



An editorially independent newspaper

Middle Tennessee State University SIDELINES

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'Jazzclectic' finds home



Photo by Danny Grigsby | Staff Photographer

Renowned artist R. Lafayette recently donated his painting, "Jazzclectic," to MTSU's jazz radio station WMOT-JAZZ89. The painting is an original oil on canvas and features various musicians and the Nashville skyline.

WMOT receives donated art

By Ian Campbell
Contributor

During a recent fund-raiser, MTSU's jazz radio station WMOT-JAZZ89 received an original oil on canvas painting from locally renowned artist R. Lafayette. The painting, titled "Jazzclectic," is a triumphant mix of harsh, defined lines and warm colors, a veritable mosaic of intersecting shapes, including various musicians and the Nashville skyline, that

unify into a common theme. The WMOT logo headlines the piece, and is formed subtly from the lights of the city. Laura Dunn, development coordinator for WMOT, describes the piece as wonderful. "I think it works well with what we do at the station," Dunn said. The painting was donated through Youth Painting Art Illustrating New Talents Workshops, a non-profit group

promoting the creative arts to young people. According to Y-PAINT's Web site, their mission is to "introduce or enhance and inspire our youth to the wonderful creative world of the arts." The organization endorses a unique approach to art, whereby the artist uses music, model and medium to produce a piece. See **WMOT, 2**

Committee picks Southern author's tale

Teachers may use book in freshmen classes

By Audrey Scruton
Contributor

MTSU's Community Reading Committee recently chose Rick Bragg's *All Over But the Shoutin'* as this fall's Community Reading Program novel. Pulitzer Prize-winning author and *New York Times* journalist Bragg's 1996 tale of growing up amidst poverty and abuse in the deep South is this year's chosen book for the program.

"Rick Bragg writes like a man on fire," wrote Pat Conroy, a fellow Southern author. "You feel things in every line this man writes. His sentences bleed on you. I never met Rick Bragg in my life, but I called him up and told him he'd written a masterpiece, and I sent flowers to his mother."

Hundreds of other reviewers and readers feel the same. *The Los Angeles Times* heralded the book "a marvel," while *The Chicago Tribune* called it "a

deeply affecting book." *All Over But the Shoutin'* is Bragg's story of growing up poor in northeastern Alabama and rising to win the Pulitzer Prize for Feature Writing. It is also the story of Bragg's father who he said was an alcoholic in an interview with his publisher Random House books. But mostly it is the story of Bragg's mother, who went 18 years without a new dress so that her sons could have school clothes. "This is a book about getting even with life," Bragg said to Random House Books. "It is my story, the boy who climbed up [my mother's] backbone and made it out of that ring of poverty and ignorance, free and clean. It is about what I did with the life she gave me, and how I tried to repay her." Bragg won his Pulitzer in 1996 for "his elegantly written stories about contemporary America," according to the Pulitzer Prize Web site. His subjects that year included Mardi Gras, Alabama prison inmates, the murder trial of Susan Smith, an old, poor \$150,000 surprise donation to a university and the Oklahoma

See **Reading, 3**

Preds look to boost attendance numbers

By Christopher Brown
Contributor

It looked as much like a rock concert as a hockey game. A spectrum of lights swirled on the ice, synchronized perfectly in time to the beat of a booming sound system. Up in the rafters, a man dressed as "Gnash," a saber-tooth tiger, descends on a wire some 50 feet below to the ice surface, where his four-wheel ATV waits for him to do doughnuts at high speeds across the rink — and that was just the pre-game show. The contagious excitement boiled over when the recently explosive Nashville Predators stormed out on to the ice and took a 1-0 lead over the New

See **Predators, 2**

MTSU Night offers students discount tickets

By Christopher Brown
Contributor

MTSU will team up with the Nashville Predators for MTSU Night. The Predators play the Pittsburgh Penguins 7 p.m. tonight at the Gaylord Entertainment Center. The tickets will be \$17 each, and the Predators will donate \$4 from each ticket sold to marketing scholarships. MTSU Night is not restricted to MTSU students. Anyone is welcome.

See **MTSU Night, 2**

Student Government Association presidential candidates speak up

"I want to fight for students' rights during these budget cuts and make sure nothing is taken away such as library and Rec Center hours."

Michele Butler
Elementary Education



By Juanita Thouin
Staff Writer

Michele Butler is an elementary education major who enjoys challenges, and she wants to become the first female Student Government Association president in six years. "I don't care what color you are or if you are traditional or non-traditional student," Butler said. "I love to

listen to people, and I want to serve all the students." Butler's involvement in the SGA goes back to her freshman year. She served on numerous committees and is currently vice president of Administration and Public Affairs. As president of SGA, Butler hopes to resolve some of the parking problems by

See **Butler, 2**

"I'd like the chance to work closely with Dr. Glenn and Dr. McPhee in order to change our reputation around the state."

Jason Searles
Agricultural Business



By Juanita Thouin
Staff Writer

Jason Searles, an agricultural business major, wants to make MTSU the premier university of Tennessee, and he wants to use the platform of the Student Government Association presidency to accomplish this goal. "I'd like the chance to work closely with Dr. [Bob] Glenn and Dr. [Sidney]

McPhee in order to change our reputation around the state," Searles said. If elected as president, Searles will bring three years of SGA involvement to the position. During his tenure with SGA, he's served as committee chairman, speaker pro tempore and attorney general. Student life is an

See **Searles, 2**

"I want MTSU to be more than a high school with ash trays."

Schylar Shoates
Recording Industry



By Juanita Thouin
Staff Writer

"I want MTSU to be more than a high school with ash-trays," recording industry major Schylar Shoates said. Shoates hopes to make this happen by becoming the next SGA president. The first issue Shoates wants to attack is the mandatory attendance policy. "No disrespect to the fac-

ulty, but they need to remember where they get their money. I don't think they have the right to weed out students by dropping grades just because of attendance," Shoates said. Shoates says he goes to class because he knows this is what it takes to be successful. But he believes those paying the bill should be able to

See **Shoates, 2**

Predators: Fan attendance decreasing

Continued from 1

York Islanders just three minutes into the game.

Goalie Tomas Vokoun would not be denied his first shutout of the year, as the team went on to beat the Islanders, 2-0. The win marked a potential turning point for the Predators' fifth season — just in time for MTSU Night.

"It seems things always go well for us when we score the first goal," Vokoun said at the post-game press conference.

The Predators surge in the standings since Vokoun's first shutout put them within six points of the final playoff seed; unfortunately, the Predators are experiencing their lowest attendance figures in the team's five-year history.

In the Predators' first four seasons, they averaged nearly 16,000 fans per game. The maximum capacity of the Nashville Predators' home, Gaylord Entertainment Center, seats 17,113 people. This year, the team averages approximately 12,800 fans per game.

Vokoun and the rest of the Predators are unstoppable since the New York game, and MTSU students have a special discounted opportunity to go witness it first hand.

Despite declining ticket sales, the Nashville Predators are one of the hottest teams after the All-Star break, going 7-2-1. The Predators won four in a row before being blanked 4-0 against the Eastern Conference top-seeded Ottawa Senators Saturday night, but they bounced back, pummeling the Toronto Maple Leafs 5-2 and the Columbus Blue Jackets 5-0.

"Sometimes you give up 10 shots and you lose, sometimes

you give up 40 shots and you win. So, that's hockey," Vokoun said.

The net-minder has started 34 of the last 35 games in goal for the Predators.

"In this game, you've got to be focused for 60 minutes," Vokoun said. "Obviously it's tough to do when you play a lot."

Vokoun is one of only three players remaining from the Predators' inaugural season expansion draft. The other two players are Greg Johnson and Scott Walker.

Following the Dec. 12 trade of fan-favorite Mike Dunham, the Predators went 18-11-5 with Vokoun between the pipes. They went 6-18-4 with both Dunham and Vokoun rotating goaltending duties.

"We're four or five games over .500 after the first 20 games, so it's exciting for us," center David Legwand said.

Legwand, the first-ever draft pick of the Predators, is having a career year with 16 goals and 29 assists for a team-leading total of 45 points. He has been on fire since the midpoint of the season, tallying 15 points in 21 games.

New fan favorite, right-winger Adam Hall, set a rookie franchise record with 15 goals this season. He surpassed Legwand's previous record of 13 set in the 1999-2000 season.

The Predators can also boast having two of the most offensive-minded defensemen in the league in Kimmo Timonen and Andy Delmore.

As the team continues to move up in the standings, the fans are staying away in the Predators fifth season.

The abysmal start to the season could have caused some of

the fans to walk away, but before the start of the season, the Predators organization raised the ticket prices, and in turn, made a "playoff pledge."

