. 16.

Both concerts begin at 8 p.m. in the Wright Music Hall. Master classes featuring student performers will be held Monday, Feb. 14, and Wednesday, Feb. 16 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

All events are free and open to the public.

Scientist lectures on ancient African culture

E. Bruce Bynum will give a lecture on science and mysticism in ancient African culture Wednesday, Feb. 16 in Todd Hall, Room 202. Bynum is the author of *The African Unconscious*.

Masters of Ceremonies battle for cash

The Urban Music Society will hold its annual MC Battle Thursday, Feb. 17 at 9 p.m. in the Cyber Café. DJ Breezy and DJ J Roc will be spinning, and the winner will get \$100 and free studio time. Admission is free.

Senator proposes covenant marriage bill

Divorce would be more difficult

By Jason Cox
Capitol Bureau Chief

STATE CAPITOL BUREAU — A bill currently in the General Assembly would add a covenant marriage option to matrimonial licenses.

To obtain a covenant marriage, prospective couples consisting of one man and one woman would be required to prove they had undergone premarital counseling and would take an oath unique to that con-

tract. In addition, divorces would also be more difficult to obtain.

To get divorced, a spouse would have to prove that the other spouse had committed adultery, committed and been sentenced to a long prison term or death, physical or sexual abuse of the spouse or children or separation without reconciliation for two years.

A spouse may also seek a divorce after the other has left the marital home for one year

and refuses to return or one year after a judgment of separation is given. In this case, if children are involved the period is extended to 18 months.

Tennessee's current waiting period is 60 days; 90 days for couples with children.

Louisiana, Arizona and Arkansas are the only states that currently have covenant marriage laws on the books.

Sen. Jim Bryson, R-Franklin, sponsor of the bill, emphasized that the covenant marriage was an additional option to marriage — not a



Bryson

replacement — and that it will hopefully give couples a better perspective of marriage as a lifetime commitment.

"I've been married 14 years now, and what you find is that you think your life would be a whole lot simpler ... if you just left," Bryson said. "Over time, you realize that's not the case."

"A covenant marriage just lengthens the amount of time ...

so people have more time to work out their differences," he said.

Tennessee has consistently beaten the average national divorce rate. In 1998, there were 6.6 divorces per 1,000 people in Tennessee, compared to a national average of 4.6, according to *Divorce Magazine*, placing it fourth behind Nevada (first with 9.0), Arkansas and Oklahoma.

In addition, the Associated Press reported that in 2002,

See Marriage, 3

Cool! Warm! Hot!



MTSU percussion professor Lalo Davilla and his salsa band, Lalo Davilla y Amigos joined the Nashville Ballet to perform Salsa — Cool! Warm! Hot! Davilla described it as "an explosive combination of dance and music."

Photo courtesy of Tennessee Performing Arts Center

'One Mic, One Voice' raises funds for tsunami victims

By Esparanda Waller
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee Association of Black Journalists and Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. are raising money for tsunami victims with a poetry reading.

"One Mic, One Voice" will be held Feb. 15 at 8 p.m. in the Tennessee Ballroom of the James Union Building.

Donations of \$3 for both students and the public will be collected at the door. This event will give students a chance to showcase their talents.

"The event used to be a jazz setting. This year it's a coffee house theme, kind of a laid back, inviting atmosphere," said

Erik Stevenson, a sophomore music business major and vice president of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity. "We will also have couches to create a warm atmosphere."

"There will be a variety of hip-hop, rap, country, jazz, R&B and a three-piece jazz ensemble," he said.

Different types of coffees and pastries will be set up at each table.

"We hope that this event will encourage other student organizations to get involved, not only just for tsunami victims, but within and outside the community," said Carmen Triplett, a senior recording industry major. "We've discussed with other students that

there are so many people here locally that don't have food and clothing."

Triplett noted that the event is called "One Mic, One Voice" because they're incorporating unity among a non-Greek organization and a Greek organization.

"The most important reason that we're doing it is because of the tsunami victims," Triplett said. "We want MTSU to take part and help with the effort."

"Since we've announced the event, we've heard several organizations who want to host events to contribute to the tsunami relief effort," Stevenson said.

Both organizations expect a big turnout, and are hoping for

at least 200 people. Their target goal is \$600. This will be the third time MTSU has hosted the event.

"This time we're trying to market to the campus rather than an isolated community," Stevenson said.

Triplett and Stevenson are also thinking about hosting the event once a month to help students showcase their talents more and to provide a nice event for the student body.

"Right now, it's just a thought, but when I saw the high demand of people wanting to perform, I started thinking maybe we could host the event once a month in the Cyber

See Tsunami, 2

Unity luncheon honors unsung community heroes

By Dana Owens
Staff Writer

Unity Luncheon honored black "unsung heroes," and called for change within the community.

MTSU sponsored the ninth annual Unity Luncheon as a kick off event for Black History Month, "to celebrate accomplishments and contributions in the community from African-Americans," said Valerie Avent, chair of the Unity Luncheon committee.

The event was held Thursday in the James Union Building and featured speeches of recognition, soulful music and a buffet of comfort food.

The honorees included Bessie Black, Lillian Howse, Jesse James and

Beadie Keith, all residents of Murfreesboro. Their accomplishments were varied, but included teaching, working with children and volunteering within their church and the community.

Speakers included Vice Mayor of Murfreesboro Chris Bratcher, MTSU President Sidney McPhee and keynote speaker Mary Scales. Many notable city and county officials, as well as university administrators, were in attendance.

Scales, who is now retired, and was the first black person to teach at MTSU, used analogies to call for change. She opened the program

See Honorees, 2



Keynote speaker Mary Scales stands with honorees Jesse James, (first row, left to right) Bessie Black, Lillian Howse and Beadie Keith.

Photo courtesy of MTSU Photographic Services

Byrnes also said that No Child Left Behind is not helping the problem of socioeconomic imbalance at CMS.

"One consequence of No Child Left Behind is that high achievers are not being focused on," he said. "There are no provisions to make sure we accommodate high achievers in the schools."

See School, 3



This week's poll question at
www.mtsusidelines.com

How do you feel about covenant marriages?

Opinions 4 • Living 5 • Sports 6 • Classifieds 7

Career fair vendors emphasize student preparation

By Kimberly Peer
Staff Writer

Employers and professional schools will be recruiting in Nashville Tuesday.

The annual Nashville Area College to Career Fair, Nashville Area Graduate and Professional School Fair and Nashville Area Teacher Recruitment Fair will be held Tuesday, Feb. 15, at the Tennessee State Fairgrounds.

Juniors, seniors, graduate students and alumni are welcome to attend the event free of charge, but proper preparation

is the key to success with the employers in attendance.

The College to Career Fair will feature 110 employers, including business, industry and government programs. About 40 graduate and professional schools will be represented at the Graduate and Professional School Fair. Both fairs will be located in the Creative Arts Building. All the programs have "strong emphasis on preparing graduates for today's world of work," said the College to Career Web site.

Prospective teachers and edu-

cation majors will also have a chance to meet and greet representatives from 140 school systems from across the country at the Teacher Recruitment Fair in the Agriculture and Banquet Hall Building.

Karen Austin, assistant director of the Career and Employment Center, encouraged interested students to attend and to remember that professional dress and plenty of quality resumes on hand are recommended before arriving.

"It is also a good idea to familiarize yourself with the

vendors' general information and whether the company prefers students to complete online applications and resumes before approaching a booth on Tuesday. These tips all help the employers take you seriously," Austin said.

A vendor list and links to their Web sites are available at www.mtsu.edu/~career or www.nashvillefairs.org.

Interviews will take place on-site, so a well-planned resume, free of errors, with a simplistic and easy-to-read style, is a must, Nicole Grant, secretary at the

Career and Employment Center, said.

"The No. 1 complaint from fair vendors in the past has been unprepared students," Austin said. The students are receiving "a great deal" with free admission and parking to these three "impressive fairs," she said.

Students and alumni must come by any of the Career and Employment Center's offices for their free tickets and additional information. Tickets will not be available at the event. The offices include Keathley University Center, Room 328,

Jones Hall, Room 158 and Business and Aerospace Building, Room S128.

Even though they are free, tickets are required in order to keep the general public away from the fairs and protect the positions for area students.

"These fairs and opportunities are strictly for the students," Austin said.

Several interviews and several job offers have resulted from the previous years' fairs. The fairs are sponsored by 16 area universities and the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce. ♦

Panelists will discuss race in 'Solid South'

Staff reports

The term "Solid South" used to mean a lot to the Democratic Party during presidential elections. However, in the past decades, the Southern states have shifted right and helped carry Republican elections each year. Central to this issue is the role of race in the South.

At 4 p.m. today, three panelists will discuss the new Solid South under Republican rule in the State Farm Lecture Hall in the Business Aerospace Building.

The shift illustrates the state of Southern politics and race relations dating all the way back to the struggle for civil rights in the 1960s. During the 1948 con-



O'Leary

gressional elections, a majority of Deep South counties delivered 98 percent of all votes to Democratic candidates. But the Civil

Rights Act of 1964 was the first action that started to reduce the Democratic control over the South, as Dixiecrats (Southern Democrats) opposed the civil rights platform of the national party.

In 1968 segregationist George Wallace took most of the Southern white votes away from Democratic candidate Hubert Humphrey, which caught the attention of Republican political analysts.

By the 1980s, the Democratic



Sack

Party had lost more white votes in the South than they gained in black votes, thus cementing the Republican control of the

South. Each one of the panelists will bring a unique perspective to the discussion.

