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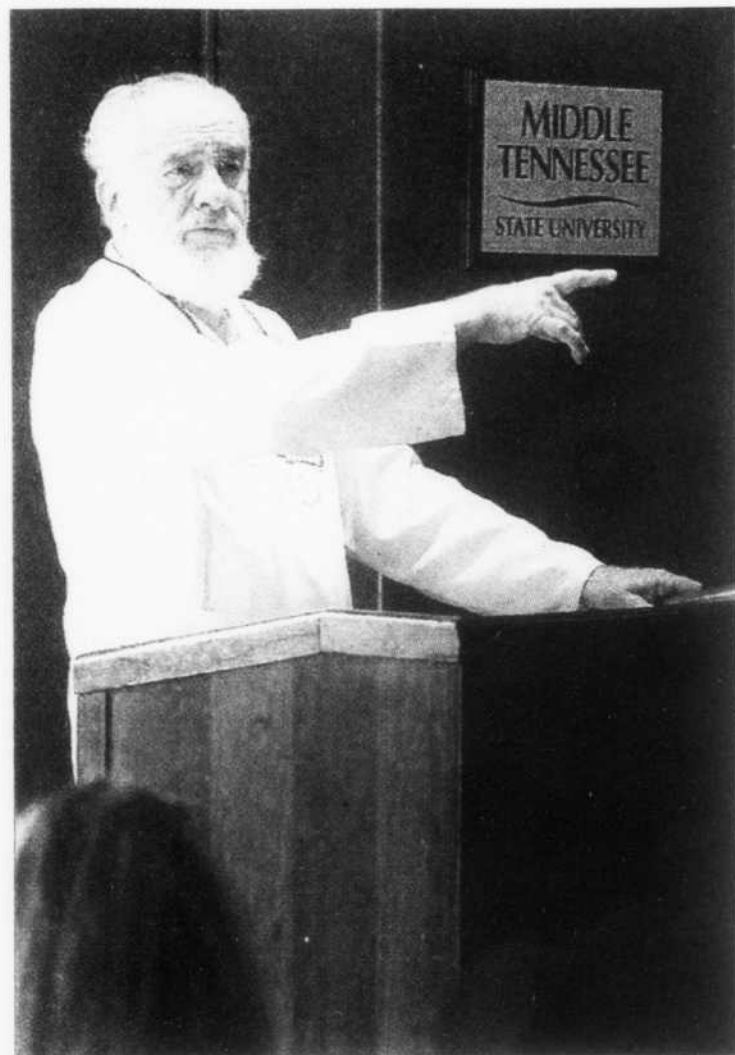


Photo by Blake Noel | Staff Photographer

Snodgrass spoke to an overflowing house Monday.

Pulitzer winning poet shares wisdom

By Alex Miller
Staff Writer

Pulitzer Prize-winning poet W.D. Snodgrass gave a poetry reading at MTSU on Monday, his fourth at the university in nine years.

Speaking before a crowded audience, Snodgrass read poems about fast food, musical instruments, heart trouble and life at his home in upstate New York.

"We live out in the woods. All our neighbors are farmers," he said, introducing "Farm Kids." His voice wavered as he described the children subjects of the poem.

"These children have next to nothing," he said, but they are happy and polite.

Most of the poems he read were about his home in the country - poems about owls, apple orchards and the peculiar architecture of his house. However, the poem that MTSU student Leslie Jones liked the most was "Fast Food," which Snodgrass described as a "rap rondeau."

"I was surprised by the level

of coolness in a man of his age," Jones said.

Associate English professor Justyna Kostkowska has been Snodgrass' friend and colleague for 14 years. She described him as "very personable, very warm, very smart. He knows a lot about people," she said.

As a poet, he is "very courageous," she said. "It takes courage to write against the grain." When Snodgrass began writing poetry, T.S. Eliot was a god - and still is in some circles.

Kostkowska labeled Snodgrass an "anti-T.S. Eliot," whose work is "intimate and embedded in the life of the poet" while remaining "quite experimental." She said he is "tremendously in control of the language."

For his intensely personal style, critics named Snodgrass one of the founders of the confessional school of poetry.

"Not surprisingly," Kostkowska said, "he hates the term."

Snodgrass sought out

See Snodgrass, 2

Democrats pump up voters

By Hillary Robson
Staff Writer

The College Democrats held a rally on the Keathley University Center Knoll on Tuesday, in support of Sen. John Kerry for President.

The group also expressed support for Bart Gordon for reelection in Congress, Kent Coleman for Tennessee House of Representatives and Larry Trail for Tennessee Senate.

Thirty members of the College Democrats acted as volunteers at the event, holding signs, popping popcorn and passing out information tracts and the Bill of Rights to interested students.

Christy Holden, MTSU College Democrats president,



Photo by Kevin Lane | Staff Photographer

Students gathered on the Keathley University Center knoll for yesterday's rally.

See Rally, 2

Grab some goodies



Photos by Melissa Bowman | Staff Photographer

Trick or Treat Fest, one of the first of this week's homecoming events, was held last night in Walnut Grove. Organizations decorated booths and tables of goodies for children to trick or treat.

(Above) Livi Maynard, Amanda Burk and Austen Burk decorate cupcakes at the table sponsored by LLEADS, a group for members of the Lightning Leadership Learning Community.

(Right) Pearson Hughes gets some candy from Ashley Hill and Rachel Edington of Zeta Tau Alpha sorority.

Film highlights trials of black, gay men

By Matt Anderson
Staff Writer

Filmmaker Rodney Evans screened his upcoming feature *Brother to Brother* in Peck Hall Monday.

The film follows Perry, a black artist in New York, who befriends Bruce Nugent, a real-life poet from the Harlem Renaissance who, like Perry, must deal with being black and gay.

Through this relationship, Perry has come to grip with his place in the black community as a gay man and has learned to confront the violent confrontation with his father that resulted from his coming out. Evans said that experience was all too personal to him.

Brother to Brother was inspired by a video diary Evans made of his coming out to his parents. Unintentionally, the film also documented his relationship with his boyfriend at the time, when they "proceeded to break up on camera."

"That film, I think, spoke to a lot of

people in an emotional way," Evans said.

Evans showed the film at a film festival in Los Angeles, and the response led him to put that "big up into" a larger narrative context.

"That got me interested in writing specifically about experiences about I had gone through," Evans said. "I started to think about how my life would be different if I had lived in a different era."

That led him to study gay and lesbian subtexts in the Harlem Renaissance and specifically Nugent. Evans sifted through hours of interviews and unpublished writings of Nugent and other poets.

"I was interested in the parallels between these two generations of black artists, and the ways in which Bruce's relationship parallels mine," Evans said. "Through that, you see these larger issues within the black community, almost tracing the history of homophobia within the

See Film, 2



Photo by Steve Cross | Chief Photographer

Evans' film *Brother to Brother* will be available on DVD in May.

County Republican group hosts rally

By Juanita Thoun
Staff Writer

Jim Payne, a retired 20-year Air Force veteran, said he's not a "dyed in the wool" Republican, but there's "no way" he would vote for Sen. John Kerry as president.

Payne said during the Vietnam War, Kerry turned the public against veterans.

"That caused a lot of people a lot of grief," Payne said. "Veterans were spit on when they got off the plane."

Payne was one of nearly 200 people who attended the Rutherford County Republican "Get Out the Vote Rally" this past weekend.

The rally, held in

Murfreesboro, drew an appearance from all the Republicans running for local office.

Nick Demas, running for the United States 6th District congressional seat against incumbent Bart Gordon, noted the crowd's enthusiasm and said 20 years was way too long for anyone to hold a seat in Congress.

Demas said he could better represent the people of the 6th District.

"We need a congressman more in tune with the conservative values of Middle Tennessee," Demas said.

Demas, who holds a Ph.D. in nuclear engineering and spent

See Republicans, 3



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

Who are you going to vote for?

Pop culture alters film, music

By Erika Decker
Staff Writer

Management and Marketing Professor Melodie Phillips discussed the give and take of music, movies and popular culture in Monday's honors lecture, "Impact of Film and Music on Popular Culture."

"Is the film industry reflecting things that are happening in popular culture, or do we in fact see film and music as actually more instrumental in bringing about changes in our culture?" Phillips asked at the lecture's start.

Phillips said that the film redefined mass communication.

"Prior to the onset of the film industry, there was really no particular form of communication that was available in which millions of people were reached on a regular basis in this form," she said.

According to Phillips, in the 1940s, 80 million people a week went to see movies - 4.2 billion per year - but in the '50s and '60s, the growing popularity of television and radio brought that number down to 926 million people per year.