Team ownership said that if the Predators didn't make the playoffs, then the organization would refund the price of the increase to the fans.

Also this year, the team started an expensive advertising campaign called "Smashville" in an attempt to attract 2,000 more season ticket holders.

"We believe we've created a marketing platform that allows us to communicate the attributes of Predators hockey and the excitement of Music City," said Tom Ward, executive vice president of Business Operations. "We refer to the campaign as the place where the smash hits of Music Row meet the hard hits of hockey."

But the hard-hitting possibility of bankruptcy looms near. Two other small market teams this year filed for bankruptcy, including the Ottawa Senators, a team the Predators have modeled themselves after.

Many teams in the NHL are losing money right now, and the Predators are no exception. The league owners can only hold their breath until the current collective bargaining agreement expires at the end of next season.

Right now, escalating player salaries are causing escalating ticket prices, which may be pricing the average fan out of the games.

"The Nashville Predators are a blue-collar team playing in a blue-collar town," one fan said after a recent game. "If they keep raising the ticket prices, none of us are going to be able to afford them." ♦

MTSU Night: Donations given

Continued from 1

This may be the last chance for MTSU students to witness the on-ice brilliance of one of the game's greatest players and a sure Hall of Fame inductee, Penguin Mario Lemieux.

Lemieux's illustrious career started in 1984. He achieved many milestones in the game of

hockey, having scored more than 600 goals and 800 assists. He came out of retirement last year only to hold the distinction of the NHL's points leader of 2003.

All students interested in ordering tickets should contact Dan Bauchiero, Nashville Predators account executive, at 770-7815.

The tickets can be purchased over the phone with a credit card, and picked up at the will-call window inside the Gaylord Entertainment Center, but make sure to mention MTSU Night when buying tickets in order to ensure the \$4 donation goes towards marketing scholarships. ♦

Searles: Safety is key issue in campaign

Continued from 1

important concern for Searles, much so that he has served on committees that specifically address student issues.

"I want to represent all students and make student life better at MTSU," Searles said.

Searles would like to see SGA facilitate several changes to the university — a particular concern being safety. In addition to addressing the need for more

lighting, he would like to see more advertisement regarding the university's free escort service. He also believes freshman 101 classes would be a good place to implement a one-day seminar on safety tips.

Searles wants to see an open door policy between administration and students regarding parking. He would also like to see the availability of a 24-hour computer lab and to fix inconsistencies in the plus/minus

grading system.

"I believe it would be more beneficial to students to either have it or not straight across the board," Searles said.

Searles said changing the name of Tennessee Boulevard to Middle Tennessee Boulevard is a good idea and will carry on the current president's efforts in this area.

Searles said he can make a real difference as president. ♦

Butler: SGA awareness priority for candidate

Continued from 1

making Raider Xpress a more sufficient service. She'd like to see a bus at every lot every 10 minutes.

She would also like to see a program whereby Raider Funds can be used at off-campus establishments. Another area

she feels strongly about is budget cuts.

"I want to fight for students' rights during these budget cuts and make sure nothing is taken away, such as library and Rec Center hours," Butler said.

Butler also wants to focus on making students more aware of SGA and she supports changing

the name of Tennessee Boulevard to Middle Tennessee Boulevard.

"We must be proud of our university," Butler said.

Butler is excited about the strong goals she's set for her administration and MTSU. She looks forward to the challenges of fulfilling them. ♦

Shoates: Marketing for sports a goal

Continued from 1

choose whether they succeed or not.

According to Shoates, the events of Sept. 11, 2001, changed his life. He returned to the roots of his Christian upbringing and developed an interest in politics.

Shoates has no experience in SGA but sees that as a positive rather than a negative.

"I think we need somebody in there with fresh eyes," Shoates said.

He plans to make up for his inexperience by surrounding himself with smart individuals and listening closely to those with different viewpoints.

Shoates said he knows there is a lot of concern about parking but in reality, students and administrators are always going to be grappling with this issue.

He said students need to be told the truth about what can change and what can't.

"It's all about time-management," Shoates said. "We just need to walk or ride with a friend."

Changes he said can happen revolve around safety and upgrading MTSU's reputation. Shoates said that most of the

police call boxes are located in well-lighted areas. He would like to see them put in dark areas.

He also wants to see a better marketing plan for university sports.

"Why does everyone go to UT games? We have a great sports program right here,"

Shoates said.

"I love MTSU and middle Tennessee," Shoates said. "After graduation, I plan to stay in the area."

In the meantime, he wants to serve the students of MTSU as president of SGA. ♦

WMOT: Prints given in honor of jazz

Continued from 1

Lafayette is a large contributor to Y-PAINT, and, evidently, a huge jazz fan as well. He, along with Y-PAINT Creative Director Marcus Mitchell, decided to donate "Jazzclectic" both to support their favorite jazz station and to increase awareness and interest in Y-PAINT.

Lafayette's work already gained prominence among art enthusiasts. His Web site, www.rlafayette.org, states that "museums, educators, diplomats and prominent citizens own paintings from R. Lafayette," and includes a desk-top gallery of some of his stunning pieces.

Lafayette focuses on a style known as futurism that appeared in the early 20th century.

Futurism took shape in 1909, when Italian F.T. Marinetti's penned his Manifesto of Futurism, where he poetically defines the feel of his art.

Unlike many other artists of his day, Marinetti focused on the new revolutions in technology and the bustling vibrations of the new super cities. His art has a mechanical harshness, almost as if looking through a prism or broken glass, offset by rich, vibrant color.

Lafayette embraced the

futurist attitude, and is often labeled a "neo-futurist" for adding his own technique to a 100-year-old idea.

Along with "Jazzclectic," Lafayette also donated three prints, which will be auctioned off by WMOT in an upcoming silent auction.

The prints are of an oil painting called "Visions of the Heart of Jazz."

The painting is a collage of jazz instrumentalists that all merge into one another in typical Lafayette fashion, "Art in the Motion of Life."

For information about the auction or to donate items, contact Laura Dunn at 898-2800. ♦

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WORLD BRIEFS



Compiled By Callie Elizabeth Butler – Assistant News Editor

Chief weapons inspector says Iraq cooperating

UNITED NATIONS (AP) – Iraq is providing new information about its weapons and has reported the discovery of two bombs, including one possibly filled with a biological agent – moves that the chief U.N. weapons inspector said Tuesday signal real cooperation.

President Bush, however, predicted Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein would try to “fool the world one more time” by revealing the existence of weapons he has previously denied having.

He urged the United Nations to back U.S. action against Iraq.

With the Security Council deeply divided over whether Iraq has squandered a final opportunity to disarm, Canada was trying to bridge two competing plans that were introduced Monday: a U.S.-British-Spanish resolution that seeks U.N. authorization for war; and a French-Russian-German proposal to strengthen weapons inspections and continue them at least into July.

Canada, which isn't on the Security Council, circulated a document to council members Tuesday proposing a series of

benchmarks Iraq would have to meet by the end of March.

The council would then be asked to vote on whether Iraq was complying with its U.N. obligations, diplomats told The Associated Press.

Union membership falls to lowest level in two decades

HOLLYWOOD, Fla. (AP) – Union membership dropped last year to the lowest level in almost two decades as manufacturing companies hemorrhaged traditional union jobs faster than organizers could build new membership in other areas.

Some 13.2 percent of America's work force belonged to unions in 2002, down from 13.4 percent in 2001, the Labor Department reported Tuesday.

The rate of union membership has dropped steadily since the data first was recorded in 1983, when 20.1 percent of the work force belonged to a union. In fact, the annual rate has never increased in the 19 years since.

Labor Department economists used new methods in compiling this year's data, and adjusted the 2001 statistics according to the revised system

to show the real 0.2 percent drop.

Previous years were not reassessed.

Union leaders in Florida this week for the AFL-CIO's winter executive council meeting countered with a new labor-financed poll that found half of respondents saying they would join a union if given the chance.

New York consumer confidence takes a dive

NEW YORK (AP) – Consumer confidence plunged in February to its lowest level in nearly 10 years, dragged down by the prospect of war with Iraq.

The Consumer Confidence Index fell almost 15 points to 64.0 – its lowest reading since October 1993 – from 78.8 in January, the Conference Board reported Tuesday.

Analysts were predicting a reading of 77.0.

The Dow Jones industrials fell as much as 138 points to a fresh four-year low before staging a late-day rally on bargain hunting.

The Dow rose 51.26 points to close at 7,909.50, while the Nasdaq composite index gained

6.6 points at 1,328.98.

Economists closely track consumer confidence because consumer spending accounts for two-thirds of U.S. economic activity.

Supreme Court sides with Texas death row inmate

WASHINGTON (AP) – The Supreme Court ruled Tuesday that a black death row inmate deserves a new chance to press his claim that prosecutors stacked his jury with whites and death penalty supporters.