Kevin Sack, currently a national correspondent for *The Los Angeles Times* at their Atlanta bureau, won a Pulitzer Prize for his series, "How Race is Lived in America," while working at *The New York Times*.

Cynthia Tucker is the editorial page editor of *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, and a nationally syndicated colum-



Tucker

nist. Hazel O'Leary is the president of Fisk University, a leading black university in Nashville and the first black institution to gain accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

O'Leary also served as President Bill Clinton's secretary of the department of energy.

John Seigenthaler, former *Tennessean* editor and namesake of the MTSU Chair of Excellence in First Amendment Studies, will moderate. The panel is free, and open to the public. ♦

Honorees: Set aside racial fights, Scales says

Continued from 1

with a speech centered on education within the black community.

"Public education is a blessing," Scales said, but also noted that schools are in trouble. She emphasized the need to "set aside fights on racial and social economics and focus on learning." Scales received a trophy and a standing ovation as she concluded her speech.

McPhee also received applause when he said that Black History Month is a sad reality. "Until we can recognize the value of all people, we must continue with events such as these," he explained.

The honorees, referred to throughout the program as "unsung heroes and sheroes," were presented with plaques and given a chance to speak. Each person thanked his or her family, church and friends who were in attendance.

Jesse James, after accepting his award, stated: "Today is my day," and "I feel good all over today!" Beadie Keith spoke of progress when she said, "the dream is not finished; we've got a lot of work to do."

In order to be selected for recognition, the honorees were nominated by friends, relatives and members of the community. According to Avent, the requirements of the nominees included outstanding contributions in the community, at least 60 years old and 25 years of residence in Middle Tennessee.

Though the overall program was cheerful, there were political, religious and racial undertones in the speeches, as well as the prayer before lunch to the singing of the black national anthem, "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing."

The luncheon was one of the key events for MTSU's African-American history celebration, this year themed "African Diaspora."

The theme refers to Africans who were transplanted throughout the world and includes programs that highlight the African spirit.

The next major event for Black History Month will be Feb. 28, when the first of a series of student-only seminars will be given on academic excellence. Jack Thomas, vice provost for academic affairs, will be the key speaker. ♦

Raider Book Club encourages open forum of ideas

By Courtney Gundry
Staff Writer

Put down the video game controllers, turn off the television and pick up a book – the Raider Book Club is back.

The club is associated with the English 1010 classes and is geared towards freshmen. However, it invites any who is interested to join.

The purpose of the club is to get students interested in reading, encourage critical thinking and establish an open forum of ideas. It also gives the students an opportunity to get to know the faculty and interact with other students, said Michelle McDaniel, coordinator.

"Sometimes you know what you want to say, you just don't know how to say it," McDaniel

said. "Other people's perspectives often help to organize your thoughts."

Included in this semester's lineup are: *Into the Wild* by John Krakauer, facilitated by Ron Kates (Feb. 15), *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker, facilitated by Ayne Cantrell (March 15) and *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* by Mitch Albom, facilitated by Sidney McPhee.

The club meets from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the James E. Walker Library, Room 475.

Into the Wild is the story of Chris McCandless, a man whose life was handed to him on a silver platter. After attending Emory, however, McCandless gives up his birthright and, in search of himself, sets out on an adventure into the Alaskan wild.

Kates said he chose this book because there is "no lack of issues" and "people can relate." It asks the questions "what's your relationship with yourself, life and parents?" and shows that there's "something to be said about finding yourself in college."

The Color Purple is a series of letters to God from Celie, a black woman in the South. Through these letters, Celie reveals her life, and how it was shaped by the people that she encountered. Cantrell called the book "an inspiring story of the human spirit."

The Five People You Meet in Heaven is about the transition from life to the afterlife. When Eddie dies during a carnival accident, he is given a tour of his

past. With the help of five spirits, Eddie makes peace with his life.

The goal of the book club facilitators is to create conversations. They do not teach or lecture. They begin the discussion and merely help it progress.

The idea behind the club is to get as much out of a book as possible.

Students resent books when they're forced to read them, said Kates, no matter how good they are. Then, they don't take as much out of them as they could.

There are no tests, no notes and no required reading.

Come for one, or come for all. Kates said, just bring your books and your brains, and be ready to discuss. ♦

Tsunami: Poetry reading could become monthly event

Continued from 1

Café," Stevenson said. "We thought it would be a nice way to give the student body an atmosphere, especially the mass communication department. There are always people who want to display their talents."

Among some of the performers are Richmond Carter from Austin Peay State

University and Ashley Ellis, a senior recording industry major.

All proceeds will go directly to a non-profit organization that directly aids victims of the tsunami.

For those who want to participate or have questions, contact Carmen Triplett at (901) 212-6287 or cdt2m@mtsu.edu. ♦



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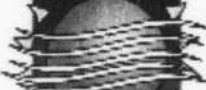
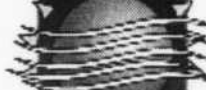



For additional information and roster of employers, contact Career Center www.mtsu.edu/~career ph.898-2500 office. KUC 328 BAS S123 or Jones Hall 158

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School: Plan wouldn't be implemented until '06

Tennessee Weather – Monday's Highs

A map of Tennessee with major cities marked by dots and their average annual precipitation in inches indicated by numbers. The cities and their precipitation values are: Dyersburg (60), Jackson (61), Memphis (63), Clarksville (59), Nashville (61), Hendersonville (61), Lebanon (60), Murfreesboro (60), Shelbyville (61), Cookeville (57), Knoxville (56), and Chattanooga (59). The state's irregular border is shown, and the interior is shaded gray.

| Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|---|---|---|
|  66° ▲ 42° ▼ |  48° ▲ 30° ▼ |  46° ▲ 27° ▼ |  49° ▲ 38° ▼ |  54° ▲ 42° ▼ |

Government groups seek open records training

"Obviously we want people to be aware of the situation" if there is a crime, Aikens said. "They may not know their neighbor has been broken into. If they read it in the paper they might be on the lookout for a strange car in the area or a strange person." ♦

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From the Editorial Board

Covenant marriages good but not revolutionary

Take an informal poll of friends and the likelihood is that the majority of them has been through a parental divorce. The no-fault marriages introduced in the 1960s have had a major impact on the typical American family.

This year the General Assembly will be looking at a bill proposing the state adopt covenant marriages — marriages that would require couple counseling and longer waiting periods for divorce — as another option to normal marriages.

The bill has only good intentions and clearly there are many children who suffer as a result of divorces. By requiring counseling before the wedding and as a way to work through divorce proceedings, the state would be encouraging citizens to spend more time thinking over one of the biggest decisions of two people's lives.

Of course that's a good idea. Any life decision deserves some forethought and planning.

However, its unlikely that this is going to be a craze that catches on like the latest fashion trend.

Obviously, couples who would be interested in participating in a covenant marriage would probably be more likely to stay together than others, so it's not like the bill, if approved, would suddenly reduce our divorce rate. But at least there's the option.

Many college students are either already married or thinking seriously about it for the first time. And yet, many students have no idea how to budget a household, share responsibilities or even at the most basic level communicate effectively with a loved one.

You can learn these things in the traditional way, which is to make mistakes and then make the right decisions.

Or you can enter a covenant marriage and hopefully learn from a licensed counselor how to deal with these issues before they occur.

For many children of divorced parents, the issue cuts closer to home. They know firsthand what can happen when parents haven't learned the important lessons, and quite often their suffering slips under the radar.

Most people aren't going to enter a covenant marriage, and that's fine.

But if the bill were approved, at least the option would be available for couples who want it. ♦

From the Opinions Editor

Israeli, Palestinian leaders facing threats on lives, peace

The fragile quiet between Israel and Palestine might be shattered by a few gunshots.

Israeli extremists seem to be filling the void left by the lull in the fighting between Israel and Palestine, issuing death threats to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, and members of his cabinet in the wake of the upcoming withdrawal from the Gaza Strip.

Some in Israel fear that the atmosphere is frighteningly similar to conditions just before the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in 1995.

Sharon isn't the only head of state under the gun at the moment: Palestinian officials have received threats from Hezbollah that the Iranian and Syrian-backed group may assassinate President Mahmoud Abbas if he continues negotiating a cease-fire agreement with Israel.

Hezbollah's leaders came out on Saturday to deny that they were threatening Abbas' life, accusing Israeli officials of spreading misinformation in order to derail the move towards peace. Still, Abbas' government is taking the threat very seriously.

The intertwined nations of Israel and Palestine have come within a hairsbreadth of peace in the past; each time, forces operating on either side of the conflict have worked to bring the process to a halt.

There's certainly much to be encouraged by. Sharon's cabinet stands behind him in approving the withdrawal from Gaza, as well as the release of 500 Palestinian prisoners.

Meanwhile, Abbas has managed to wield control over some of the many militant groups operating in the name of Palestine. Abbas is hopeful that Israel's concessions will be enough to encourage Hamas, Islamic Jihad and others to permanently disarm themselves.

Whether all of these factors, as well as the strength of Israel's police in stopping extremists opposed to Sharon's plan, will be enough to keep the peace process on-track is uncertain. Whatever happens, the coming weeks and months will leave their impact on history for generations. ♦

Matthew Adair is a sophomore art education major and can be reached at matt.adair@gmail.com.