"During the '50s and '60s there began to be a steady stream of individuals seeking other venues for their entertainment," Phillips said. "No longer

"As society changes, we become less sensitive."

- Melodie Phillips
Management and Marketing Professor

was film the only option that we had to see what was going on in popular culture. We now had the option of watching television and listening to the radio and doing a lot of other things that hurt the film industry."

Phillips said the media of the '50s and '60s were very much reflective of the conservative society. If the bedroom of a married couple was even shown, it would contain twin beds, and pregnant women were very seldom seen. These images were considered taboo.

Freedom of speech and the right to self-expression were really not an issue during this period of time. Phillips said the first time these issues were ever brought before the Supreme Court was in 1952.

"1952 was the first time that there was ever a challenge to the content of a film, and therefore it became necessary for the Supreme Court to apply the U.S. Constitution and freedom of speech to that particular product in the marketplace," Phillips said.

Phillips said that because the country began to see major political, social and economic changes in the 1960s, the film industry also began to change.

"We saw society changing so obviously, the film industry had to change," she said.

Phillips explained that as these changes in society took place, the country saw a decision by the Supreme Court that would usher in the formation of some kind of system for rating the changing film industry.

"In 1968 the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the idea that it's OK for states and municipalities to try to control certain types of material that they deemed inappropriate for children, but that material could not be withheld from adults," Phillips said. "So it forced the motion picture industry to think about how can we incorporate this changing word and still maintain our obligation to parents. And so what we saw was the generation of the ratings system."

Phillips also said that American society has become

desensitized during recent years.

"As society changes, we become less sensitive. Video games are a perfect example of how we desensitize ourselves to violence," she said.

Phillips used the example of the video game *Grand Theft Auto*, where one can pick up and kill prostitutes, as well as kill pedestrians and police officers.

"Certainly 20 years ago there would be no thought that a video game could contain this kind of material," Phillips said. She did add that 20 years ago the cutting edge of video games was *Pong*, so this level of violence was not exactly possible.

Phillips then discussed how after a period of slowly moving away from traditional family values, society will sometimes experience a kind of knee-jerk move back in a traditional direction.

"What we see with movie ratings is they are much like the Constitution, which bends and gives as society changes. If things get too far out of whack, things snap back, and you see this sort of visceral reaction like we've seen with the wardrobe malfunction of Janet Jackson," Phillips said. ♦

Rally: Students express support

Continued from 1

organized the event in a week and half.

"It's something we wanted to do for a while, but with voter registration drives and get out the vote campaigns, we didn't have much time."

Holden said that through the help of the volunteers the rally was made possible.

"We still need volunteers. We need poll watchers and for people to go door-to-door canvassing [for votes]."

Several veterans were on campus in support of the Kerry-Edwards campaign. Vietnam veteran Jim Advay said that he got involved "when they started this thing about Mr. Kerry and ... made derogatory comments about [his receiving] the Purple Heart."

"To me, that was like a kick in the face, and it's why I think so many veterans are involved," he said.

Holden introduced the speakers for the get-out-the-vote rally, beginning with chairman of the Tennessee Democratic Party, Randy Button.

"I've never seen the Democratic party more unified and more intense on one thing, and that's changing the direction of this country," Button said.

Button told the crowd of interested students that over 400,000 Tennesseans had registered to vote in the 2004 election and that early voting had already passed the 2000 Presidential election total.

Jamaal Forney, a sophomore management major, served as a volunteer for the College Democrats.

"I believe heavily in the Democratic party and what we stand for and I believe we must do all that we can to get George Bush out of office and John Kerry into the white house," he said.

Amanda Newman, an MTSU graduate, attended the event as a representative for Bart Gordon.

"Bart [Gordon] can't be everywhere - it's not that he doesn't want to be there; it's that he can't be there. It's important to get his message out there so people know that he wants to give back to the university that has given him so much," she said.

Matthew Trail, son of state Senate candidate Larry Trail, spoke on behalf of his father's views and history of public

service in Tennessee, including bringing the Greenway to Murfreesboro and the lottery to Tennessee to help fund the HOPE Scholarships.

Maura Satchel, who has been on the campaign trail alongside Kerry in the Moms on a Mission with Kerry Movement, spoke about her two sons' military involvement and her lack of faith in Bush.

"It's been devastating, watching the mishandling of this war," Satchel said as she spoke of the fear she lives in each day in concern for her sons' lives in Iraq.

"I now feel this president deeply betrayed me... betrayed my trust and our entire country, for going into Iraq the way he did... without using all the tools of wise foreign policy," she said.

Satchel went on to discuss the finer points of the war in Iraq, illustrating "the administrations poor handling in Iraq and of their failure to supply our troops."

The concluding speaker was Murfreesboro resident comedian and activist "Mo" McMullan, who began her speech with a moment of silence in honor of the 1,000 United States soldiers that have been wounded or killed in Iraq.

Her direct and spirited speech inspired the crowd to respond both in favor and disagreement of her views. McMullan discussed how divided the United States had become, citing divisions in her community, neighborhood and her own family.

"We can't talk to our neighbors in our neighborhood, but we're going [to go] over there and show them how to do it [in Iraq]."

McMullan discussed the war, her feelings about the president and the threat of the draft.

"You are so draftable," he said. "Don't you think this draft isn't going to happen?"

"Think before you go out and vote at the polls," McMullan concluded as the crowd chanted "one more week."

Certificates were then presented to the individuals who had spoken at the event, as well as to volunteers Steve Moody and Tony Peadle.

Holden then concluded the event by encouraging students to join her as they marched to the polls on Vine Street to early vote. ♦

Snodgrass: Professor expresses appreciation

Continued from 1

Kostkowska in 1990 while she was a graduate student at the University of Delaware. He wanted to translate the works of Polish poet Leszek Szaruga into English. He'd heard that a graduate student from Poland was at the university, and he hoped that they could collaborate on the translations.

"It was scary," Kostkowska said. "I didn't know if I could do it."

Three of the poems she translated with Snodgrass are included in his book *Selected Translations*, which won the Harold Morton Landon Translation Award in 1999.

Kostkowska was instrumen-

tal in bringing Snodgrass to campus.

"I was a one-person organizing machine," she said.

By herself, she hung up hundreds of fliers to advertise the event. When she ran out of the fliers printed by MTSU Publication and Graphics, she photocopied them and continued hanging them all over campus.

Bringing him to MTSU "takes a lot. It always has," she said.

According to Kostkowska, Snodgrass was paid \$1,500 to appear at MTSU. She said poets of similar stature command as much as \$2,500, but Snodgrass agreed to a reduced fee because he and Kostkowska are friends.

For Kostkowska, it was money well spent.

"He draws such a crowd," she said. The 100 chairs she placed in the Hazelwood Dining room were taken quickly. By the time Snodgrass took the podium, people were standing in the back of the room and sitting on the floor. The hallway outside the dining room was jam-packed.

"I feel honored to be able to contribute this," Kostkowska said. She hopes to bring back the poet every two years to introduce him to new generations of students.

Snodgrass was born in Wilkensburg, Pa., in 1926. He was drafted into the Navy and served in the Pacific during

World War II. He received his M.F.A. from the University of Iowa where he studied under Randall Jarrell and Robert Lowell. He was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 1960 for "Heart's Needle," a poem in 10 parts chronicling the erosion of his relationship with his daughter. In 1977, "The Fuhrer Bunker" was nominated for a National Book Critics Circle Award for Poetry.

Snodgrass attributes some of his success to his name.

"If you've got a name like Snodgrass," he said, "you've got to do something about it."

He jokingly suggested throwing yourself in front of a taxi or, barring that, writing poems. ♦

Film: African American Studies sponsors screening

Continued from 1

black community in the film."

Evans recently screened the film at a black literature class at the Manhattan community college.

He said Perry was unsettling for them because he was a young, black, gay character who wasn't "hyper effeminate and flamboyant."

But when Perry made out with another man in one scene, Evans said students were yelling faggot at the screen. He thinks the film did change some attitudes toward homosexuals. He said those who didn't budge had problems "from a religious angle."

"I think these are young black kids who are immersed in hip-hop culture, and ideas that

get espoused about what being a man is," Evans said. "I think the film really forced them to deal with homophobia in a way that they had never done before."

The screening was sponsored by the African American studies department. Adonijah Bakari, a professor in the department, praised the film because he said gay issues aren't discussed among African American men.

"Men don't discuss this type of issue just among men," Bakari said.

The film will be released Nov. 5 in New York, with other cities to follow. Evans said the DVD would be available in May.