The 8-1 ruling is a rare example of the conservative-leaning court agreeing that a death row inmate may have been treated unfairly at trial.

Thomas Miller-El claims Dallas County prosecutors had a long history of excluding blacks from juries on the theory they were more likely to side with a black defendant.

Miller-El's lawyers said Dallas prosecutors were once specifically trained to get rid of minority juror candidates because “they almost always empathize with the accused.”

Justice Clarence Thomas, the court's only black member, dissented. He said Miller-El did not prove black jurors were

excluded because of their race.

Attacks on missions raise terror, fears in Venezuela

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) – Powerful explosions just minutes apart devastated the Spanish and Colombian diplomatic missions Tuesday, injuring four people and raising fears that Colombian-style terror has reached next-door Venezuela.

The attacks in Caracas came two days after President Hugo Chavez denounced Colombia and Spain, among other nations, for allegedly interfering in Venezuelan affairs.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the blasts.

Leaflets supporting Chavez's “Bolivarian Revolution,” a political movement loosely based on the writings of 19th century independence hero Simon Bolivar, were found outside both missions.

But Chavez's government dismissed the papers as a “ridiculous” plant and said no one should jump to conclusions.

Vice President Jose Vicente Rangel said an anti-terrorism task force would be created and offered condolences to the

Colombian and Spanish people.

AIDS researchers need more black volunteers

UNDATED (AP) – Researchers trying to learn more about why an AIDS vaccine appeared to work well in a small number of black volunteers may have trouble finding people for further studies, advocates and educators warn.

Suspicion of medical research runs deep among many blacks, they say, and the reason can be summarized in one word: Tuskegee.

In the Tuskegee Syphilis Study, conducted by the federal government between 1932 and 1972, researchers withheld medical treatment from poor, black men in Macon County, Ala., for experimental purposes. The men were not told they had syphilis, and weren't treated for the disease even after penicillin became available.

By the time the study was exposed, 128 men had died of syphilis or related complications.

More than 30 years later, the damage done by that study still lingers, black activists say – even hindering efforts to halt the AIDS epidemic. ♦

Reading: Author expected to attend convocation to discuss summer reading

Continued from 1

City bombing.

MTSU's Community Reading Program encourages all freshmen and transfer students who attend Customs to read the chosen book before arriving on campus, and many professors incorporate the book in their classes.

Debbie Carroll, an academic adviser at MTSU's Academic Support Center, said this book is open to all students.

“The book is not ‘required’ reading for any particular course,” Carroll said. “We actively recruit instructors who are willing to incorporate the book into their summer and fall classes. We do focus on freshmen but welcome any participants from any course at any level.”

The goals of the program aim to help unify the entering class of students, encourage

intellectual interaction among students, provide students with the opportunity to interact with critically acclaimed authors and to affirm the importance of reading.

“It's been done around the country for many years now,” said Laurie Witherow, director of the Academic Support Center. “The University of Ohio and the University of Miami have been doing this for 20 years, so why can't Middle Tennessee?”

The Community Reading Committee, which consists of MTSU faculty and administration along with community partners, receives nominations for novels throughout the year and narrows the list down by looking for patterns in subject matter, length and relevance. Novels are then picked based on cross-discipline appeal and author availability.

First, the book should have

the potential of being used in several classes and several different departments, and should be interesting to freshmen.

The chosen author also needs to be available to speak at a convocation in August.

“We look at who's available and who we can afford, so that usually leaves us with three or four authors,” Witherow explained.

The program began last year with James McBride's autobiographical novel, *The Color of Water*, described as “a black man's tribute to his white mother.”

McBride's expected appearance at the convocation fell through, however, and McBride did not make it to campus to speak until late October.

“By the time that McBride actually made it to campus, interest had died,” said sophomore Brian McLaughlin, a resident assistant who read

McBride's novel. “It's one thing for someone to speak at convocation, but it's another thing to have that speech three months later.”

Other students also question the program's effectiveness.

“I think it's a good idea on paper, but students have plenty of work to do already. Why add something separate on top of everything else?” asked Stephanie Pinson, a sophomore accounting major.

Witherow assures students that this year's chosen author will be present at the convocation.

“Rick Bragg is definitely going to be here for convocation. We're making sure of that by flying him in the day before,” Witherow said.

Despite McBride's no-show at the convocation, the program thrived.

“We had an absolutely amazing response for the first year,” Witherow said. “It was a pretty big success. James McBride was so generous with his time and interacted very well with students.”

“In our first year, we had over 100 different course sections from three different colleges and six reading groups from the local community participate,” Carroll agreed. “In a survey of all resident halls on campus, 37 percent of the students had read last year's book. More than 7,000 people attended last fall's University Convocation where our guest author was to speak. Clearly, the

program made an impact in its inaugural year.”

Minor changes to this year's program include a partnership with Murfreesboro's Linebaugh Public Library, which will host book discussions during the summer and help publicize the program in the community.

Bragg will also host a book-signing the night before convocation and attend a reception the morning of convocation.

Witherow hopes the program continues to grow and succeed at MTSU.

“I believe many professors used McBride's book in their classes last year, and many students read the book and enjoyed it. I hope that gets better and better every year,” Witherow said. ♦

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From the Editorial Board Pointless to have summer reading

Once again, the incoming freshmen to MTSU will be treated to the somewhat socialist concept of community reading.

This time it's *All Over But The Shoutin'*, by Rick Bragg, a story about growing up in a northern Alabama town with a hard-drinking and harsh-tempered father and a mother who makes supreme sacrifices such as working in the cotton fields to support her children.

While it sounds like a pretty good read, both this book and last year's community reading classic, *The Color of Water*, focus on a strong-willed female overcoming obstacles in the mid-20th century. While a subject teeming with social significance, the choice seems a tad repetitive considering the many, many other books available for use and analysis.

In addition, one would be hard-pressed to come up with a reason to have all incoming freshmen read the same book. Some professors teach on it, others don't, and many students no doubt read *The Color of Water* (and spent their own or their parent's money) for no purpose.

There were inevitably a few students who chose not to read the book and were out of luck when the professor decided to cover it.

If a university decides to assign community reading (which it shouldn't), professors should not have the option as to whether to test on it – either do it or don't, across the board. It's not fair for some students to have to take responsibility for the community reading assignment while some don't.

Overall the idea seems somewhat disjointed and pointless. While having future students move away from the television for a few hours is never a bad thing, are students being tested over it or having to prove in any way that they bought and read the book?

Maybe the university got some sort of perks for its participation in the summer reading program last year (remember *Color of Water* T-shirts?), but it's still no reason to assign reading that may or may not be tested over, no matter how good the read. ◆

Malpractice cap loose Band-Aid

Finding Trouble



Audie Sheridan
Staff Columnist

President George W. Bush thinks you never be worth more than \$250,000. Do you agree?

In the wake of an inconveniently timed 17-year-old's death, Bush might actually need to defend his view instead of simply running malpractice cap legislation through a Republican-led Congress.

Jésica Santillán died in a Duke University hospital last Saturday, and the cause was human error. The doctors and donor organizations simply failed to match her blood type.

Not a difficult test to run, but it is a vital one.

While Dr. James Jagers is responsible for the surgery and everything that happened, his mistake in this case was one of trust.

He simply trusted the donor organization to match the blood types of the donor and recipient. The thought of question-

ing the donor organization's professionalism probably never crossed his mind.

Unfortunately, people make mistakes and doctors are people.

Say that again? Sure. Doctors are people, and as fallible as the rest of us.

Jagers will surely pay for this gargantuan error. Or more precisely, his malpractice insurer will pay.

Bush's plan would make the Santillán family able to get only a quarter of a million dollars for the pain and suffering they felt from the loss of their daughter. Their economic costs would have no limit under Bush's plan.

No, the loss of a daughter does not submit to measure by money. No amount would be enough, but there are certainly amounts that would be too little.

Amounts like, say, \$250,000.

The arguments for Bush's plan involve the rising costs of health care, and the reluctance of doctors to treat patients for fear of actually proving to be human after all. It is a well-intentioned effort to reduce the amount of frivolous lawsuits against doctors.

Well-intentioned, but moronic.

Limiting liability just isn't the way to go here.

Doctors should fear making mistakes, and right now, they do. Putting a cap on how much they will pay for those mistakes reduces their incentive to not make them in the first place.

Phenomenally ignorant doctors should pay dearly for the times their ignorance destroys people's lives. Times like these include the ubiquitous story of a doctor who amputated the wrong limb.

However, not many lawsuits deal with matters as serious as that.

Bush, along with doctors all over the country, are right in wanting rid of lawsuit frivolity.