Matthew Adair
Opinions Editor

Dean at odds with DNC leaders

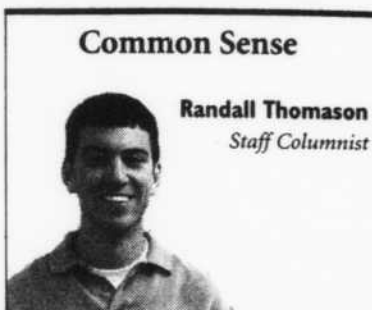
The most enjoyable aspect of the American political process is that it never ends. We're barely three months removed from a general election, and less than a month removed from the start of a new presidential term and a new session of Congress.

But the wheels are still turning, and Howard Dean's rise to the chairmanship of the Democratic National Committee will make politics that much more fun to observe.

Most will remember Dean as the fiery, former Vermont governor who grabbed the early lead in the race for the 2004 Democratic presidential nomination. His momentum stalled as he finished third in the Iowa caucuses and faded quickly into the twilight as Sen. John Kerry began winning almost every state primary.

Popular opinion says that Dean eliminated himself with that spirited, primal scream, trying to keep supporters rallied after the disappointing Iowa finish. It was not the scream that did Dean in, however.

The Democratic establishment



Common Sense

Randall Thomason
Staff Columnist

never wanted Dean, and never backed him with substantial dollars. The DNC, then headed by Terry McAuliffe, wanted a candidate that better fit its current funding, and who wasn't as prone to wild rants as Dean. The party leaders doomed Dean before Iowa, and went with one of the old guards: Kerry, the 20-year Massachusetts senator.

Dean may be in a position to have more power with his new post than he would have had as the Democratic nominee. Had Dean been pitted against President Bush, the election would have been a landslide for Bush, because of Dean's eccentric personality and his unabashed affection for

liberal policies.

So now the man who recently said, "I hate Republicans," is leading the Democrats in their fight to reemerge as a significant factor in national politics.

What will the ramifications be of a Dean-led party? I suppose it's too early to speculate with any certainty, but it can be safely assumed that Sen. Hillary Clinton would have preferred that someone else be in Dean's post.

Everyone and his or her dog knows that the former first lady wants to be president, and will vie for the office in 2008. But Dean's vision for the party may steer it in a different direction. Dean's most rabid support came from far left, nearly militant young people who want to remake the entire face of the United States.

Old-line Democrats are likely to be turned off if Dean tries to cater too much to the radical left movement in his camp. It will be a balancing act for the new chairman as he tries to grow the base of what used to be the clear majority party.

The next four years will determine the future of the Democrats, and whether they will remain a viable national party. If Dean uses the same rhetoric and ideas that he campaigned on in the presidential primaries, then it's safe to say the party is in trouble.

He has to decide if it's possible to remake the American political climate, which currently sits right of center on the pendulum. If he tries to shift it far back to the left by leading all out obstructions of the GOP agenda, the current crop of Democrats will continue their tailspin into oblivion, only to be revived when a new group decides to be serious about our nation's most important struggles.

My bet is that Dean's aggressive style will lead him to try to undertake the role of immediately remaking American ideology.

Proceed at your own risk, Mr. Dean. ♦

Randall Thomason is a junior mass communications major and can be reached at rthomason@raiderrepublicans.com.

Republican propaganda suppresses free speech

The Republican march against the truth continues. With a slight national majority, and control over the government and corporate boardrooms, conservatives have resolved to bully not just the rest of the world, but also the free thought of the United States.

Columnists, such as Armstrong Williams, have prostituted themselves and discarded any remnant of journalistic integrity by accepting money to be a skill for Bush administration propaganda. Vice President Dick Cheney defends his lies about weapons of mass destruction by saying he never made the statements, no matter how much video proves that he did.

Defiant, as she faced no real challenge to her confirmation as Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice didn't even try to defend her pre-war lies, instead counterattacking Sen. Barbara Boxer for suggesting she lied.

The president's favorite author, Natan Sharansky, goes around defending the neoconservative thirst for empire by explaining, "Democracies do not start wars." Apparently, Sharansky did not notice the world's leading democracy, the United States, starting the war in Iraq.

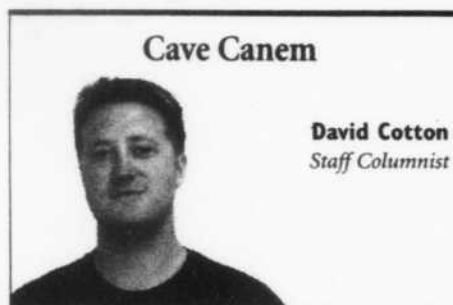
We truly live in a world of propaganda when "fair and balanced" means only one viewpoint and a "no-spin zone" means nothing but.

Now, Republicans have their truth-obliterating sights trained on university intellectuals. Professor Ward Churchill was recently forced to resign as chairman of the ethnic studies department at the University of Colorado. Churchill has refused to quit teaching, but that has not kept some, including the governor of Colorado, from calling for him to be fired.

All this arises from an essay Churchill wrote not long after Sept. 11, 2001. In it, he takes a hard look at the reasons for the terrorist attack. The essay and subsequent book escaped wide attention until some complaints over Churchill's upcoming speaking engagement at Hamilton College in New York garnered some media attention.

Soon, Fox News launched a crusade against the leftist professor. They even got a little help from CNN's token fascist, Paula Zahn. To add some teeth to the threat against Churchill and free expression, Colorado Gov. Bill Owens appeared on Zahn's show, demanding that Professor Churchill lose at least his job. Owens went on to espouse the limits of dissent and free speech, equating Churchill's work with shouting fire in a crowded theater. Of course, the governor was unable, or even expected, to explain this inane assertion.

That's the problem. The man who took the time and effort to write out and support his argument is having his voice suppressed, while power rests in the hands of people who speak in ridiculous, rarely questioned sound bites.



Cave Canem

David Cotton
Staff Columnist

I have read Churchill's essay titled "Some People Push Back: On the Justice of Roosting Chickens," and urge anyone interested in this issue to do so. He is a long time Indian activist familiar with the United States' history of conquest and views modern foreign policy in these terms.

Basically, Churchill says that the United States-backed economic sanctions against Iraq, now thought to have been responsible for the death of nearly half a million Iraqi children, attacked non-military economic aspects of the nation and harmed mostly civilians. The terrorists of Sept. 11, or "combat teams" as Churchill calls them, struck the Pentagon, a military target, and the World Trade Center, a major economic target of infrastructure. If the United States can dismiss the massive civilian casualties from sanctions and aerial bombing as collateral damage, then why can the Sept. 11 terrorists not say the same thing about the civilians that they killed?

Churchill pulls no punches. Personally, I found his lack of empathy for the American victims troubling, and his comparisons to Nazi Germany a bit loose, historically speaking. But, then again, these comparisons are no more ridiculous or offensive than Republican insistence that Saddam Hussein is the same thing as Adolf Hitler. His point that we have attacked many more targets and killed many more inhabitants within the Middle East than what they have done here, should not be lost on any of us. Naturally, some will hold America responsible, and wish to strike back.

Now, Churchill faces death threats and the destruction of his career. Liberal academics, for whom circling the wagons is completely unnatural, have offered half-hearted support and a wait-and-see attitude. Republicans and neoconservatives know that if they apply enough pressure, the university will cave, and Churchill will be fired. If this happens, America will suddenly be a little less free.

I may not agree with Ward Churchill's penchant for Nazi comparisons, but I have to admit, even Nazi Minister of Propaganda Frank Goebbels would be impressed with the Republican propaganda's control over free speech. ♦

David Cotton is a graduate history major and can be reached at dpc2b@mtsu.edu.

Celebrate Valentine's even if you're alone

Today is a special day. It's my best friend's brother's birthday, and I'm officially old.

Oh yeah, and it's also Valentine's Day.

Before I begin on my brilliant, yet witty tirade, know that this is not your typical Valentine's Day column. There are no uplifting, catchy sayings for the young singles about these being the best years of your life and you don't want to be tied down. There are no encouraging words of wisdom for the young couples about how all you need is love, or that you can work through anything together. This isn't about you at all. It's just a short list of things to do to celebrate Valentine's Day without actually celebrating it.

And here's the great thing: These work whether you're single or attached. So forget the cards, candy and flowers, the romantic nights out or the man-hating, singles bash, and do something that's actually, you know, fun.

First off, we're lucky that this year it's unseasonably warm, and we all know what that means: Plenty of people at the park. Now, I'm not a big fan of people-watching all the time (some people get really creeped out if you stare at them at the mall or something), but you can put on a pair of sunglasses and be totally unnoticed.

The best people to watch in the park are the preteen skateboarders, especially when they try to jump over a big rock or something. Most of the time, they laugh too much at themselves to really care if you're laughing, too, and, as long as there isn't any blood, you don't even have to feel bad about it.

If that doesn't tickle your fancy, try this: Think about where all the teenagers go to make out. I have no idea where this is, but if you ask around enough, you're bound to find out. Sometime between 9 and 11 p.m., drive around with your brights on. This can be really fun, watching them freak out and whatnot. Another version of this is to go to a romantic movie and sit right next to a couple, even if there are plenty of empty seats elsewhere.

Take a bubble bath and read a good book. Just because you don't want to do the romance thing doesn't mean you can't at least relax. Turn your cell phone off, mute your Instant Messenger tones, break your television — whatever you need to do to block out the normal activities that interrupt the flow of your day. Ignore everyone.

Go shopping and buy at least one thing that looks neat, but you know you'll never use, like a combination cheese slicer/toaster oven/barbecue fork. Keep the original box, but keep the item on display (like on your kitchen counter) as though you really use it every day. Later, you can use it as a wedding gift for all those people who get engaged today. This is really planning ahead at its finest.