For more information, go to brothertobrotherthemovie.com. ♦

Campus Events

The following guidelines apply to all:

1. Forms must be submitted by deadline to be considered for publication. Campus Events run each Monday in the Living section, so forms should be submitted by Saturday night.
2. Every attempt will be made to run your announcement as often as possible, but priority will be given to events with the most immediacy.
3. We reserve the right to limit announcements to campus events only.
4. Sidelines does not guarantee placement of any submission.

Name of person placing this notice _____ Date _____

Organization _____ Event _____

Date of event _____ Time _____ Location _____

Contact name _____ Phone no. _____

Notes _____

Return this form to Sidelines, MTSU Box 8, or bring to James Union Building, Room 310

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Media needs to turn down the fear

In our post-Sept. 11, 2001 America, we as citizens are constantly surrounded by the vague threat that terror, of some sort, is right around the corner.

But just how often is this fear of some "impending" attack actually justified; just how regularly does a horrifying act, worthy of the word terrorism, actually occur? Certainly not as often as our media groups would lead us to believe.

Since there aren't nearly as many attacks on the United States as there are threats, then why are we always so frightened of the uncertain? The answer is easy: major media groups that give us our news simply wouldn't have it any other way.

When you turn on a television and switch to a major American news station, you're usually flooded with images of death and terror. However, the amount of negative images that ooze from the likes of FOX and CNN is no mistake. In fact, it's a well-devised marketing tool.

By filling our heads with only stories of the threats all around us, they can create a state of constant

Skeptical Overtones



Brandon Bouchillon
Staff Columnist

fear and paranoia. In turn, we continue to tune in again and again, just to find out how scared we should be, or what there is to panic about next.

This serves to bolster news media's ratings because people are actually watching, but all the wrong news and for all the wrong reasons.

Although disturbing, the media using fear to improve ratings is nothing new. Our situation however, has recently taken a turn for the worse, especially with the use of the terror alert level system.

Instead of needing to discern the news and justify how you should feel, one can simply color code their level of panic.

With never-ending changes from one meaningless color to another, the government and the

news media can work hand in hand to keep us watching while keeping us afraid. As those in power select the current terror level, the news moguls gladly incorporate it into their programs. Why not? After all, more panic and disillusion equals better ratings.

If America's media uses fear to push their stock higher, then the same is probably true the world over, right?

Actually, not at all. Foreign news stations such as the British Broadcasting Corporation seem to have much less interest in death and destruction, while concerning themselves more with public opinion stories. It would seem that selling contentedness does actually work, as the BBC is one of the most respected media outlets today.

So why doesn't the American media change its way of telling us about the world?

Speculation is all that can be offered here, but it would appear that with bad news helping ratings and advertisement sales for so long, then who cares about the good. What sells media stock right now is stories of potential danger,

news of current danger and threats of future danger.

Just what can be done to alleviate all this negative information our media constantly throws at us? An unbiased, unafraid approach towards our country's news is probably the best place to start. Don't believe everything the U.S. media feeds you, especially not the scare tactics major newsgroups use to sell advertising and keep us frightened, but tuned in.

Also, if the media is using fear as a tool, then to combat them we simply shouldn't be so paranoid all the time.

Unsubstantiated rumors are merely that, so do not be so worried about terrorists that everyday life can't continue.

Alternate news sources that are much less biased and not so fear based are also out there, so look into them.

And cheer up: after all, the world's not so bad a place as we've been led to believe. ♦

Brandon Bouchillon is a sophomore journalism major and can be reached at bcb2t@mtsu.edu.

From the Editorial Board

Why we are supporting Sen. John Kerry in 2004

To begin with, and to avoid any possible confusion, the *Sidelines* Editorial Board is composed of five senior-level staff members, who are noted at the bottom of this page with an asterisk by their names.

This editorial does not represent the opinions of all *Sidelines* staff members, but rather expresses the opinions of this board about campus, local, statewide and national matters. An editorial board decision is determined by a consensus among the members.

Many newspapers endorse candidates from the local to the national scale. However, we're not hiding behind tradition. Keep in mind that this is the Opinions page, a page where arguments are made. And as we, as an editorial board, make arguments every week about things like football, tuition and even parking, an issue as big and important as the presidential election shouldn't be ignored for fear of angering readers.

In this light, the Editorial Board is endorsing Sen. John Kerry for president in 2004. We feel that Kerry's experience and leadership as well as his balanced perspective on both the international and domestic fronts qualifies him to be an excellent commander-in-chief.

Unlike President George W. Bush, Kerry places value on real international involvement in Iraq. Despite right-wing portrayals, the United States is bearing the brunt of the human and financial cost of war. While Kerry's election does not make getting this involvement a slam dunk, the rest of the world has clearly expressed the view that Bush does not particularly care what they think.

Even though both candidates pledged not to enact a military draft, given that 90 percent of our armed forces are or have been in some way committed to the Iraqi war effort, we will likely be faced with the prospect of either withdrawing prematurely from Iraq or enacting a draft. The only alternative is appealing to the rest of the world, which Kerry will have a better chance at doing.

While Kerry's positions are hard to explain in 10-second sound bites, it shows that Kerry understands that the world is complicated. It is possible that a country can be neither with us nor against us. Bush doesn't think so, which contributes to the divisiveness that Bush has perpetuated throughout his presidency.

"Some would call you the elite. I call you my base," Bush has said. This pretty much says it all about Bush's attitude throughout his presidency. His outrageous tax cuts to the wealthiest Americans coupled with the fact that he has done nothing substantial and effective about the cost of health care, fuel prices and other issues that affect all Americans show who Bush is truly working for.

And Kerry has already apologized for more than Bush ever has. Bush even refused to apologize for his repeated misstatements about precise details regarding Iraq's apparently long-defunct weapons of mass destruction program.

Judging by the timeline leading up to the war effort, it becomes clear that Bush never intended for the Iraq situation to be resolved without shots fired. While Bush was appealing to Congress for a war resolution, and later when he and Secretary of State Colin Powell spoke before the United Nations, troops were being mobilized toward the area in an apparent build-up to war.

The weapons inspectors were back in Iraq searching for weapons when Bush told the world that the inspectors were being misled and ordered them to leave Iraq, lest they be caught in our "shock and awe" campaign. Given that Iraq clearly had no weapons of mass destruction, it would have been impossible for Iraq to meet the standard of producing said weapons or for the U.N. inspectors to find them. Bush forced an ultimatum that could not be satisfied.

Meanwhile, 95 percent of the sea cargo entering the country is not inspected in any way and much of the air cargo is not inspected or x-rayed. Certainly the money used to fight the war in Iraq – which very well may have made us less safe than we were before – could have been put to better use by actually preventing terrorism at home.

On the domestic front, while we disagree with many of Bush's policies, there is one issue that has clinched our opposition to the current administration – the prospect of Supreme Court appointments. Bush has refused to answer whether he stands for a woman's right to choose, and has a track record of proposing judges who actively oppose the *Roe v. Wade* decision.

The *Sidelines* Editorial Board respects a woman's right to choose what she does with her own body, and this is a good portion of why we have chosen to support Kerry.

Because of this, and because we believe that global input prevents war on the scale of World Wars I and II, we choose change. We choose Kerry. ♦

Letters to the Editor

Muslim faith respects womens' rights

To the Editor:

During the two years that I have been in college, I have always enjoyed reading the *Sidelines* for its excellent coverage of MTSU news, as well as the many interesting opinions of the staff columnists.

However, I must say that I was utterly shocked and disappointed by something I read in Carter Fort's article (Thursday, Oct. 21), "Keep an open mind towards religion." He wrote: "While the Islam faith demands that women must walk around with only their eyes showing, we don't pass judgment on it because it is a religion."

As a Muslim, I felt offended beyond words after reading this. Islamic law demands no such thing; in fact, what it does demand is that women be treated with the utmost respect. It ensures dignity and equality for women, not oppression, as the author suggested. I believe that he has confused the media's portrayal of my faith with what Islam is actually about, as many people do. While there are many women in "Muslim" countries who are treated as second-class citizens, this is a result of corrupt government officials, not religion.

I invite him, or anyone who is still not convinced, to pick up a Qur'an and read it. I understand that the author had the best of intentions when he wrote the article, for its underlying message is one of tolerance and peace, but I wish that he had gotten his facts straight beforehand.

What he said about Islam was extremely hurtful, and more importantly, it was false. The only way that we can be accepting of each other's beliefs is to learn about them.