People do sue over the stupidest things. Dr. Kirk Kooyer decided to leave frivolity tolerant Mississippi when a patient of his joined a class action lawsuit against doctors who dared prescribe a heartburn drug.

The drug had a microscopically small chance of killing patients with weak hearts, and the FDA advised testing for heart trouble before prescribing it.

See dollar signs?

The patient was sad to

see Kooyer leave. She actually said, "If we run off all the doctors, what are the people gonna do?"

Indeed.

In general, people are unaware of the things they do. Surely, this woman had no idea she might actually affect a real person – her own hard working doctor – when she decided to try to get a few thousand dollars because a lawyer said so.

Limiting liability has at least two problems: first, it removes possibility of deserving victims getting large awards, and second, it reduces doctors' incentives to reduce error.

But, leaving things the way they are means things stay the same, frivolous lawsuits and all, which is also undesirable.

What to do?

Here's a novel idea. Implicate the legal system that allows such frivolity.

Cut out the possibility for sympathetic judges. Maybe even place caps on lawyer's profits from medical cases, thus reducing their motivation for ambulance chasing.

Settlement is a big problem as well. Most frivolous cases settle out of court due to legal costs, and because settlement

tends to make gold-diggers go away for much smaller sums.

The problem with this is that the cases never see the light that might expose their inanity. They also add up because settlements are easy to get, which encourages lawsuits for profit.

Perhaps this would go away if some kind of limit on settlements came about.

Basically, the legal system is the problem here. Fixing that should be the goal. It certainly makes the task more difficult, but so what?

President Bush wants to put a Band-Aid on the problem of medical malpractice, but that's like stitching up the bullet hole while ignoring the exit wound.

There is no simple fix to this problem. To do the job right, we have to dig deeper than Bush plans to.

As always, if you think anybody might actually deserve more than a quarter million dollars, speak up. Talk to your representatives and make sure this law doesn't pass. ◆

Audie Sheridan is a senior Sheridan major and can be reached via e-mail at als3g@mtsu.edu.

Put down 'War and Peace,' Uncle Sam's watching you

Thoughts While Driving



Gary Morrison
Staff Columnist

Does your local library have incriminating evidence against you? Have you bought any books lately that might make you blush if your grandmother were to find them?

If not, then read no further, as you have nothing to fear. But, if you are a reader of wide interest, you should be careful of what you check out of the library and be wary as to how you pay for that next book or magazine at the local bookseller.

Why? Just a little piece (Section 21 to be precise) of federal legislation commonly known as The USA PATRIOT Act is all.

What's that? You have never heard of it?

Well, allow me to tell you a little bit about it, and maybe you can say you actually learned something at school today. Or maybe you'll look it up yourself and form your own opinion. But feel free to use mine if you want.

The title USA PATRIOT Act is an acronym for UNiting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism. Isn't it amazing how well the cause fits the acronym?

But don't be fooled by clever titles. One of the "appropriate tools" allows the FBI to gain access to your library records and the records of any books that you purchase.

If you say, "So what?" then I say again, read no further, nothing to see here.

But, if you're thinking of that S&M magazine you bought as a "gag" gift, or the books you checked out of the library to learn more about ricin or anthrax, don't worry too much; that is, unless the next brand of terrorism involves stiletto heels and mysterious white powder.

The USA PATRIOT Act allows the FBI, or appointed designees, to subpoena your records without a specific reason and disallows the provider of records (i.e. library, bookstore, etc.) from letting anyone (this means you) know about it. I suppose supporters of the

act will say the government will only use this power when in pursuit of suspected terrorists, but I'm not so trusting.

How do you feel about having your name caught in a government fishing net? I did some research on pipe bombs for a paper once; I have also checked out Koran commentaries to learn more about Islam. Those two things themselves would surely get caught on any decent terrorism fishing trip. But what can I do about it?

Recently, a Vermont bookseller stated that they will purge a customer's records if that customer asks them to do so.

That sounds like a pretty good deal to me, and I applaud and appreciate the actions of that bookseller.

Our government has absolutely no right to know what books you and I read or buy, and giving themselves the "right" through legislation passed in the immediate wake of Sept. 11, 2001, is shady business at best.

The next time you buy a book, ask the seller if they keep any identifiable information, such as credit card information, along with the record of your purchase.

If so, ask them if they will purge that information. Ask them if they keep your name and address on a mailing list. Many times the names of customers and the books they buy are kept on file for marketing purposes (why did you get the advertisement for the new *Harry Potter* book and your roommate didn't?).

Ask at the library as well. Is there a long list of all the books you have checked out? Is there anything of questionable nature on that list?

Maybe it doesn't seem important now, but that paper you did on serial murderers for psychology class may come back to haunt you.

In summary, just be aware that our government has its eye on what we are reading.

So, put your finger in that eye by supporting booksellers and libraries that do not keep identifying information or will purge your records if you ask them to do so. It's just a very small way of preserving our freedom. ◆

Gary Morrison is a graduate student in English and can be reached via e-mail at gwm2c@mtsu.edu.

Tolerating trauma

Thursdays



Wesley Jackson
Staff Columnist

Have you ever experienced clinical shock, or post-traumatic stress disorder?

A common symptom of a trauma patient is their involuntary denial of present circumstances. His or her mind, at least temporarily, blocks out consciousness of an event that he or she can't take in. Often this event is a tragedy.

This default is a natural safety setting in our bodies. It helps us deal with overwhelming circumstances.

Another symptom that follows this denial of a tragedy is the sudden, detailed clarity of trivial things. A trauma victim may not be able to tell you he's been wounded and needs to be taken to a hospital, but he might be able to tell you how many buttons are on his shirt.

A woman whose house is burning down may not be able to tell you that the walls are bathed in flames or that she needs to evacuate. She will tell you that an old carpet stain needs to be cleaned.

These reactions are normal. This temporary denial or mental block out is our body's emotional shielding system.

It saves the trauma victim from total emotional collapse.

As I have observed our nation over the past couple of months, the metaphor of a trauma patient has seemed appropriate to me in describing the mood of many Americans.

The war with Iraq is a perfect example.

Saddam Hussein is a cruel dictator, a tyrant.

He's already violated umpteen U.N. code rules. He possesses forbidden weapons of mass destruction. He's known to support terrorist activities. Hussein also has a track record of aggressive military actions on other innocent countries.

The guy's a monster.

Yet, the response of many Americans is to "continue with the U.N. inspection teams."

Why? We don't need the United Nations to tell us Hussein is dangerous. We already know that. Why do we think Hussein, after 14 long months of uncooperative inspection, delay and diplomacy, will disarm if we "just give him more time?"

America's reaction sounds like that of a trauma victim. We can't

take in the horrific reality that a power-crazed enemy needs to be confronted. So we focus on trivial weapons inspection details.

Our postmodern obsession with tolerance seems to be another example of a traumatic reaction.

America is a democratic society that allows for much diversity. But, when people begin to attack and undermine the very foundations of our nation, the principles that provide for a peaceful democracy, then those people become a threat. Those threats must be confronted and guarded against.

Ideas have consequences, and the bad ideas and their destructive consequences must be rooted out and defeated.

But we don't want to think about confrontation or about fighting for the truth.

So, we pour our energy into the trivial details: political correctness and the acceptance of everyone and everything, at all costs.

We have become so convicted over the most petty of politically correct rules, so concerned about blurring the lines between right and wrong so we don't offend anyone that it reminds me of the hysteria of a trauma victim.

Lots of trivial details. Very little sense.

The wounded man may grasp your arm and with great seriousness explain that he has nine buttons on his shirt.

The woman in the burning house may state with anticipation that Tide with Bleach cleans out any carpet stain.

The war protester and the tolerance-at-the-expense-of-truth advocate will tell you that there is no need for confrontation.

The trauma victims are ever as much men and women as the rest of us, with their rights and their freedoms.

But they don't give us real solutions for the very real difficulties. Instead, they give us trivial, unrelated details.

Do not listen to them. They need your help and your pity, not your obedience and allegiance.

Don't look to those who want merely to secure their own comfort for the present time. Look to those who fight for America's future.

They are the ones to follow. Trauma has not arrested their minds.

They aren't paralyzed by their responsibilities.

They can see past the trauma victim's delirium of detail. ◆

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SIDELINES

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Pacifism or War? A search for answers

According to Who

Juanita Thouin
Staff Columnist



Someone once said those who ignore history are doomed to repeat it.

Winston Churchill began warning early and unrelentingly that Adolf Hitler had to be stopped. Those leaders who decried military action insisted that giving Hitler a few more concessions would surely result in a peaceful solution. Nearly everyone called Churchill "a warmonger."

Still, he never wavered because he believed he was right.