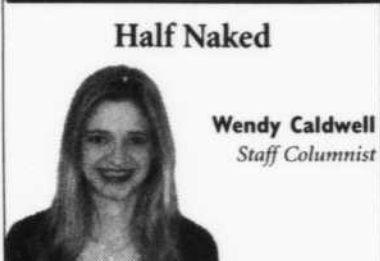
Go to a bar. That's it — this one requires no explanation. Unless you're under 21, then, you'd best stay away from bars. Do something legal, like play the lottery. Maybe you'll win. Then you can buy a nice mail-order bride/groom and forget all this romance stuff.

Hopefully, these fun-filled activities will make this a memorable Valentine's Day for you and several unsuspecting bystanders.

And remember: Love is all you need; there's someone out there for everyone; being alone doesn't mean you're lonely.

Yeah. My editor added that last part. ♦

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Half Naked

Wendy Caldwell
Staff Columnist

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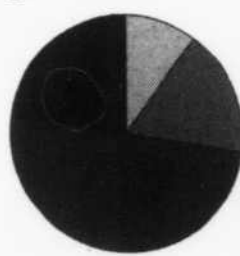
Sidelines online poll results

Should single people feel left out on Valentine's Day?

Single people should feel left out every day. (10 percent)

No. Everyone's had to spend at least one Valentine's Day alone. (17 percent)

Valentine's Day is a meaningless holiday geared at making candy companies lots of money. (50 percent)



Are you asking me out? (23 percent)

Visit www.mtsusidelines.com to answer this week's poll question, "Do you support covenant marriages?" 195 people voted in this poll. Results are not scientific.

Do something different this Valentine's Day

You don't have to celebrate Valentine's Day with dozens of roses, expensive jewelry or dinner at the finest restaurant in town to make sweet memories.

By Audrey Scruton
Staff Writer

To create a memorable Valentine's Day, all you really need is some creativity and enthusiasm.

The following list of date ideas is perfect for those on a shoe-string budget, or anyone who just wants to try something more original this year.

♥ This year, go back to being a kid again. Create homemade valentines from construction paper, spend the day at a petting zoo or a local park or find a playground where you can reclaim your inner child.

♥ Who said pizza and a movie isn't romantic? Hit the romance aisle at your local movie store and stock up on classics such as *Sleepless in Seattle*, *Love Story* or *Pretty Woman*.

Snuggle on the couch and let Tinseltown draw you into a cinematic fairy tale.

♥ Volunteering your time for charity is a great way to show your loved one that you care about him or her and the world.

You could read to senior citizens at a nursing home, donate blood or volunteer at a homeless shelter or soup kitchen.

♥ Relive old memories while making new ones by setting up a scavenger hunt with clues that relate to the special details of your relationship – for example, your first date, your most romantic holiday together, etc.

Answers to each clue lead you to places that hold significance for you both, such as where you first confessed your love for each other, where you first met, and so on, ending up where you had your first date.

♥ Want to drive your partner crazy?

Teach them how to drive a car with a manual transmission. Find an empty parking lot, and be sure to have good music and a full tank of gas.

It may seem unromantic, but it can be hilarious to see the student driver sputter and stall the car.

♥ Select a dinner you have never tried from a cookbook.

Shop for the ingredients and prepare the dinner together. For

added adventure, choose a specific type of cuisine and dress the part.

♥ Go to a nearby city, find the tallest building, go to the top and just relax while looking at the city skyline together.

Also try these ideas from MTSU students Meg Jermann and Leslie Stevens.

"One time a guy invited me over, and it was cold and snowing and really gloomy outside," Stevens said. "He set up a picnic in his room, and we watched movies all afternoon. It was really cute."

Jermann agrees that using old standbys can be repetitive.

"I like to pretend I'm somewhere else, like decorating your place to look like Hawaii or something," Jermann said. "Or you could take a portable DVD player, drive to a good spot, and create your own drive-in theater."

"Just being different is fun. The whole dinner-and-a-movie thing is boring," Jermann said.

Remember, whatever you decide to do for Valentine's, it really is the thought that counts. ♦



Illustration by Alan Laidlaw | Staff Illustrator

Singles, show love to everyone around you

In today's crazy world, the mysterious, driving force that often keeps us going is love – in some shape or form. If we didn't love something, we'd never be happy.

Such an immensely important part of our livelihood should be celebrated. Hence, Valentine's Day was born.

Known as the patron saint of lovers, St. Valentine was a martyr who died for his beliefs during the Roman Empire.

In honor of his demonstration of the greatest love – that which lays down its life – we have an entire day dedicated to the appreciation of love.

Look around – there is no theme more pervasive and intriguing to us than the idea of love. It drives us crazy, yet we



All You Need is Love

Stacie Wacaster
Staff Columnist

can't get enough of it.

Nearly every song on the radio has something to do with love: we can feel the love tonight, love lifts us up where we belong, love keeps us alive, we can't help falling in love, all we need is love and we would do anything for love (but I won't do that).

Now, in the American tradition of saturation, Valentine's Day

has been so highly commercialized that we sometimes miss the real reason for the celebration.

But underneath all the candy hearts, roses and boxes of chocolate is the core meaning: an appreciation for that mysterious feeling, which is at once passionately compelling and quietly, unswervingly devoted.

Of course, not every one of us has a significant other – at least at this point in our lives – upon whom to shower our love. For us, Valentine's Day can feel like the ultimate rub – in light of our single status.

But this year, instead of feeling annoyed, bitter, self-pitying or even just indifferent toward Valentine's Day, take the opportunity to show your love to other important, albeit non-

romantic relationships.

Valentine's Day is not only about the dizzyingly romantic, mushy-gushy kind of love.

It's about observing love of any kind: moms, dads, brothers, sisters, grandparents, dear friends, soul mates and kindred spirits.

Life is short, but love is eternal. Make the time and effort to let someone know that you appreciate them. Write a note, make a phone call, pay a visit – do whatever it takes to let your life support know that you are grateful for them.

If you don't have a date for Valentine's Day, make one.

It doesn't have to be a romantic interest, just as long as you're taking the time to recognize those who have meant

something to you.

Have a date-free Valentine's pizza party with your buddies, take your mom out to lunch, cook dinner for a special friend or write a letter to your grandmother.

Buy valentines like we used to do back in grade school and hide them in friends' mailboxes, shoes, backpacks and cars.

Surprise someone with a batch of cookies, or call an old friend with whom you've lost touch.

If you do have a sweetheart, don't feel pressure to make this the best day ever; it doesn't have to be extravagant, just genuine.

Guys, unless your girl is allergic to petals, please give her some flowers. The amount of money you spend is not impor-

tant; it's a little known fact that girls just want to know that our guy notices us and that he cares that we're there.

Let her know she's beautiful and you're glad she's yours.

Girls, we tend to think Valentine's Day is all about us being treated special, and it is, but it's also critical to let your guy know that he's important to you. Recognize him and let him know that you value him.

Whatever you do for Valentine's Day this year, don't feel sorry for yourself – there is somebody who loves you.

Find them and participate in the love celebration.

You don't have to have romance to make a great Valentine's Day.

All you need is love. ♦

Dating Web site provides rednecks 'online honky-tonk'

By Audrey Scruton
Staff Writer

From the heavily publicized eHarmony.com to the ever-popular Match.com, there are hundreds of online dating services available today for the average single person.

But a brand-new dating Web site, RedneckAndSingle.com, is geared toward a more specific audience.

"The whole idea of RedneckAndSingle.com was to create an online dating environment just for very down-to-earth people with interests like country music, NASCAR and camping," says Kevin, the site's creator. "Think of it as an online honky-tonk."

The site has already garnered a lot of interest from the public, receiving approximately 1,600 visitors in its first few weeks in operation, and 50 people have posted personal profiles on the site.

"For the people who are joining, I'm seeing a lot of enthusiasm about the site," Kevin said. "You don't have to be a banjo-strummin', tobacco-spittin', cowboy boots-wearin' person to feel comfortable at RedneckAndSingle.com," Kevin says.

Students see the site as a positive creation. "I think it sounds like a fun idea, or at least a very entertaining one," MTSU student Greg Harris says.

"It targets a specific group of people, and it sounds like it would be directed specifically at their interests," sophomore Kenny Barrett says.

"RedneckAndSingle.com was born out of my desire as a marketing guy to create a consumer brand of my very own, and out my frustrations as a single guy with the online dating sites that are out there now," Kevin says.

Kevin encourages all interested persons to check out his site.