Naima Khandaker
Junior, College of Education and Behavioral Science

MTSU must invest in renewable power

To the Editor:

On Oct. 11, *Sidelines* published an article by Esparonda Waller announcing the university's installation of three electricity-saving generators that will shave \$800,000 off MTSU's annual \$2.5 million electricity bill ["University saves on utility costs," p. 2]. Currently about 60 percent of our electricity is generated from coal-burning power plants that emit tons of sulfuric acids, carbon dioxide and methane into our air. As explained in Laura Lindsay's Oct. 21 article on methane ["TSU professor discusses global warming," p. 1], these chemicals are contributing to ozone deterioration and global warming at dangerous and unnatural levels.

Students for Environmental Action is currently working on a Campus Campaign for Clean Energy, aimed at shifting the university's power purchasing to sustainable resources such as solar-panels and wind-mills. We would like to ask MTSU and the Center for Energy Efficiency: What will become of this \$800,000 savings? Since the savings are energy-related, the money saved should be reinvested in more energy-efficient means. Investing in renewable energy sources will save the university a significant amount in the long-run.

SEA would like to see MTSU follow – and possibly surpass – the example of other Tennessee schools such as The University of Tennessee-Knoxville and Sewanee, who have committed to weaning themselves off polluting energy. These institutions have been forced to increase their registration fees to supplement the added costs of purchasing clean, green, and sustainable Energy. MTSU, however, could avoid having to increase fees for the already financially burdened student population. Rather, we have the opportunity to recycle our savings back into the power system.

To initiate the MTSU power switch to, say, a 20 percent sustainable-energy source would cost only a fraction of what has been saved by the generators, and save more money in the long-run. Why not allocate at least a portion of the \$800,000 to the overall benefit of the campus community and environment?

Brandon Armstrong & Charlee Tidrick
Students for Environmental Action

Families: give us a break when we're on vacation

The pangs of semester life have only begun to set in. I can't unravel the mystery that is my life and what people keep wanting from me.



Klara Nizki
Staff Columnist

For instance, this past week has been horrible. Tension is mounting up as I'm trying to juggle the workloads and stresses of work, school and the home life – consisting of cooking, cleaning, organizing, occasional sleeping and randomly dispersed squabbling between my boyfriend and me.

Added to that, there are also our friends, who call at the most inopportune times and accuse us of neglecting them when we're studying for exams, working, doing house chores, going off on last-minute "favor missions" for other friends and family, as well as the much-needed and all-too-sparse moments to ourselves.

Family is just as bad if not worse, submitting the most strategic guilt trips, the kind you lose sleep over.

A classic example is, "Well, I see how it is. You kids don't have time for us old geezers." What are they thinking, messing with our brains like that?

It's not that I'm an unappreciative, apathetic individual; I'm just not a light-aired, swift-footed socialite.

Dragging myself out of bed and arriving to work on time is fun (sound familiar?), but battling hours of school and then a dinner, homework and required social life all in the same day is just a little taxing.

I just wish our friends and families would understand that we don't sit around and drink milkshakes and watch movies every day.

Achieving a perfect balance between school, work and other important aspects of life is more difficult than it seems.

I can't remember how many times each side of the family said, "It's not that difficult – you only work and go to school." It's like keeping up with separate lives.

Now that holidays are around the horizon, it's becoming worse. I had a friend ask, very seriously, if we could stay for two days at his place for Thanksgiving weekend, to watch a two-season marathon of a show.

That's crazy – because it's like a family duel between my other and me during holidays. The all-too-familiar question: Whose family will get to spend the actual holiday with their beloved baby and which will be stuck with holiday reenactments with their child the following weekend?

I'm developing an ulcer as the days quietly creep closer towards Thanksgiving, and ultimately Christmas, where the real victor will be the one who can claim the kids for the night of Christmas Eve.

So basically, I'm just begging everyone; please be considerate when making demands to visit or invite someone. Especially before you get upset, consider how hectic an unorganized life can be, unless you're one of the weirdos who carry and actually use the 15-minute increment planner. ♦

Klara Nizki is a junior business major and can be reached at knizki@aol.com.

We're ready for the election. How about you?
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SIDELINES

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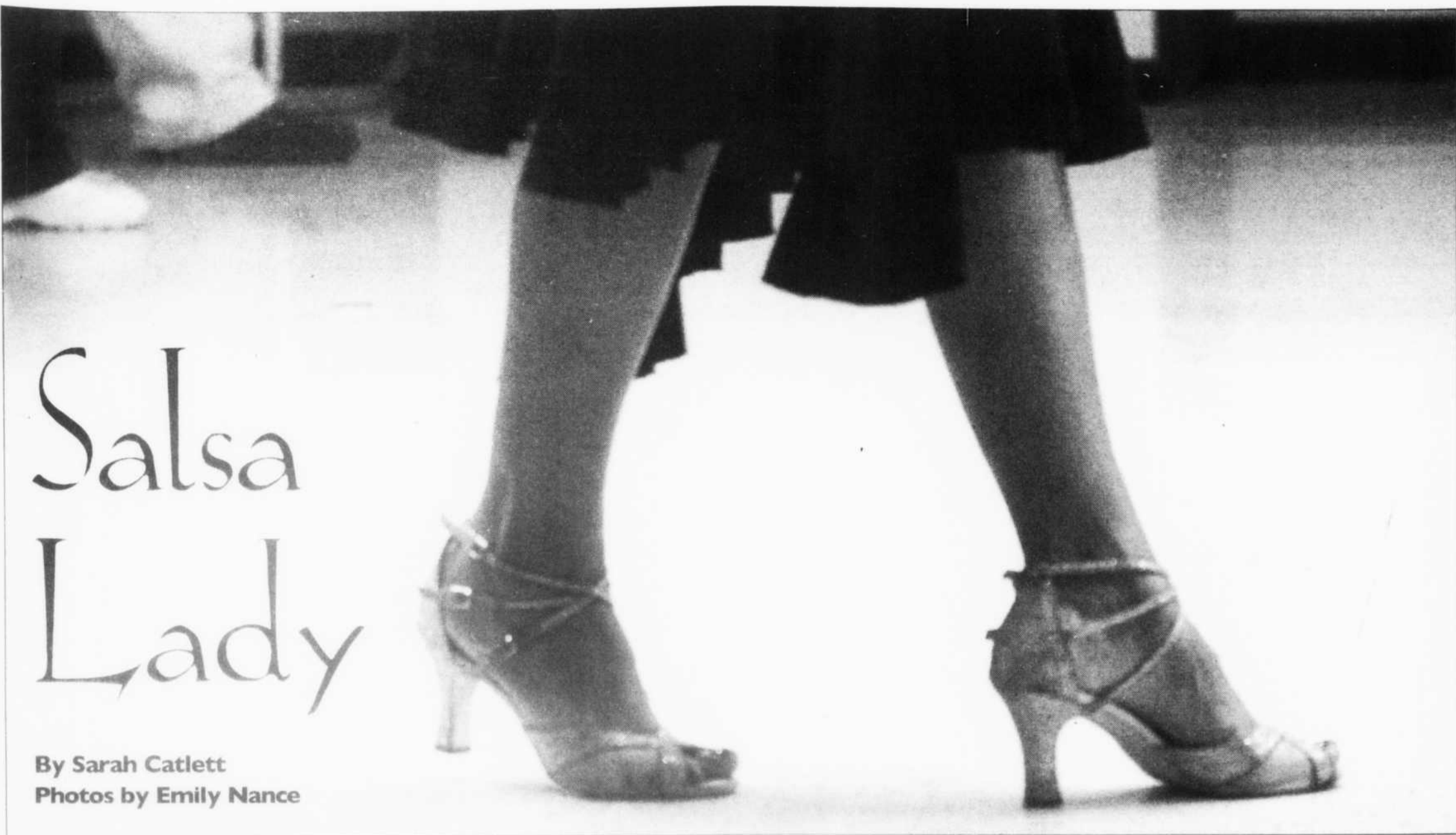
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Salsa Lady

By Sarah Catlett
Photos by Emily Nance



Torres find her love for teaching salsa dance amidst her life-long passion for the therapeutic art form.

Eileen Torres has been passionate about salsa dancing since childhood, and is still admittedly addicted to the spirited and sensual art.

"I liked the way the music sounded, and I danced according to the rhythm in my head," Torres says.

On October 5, Torres gave a brief lecture on the history of salsa dance, then taught the participants of the class a basic salsa step, onto which she added shine – the salsa term for footsteps – throughout the class.

"Salsa dance is an upbeat music born out of the African percussion traditions mixed with Cuban traditional music. The beginning of salsa is in Africa, and the enslaved people from Africa were allowed to keep their drumming traditions only in Cuba. The African rhythms merged with the Cuban traditional music to produce a new style of music. Salsa is just an umbrella term for a whole flux of Cuban dance rhythms," Torres says.