A short time ago my daughter graduated from Eastern Mennonite High School. For those of you who may not know, Mennonites are pacifists in the truest sense of the word. They don't believe in justification for war – under any circumstance. In wars past, many quietly protested and went to prison for their nonviolent stance.

Though Christian, our family is not Mennonite. We chose EMHS because of its outstanding reputation for academic excellence. While under the school's affiliation, we were never pressured to ascribe to any of the tenets of the Mennonite faith. Nonetheless, their example of gentleness left a lasting impression.

Thus, in many ways, I find myself quite conflicted about the current situation in Iraq. Yet, in pondering the pacifist point of view, I've come to understand that pacifism can only eliminate the need for military might if all people on Earth follow in its path. Sadly,

this is not the case.

The Bible teaches that, if at all possible, we should live at peace with everyone. So the real question for me has been, can there be a peaceful conclusion to this controversy?

On a quest for answers, I've read hundreds of pages of government reports, newspaper and journal articles – both domestic and overseas – online articles and opinion pieces. These have included writings from both sides of the aisle – those for and against the use of military force to remove Saddam Hussein from power.

There is no doubt that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction. Weapons inspectors learned this in the mid-1990s after five years of cat and mouse research. In 1998, these same inspectors left Iraq because of continuing efforts by Hussein's regime to thwart their plans. Now, five years later, the question of Hussein's military repertoire has again come to a head. We find ourselves trying to answer the questions: Does Iraq still have those weapons and, if not, where did they go? If he has them, does that make him a danger to the United States and his neighbors?

So far, Iraq has refused to tell anyone what happened to these weapons. They say only that they don't possess them. I find this very disconcerting. Where did they go? Into the hands of terrorists? Into hiding in other countries? Onto ships floating in the sea? In underground hiding places? In roving factories on wheels?

Some argue that, even if he does have them, he won't use them as long as the inspectors are there. But how long can we realistically keep inspectors running around looking for items Hussein doesn't want found? Long enough for him to perfect a nuclear program? Then what? Plus, it's important to remember that Hussein did-

n't let the inspectors back in until the United States began an aggressive military buildup in the area. How long can we afford to keep this many troops, ships and airplanes in the Middle East?

Then there are allegations that this confrontation really isn't about weapons of mass destruction, but is one instigated by President George W. Bush to either a) line his own pockets via his oil connections or b) cover up for the economic recession we are in.

It seems some people have very short memories. During the presidential campaign, Bush remarked repeatedly that our economy was starting to head south and something had to be done to stimulate it. We may not agree with his way of stimulating the economy, but no one can lay blame for our current situation purely on his shoulders. This downturn is a result of things that went sour under the former administration, and because of the events of Sept. 11, 2001. But whatever the root cause, it's now his problem. Nonetheless, he needn't be ashamed of it. Do people really think Bush is willing to risk the 2004 election by sending American sons and daughters off to die just to line his pockets with cash? That argument is nothing more than emotionalism and partisan politics run amok.

Then there are those who argue that this war is really about oil, and this commodity isn't worth dying for. Now, here's an issue worthy of discussion.

The United States obtains 30 percent of its oil imports from the Middle East. That may not seem like a lot, but those of us who were around in the mid-1970s and '80s remember standing in line for hours to get gasoline, being able to fill up only on odd or even days – depending on the last digit of our license plates and the terrible recession

that followed. The reason for this unusual set of circumstances was that Middle East oil producers decided to stop selling us crude oil in order to "voice" their opposition to a war in Israel. That embargo nearly brought our economy to a grinding halt.

Now, just suppose Hussein is successful in putting together a nuclear arsenal. We're talking about the Hussein who has ruled under absolute tyranny in order to ensure his political domination. The Hussein who has built, just since the end of the Gulf war, 30 very opulent palaces costing billions of dollars in order to evoke a sense of power, the Hussein who attacked Iran and Kuwait in order to dominate access to the sea (yes, he had oil squabbles with Kuwait, but gaining sea access was the real reason behind his imperialism). Suppose this guy now has nuclear weapons and forces his neighbors to raise the price of crude oil so dramatically it sends our economy into an actual depression?

Ouch.

There are those who scream we shouldn't be so dependent on foreign oil and they're absolutely right. But our current reserves contain only enough crude oil to maintain our existence – as we now know it – for 51 days. If we continue to import the other needed 70 percent, we can last a bit longer, but not long enough to come up with an alternative power source. So, if we can't afford enough oil, how will the trucks and ships that deliver raw materials to the businesses that provide us jobs keep on coming? A protester at one of the recent peace marches held up a sign that read, "I don't need oil, I ride the bus." Is that bus powered by wind?

When Bush says we must protect our national interests in the Mid-East, he is, in a round-

about way, talking about oil. But the national interest that must really concern us all is a stable economy, because, if our economy isn't stabilized, we are much more susceptible to terrorist attacks. Perhaps it isn't too radical to imagine our very existence as a nation going the way of Greece and Rome. Now that, if anything, is worth fighting for.

What about our dependency on oil? We should have smartened up after the 1974 embargo. We didn't. We should have smartened up after the Gulf War. We didn't. During this year's State of the Union Address, Bush proposed money for research and development of hydrogen-powered vehicles. This is the first time, in my memory, any president has proposed money for alternative fuel R&D; maybe we're getting somewhere. If, after this debacle with Iraq, we as a nation don't do something about our dependence on foreign oil, then we deserve to have our economy and freedoms fall apart.

Here's one more thing to chew on: Hussein didn't get the money for his palaces from the oil for food program. So, where did he get it?

Since he had it, why didn't he put his people to work building schools, roads and hospitals instead of palaces for his or his elite guards' pleasure? Or, were the palaces built to hide weapons production?

Another argument against military action is, what if we remove Hussein and wind up bringing nothing more than political chaos to the region? Clearly, there are no easy answers to the problem of finding an adequate government for a nation inhabited by three very different cultures. But it appears our government finds itself caught between a rock and a hard place.

Since the day two jets flew into the World Trade Towers in

New York City, the job of protecting America has taken on a whole new meaning. Many were critical of our intelligence community because they failed to see that al-Qaeda was a serious threat to our nation. But each piece of intelligence, in and of itself, was not enough to warrant a color-coded alert system. Yet later, when we were able to put those pieces together, the truth became all too clear.

It is now necessary for our leaders to think several steps ahead. They must try more vigorously to put the pieces of the puzzle together and do all they can to prevent vicious attacks upon our person and upon our economy – before we are made to crumble.

The doctrine of a just war adopted by many religious affiliations does not allow for pre-emptive military action, but has mankind's horrible progression of weaponry and terrorist forms of battle now rendered such thinking obsolete?

My heart goes out to those who must answer this very difficult question.

The Bible says that individuals in places of authority will, on the day of judgment, be called to a greater level of accountability. I, for one, would not want to be in Bush's shoes; the stakes are just too high – both here on Earth and in the afterlife I believe in.

So, have I made a decision regarding the rightness or wrongness of this war? There is no right or wrong when it comes to war – only a choice between two evils.

For the well-being of our country and the people of Iraq, it seems military action is the lesser evil. But I sure do wish everyone would follow the path of pacifism. ♦

Juanita Thouin is a senior journalism major and can be reached via e-mail at juanitathouin@hotmail.com.

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Western to host doubleheader against MT squads in season finale

By Randall Thomason
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee men's and women's basketball teams travel to Western Kentucky University to play the Hilltoppers in their regular season finales Saturday.

The doubleheader commences at 12:30 p.m. The men's game follows, tentatively slated to begin at 3 p.m.

The Lady Raiders (16-10 overall, 9-4 SBC) clinched the East division's No. 2 seed for next week's Sun Belt Conference tournament, and will aim to defeat the Lady Hilltoppers, who won the East's No. 1 seed, on their home court.

MT head coach Stephany Smith knows what a confidence boost it would be for her team to claim victory at Diddle Arena on Saturday.

"It is an extremely important game [even though tourna-

ment seeding is not riding on it]," Smith said. "It will be a great gear-up game for us, playing the East division champion on their home floor."

The Lady Raiders continue to ride a five-game winning streak that dates back to the return of freshman post player Tia Stovall from a foot injury on Feb. 6. Smith saw considerable improvement since the teams met previously on Jan. 4, a game that MT won 74-62.

Stovall, who averages 11.0 points and 6.0 rebounds per game, missed the first contest with WKU, and her presence will add a new dimension that the Lady Hilltoppers must defeat.

The Lady Raiders will also rely heavily on Sun Belt Player of the Year candidate Patrice Holmes, who averages 16.2 points per game and leads MT in every major statistical category. Holmes had a stellar outing

at home against WKU in January, scoring 11 points and dishing out 11 assists.