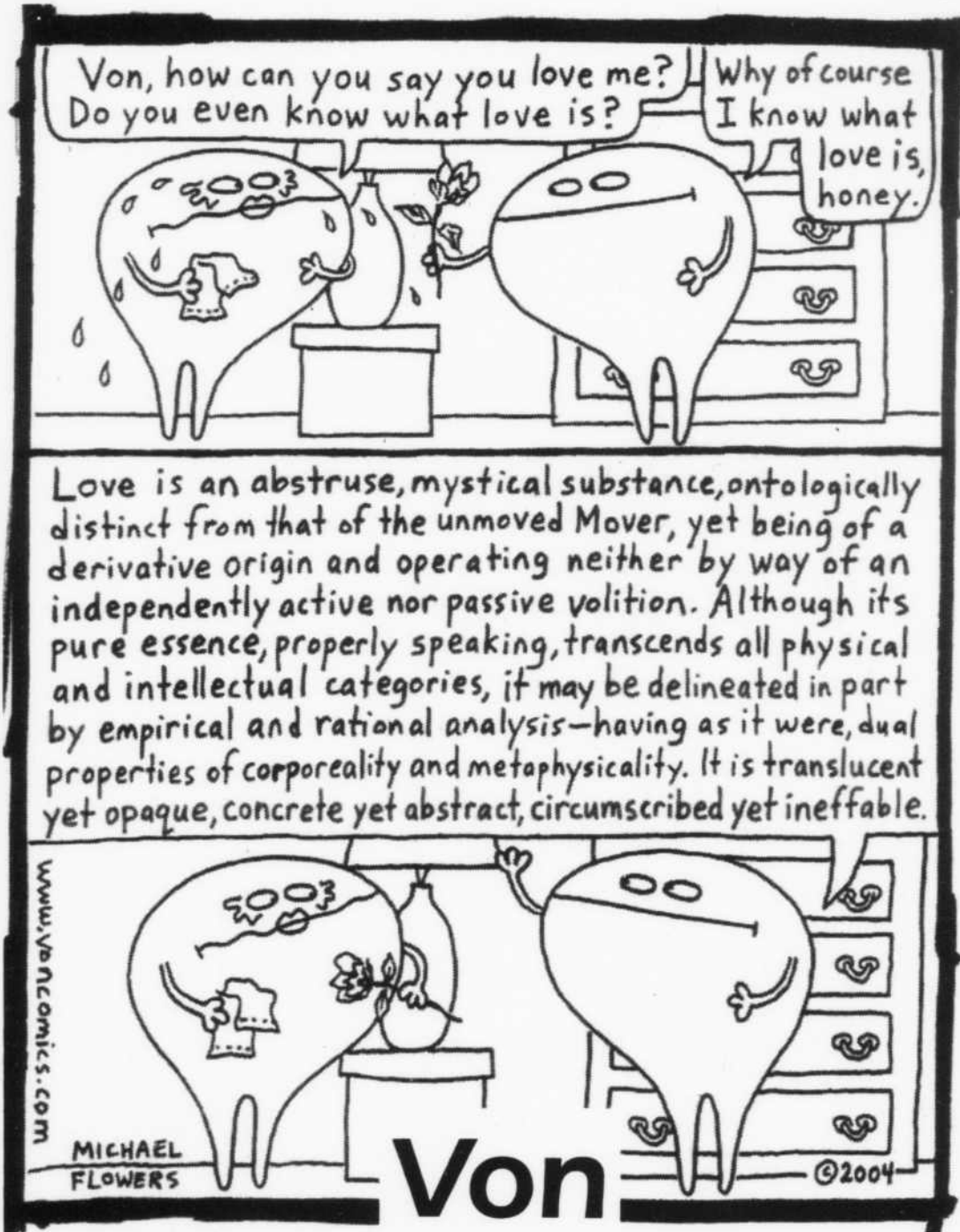
"You don't have to be a banjo-strummin', tobacco-spittin', cowboy boots-wearin' person to feel comfortable at RedneckAndSingle.com."

Kevin
RedneckAndSingle.com creator

"I'd urge anyone who's single to check out the site and take the Redneck Personality Profile," he says. "It's a real hoot."

"A lot of people may be thinking, 'No way; I'm not a redneck.' But once they take the profile and see their interests are mud fightin' and four-wheelin', they're going to see that rednecks are having more fun than most people," Kevin says.

"One thing I've learned during my years as a single guy is that you need to explore your options," Kevin says. "So if you're a woman wondering what it would be like to go out with a cowboy, or if you're a guy who'd like to meet a down-to-earth woman who enjoys wearing her Daisy Dukes, then I think RedneckAndSingle.com is an option definitely worth exploring." ♦



AD Search Update

Search Firm Refuses to Talk
Search Committee, Faculty Senate
Still in Dark
First Search Committee meeting
Wed., Feb. 16 @ 2 p.m.

Siljestrom, Born help MT increase winning streak to four

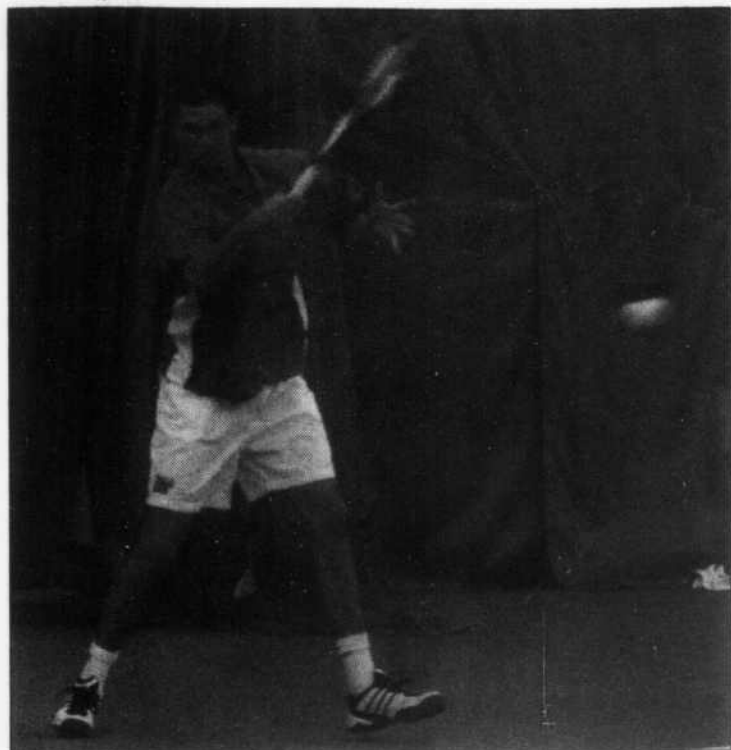


Photo by Matt Orenstein | Staff Photographer

MT's Marco Born went 4-0 in two matches this weekend.

By Casey Brown and Colby Sledge
Staff Writer and Sports Editor

The Middle Tennessee men's tennis team won two home matches over the weekend to run its winning streak to four matches.

The No. 53 Blue Raiders defeated No. 35 Georgia Tech 6-1 on Saturday before shutting out Furman on Sunday at the Racquet Club of Murfreesboro.

MT claimed the doubles point to jump out to an early lead on Saturday. At No. 1 doubles, the No. 58 team of Andreas Siljestrom and Marco Born squeezed by David North and Marco Rajevac 8-5 in yet another strong showing for the tandem.

At No. 2, the No. 29 duo of Brandon Allan and Kai Schledorn had no answer for Scott Blackmon and Jose Muguruza, falling 8-6. The Blue Raiders claimed the first point of the match, however, when Greg Pollack and Anant Sitaram claimed an 8-6 win over Sukhura Young and Jordan Bellas.

Singles play proved to be the difference for the Blue Raiders. MT claimed victories

at the top four spots in the lineup and at No. 6, following open a close match.

Siljestrom took care of business at No. 1, as the No. 68 Swede upset No. 35 Muguruza 3-6, 6-2, 6-3. Born followed his partner, defeating North 6-4, 6-3 at No. 2.

MT's Schledorn, the current Sun Belt Player of the Week, upped the lead to 4-0 when he handled Rajevac 6-4, 6-1, at No. 3.

"It was good to see Andreas and Marco play well, and Kai continues to be very solid for us," MT head coach Dale Short told MT Media Relations.

Sitaram also emerged victorious, besting Young 6-3, 4-6, 6-2 in a three-set battle at No. 4. Georgia Tech's only victory came at No. 5 singles, as Pollack fell to Bellas 2-6, 6-7 (4).

The Blue Raiders claimed the final point of the match when Allan defeated George Gueslani 6-2, 6-7 (5), 7-5 at No. 6.

The win marked the second straight time the Blue Raiders have defeated the Yellow Jackets at home. MT improved to 5-1 on the season, while previously unbeaten GT fell to 3-1. The record marks MT's best start since a

12-0 run to begin the 2001 season.

On Sunday, the Blue Raiders continued their winning ways with another fast start against Furman. Allan and Schledorn rebounded with an 8-5 victory over Allen Simmons and Andy Sobczyk at No. 1 doubles, and Siljestrom and Born clinched the point with an 8-5 win over Ben Pauluhn and Greg Maarschalk at No. 2.

"I was a little worried coming into the match because Furman is a good team and very well-coached," Short told MT Media Relations. "We started strong in doubles and continued to work in all of the singles matches, and the hard work really paid off."

Schledorn played the only three-set match in singles at No. 2, the sophomore from Germany staved off Pauluhn 6-1, 3-6, 10-8. All of the other matches went smoothly for the Blue Raiders, including Siljestrom's 6-3, 6-2 victory over Simmons at No. 1.

The Blue Raiders will continue their four-match homestand on Friday against Virginia Tech at 1:30 p.m. ♦

Denver scorches Raiders

By David Hunter
Senior Staff Writer

The Blue Raiders headed out to take on the best of the SBC West and came home with an 83-71 loss at Denver on Saturday.

Throughout the season, the Blue Raiders have been known for their defense. However, Denver was able to score at ease.

"I just thought we never got in any defensive rhythm, and we were playing on our heels," MT head coach Kermit Davis told MT Media Relations.

Denver's 83 points were the most that MT has given up under Davis in an SBC game that finished in regulation. Denver shot 53 percent from the field in the win and out-rebounded MT 38-33.

For the Pioneers, Antonio Porch led the way with 27 and added seven boards and five assists. Yemi Nicholson chipped in 23 points and 11 boards. Rodney Billups had 18 points, five rebounds, nine assists and committed only three turnovers.

"[Billups] dominated the game, no question," Davis told MT Media Relations. "He was solid at the point, [Nicholson] is really good and Porch had a fine game."