Like most dance forms, salsa has a positive effect on a dancer's emotions and overall outlook on life. Salsa dance plays a significant role in Torres's life.

"First of all, it makes me happy. Second of all, it reinforces my roots of being Latina. It keeps me young, fit, balanced and sane," Torres says.

Along with just being fun, salsa dance has many health benefits.

"This is a very addictive lifestyle, but it is the healthiest addiction because it is a stress reliever. It helps you maintain your weight because you are burning calories; it increases your heart rate and your respiratory rate; it makes you perspire so you are releasing toxins; and it allows your mind to take a much-needed rest because when you are dancing, you are not thinking about problems, cares or concerns," Torres states.

Torres received an extremely positive response to her class. Students who participated commented on how they hope that she can return on a later date and offer another class. Torres also says she would be more than happy to return if the opportunity was offered to her.

"It was amazing, and I wish more people had come out. I think it should have been publicized more, but it was great. It was absolutely perfect," sophomore vocal performance major Becky King says.

"I've loved dancing since I was little. I'm a choreographer too, so that was one of the things that interested me. It taught

me a lot of things that I didn't even know as a choreographer," junior recording industry major Eric Moreno says.

"I love all kinds of social dance and Latin dance; I go salsa dancing sometimes at local places," sophomore electronic media journalism major Brittani Henson says.

For the curious or those who simply would like to put their newfound skills into practice, rumor has it that The Boro, located at 1211 Greenland Drive, will be offering a weekly Salsa Night beginning in November.

Additionally, members of the MTSU Swing Dance Club, which meets every Monday night in the Murphy Center, have made it a habit to practice other dance forms, salsa included, after their initial swing dance meeting. Anyone who is interested is encouraged to stop by and check it out.

For more information on salsa dance, Eileen Torres and her work, visit <http://www.salsacentro.com/>. ♦

Many cheap options are available for dorm room decor

Paint, hanging fabric among choices for sprucing

By Tabitha Turner
Staff Writer

A common problem among college students, whether they live in a dorm or an apartment off campus, is decorating their space on a budget.

For students who come in from other towns or even states, their dorm or apartment becomes a home away from home and a refuge from the outside world and the stress of work and school.

However, if they are unhappy with the four walls they see around them everyday, their sanctuary could become more of a prison.

"I've been living in this little apartment with two other girls for three years now, and I'm sick of the way it looks. It's like each day it gets worse. The walls are ugly and there's no room for all our stuff," said Shawn Frasier, a sophomore English major at MTSU.

Thankfully, there are possible solutions.

The most inexpensive way to change the look of a room is with a fresh coat of paint. Painting all of the walls, some of the walls or even painting each wall a different color instantly brings any room to life.

But don't forget the ceiling. So many people give a room a

new coat of paint and completely neglect the ceiling, which has so much potential.

Paint is fairly cheap and can be bought at just about any retail store such as Wal-Mart or Lowes. In fact, Home Depot even provides free how-to clinics on weekends where anyone can go and learn the many different techniques of wall painting.

"If you come to a class, then you'll learn how to sponge or rag your walls, which is dabbing one color paint over another colored base," said Home Depot employee, Roy Harding.

For a less smelly and less permanent change than paint, try using large blocks of fabric. Just staple or hang low-priced fabric on the walls, creating a textured and changeable design.

Posters are also a very popu-

lar way to decorate. Just tack favorite bands, sports stars or celebrities to the wall.

The windows in dorms and apartments can always seem tough to design around, especially if they are in an odd place in a room, but they are actually easier than people realize.

Plastic blinds are always an easy way to go. To show a little more creativity, paint a pattern on a beach mat and hang it above the frame, or just drape some material over a metal rod placed over the window.

Since most of the dorms or apartments used by college students are relatively small, there is barely enough room for all one person's belongings, let alone that of a roommate or four. Storage is a huge issue when it comes to living in small spaces.

"I have so much stuff. I always have papers everywhere, because I never throw anything away. When I had my finals last semester, I looked, but couldn't find my notes," said Kristina Harkin, a freshman political science major at MTSU.

To utilize inexpensive and appealing storage space, there are a few rules to follow. Build up, not out. Bookcases aren't always just for books; radios, TVs or anything else can go on them, and they can span the entire length of a wall.

Try making a table with hidden storage space underneath out of an upside-down plastic crate or wicker basket just by placing a piece of glass over it.

Trunks also make good tables and have storage space inside. Gain extra room under the bed by lifting it up on

cement blocks. Another great space saver is an old locker. These are sometimes sold by schools and are light enough to be carried up stairs.

There are a lot of everyday stores where just about everything to do with home decorating is sold: Lamps, bedding, wall hooks and fabric, rugs, plastic crates and bookcases are just a few of the essentials.

The retail stores Target, Pottery Barn, Kmart and JC Penny all sell home furnishings for a fairly low price. You can even find old furniture that is still in good shape at thrift shops, moving sales, Goodwill or the Salvation Army.

Just remember: The key to decorating a dorm or an apartment is self-expression and personal comfort. ♦

SPORTS

6 ♦ SIDELINES

Wednesday, October 27, 2004

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Deckard's 27 kills lead MT volleyball squad to win

By Colby Sledge
Sports Editor

After a 3-1 win over New Orleans last Friday, the Blue Raiders faced South Alabama less than 48 hours later on Sunday afternoon with little time to prepare.

Even so, the Blue Raiders defeated the visiting Lady Jaguars 3-1 (30-14, 34-36, 30-16, 30-20) to finish the weekend with two conference wins.

"We really didn't have time to practice anything; we just kind of threw it together a little bit," MT head coach Matt Peck said. "We didn't freak out; we just stuck it out and had a good match. I don't have any complaints with that at all."

Middle Tennessee built an early 11-2 lead in Game 1 and never let up en route to an easy 1-0 advan-

tage. South Alabama was constantly out of sync in the game and finished with 12 attack errors and an .048 attack percentage.

In Game 2, however, the Lady Jags jumped out to a 14-9 lead thanks in part to three consecutive service aces from senior libero Kim Courchesne. The Blue Raiders forced game point at 27-29, but kills from Andressa Lyra and Megan Sumrell tied the score at 29.

After fighting off another game point, the Blue Raiders squandered three chances of their own to close out the game. The Lady Jags withstood four kills from MT's KeKe Deckard to regain the advantage at 34-33 and eventually won Game 2 36-34.

"As much as I tell the players these teams come in here and have nothing to lose, I kind of don't think they believed it,"

Peck said. "I think we woke up in the middle of Game 2 and said, 'Wait a minute, this team is now pushing us a little bit.'"

"I don't know what we always fall down in the second game," Deckard said. "I don't know what's up with that."

MT opened Game 3 with a 15-7 run en route to a 30-16 win and a 2-1 advantage in the match. The Blue Raiders put down 17 kills against just three errors while hitting .500 in attack percentage. South Alabama finished Game 3 with an .033 percentage.

The Lady Jags looked like they might push the match to a fifth game after leading throughout the first half of Game 4, but the Blue Raiders tied South Alabama at 13 and outscored the Lady Jags 17-7 to take the match. MT sophomore Allison Liptak contributed three kills to

a 9-1 run that virtually clinched the game for the Blue Raiders.

"It was a good sign for us that we came back in Game 3 and Game 4," Peck said. "That's the match we needed to play today."

Deckard led the Blue Raiders (12-10, 6-3 Sun Belt Conference) with 27 kills in the absence of senior outside hitter Dara McLean, who sat out the match after registering 17 kills in the 3-1 win over New Orleans. For her efforts, Deckard was named the conference Player of the Week yesterday.

Whitney Sanders led South Alabama (1-16, 1-9 SBC) with 14 kills, and Morgan Flarity added 12. Courchesne contributed 16 digs in the loss.