Smith hopes to see a large contingent of Lady Raider fans make the short drive to Bowling Green to counter what will certainly be a loud crowd supporting the Lady Toppers. "[WKU supporters] are huge basketball fans. They have a large group that loves Lady Topper basketball, and I would love to see us bring all the blue we can to level the playing field."

The Blue Raider men's basketball team takes the floor to battle the Hilltoppers at the conclusion of the women's game attempting to snap WKU's 35 game home winning streak, a mark that ranks second in the country behind only Oklahoma University. MT (14-12, 9-4 SBC) clinched at least the East division's No. 2 seed in the conference tournament but could find themselves playing

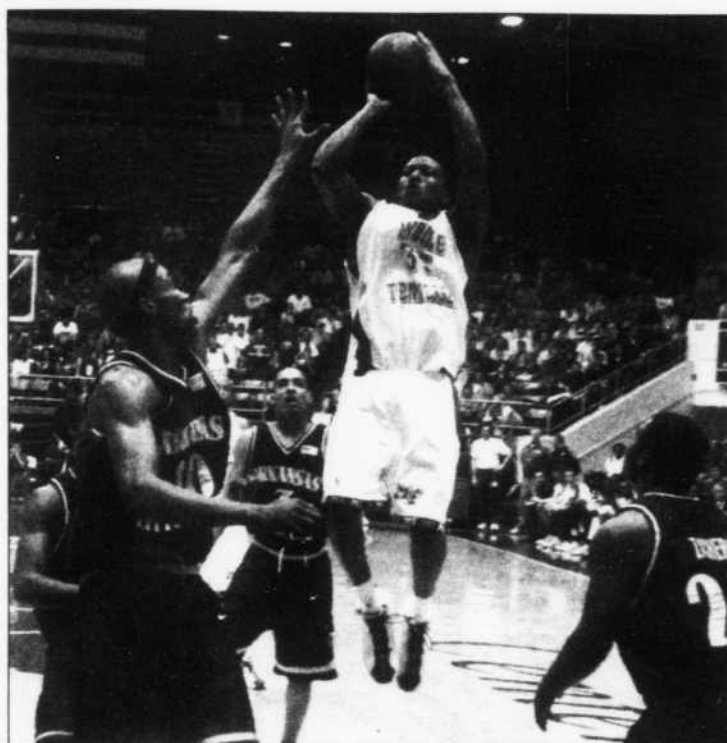
for a division championship on Saturday.

Louisiana-Lafayette (20-7, 12-2 SBC) and Western Kentucky (19-8, 10-2 SBC) faced off in Louisiana last night. A WKU loss at UL-Lafayette will set the stage for a championship showdown at E.A. Diddle Arena this weekend. A Blue Raider win on Saturday would give MT and WKU identical 10-4 conference records, but the Blue Raiders would get the tie-breaking nod by virtue of a two-game sweep in the season series.

MT head coach Kermit Davis expressed excitement about his team being in the championship hunt.

"Any time you go in to the last week of the season with a chance to win a championship, you're pleased," Davis said. "It hasn't been done here in 14

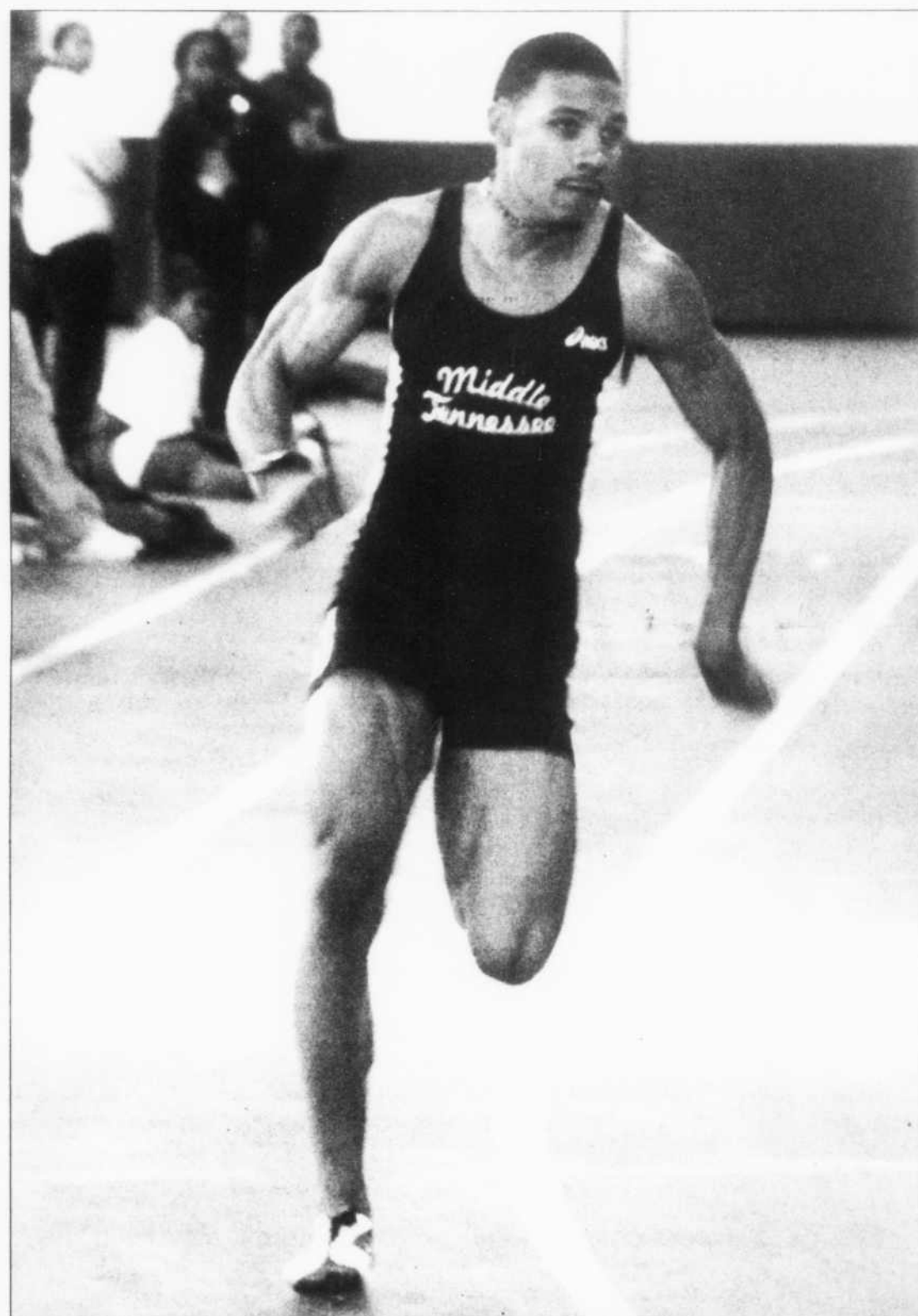
See Hilltoppers, 8



File Photo

MT forward Bryant Mitchell sets up for a fade-away shot. Mitchell is expected to play against WKU Saturday.

Track team headed down final stretch



Track and field star prepares for nationals

By Michael Rutledge
Assistant Sports Editor

Maybe he's not as fast as a speeding bullet, but he's close.

Meet Mardy Scales. In fact, if the Middle Tennessee track star runs much faster, someone might want to trade in his Blue Raider uniform for one sporting a red cape.

This year, he is the fastest man to run the 60-meter in the nation, but, believe it or not, away from the track, Mardy doesn't go very fast at all.

"I like to sit around, play video games and chill with my boys," Scales said, describing his activities outside of training. "I'm a pretty laid-back guy."

So far this season, Scales has laid nothing back when staring off the block, and when he's not chilling with his friends, he's freezing the competition. In the four 55/60 meter races he ran this year, no one finished closer than five yards behind him.

Going into this weekend's Sun Belt Conference Indoor Championships, Scales posted the fastest time this year among runners from the 11-team college in the 55-, 60- and 200-meter-dashes.

Just because the Franklin native has a pastime of playing video games, don't think Nintendo's *Track and Field* originally gave Scales inspiration to take the conference and nation by storm. That incentive began with his father.

"It started with him," Scales said. "He was always pushing me to excel and practice to get to my full potential."

A junior at MT and already an All-American in the 60-meter, and reigning 55-meter SBC champion, how much further can Scales' potential really stretch?

"I can get better," Scales said. "but I just need people to push me a little harder. I haven't really had anyone come up and challenge me [on the track] this year. If someone pushes me to beat them, then I can run even faster. My goal is just like everyone else's: to win a national championship. But the ultimate goal is to turn pro."