For MT, Michael Cuffee scored 20 points and had nine rebounds, and Steve Thomas added 14 points and seven boards. Marcus Morrison and Mike Dean scored 12 and 10 points, respectively.

MT led 42-41 at the break, and Morrison nailed a three-pointer with 11:30 to go to make the score 61-60. Before that, Morrison had 10 straight MT points to come back from being down 58-51. However, Denver went on a 15-2 run to take control of the game.

The big key of the game was free-throw shooting. Denver went 16-of-23, while MT went a perfect 5-for-5. The Blue Raiders never got into the bonus situation in either half, however.

MT (15-10, 5-6) returns home Thursday night to take on Arkansas State at 7 p.m. ♦

Double dose of Murphy magic

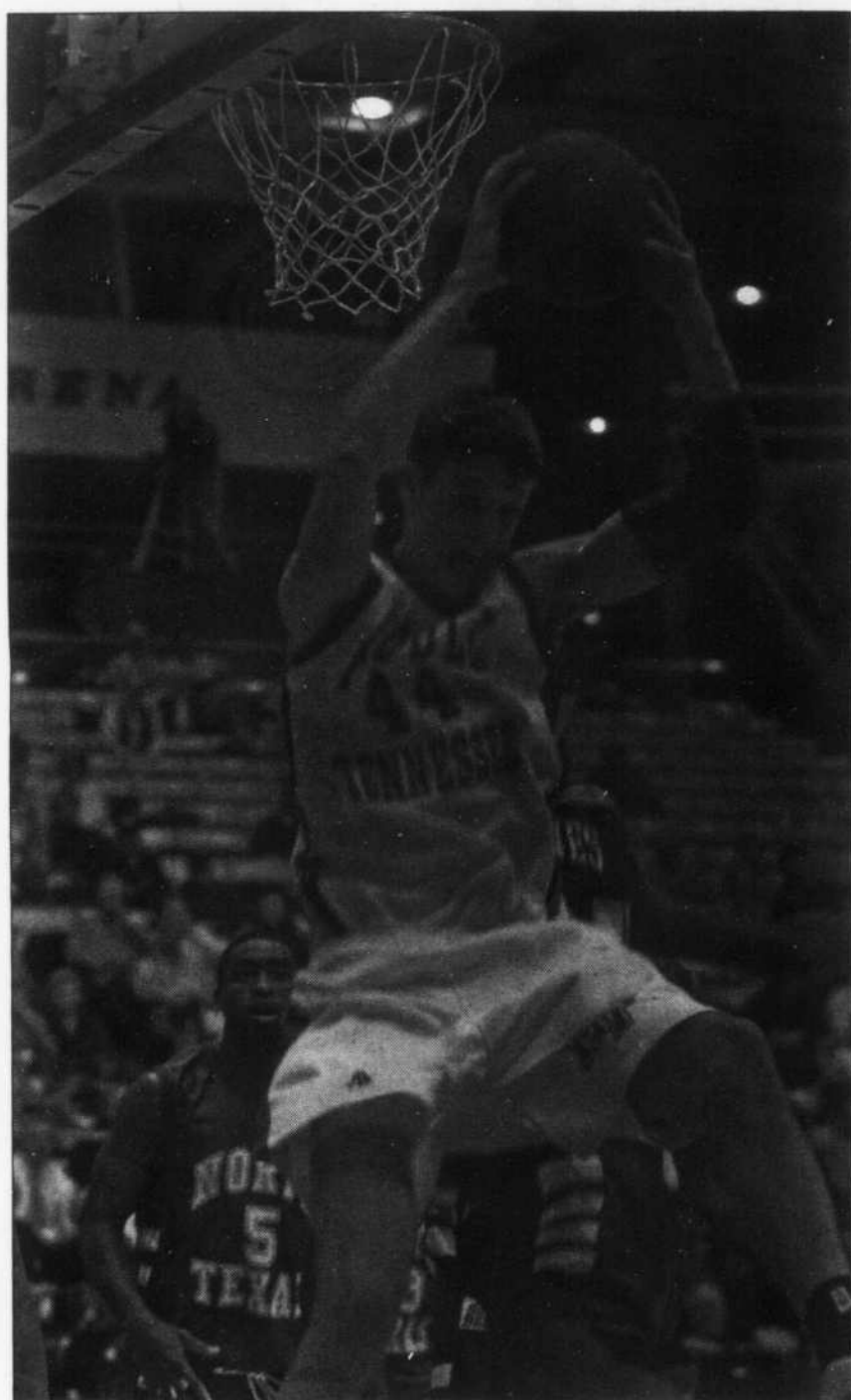


Photo by Rachelle Morvant | Chief Photographer

MT sophomore Kyle Young pulls down one of his six rebounds in the Blue Raiders' 79-64 victory over North Texas on Thursday.

MT uses tight first-half defense to handily defeat Mean Green

By David Hunter
Senior Staff Writer

The weather was cold outside, and so was North Texas's offense as the Blue Raiders defeated UNT 79-64 on Thursday night at Murphy Center.

MT held the Mean Green to a single point in the first five minutes of the game. UNT missed their first 10 shots until Leonard Hopkins connected on a jumper with 11:22 left in the opening half.

"We came out with a lot of energy tonight," MT forward Michael Cuffee said. "The crowd was right behind us."

We give the crowd a lot of support for being right there with us."

While the MT defense was shutting down the UNT offense, the Blue Raider offense was scoring at ease

See Defense, 7



MT 79
UNT 64
Next Game: Feb. 17
v. Arkansas State

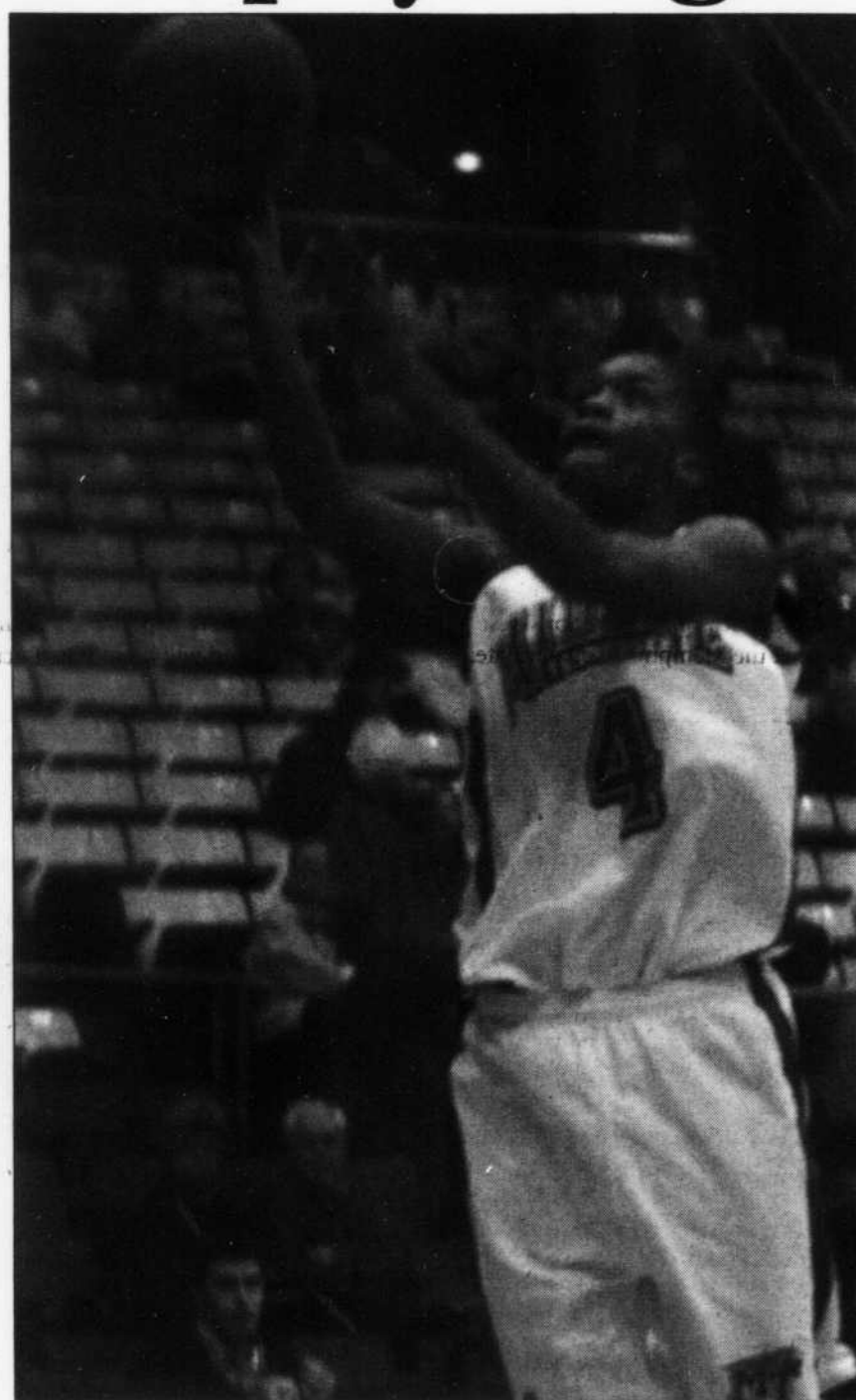


Photo by Rachelle Morvant | Chief Photographer

Sophomore forward Krystle Horton scored six points and added four rebounds and three steals in MT's 71-45 win over Denver.

Holmes leads balanced attack as Lady Raiders crush Denver

By Jori Rice
Staff Writer

A return to Murphy Center marked a return to the win column as the Lady Raiders defeated Denver 71-45 Thursday night.