With the win the Blue Raiders moved to 8-2 at Alumni Memorial Gym, where they will take on Florida International on Friday at 7 p.m. ♦

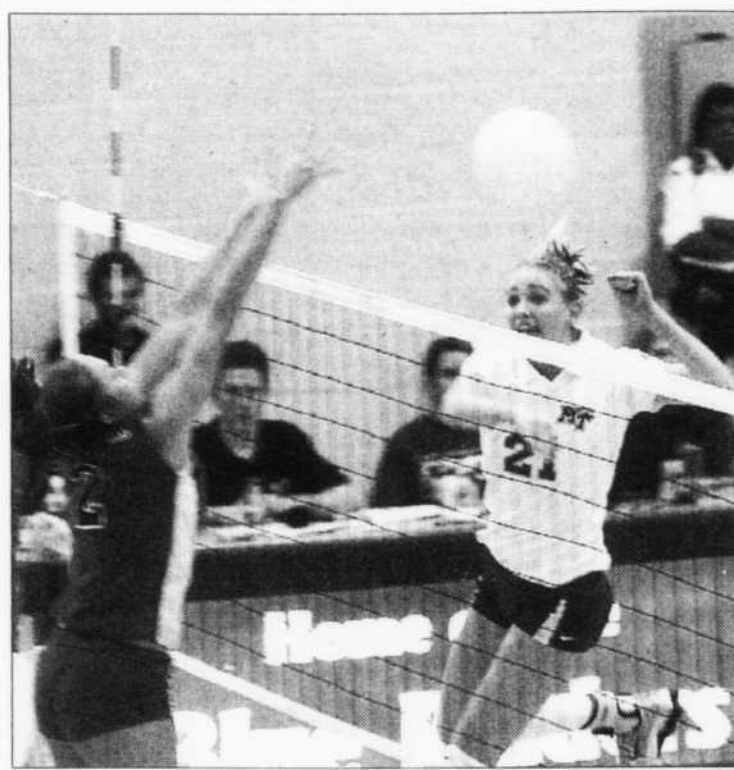


Photo by Blake Noel | Staff Photographer

Blue Raider Lindsay Sisco had nine kills in Sunday's win.

Sumrell sets Blue Raiders up for success

By Colby Sledge
Sports Editor

In high school, Megan Sumrell was the star.

Sumrell registered more kills than any other volleyball player in Chattanooga, Tenn., as a senior at Notre Dame High School. Sumrell lettered in volleyball all four years and was a three-time All-State hitter.

But to play up front in first-rate college competition, there was one gift Sumrell didn't have: height.

"Being 5-foot-8 in college really doesn't get you far in being a hitter," Sumrell said. "I wanted to play Division I, so I chose to be a setter."

And it's a good thing she did, because Sumrell is now the only setter for the Blue Raiders.

"Last year we had three setters... [but] this year it's just me," she said. "I've never done that before."

So far, Sumrell's solo setting has been a smashing success. Sumrell, a sophomore, is 26th in the nation and leads the Sun Belt with an average of 13.05 assists per game.

Pretty good for a player who just started exclusively setting this year.

"Megan's in a difficult position because we don't have another setter," MT head coach Matt Peck said. "It's difficult for her because when she's not playing well or struggling with something, she can't come out like everybody else."

With all the work Sumrell put into preparing to be the starter, however, Sumrell had to come to practice early nearly every day in order to work on setting with assistant coach Jeff Motluck before the season.

"During preseason, I had practices that were just by myself," Sumrell said. "One court would be me, and the other court would be the team. I would practice, and at the end of the practice I would get to play with the team."

Even now, she still goes to practice early three days a week in order to continue to improve.

"She's the only one, really, [whom] we're training in that position, so she gets all the reps," Peck said. "There's nobody to give her a break in practice."

"Practice is always harder than the games," Sumrell added. "Always."

Those practices, however, are part of the reason the Blue Raiders (12-10, 6-3) are competing for a Sun Belt title a year after finishing 14-19 and bowing out in the first round of the conference tournament.

Peck came to MT from North Alabama after former coach Lisa Kisse was fired, and the change has been evident.

"It's totally different than last year," Sumrell said. "Last year we weren't expected to be any-

thing. We totally changed."

Last year, Sumrell was forced to step in when senior Goldie Bilyeu went down with an injury before the season began. Sumrell returned duties with Talayna Akrie before Bilyeu returned, but Bilyeu graduated and Akrie left after last season, meaning Sumrell was all alone coming into this season.

Early in the season, Sumrell's lack of experience at the position was fairly evident to Peck.

"We would get on her because she would do things in practice how we wanted to do them, and then she would get in a game and we're like 'Who is that?'" Peck said.

But as the season progressed, Sumrell did as well. She had a season-high 69 assists in a 3-2 win over Arkansas State on Oct. 1, and is currently third on the MT all-time single-season assists total with 1,057.

If Sumrell maintains her assists-per-game average, she will easily set a new all-time mark in that category. Nidza Castillo currently holds the record with 12.65 assists per game.

But according to Sumrell, she's playing for seniors KeKe Deckard and Dara McLean, not the record books.

"We just all want to win so bad for them," Sumrell said. "We just want to push so hard because we might not have another chance."

Sumrell has helped Deckard and McLean to two Sun Belt Conference Player of the Week honors each this season – but those kind of awards don't go to setters.

"Even though I don't get any of the glory like KeKe and Dara, it's not like they're just getting the glory," Sumrell said. "We all understand that when they get awards, it's everyone getting the award."

"I kind of miss getting the glory, but I know I do well when they do well."

McLean and Deckard have helped Sumrell improve as well.

"We have two seniors who are doing very well, and they're kind of demanding," Peck said. "But the past couple of weeks it's all started to come together for her. She's turned it around and she's doing a pretty good job right now."

Although Sumrell's focusing on this year right now, she's also looking to the future.

"After this, I want to be a volleyball coach," she said. "I want to be a college coach, but you have to start somewhere."

Sumrell knows exactly where she wants to finish this season, however: at the top of the Sun Belt.

"This year we know we can do it," she said. "We can beat any team in our conference; we just have to show up that day."

And Megan will definitely show up – she'll probably even have to come early. ♦

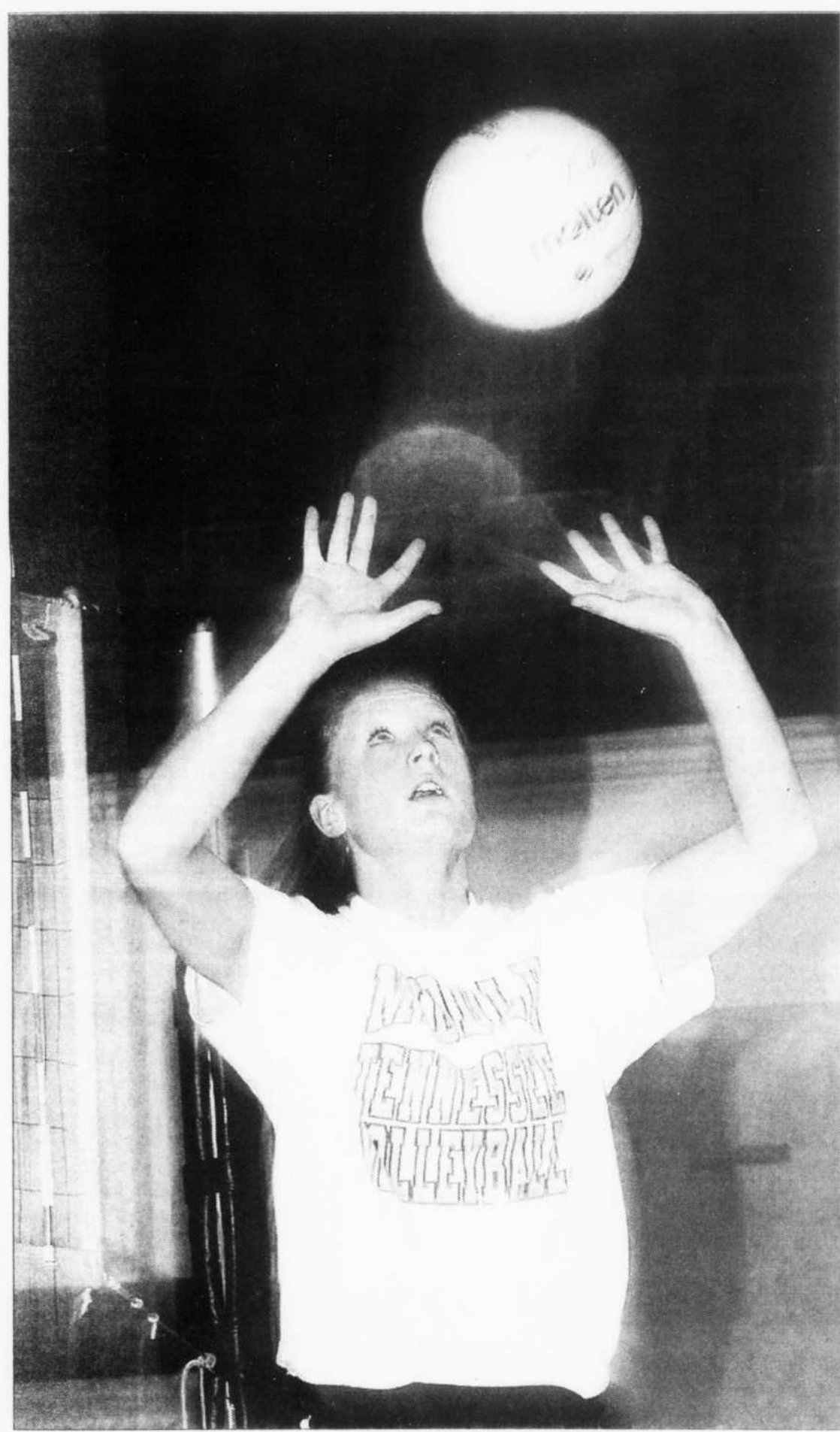


Photo by Steve Cross | Chief Photographer

Blue Raider sophomore Megan Sumrell has become the full-time setter this season.