With the NCAA championships quickly approaching, Scales will get all the challenges he wants from the top runners in the nation on March

See Scales, 8

MT ready for three-peat in SBC championships

By Michael Rutledge
Assistant Sports Editor

Ready for someone at Middle Tennessee to finally win a Sun Belt Conference Championship this season?

The wait could be almost over.

The men and women of MT's indoor track team are doing their final training drills now on account of this weekend's SBC championship meet in Jonesboro, Ark. Both squads for MT are not only the two-time defending conference champions, but the men won three straight conference crowns going back to their days in the Ohio Valley Conference.

Chances look good for an SBC three-peat for MT on both squads, as 38-year coach Dean Hayes brings a roster full of athletes who have already outperformed

other SBC schools.

Here's a quick list: 2002 All-American and defending SBC champion in the 55 meter Mardy Scales, two-time SBC runner of the week Rosemary Okafor, defending SBC champion and current conference record holder in the 55m hurdles Jerkita McClorin and defending SBC triple jump champion Kim Freeman.

This year, Scales earned an automatic bid to the upcoming NCAA tourney, and looks like a lock in the 55m. For the women, Okafor earned an NCAA provisional bid in the same event and will be this weekend's favorite in the 55m and 200-meter. She took second place in both events last season.

The meet will take place on the Arkansas State University campus beginning Saturday and running through Sunday. ♦



Photos by Chris Nichols | Photo Editor

Mardy Scales, top, and Trisha Devalcourt, above, are both expected to have good showings in the Sun Belt Conference Track Championship in Jonesboro, Ark.

Player's protest not in team's best interest

Sports commentary



Michael Rutledge
Assistant Sports Editor

Turn your back to the flag somewhere else, Toni.

I understand the reasons behind Manhattanville College women's basketball player Toni Smith's back-turning protest, but I can't understand why she chose the time before her team's games to angle away from the American flag.

The Manhattanville senior captain released this statement to the press last Thursday: "For some time now, the inequalities that are embedded into the American system have bothered me, as they are becoming progressively worse. And, it is clear that the government's priorities are not on bettering the quality of life for all of its people, but rather on expanding its own power, I cannot, in good conscience, salute the flag."

Toni, you want to protest war? Fine. Just do your demonstration from the bleachers. Even if your conscience troubles you that badly on the gym floor, bow your head, keep your arms at your side or just look straight up in the air.

I can't agree with protesting in a way that negatively affects others, like Smith does. She is breaking the first rule of organized sports by separating herself from her team.

Maybe Manhattanville's first-year coach Shawn Lincoln should drill her in team ethics that were supposed to be instilled in her brain since her junior pro basketball days.

Perhaps Smith just needs to finish growing up and understand her commitments and responsibilities.

Smith showed her personal beliefs outweigh that of the team. As the team's captain, Smith lost the right to be an individual when she wears her school's colors. She has a commitment to be a leader to her teammates and not a force that can potentially damage her team's spirit and morale past rectifiable proportions.

Smith already forced her teammates to play in hostile crowds this season after the Associated Press broke the news of her season-long demonstration. But, now that all of America knows, any gym Smith and her team plays in will be packed with angry, loud fans.

To force her squad to continue to play in those type of environments during crunch time of one of the best seasons the Lady Valiants have seen is not only unfair but clearly shows her inability to lead in the best interests of the team. ♦

Sports Briefs

From Associated Press Reports

Baseball player's widow to sue drug company

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — The widow of Steve Bechler plans to sue the manufacturer of a dietary supplement the Baltimore Orioles pitcher was believed to be taking before his death.

Bechler, 23, died Feb. 17 from heatstroke after collapsing during a workout at training camp. In his preliminary autopsy report, Broward County Chief Medical Examiner Joshua Perper linked Bechler's death to a diet supplement that contains ephedra.

A bottle of Xenadrine RFA-1, an over-the-counter weight-loss product containing ephedra, was found in Bechler's locker after he collapsed.

Fan violence forces team to move to another city

MILAN, Italy — Torino must play its next five home games at another stadium because of fan violence that forced the suspension of an Italian league soccer game.

The league also awarded A.C. Milan a 3-0 victory in the Saturday night game. Play was suspended in the 63rd minute

after a large group of fans confronted police.

It has not been decided yet where Torino will play during the suspension.

Dozens of Torino fans ripped seats from the stands and hurled them onto the track ringing the field. The fans then tried to force their way onto the field by smashing Plexiglas panels separating them from the playing area. Police, armed with shields and batons, charged and fired tear gas to disperse the attacks.

American ice skaters win over Russian favorites

OSTRAVA, Czech Republic — Ice dancers Loren Galler-Rabinowitz and David Mitchell of the United States won their qualifying group at the Junior World Figure Skating Championships.

The Americans put in two solid performances in the compulsory dances, finishing ahead of favorites Elena Romanovskaya and Alexander Grachev of Russia.

Oksana Domnina and Maxim Shabalin of Russia won the other qualifying group.

The 17-year-old Galler-Rabinowitz of Boston

and the 20-year-old Mitchell of Ann Arbor, Michigan, were 12th at last year's junior worlds.

Teenager from Ghana to play for U.S. soccer team

CHICAGO — Freddy Adu, a 13-year-old forward from Ghana who gained U.S. citizenship this month, was among 18 players picked for the American team that will attempt to qualify for the FIFA Under-17 World Championship.

Adu came to the United States when he was 8 years old and trained with the Under-17 team in Bradenton, Fla. He became a citizen on Feb. 13 when his mother gained citizenship.

Blues forward Tkachuk paid for head blow

NEW YORK — St. Louis Blues forward Keith Tkachuk was suspended for four games without pay by the NHL for hitting Minnesota forward Wes Walz in the head with his stick.

Tkachuk will lose \$487,804.84 in salary. He was also suspended for one game in March 2002. Because Tkachuk is a repeat offender, he forfeits salary based on the

number of games in the season (82) rather than the number of days (180).

Hoffman to have surgery, will miss first half of season

PEORIA, Ariz. — San Diego Padres closer Trevor Hoffman will have surgery to repair a bone in his throwing shoulder and will miss at least the first half of the season. Hoffman, fifth in career saves with 352, wouldn't set a timetable for his recovery, but general manager Kevin Towers hopes the right-hander will be available to pitch after the All-Star break. The 35-year-old Hoffman has not been on the disabled list in 10 major league seasons.

Detroit Lions rebuilding, drop Crowell and Howard

ALLEN PARK, Mich. — The Detroit Lions released receiver Germane Crowell and kick returner Desmond Howard.

Howard, a 12-year veteran, missed the final seven games of last season with a neck injury. He won the Heisman Trophy at Michigan in 1991 and Super Bowl MVP with Green Bay in 1997, becoming the fourth player to win both awards.

Former Bulls star tries for Chicago city council seat

CHICAGO — Former Chicago Bulls star Bob "Butterbean" Love is headed for overtime in his race for city council.

Love, who played for the Bulls from 1969-76, got enough votes to force a runoff election on April 1 against incumbent alderman Ted Thomas.

Love averaged 17.6 points per game over 11 years and played in three NBA All-Star games before a back injury ended his career. After overcoming a severe stuttering problem, he became a popular motivational speaker as the Bulls' director of community affairs.

Bryant falls short of tying Chamberlain record

LOS ANGELES — Kobe Bryant failed to extend his streak of scoring at least 40 points to 10 games, which would have tied Wilt Chamberlain for the second-longest streak in NBA history.

The 24-year-old Lakers star scored 32 points in the Lakers' 109-98 win over the Los

Angeles Clippers.

Bryant had also scored at least 35 points in 13 consecutive games.

Only Chamberlain has longer streaks, having accomplished that feat in 33, 23 and 20 straight games.

San Diego State placed on two-year NCAA probation

SAN DIEGO — San Diego State's football team was put on two years of probation by the NCAA for holding banned off-season practices.

The university said it would appeal.

The NCAA found that an assistant coach held summer workouts for offensive linemen from 1998-2001.

Lightning captain scored 609th career goal

TAMPA, Fla. — Tampa Bay Lightning captain Dave Andreychuk scored his 609th goal night and moved into 12th place on the NHL career list.

Andreychuk's goal in the first period broke a tie with Dino Ciccarelli and put him just one behind Bobby Hull for 11th place. ♦

Gamecocks leave Lady Raiders in South Carolina sand

By Osby Martin
Staff Writer

The 23rd-ranked University of South Carolina women's tennis team defeated Middle Tennessee's Lady Raiders 5-2 on Sunday afternoon at the USC indoor facility.

The win improved the Gamecocks' record to 4-1 on the season while Middle Tennessee dropped to 2-9. The Lady Raiders fought hard and were very competitive although they have been just falling short all year.