"We have a lot of fire and energy in us right now," sophomore Chrissy Givens said. "After our last two losses, we decided right here and right now that we are going to give it all we got."

Givens recorded her first double-double with 11 points and 12 rebounds as the Lady Raiders snapped a two-game conference losing streak.



MT 71
Denver 45
Next Game: Feb. 17
@ Arkansas-Little Rock

In fact, four Lady Raiders scored in double figures.

Patrice Holmes led the Lady Raiders with 17 points, Starr Orr had 11 points and 9 rebounds and Tia Stovall scored

See Balance, 8

Lady Raiders sweep SBC West with win over UNT

By Jori Rice
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee women's basketball team defeated North Texas 64-49 Saturday evening at Super Pit for another Sun Belt Conference win.

UNT (11-12, 6-5 SBC) jumped out to an early 6-3 lead, but the Lady Raiders caught up, scoring four-points

and eventually leading by one point in the beginning of the first half. UNT struggled for the entire game but forced a 13-13 tie in the first half.

UNT trailed 30-22 at halftime after MT extended its lead in the final minutes of the first half.

Both teams had a hard time keeping the ball under control in the first half, as UNT had 17 turnovers and the Lady Raiders

had 11.

UNT finished with 27 turnovers, while MT had 19.

However, in the second half, MT's shooting percentage was 50 percent, while UNT shot 37 percent from the field.

The Lady Raiders shot two three-pointers in the second half and went on an 11-2 run with 5:57 minutes remaining in the game.

UNT was led on offense by Talicia Sanders and Erika Bobo, who both scored 12 points and grabbed eight rebounds.

MT's Chrissy Givens recorded back-to-back double-doubles with 15 points and 11 rebounds.

Givens has made major contributions in the last seven games, scoring in double figures in every game and leading the team in rebounding in all seven

games. Givens is averaging 14 points and 7.3 rebounds per game.

"I just went to the boards," Given told MT relations. "There have been too many times in the past two games when I wasn't going to the boards. I just made it a special goal to be on the glass every time the ball was shot."

Meanwhile, Tia Stovall scored 12 points against UNT, and

Krystle Horton added 10 points.

MT (16-7, 8-2 SBC) is currently in second place in the SBC East Division, while UNT's third consecutive loss dropped them into second place in the West Division.

The Lady Raiders will return to action on Thursday, as they travel to Little Rock, Ark., to take on the Lady Trojans. ♦

Lady Raider sprinters lead way in home meet

By Casey Brown
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee track squad had another strong showing Saturday at the Valentine Invitational at Murphy Center.

The Lady Raiders continued their dominance of sprint events, logging many first-place finishes.

MT had the first four finishers in the 200-meter dash. Junior Kerry Barrow won her first event of the season with a personal-best time of 24.81 to finish first, eclipsing her previous best of 24.99 at the Hoosier Relays in January.

Antranette Stringer finished second in the race with a time of 25.14. Tiffany Owens claimed third with a 25.37 and Candice Robertson took fourth with a 25.61.

MT also had success in the 55

meters. Owens won the event, clocking in at 7.17. Barrow was right behind her, finishing second in a photo finish with a time of 7.17 as well.

"Tiffany Owens did really well, running her season best in the 55 right after running the 400," head coach Hayes said.

Robertson took first place in the 55-meter hurdles with a time of 8.23. Yesterday marked her second consecutive victory in that event. Jessica Anderson placed second for MT with a time of 8.34.

Kishara George also impressed for the Lady Raiders. After missing the last few weeks with an injury, the senior won the 400-meters with a time of 56.43.

"[George] ran well after being hurt for a while," Hayes said. "It

was good to have her back."

The trio of KeKe Deckard, Sierra Douglas and Stephanie Tamgho dominated the jumps for the Lady Raiders, claiming the top three places in both events.

In the triple jump, Douglas won with a mark of 39-97 1/2. Deckard finished second at 39-02 1/2 and Tamgho took third with a 39-3/4.

Deckard finished first in the long jump, clearing 18-10 while Douglas placed second at 18-07. Tamgho was right behind at 18-05, good for third.

The Lady Raiders also performed well in the shot put. Laetitia Florimond and Meghan Byrd finished one-two in the event with throws of 45-10 and 44-07, respectively.

"We had several improvements in the field events, particu-

larly on the women's side," Hayes said. "Meghan Byrd did a great job in the shot put."

On the men's side, Linnie Yarbrough performed well for MT. Yarbrough, last week's Sun Belt Athlete of the Week, won the 55-meter hurdles with a time of 7.31. VanTonio Fraley claimed first in the 55-meters, running the race in 6.40.

JJ Sturm finished second in a pair of events for the Blue Raiders. Sturm logged season bests of 23-04 1/4 in the long jump and 46-06 in the triple jump.

"They're getting better all the time, but they're also trying to be consistent, and that's the big thing right now," Hayes said.

Middle Tennessee will travel to Jonesboro, Ark. for the SBC Indoor Championships on Feb. 27-28. ♦



Photo by Rachelle Morvant | Chief Photographer

MT's Tiffany Owens won first place in the 55-meter dash.

Men's golf begins spring play

By Cody Gibson
Staff Writer

As MT golf approaches the spring season, there is a strong reason for optimism.

The fall season began well for the Blue Raiders, as the team placed fifth at the Mean Green Classic, but then sub-par finishes along the way at the Raising Cane Classic, Mason Rudolph Championship and Memphis Intercollegiate dampened the team's hopes.

However, a ninth-place finish in the USA Fall Beach Classic has the team looking forward to the spring season.

"I think the guys have played pretty well this winter," MT head coach Johnny Moore told MT Media Relations. "We are in great shape and have worked hard since the fall. Hopefully, we can put things together this spring as we work toward the conference championship."

The Blue Raiders are led by senior Blake Bivens, who led MT in scoring average with 74.1. Bivens posted a 10th-place finish in the Mean Green Classic, which marks his best finish of the season.

Josh Nelms and Nick Bailes both have an average of 75.7 and look to contribute heavily in the spring season.

Kenny Green looks to improve on his 77.2 average after having an impressive run at the National Amputee Golf Classic. Green took home the title for a third straight season. The senior's best performance came at the Memphis Intercollegiate.

Also looking to make an impact with MT this spring are seniors Mac Lee and Chris Webb.

Brandon Burris played in two tournaments with a 78 average, and Patrick McLennan finished with a 78 average as well. Both appear to be ready to help out during the spring.

Moore made waves in November by signing three highly-touted local players for the fall season. Moore spoke well of his recruiting class.

"Because of the national tournament experience, all three have the capability of coming in here and contributing right away," Moore told MT Media Relations. "All three are very long hitters, come from excellent backgrounds and have had very good instruction."

Rick Cochran is the No. 90 player according to the Junior Golf Scoreboard and was first team all-state at Heath High School in Kentucky.

Craig Smith is a local product from Davidson Academy. He was named all-state and qualified for the U.S. Boys Championship.

Chas Narramore, another top 100 golfer according to the Junior Golf Scoreboard, holds the title of Tennessee Junior Champion.

"This is a great class, and we are very excited to have them representing our program and this University," Moore concluded.

The Blue Raiders will begin the spring season at the Matt Lock Intercollegiate in Florida at the Grasslands Golf and Country Club on today.

The conference championship takes place on April 18 and will be in Port Lucie, Fla. ♦

Defense: Holds UNT to 21 first-half points

Continued from 6

with the opening 19-1 run.

"We started out the first five minutes or 10 minutes aggressively," MT guard Bryan Smithson said. "That was our main goal coming into the game."

MT led 40-21 at the halftime break.

"I thought Middle Tennessee did an excellent job of starting the game and building a huge lead," UNT head coach Johnny Jones said. "I thought they did an excellent job of maintaining that lead pretty much throughout the game. They really kept us at bay."

In that first half, the Blue Raiders connected on 60 percent of their shots from downtown, and 50 percent from the

field goal area.

MT shot just more than 41 percent in the second half, but UNT never got closer to 14 points.

The Blue Raiders also put on a show for the fans with six dunks in the win. Four of those came from Marcus Morrison. Morrison also lobbed a pass in which Cuffee flushed it in one-handed style. Kyle Young stuffed in an offensive rebound.

"We like to play in transition," Morrison said. "We have a lot of athletes that can run and jump. We work on our halfcourt game, but we really thrive in transition."

Morrison led the team in scoring for the second consecutive game with 21 points.

"I just approached it like any

other game," Morrison said. "I just tried to come out, be focused, play defense and have fun."

Cuffee added 16, while Mike Hopkins in with 12.

Hopkins was the leading scorer for UNT with 17. However, their second leading scorer, Calvin Watson, was held to zero points.

"I thought we did some switching that maybe caused them some problems," MT head coach Kermit Davis said. "As Coach Jones probably realized, I don't think Watson was at his best."

The Blue Raiders are now 11-0 when leading at halftime this season.

MT improved their record to 15-9, (5-5) while the Mean Green dropped to 11-10 (4-6). ♦

www.mtsusidelines.com

Classifieds

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The Tennessee Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation is seeking student tutors for the following ETIS courses: Statics, Instruments and Controls, Technical Drawing, Industrial Electricity. Please contact Barbara Knox at 898-5311 for more information, Jones Hall Room 333.

Need Nurse? Student advisors are needed for 120 unit off-campus MTSU apartment community. On-site training, cash referrals and generous hourly salaries are included. Call toll free, 1-866-594-5470 to make an appointment with Kimberly Sanders.