MT ready for homecoming contest

By Jonathan Hutton
Staff Writer

The Blue Raiders enter Homecoming Week after coming off a big win at home against the Idaho Vandals.

Middle Tennessee (3-4, 2-2 Sun Belt Conference) had a solid attack on offense as well as playing good run defense in the victory.

MT will look to bring the positives from this past week's SBC win into this weekend's game against Utah State (2-5, 1-2 SBC), who defeated the Blue Raiders last season 41-20.

MT head coach Andy McCollum spoke at his weekly press conference Monday on how he was pleased with his team's effort on Saturday.

"I was very proud of the way our kids came out and played against Idaho. It was a good win for us, and it was good to end on a winning note against an Idaho team that is

leaving our conference."

Starting RB Eugene Gross re-injured his ankle in Saturday's game, but McCollum said there is plenty of depth to fill the position.

"Terry Jackson continues to get reps along with Lee Baker, and the one I think needs to get more touches is Demarco McNair as he keeps growing as a running back," McCollum said. "We will find out more on Eugene as the week goes."

With this week being Homecoming, it gives MT players something extra to play for, as former alumni and players will be on hand Saturday.

"It's exciting for our players to know a lot of former players are coming back. A lot of people will be coming back to the university and hopefully we will have a good crowd after two good wins here at our place," McCollum said.

The main objective this weekend for the Blue Raiders will be picking up another Sun

Belt Conference win against a Utah State team that is coming off a bye week and a team that beat them convincingly last season.

"Utah State is a very talented football team and this is a big game for us. I think we will see a well-rested team coming in here," McCollum said. "They have great skill players. They have great speed. All we have to do is reflect back to the whipping we took last year. It wasn't just a loss. They whipped us and made us like it."

MT defensive lineman Jerry Vanderpool, who was also on hand for Monday's press conference, contributes the Blue Raiders recent success to hard work and dedication.

"Everybody is staying together. There has been no letdown. Coaches have challenged us and we have responded."

The Blue Raiders will be challenged again this weekend, as it should be another tough SBC match up. Kickoff is Saturday afternoon at 2 p.m. in Floyd Stadium. ♦



Photo by Steve Cross | Chief Photographer

MT's Lee Baker had eight rushes for 16 yards Saturday.

Cardinals lack ability in clutch

Sports commentary



Cody Gibson
Staff Columnist

However, this is, after all, Boston.

Something strange is going to happen. The series will not just be another ho-hum sweep.

The Cardinals should be pleased that the series is heading back to St. Louis.

If you haven't noticed, they are pretty good at home. How's eight wins and no losses?

Also, the atrocious Red Sox defense gets even worse, with David Ortiz taking the field at first base. His lack of mobility and experience in the field will hamper the Red Sox in these middle three games.

Another match-up that will be interesting to watch is the Boston starting pitchers at-bat. While they receive some time at the plate during inter-league play, none of that will prepare any of the pitchers for the stage

that is the World Series.

The most important facts about this series are pitching and timely hitting.

That has been the staple of the past World Series champions.

In this case, Boston's staff is superior to the Cardinals. The bullpen depth is also stronger on Boston's side, especially with Cardinals' top reliever Steve Kline out with an injury.

However, if the Cardinals' lineup starts getting clutch hits, this could be a different series.

For example, in Game 1, the Cardinals had runners on second and third with one out.

They had cleanup hitter Scott Rolen up with the game tied at nine. First pitch, Rolen pops out to the shortstop. Then Jim Edmonds goes down as well.

In the bottom half of that inning, the Red Sox took the

lead on a home run by Mark Bellhorn. Simply put, it's easy to see why the Cardinals are in a hole with two losses.

Their key bats and pitchers have let them down. If either had stepped up in both games, the team could have easily won.

What I'm saying is it's all about being clutch. Most players either have it or they don't.

David Ortiz has it, Curt Schilling has it, but does anyone on the Cardinals have it? That's the question they must answer.

I believe in miracles, just not here. The Red Sox will finally win it.

Besides, the Cardinals are just happy to be there.

Cody Gibson is a sophomore mass communications major. He can be reached at cwg2g@mtsu.edu.

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Sports Briefs

News from around Middle Tennessee



Deckard named Player of the Week

Deckard, a senior from Nacogdoches, Texas, picked up the honor after leading her team to victories at home against New Orleans and South Alabama.

Deckard has recorded five straight double-doubles, and averaged six kills and four digs per game in the two wins. She recorded 27 kills against South Alabama, which was the most the team has allowed all year.

This marks the second time this year that Deckard has received the honor.

The Blue Raiders are set to continue play on Tuesday, traveling to Memphis for a non-conference match-up.

Blue Raiders picked first in East Division

In addition to this, three Blue Raiders were picked for the preseason All-SBC team. Mike Dean was a first-team selection while Steve Thomas and Michael Cuffee were both third-team picks.

"I don't think expectations are bad," MT head coach Kermit Davis said of the ranking. "It's good for the players, and it's good for your fans. We have to be very good at home and even better on the road, but it's a nice gesture for our players and we understand the work we have ahead of us."

This marks the first time the team has been selected to win the East since joining the SBC in 2001, and the three players selected for presea-

son honors is also the most in school history.

The Blue Raiders have finished tied for second in the East during each of the last two years.

Lady Raiders also picked to finish first

The team received 10 of 11 first-place votes in the East and 54 votes overall.

In addition to being picked to finish first, which happened for the first time since the school joined the conference, MT senior guard Patrice Holmes has been voted Sun Belt Preseason Player of the Year.

"Patrice is a phenomenal player and it has been an honor to have her on this team the past three years, and I am glad we have her for one more," head coach Stephany Smith said.

Sophomore forward Krystle Horton was also selected to the SBC's first team, while junior forward Tia Stovall was selected for the third team.

MT is ranked 25th in the Athlon Magazine Preseason poll and 55th in the top 64 teams in CBS Sportsline.com Magazine.

The team finished their 2003-04 campaign with a 24-8 overall record and a trip to the second round of the NCAA tournament.

Deadline for San Juan Shootout Nov. 1

The deadline to register for the BRAA trip to Puerto Rico Dec. 18-22 to see the Blue Raiders is Nov. 1. Call the BRAA office at 898-2210. ♦

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Troy falls short in upset bid against LSU

sunbeltsports.org

Louisiana-Monroe 17, Florida Atlantic 13

BOCA RATON, Fla. (AP) — Mason Denham ran 67 yards for a touchdown and Steven Jyles passed for another Saturday, helping Louisiana-Monroe beat Florida Atlantic 17-13 and snap the Owls' season-opening five-game winning streak.

Louisiana-Monroe safety Chris Harris had three interceptions in the game, including ones that stopped Florida Atlantic's final two drives. One of his interceptions was on a pass into the end zone.

Jyles threw for 202 yards for Louisiana-Monroe (3-4, 2-1 Sun Belt). Denham had 110 rushing yards for the winners, who finished with 339 yards of total offense.



Doug Parker rushed 24 times for a game-best 121 yards for Florida Atlantic (5-1), which played its home opener. Hurricane Jeanne's last month.

Iared Allen completed 18 of 34 passes for 260 yards, but the three interceptions to Harris were costly.

Kevin Payne caught a 16-yard touchdown pass from Jyles with 5:51 left in the first quarter to open the scoring, and Denham's big run with 9:54 left in the half gave Louisiana-Monroe a 14-0 lead.

Parker scored on a one-yard run with 6:31 left in the half to get Florida Atlantic on the scoreboard. The Owls — who lost for just the second time in 17 games — got within 17-13 on Mark Myers' 21-yard field goal with 11:39 left, but couldn't score again.

Louisiana-Lafayette 27, Arkansas State 24

LAFAYETTE, La. (AP) — Terry Fenton returned a blocked field goal 80 yards for a score, and Jerry Babb threw for 176 yards and a touchdown to help Louisiana-Lafayette hold off Arkansas State 27-24 on Saturday night.

Babb's touchdown pass was a 45-yarder to Bill Sampy in the second quarter. Dwight Lindon gave the Cajuns a 24-0 lead with about 2:50 left in the first half when he ran for a one-yard run to cap an eight-play, 62-yard drive.