The Gamecocks stormed out of the gates, winning two of the

three doubles match-ups. The 29th ranked duo of Manon Kruse/Stacy Varnell were defeated in an 8-6 upset during the first doubles match. At the No. 2 match-up, Carien Venter/Emily Vest lost 8-3, giving the Gamecocks the doubles point with one match left.

Jennifer Klaschka/Laura McNamara got the only doubles win for Middle Tennessee, 8-4.

Entering the singles part of the match-up, USC held a 1-0 lead, but the lead quickly disappeared as MT won the top two seed matches to take a 2-1. The Gamecocks got help from the bottom of the line-up to win the

match.

Manon Kruse, ranked 53rd in the nation, continued to dominate as she defeated Boyanovich in straight sets, 6-1, 6-0. The victory was the eighth straight for the junior from Hamm, Germany running her record to 9-2. Jennifer Klaschka was victorious at the No. 2 seed against Kenoyer of USC 6-2, 6-1.

The third seed match-up was the most exciting of the day as Venter and Wiggins battled it out on the court for three sets. Wiggins won the first set, 6-0, but Venter won the second set, 6-3, to force a third and final set.

Wiggins edged Venter out 7-6(7-5) in the tiebreaker to improve her record to 10-6.

On court four, Wojdylo defeated Varnell in straight sets, 6-3, 6-2, while Brown beat McNamara in straights as well 6-3, 7-5(7-5). Walsh topped Vest 6-2, 6-2 giving the Gamecocks the victory.

The match was the last for USC before they begin their SEC campaign.

Middle Tennessee returns home on Saturday to host Sun Belt Conference foe Arkansas-Little Rock. The match is set for 1 p.m. at the Buck Bouldin Tennis Center. ♦

Softball games canceled

Staff Reports

The Middle Tennessee Lady Raider Softball squad saw its share of bad weather as mother nature canceled six more games on the team's schedule.

The Lady Raiders (3-3, 0-0 SBC) have only played six games this season, with eight games canceled due to rain and snow. MT played four games in Florida, going one for three, and beat East Tennessee twice on campus last week in a game threatened by rain.

Yesterday's doubleheader at Belmont was called off due to rain and ice in the Nashville area only hours after the team announced the cancellation of this weekend's Evansville Tournament.

MT was scheduled to play four games in the round robin tourney before over four inches of snow hit the Evansville area. The Lady Raiders were to face four teams: Evansville, Boston University, IP-Fort Wayne and UT-Martin. ♦

CLASSIFIEDS

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120 Career

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170 Subleasing

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205 Other

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Sun Belt Conference Baseball News and Notes

2003 Sun Belt Baseball Records

	Sun Belt			Stk.	Overall	
	W	L	Pct.		W	L
New Mexico State	0	0	.000	L2	11	2
Florida International	0	0	.000	W3	12	3
Western Kentucky	0	0	.000	L2	2	1
Louisiana-Lafayette	0	0	.000	L1	5	7
New Orleans	0	0	.000	W1	4	6
Arkansas-Little Rock	0	0	.000	W2	2	3
South Alabama	0	0	.000	W2	3	5
Middle Tennessee	0	0	.000	L3	1	2
Arkansas State	0	0	.000	W1	2	5

*=Regular season champion +=Tournament champion ^=NCAA Tournament

Arkansas-Little Rock Trojans

UALR and Lamar waited two days to begin their three-game series due to heavy rains in the Beaumont, Texas, area. They split a doubleheader Sunday (Lamar 5-2, UALR 3-1), but Lamar won the finale 10-4 on Monday.

Junior Leo Monterrey hit a two-run homerun in his first at bat in a Trojan uniform Monday afternoon. Monterrey was 2-for-4 with an HR, two RBIs and a run scored in his UALR debut. Monterrey was signed last season out of Highland Community College but sat out the season as a red shirt because of injuries.

Sophomore Scott Sharpe went a career-high 7.0 innings in getting the win with a 3-1 victory over Lamar in the second game of a doubleheader on Feb. 25. Sharpe gave up one unearned run while striking out one.

Florida International Golden Panthers

The Golden Panthers went 2-2 this week, beating Florida Atlantic and Bethune-Cookman and losing twice to the Wildcats.

Getting his second straight start against the Owls, Josh Banks dominated again, going seven innings, giving up three hits, no runs, zero walks and striking out six in his second win of the year.

Banks has now pitched 29 innings in four starts, giving up eight hits and four walks and striking out 37 with an ERA of 0.00. His 29 consecutive scoreless innings pitched established school and conference marks, breaking the school record of Evan Thomas (26.1, 1995) and

besting the conference record of 27.1 held by John Wylie (JU, 1990) and Phil Brassington (Lamar, 1993).

Bryan Pullin went 4-for-5 while Ricardo Nanita (2-for-5, 2 RBI) and Fernando Alvarez (2-for-2, 1 run) also contributed offensively in the win. Posting six runs in the bottom of the ninth, the Golden Panthers came back to defeat Bethune-Cookman 9-8 Friday night.

Derek DeCarlo (1-0) earned his fourth no-decision of the year, going six and one-third innings and striking out four batters.

South Alabama Jaguars

South Alabama bounced back from an 0-4 season-opening road trip to California and went 3-1 last week. The Jaguars started the week by picking up a huge win at nationally-ranked Auburn.

USA handed the Tigers a 17-3 thrashing. At their own Coca-Cola Classic, the

Jags went 2-1 but fell to visiting Southern Mississippi 8-0 on Sunday, snapping a three-game winning streak.

After scoring just eight runs during its four-game California swing, the Jags erupted with 51 last week, an average of 13 per game.

USA scored 17 against Auburn, 19 versus St. John's and 15 against Northwestern.

Senior right fielder Cole Craig is the only Jag to hit safely in all eight games. He's batting a team-best .448 (13-29).

Junior second baseman Josh Touchstone has hit in seven of the eight games and 37 of his last 39 games. ♦



Jaguars™

Hilltoppers: Matches mark end of season

Continued from 6

years."

Davis added that even if WKU should win at UL-Lafayette and clinch the division title, his team would still go to Bowling Green to play hard and win.

"It will be a great atmosphere, regardless," Davis said.

The Blue Raiders need big performances from all-conference candidates Tommy Gunn and William Pippen. MT's high-scoring duo was instrumental in upending the Hilltoppers 69-65 at Murphy Center on Jan. 4. Pippen poured in 21 points and grabbed 10 rebounds in the Blue Raider victory while Gunn scored 17

points.

WKU plans to counter with deadly outside shooting. The Hilltoppers boast numerous perimeter threats with Patrick Sparks, Mike Wells and Filip Videnov leading the charge. The trio combined for 42 points in the first meeting with MT, connecting on 10 of 26 three-point attempts. ♦



The Housing and Residential Life Office is now accepting housing reapplication forms from returning students for the Fall 2003/Spring 2004 academic year. Students are encouraged to reapply for housing as early as possible, particularly if they are request-

ing to move to a different location on campus next year, as new assignments are made by application date. Students requesting to remain in their same location on campus next year will be given first priority to do so as long as their reapplication and \$200 prepaid rent deposit are received by the deadline. The deadline for students living in on-campus housing to reapply for housing with priority for the 2003/2004 academic year is **Monday, March 3, 2003 at 4:00 PM**. Students need to complete a reapplication form available in the Housing and Residential Life Office, pay the \$200 prepaid rent at the business office cashier windows in the Cope Administration Building, 1st floor, and return the reapplication form stamped "paid" to the Housing and Residential Life office in the Keathley University Center, Room 300, Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Students also have the option of reapplying for housing with priority online at www.mtsu.edu. Housing is found under STUDENT AFFAIRS. The \$200 prepaid rent is paid by using a credit card, Mastercard or Visa, or by completing an online check. There is an additional \$10 nonrefundable service fee charged for processing the payment online.

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

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

Scales: Blue Raider vying for team's fifth NCAA title

Continued from 6

14 and 15.

In 2002, Scales finished eighth at the NCAA tourney in the 60m with a time of 6.80. This year, Scales qualified for the 60m with a time of 6.60 seconds.

Scales also earned a provisional qualifying time in the 200 for the NCAAs. Provisional starts are not guaranteed, but if Scales gets the nod, he said he'd run in both events for MT.

Already on a squad that is used to winning, Scales has all the confidence in himself and

the rest of this teammates in this weekend's SBC meet.

"Oh, I really like our chances," Scales said of Middle Tennessee's upcoming performance.

"I think we definitely have a shot."

A lot of people agree with Scales on that subject, but it seems many around him also think that he also has the chance to wear a national championship medal around his neck.

If Scales has it his way, that is exactly what will happen. ♦

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For more information, call the Vanderbilt Outpatient Psychiatry Department at 615-343-9669.

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