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Opportunities

VINYL SOUP is looking for very serious Drummer and Keyboardist to Tour. Must be able to rehearse once a week. We are based in Franklin. www.vinylsoup.com. Call 615-397-9634 or 931-682-3878.

Flash is looking for talent to perform in a "Girl's Rock Flash show in March 2005. If interested, contact Brandon 898-2917.

Are you an Undergraduate student interested in pursuing a PhD? If so, we would like to talk to you. Undergraduate

research is beneficial for prospective PhD candidates. To find out more information visit www.mtsu.edu/~mcnair for qualifying criteria.

The Anointed Ladies of Alpha Theta Omega Christian Sorority will be hosting an informational for undergraduate and graduate students. The informational will be Sat. Feb 19, 2005 at the KUC. Call Alisha Vaughn at 615-893-1012 for info.

Pets

Free hemingway kittens. One black, one white, one mixed. 931-505-5002.

Roommates

Female non-smoker roommate needed for 3 BR, 2 BA flat. 1 block from campus. \$300 per month including utilities. Call Toni @ 615-476-5916.

Responsible female roommate needed to share new house. room has never been lived in! 3 BR, 2 BA w/ garage not far from MTSU campus. For more information, please contact Ellyn at 615-419-6696.

CONDO NEAR MTSU FOR LEASE 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath condo for lease. 3,000 sq. ft. Washer and dryer in unit. \$1,200 a month + small deposit. Available. call Valerie for details. 943-82-74 or 893-0809.

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Female roommate needed ASAP to share 3 BR, @ BA house in stone gate subdivision, located off S. Rutherford 5 minutes from MTSU campus. Washer/Dryer included, with high speed internet & 2 car garage. Very nice, brand new house with vaulted ceilings. Rent \$325/mo plus 1/3 utilities. Call 615-585-4802 or 731-693-9595 for more info.

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Responsible female roommate wanted to share a 3bd, 2 bath house located 1 block from campus. All hardwood floors, dishwasher, W/D included. House is very clean and in great condition. Kitchen, dining rm, dining rm, living rm, good size front & back yard, carport & shed. Rent is \$325/mo plus 1/3 utilities. \$200 deposit. No pets. Call 615-419-0802 for appt.

Need 2 female Roommates to share 3bd,

2.5 bath in "like new" condo with same. Middleborough Court. walk to campus. 1st bedroom \$250, 2nd bedroom \$235, share utilities. \$200 deposit, 6 months lease. 944-7819 leave a message!

Sales

1991 Suzuki Intruder 750. Very dependable, ridden daily. Windshield, saddlebags, black. \$2100. Call Jay at 569-2413.

2000 Chrysler Concorde LXI: silver with charcoal interior; one owner; purchased new; excellent condition. Call 615-563-2399 or 898-2623 for more info.

Microwaves and dorm refrigerator for sale in cabinets overhead. \$50 each obo. Call Julian 907-1807.

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ment at Campus Crossing. Less than actual rent, will pay \$100 of each month's rent for first month when you move in. Fully furnished, high speed internet, own bathroom, shower, 24 hour computer lab and fitness room. Next to greek row. Call Mark 901-487-2716.

Room available for sub-lease in a 3 bed apartment for a male at Campus Crossing. For info call Campus Crossing about apt K-203.

Female Subleaser needed for 3BR/3BA apartment at Campus Crossing. Lease ends July 31, 2005. Apartment is fully furnished, w/ W & D. Rent is \$439/mo (utilities included) Call Chelsea @ 615-364-5355 or email cms3k@mts.edu

Female roommate needed. University

Gables. 1bd/bath in 4bd apt. Fully furnished, 24 hr internet, pool, fitness room, w/d. Rent is \$5K (utilities included). Will give \$200 or pay half rent. No Deposit. Call Evelyn @ 615-631-6220 or email emm2q@mts.edu.

Sub-leaser needed for apt. at Campus Crossing. Less than actual rent!! High speed internet, fully furnished, own bathroom, free tanning, shuttle bus to school, 24 hr. computer lab and fitness center. Call Mark 901-487-2716.

3 bd/2 bath, looking for one more roommate. Rent is \$325 plus utilities. No pets. Very close to Campus, on Beu St. Living room, dining room +kitchen, fully furnished, w/hardwood floors. Call Nichole @ 419-0802.

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MT loses two in road trip to Louisville

By Clarence Plank
Staff Writer

The Lady Raider tennis squad suffered two road losses over the weekend.

First, Middle Tennessee fell to No. 75 Louisville 5-2 Friday at Bass-Rudd Tennis Center.

MT's Jennifer Klaschka and Ann-Kristin Siljestrom defeated Suzanna Gracanin and Leslie Stewart 8-5, but Louisville took the double point.

Klaschka won her third match at No. 1 singles when she defeated Stewart 6-3, 6-3 to give the Lady Raiders a boost.

"As a team I think, overall, we fought hard in the match," MT head coach Neil Stapp told MT Media Relations. "The courts were really fast and

the crowd was extremely loud, and those are things you just have to get used to when you play on the road."

On Saturday, the Lady Raiders fell to No. 32 New Mexico 4-3, but not before Klaschka and Siljestrom pulled off an upset against the No. 4 duo of Maja Kovacek and Iva Gersic 8-5.

"The win at No. 1 doubles was huge for the program," Stapp told MT Media Relations. "I was really happy with how Jenny and Ann-Kristin fought and came up with a great victory."

After MT's Jacqui Williams and Claudia Szabo won 8-6 over Nora Quintal and Tiffany Robertson at No. 3 to give MT the doubles point, the Lobos came back to win the next four singles matches, however, to pull off the victory. ♦

Balance: MT uses second-half run to win

Continued from 6

10 points as every player on MT's roster played at least seven minutes.

"We haven't had a lot of opportunities in conference play to give everyone quality minutes," MT head coach Stephany Smith said. "I thought this was a good opportunity to do that because of how well we played coming out of the gates."

MT jumped out to an early 9-0 lead, but Smith was still looking for something more from her team after the first

half.

"In the first half, I thought we pushed and had some good opportunities in transition," Smith said. "I also think we could have done a better job of converting on the opportunities that we had."

The Lady Raiders responded with a 25-7 run to open the second half that gave MT a 54-22 lead with 10 minutes left.

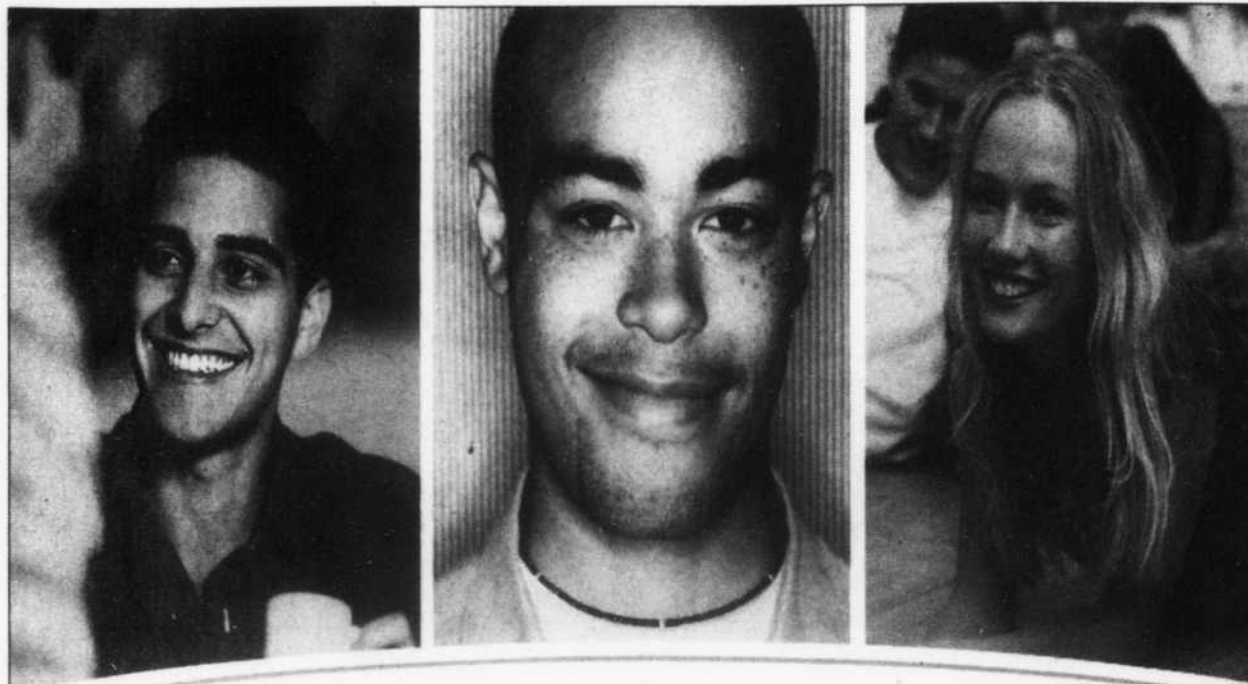
"We had just as many [opportunities] by the first media timeout of the second half as we did the entire first half," Smith said. "We did a better job of pushing the ball on

the fast break, whether it was a made field goal or a missed field goal."

MT also out-rebounded Denver (4-18, 2-8 SBC) 42-24, with Givens leading the way.

After MT's 64-49 victory over North Texas on Saturday, the Lady Raiders (16-7, 9-2 Sun Belt Conference) remained two games behind SBC East leader Western Kentucky.

"It was important that we came out and played well," Holmes said. "For every game that Western Kentucky wins, we have to win. We are fighting for a championship." ♦



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