Arkansas State cut its deficit 10 seconds before halftime when Sherman Tracey scored from 13 yards out to cap a 75-yard, 11-play drive that took only 2:40.

The Ragin' Cajuns led 27-7 after Sean Comiskey's 22-yard field goal, his second of the game.

Eric Neihouse started the Indians' comeback with a 24-yard field goal, then Antonio Warren broke loose for an 80-yard run at the end of the third quarter.

In the fourth quarter, a short punt set up ASU at the Cajuns' 26-yard line. Quarterback Nick Noce ran for 20 yards, then hit Levi DeJohnette for a six-yard touchdown to trim the score to 27-24 with 4:28 remaining.

Louisiana-Lafayette was able to run the clock down to 1:41.

ASU drove into Louisiana territory until a sack by Travis Bass pushed the Indians to midfield with less than 10 seconds remaining.

Noce's final pass was complete to Chuck Walker, but he was tackled at the 29-yard line.

Warren finished with 124 yards rushing and Bracey had 97 as the Indians amassed 306 yards on the ground.

Noce was 16-of-38 for 164 yards.

Louisiana-Lafayette rushed for 188 yards, with Lindon gaining 86.

North Texas 36, New Mexico State 26

DENTON, Texas (AP) — Jamario Thomas rushed for 258 yards and one touchdown as North Texas defeated New Mexico State 36-26 Saturday for its 21st straight conference victory.

Thomas, a freshman, broke school and Sun Belt Conference records for the second game in a row, topping the 256 he gained on Oct. 10 against Utah State. He has 997 yards on the season.

New Mexico State (2-5, 2-2 Sun Belt) pulled to within three with 5:03 remaining. Justine Burries fought his way into the end zone on a five-yard run. The Aggies completed the two-point conversion to make it 29-26.

North Texas (3-4, 3-0) answered on its next drive, capped by an Andy Blount 10-yard touchdown reception from Scott Hall with 3:11 left after a 77-yard run by Thomas.

A 42-yard field goal run by Ryan Guardia with 1:51 remaining fell short and to the right, ending New Mexico State's comeback hopes.

New Mexico State's Buck Pierce completed 26 of 38 passes for 237 yards and two touchdowns. Freshman tight end Andrew Mooney caught a season-high eight passes for 88 yards, as well as a two-point conversion.

North Texas' Nick Bazaldua caught 40 yards and a career-high 51 yards in the fourth quarter.

Johnny Quinn had caught four passes for 92 yards, including a 47-yard touchdown pass from Hall that put the Mean Green ahead 9-0 in the first quarter.

North Texas led 9-7 at the half and scored on the opening drive of the third quarter as Thomas broke multiple tackles on a 33-yard run. North Texas found themselves with the ball on the Aggie 11 to start their next drive, following a blocked punt by Jonas Buckles. Moments later, Kevin Moore scored on a three-yard run to give North Texas a 23-7 lead.

New Mexico State pulled to 23-15 late in the third quarter following a nine-yard pass from Pierce to Jeremy Weeks.

LSU 24, Troy 20

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — Marcus Randall put a fine finish on a difficult night.

Randall threw a 30-yard touchdown pass to David Jones with 2:18 left to give No. 18 LSU a come-from-behind 24-20 victory over Troy.

"You certainly have to appreciate every win that you have," LSU coach Nick Saban said. "And I certainly appreciate the fact that we competed, that we came back in the game and found a way to win."

It was the second straight game Randall rallied LSU to victory, though this wasn't the game they expected against the Trojans from the Sun Belt Conference.



The Trojans (3-4) had only 36 yards of offense in the first half, but trailed only 17-10 at the break thanks to LSU turnovers. Turnovers also allowed the Trojans to stay with the Tigers throughout the second half.

Troy scored the go-ahead touchdown late in the fourth quarter, but a penalty nullified it. Even with the touchdown called back, LSU couldn't get Troy off the field. The Trojans held the ball for four minutes and 44 seconds and capped the long drive with a 24-yard field goal by Greg Whibbs — his second of the game — to go up 20-17 with 3:59 left.



"I thought we had a chance to play with them," Troy coach Larry Blakeney said. "I didn't know how long we could hold out. You measure them player for player, in the two deep or player for player throughout the program, we don't have a dying chance. We don't stack up at all. But our kids gave it a tremendous try. We had them on the ropes."

Randall, who was named SEC offensive player of the week following the comeback win at Florida, engineered the winning 54-yard drive on four plays, including his own seven-yard run.

Starting and playing the entire game for the first time this season, Randall completed 24 of 37 passes for 328 yards and a touchdown. He was intercepted three times and sacked twice.

"Coach told me before the game, turnovers are a big thing," Randall said. "That made the game tougher for me."

Troy couldn't run a lick on rushing, the lowest of the year.

"We wouldn't run a yard on their defense," Saban said.

The Trojans have now lost four of their last five.

After last week's loss, Blakeney tried shaking things up with some lineup changes. The biggest one was starting freshman quarterback D.T. McDowell.

McDowell struggled against the Tigers. He completed only seven of 14 passes for 60 yards and a touchdown. He was sacked five times and had to leave the game briefly after one hit.

LSU had 22 first downs to nine for Troy. The Tigers had 386 yards to 150 for Troy.

"It was tough out there," LSU defensive lineman Marcus Spears said. "Troy got us backed up and they started two drives inside the 10-yard line and we gave up points. We were just half-hearted at times."

The Tigers took the opening drive 79 yards in nine plays to go up 7-0 less than five minutes into the game on Alley Broussard's one-yard run.

Leverne Johnson forced and recovered an LSU fumble to set the Trojans up on the Tigers 20. Three plays later, McDowell hit James Earl Cray for a four-yard touchdown to tie it.

Randall was intercepted twice in the first half. The second one led to a 25-yard field goal by Whibbs that put the Trojans up 10-7 early in the second quarter.

The Tigers took a 14-10 lead on a one-yard run by Joseph Addai. A 23-yard field goal by Ryan Gaudet made it 17-10 at halftime.

After a third interception of Randall, the Trojans got the ball on the LSU 20. Troy tied it late in the third quarter at 17 on a one-yard run by DeWhitt Betterson. ♦

MT's Klaschka loses to eventual champion Kalsarieva

By Cody Gibson
Staff Writer

MT's Jennifer Klaschka and Ana Maria Cibils fell in the first round of the Intercollegiate Tennis Association Southeast Regional Thursday on the Wake Forest campus.

Klaschka and Cibils fell to Clemson's Richele Lesaldo and Ioana Puan 8-5. It was the first time the two seniors had teamed up this season.

Klaschka is No. 63 in the ITA standings and was the No. 15 seed in the singles tournament. She began play in the first round with a 6-1, 6-1 win over Eastern Kentucky's Hannah Bartsch.

With the victory, Klaschka advanced to the round of 32 to face Winthrop's Ana P. Noveas. She then defeated Noveas in three sets, 5-7, 6-2, 6-4.

However, Klaschka's tournament run came to an end Saturday. She fell to No. 1 seed and No. 9 Aibika Kalsarieva of Kentucky 6-4, 6-3 in the round of 16.

Kalsarieva, an All-American, is ranked No. 9 this season.

Klaschka's finish was the furthest she had ever advanced in the tournament. She ends the fall season with a record of 4-7.

Cibils also competed in the singles tournament. She did not fare well, losing in the first round to

Clelia Deltour of Duke 6-2, 6-0.

This marked Cibils's first appearance in the ITA tournament.

As for the tournament, Kentucky swept the doubles and singles.

Kalsarieva and sophomore Sarah Foster rallied for a 7-5 deficit to Wildcat Sandomier Kim Coventry and Joelle Schwenk to capture the doubles title in the 32-team field by a 9-7 count. Coventry and Schwenk, the tournament's eighth-seeded duo, capped a strong run through the tournament by nearly upsetting their top-seeded teammates after eliminating North Carolina's second-seeded pair of Kendall Cline and Aniel

Mojzis in Sunday's quarterfinals.

Kalsarieva faced the same opponent in the singles, Karin Coetzee of Wake Forest, that she fell to in the 2003 ITA Southeast Regional singles final in Monday's championship match.

Kalsarieva surrendered the first set 6-4, but rebounded in the final two sets, finishing 6-3 and 6-1 to avenge her defeat from a year ago.

Both will be playing for the singles ITA championship in Ann Arbor, Mich., beginning next week.

MT is finished for the year. Their first match does not begin until February, in which they will open up play at the Racquet Club of Murfreesboro against Belmont. ♦

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