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An editorially independent newspaper

Middle Tennessee State University

SIDELINES

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Campus Briefs

Jazz singer to perform

Ernestine Anderson, a Grammy-nominated jazz and blues singer, will perform tomorrow night with the MTSU jazz orchestra at 7:30 in Tucker Theatre.

Anderson has been a singer for more than five decades. Her two most recent releases, "Blues, Dues and Love News" and "Now and Then," were nominated for Grammy awards. She was also one of 75 women chosen for "I Dream a World: Portraits of Black Women Who Changed America."

Tickets for the performance are \$12. Students, faculty and staff are admitted free with an MTSU ID.

For more information, call 898-2493.

Tigg honored for work

Lewis Tigg has worked at MTSU for 45 years. Recently, he was honored for his years of service as chief stock clerk in the chemistry department.

The formal program recognized groups of faculty and staff who have served for 25, 30 and 35 years, but Tigg's name stood alone under the heading "45 Years."

"I have worked under four department chairs and six university presidents," Tigg said. "I am grateful for the position, and I am also grateful for the recognition. I have enjoyed working here."

Jones wins award

Jennings A. Jones, the namesake of the College of Business, was given the Distinguished Leadership Award for a Citizen Planner by the American Planning Association.

Jones will be honored in April at the APA convention in Chicago and be featured in the March 2002 issue of *Planning* magazine.

"Jennings and Rebecca Jones constantly make us proud of the fact that their names are so closely tied to Middle Tennessee State University," said Jim Burton, dean of business.

In addition to the College of Business, Jones also is the namesake for the Chair of Excellence in Free Enterprise and the Chair of Excellence in Urban and Regional Planning.

He has served as mayor of Murfreesboro and on the Tennessee State Planning Commission.

Grant to stop smoking

The Mission Investment Opportunities Program has granted \$300,000 to MTSU's Center for Health and Human Services for educating pregnant women about the dangers of smoking.

The grant is to be distributed over a three-year period. It will provide resources to help women stop smoking and offer support through health-care providers. ♦

Profs question local war reporting

'Hard news' not offered by coverage

By Victoria Cumbow
Staff Writer

Some MTSU professors are skeptical of whether coverage of Ft. Campbell troops sent to

Afghanistan is really newsworthy for local news affiliates.

"What originally pushed the coverage is competition," said Ed Kimbrell, professor of journalism. "When one outlet does it, it causes the other



Kimbrell

news outlets to rise to it." Kimbrell added that there is a huge competitive advantage to this sort of coverage.

Local television affiliates and *The Tennessean* have sent correspondents to Afghanistan. The main focus is on the local troops that were sent from Ft. Campbell, Ky., less than two hours from Murfreesboro.

"I think it's a little late," said Adam Mills, production manager for MTTV. "This started in

September and has been news for over four months."

Both Kimbrell and Mills agree that this is no live, breaking or hard-hitting news story.

"I do think it's nice reporting for the families of those from Ft. Campbell," Kimbrell said. "It is meaningful coverage and does give comfort, but that's not news."

Mills said this kind of coverage is more of a feature story and a waste of news resources.

He said one of the Nashville news stations sent a news anchor to Afghanistan and he questions the station's merit.

"What does it say when a main anchor is sent to cover a feature-type story," Mills asked.

Kimbrell agrees that the coverage he has seen from channels 2, 4 and 5 was fine work.

"It humanized the troops," he said. "It's just not hard news." ♦

'Darwin Day' held by Freethought Alliance

By Jason Cox
News Editor

The Campus Freethought Alliance at MTSU held their first "Darwin Day" on campus yesterday in honor of Charles Darwin's birthday.

Several members of CFA sat outside the Keathley University Center yesterday, selling items such as Darwin T-shirts, various fish car ornaments and bumper stickers. Passers-by were greeted with "Happy Darwin Day" by organization President Mat Pauley.

Those who stopped to look at the table exhibited mixed reactions.

"There certainly can't be anything negative about it," said senior Chris Handey shortly after purchasing a Darwin T-shirt.

"I've always been interested in Darwin," she said. "I'm tickled by the fact that it's Darwin's birthday."

Handey, who is an anthropology major, added that she and her husband attend church regularly.

Kelly Kinney, a nutrition and food sciences major, debated with Pauley on a sticker that read "Jesus Was a Liberal."

Kinney said there is more meaning behind the sticker than its literal interpretation.

"There's a lot of attitude [toward] disproving of religion," Kinney said.

Kinney said the complexity



Photo by Jason Cox | Staff

Kelly Kinney (far left) debates the meaning of a bumper sticker with CFA President Mat Pauley (far right).

of genetics coupled with a lack of scientific answers proves the existence of God.

"Each person on campus proves there is a god," Kinney said. "Everyone is different; no one is alike."

Pauley said he started the group to give voice to what he

called "an unheard group."

"There is a lack of a group for those ... skeptical, rational people on campus," Pauley said.

According to Pauley, the group is not anti-religious, but supports freedom of religion, separation of church and state, curtailing all forms of religious

and political extremism and countering misrepresentation of non-religious lifestyles.

The organization meets every other Wednesday at La Siesta on Greenland Drive at 8 p.m. for "discussion, burritos and beer," Pauley said. He said Massimo Pigliucci, vice presi-

dent and founder of the Darwin Day Program, will be speaking in late March.

The group, which was formed in the fall of 2001, now has 11 members, "enough that we can actually call ourselves a group," Pauley said. ♦

University of Tennessee offers grants to attract black students

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Under pressure to increase minority enrollment, the University of Tennessee will begin a new scholarship program this fall to attract black students.

"This program is meant to make more resources available to African-American students," Admissions Dean Richard Bayer said. "We think we can do better here, and this is one way to help it."

Qualifying black students will receive up to \$2,500 a year for up to four years — a \$10,000 maximum — toward an undergraduate degree at UT's flagship campus in Knoxville.

UT-Knoxville's tuition and fees, which have been rising at a double-digit rate in recent years, currently are \$1,617 a semester, or \$3,234 a year for in-state students.

The scholarship program

stems from the out-of-court settlement last year in Rita Sanders Geier's 1968 lawsuit accusing the state of perpetuating a dual higher education system for black and white students. Black student enrollment accounted for only 6.4 percent of total enrollment at UT-Knoxville this fall, while blacks make up more than 16 percent of the state's population.

Of 26,033 students registered at UT-Knoxville, 1,669 are black. Bayer estimates the new scholarship program could attract at least 80 more black students to UT next fall.

Dewey Roberts, president of the NAACP, praised the scholarships as "desperately needed," both for the university and the black community.

"Anything that will help stimulate African-American students to continue their edu-

cation is a very positive thing for our community," he said.

But some black students already attending UT are upset that the scholarship's low requirements seem too low.

"A lot of the other scholarships and grants offered by UT have higher minimum requirements," said Kasim Barnes, a 20-year-old psychology major and member of the Black Cultural Programming Committee. "A lot of people feel insulted."

Qualifying students must have a high school grade point average of at least 3.0, score at least 18 on the ACT and maintain at least a 2.3 GPA while attending UT.

"It seems like they're saying all we can do is make a 2.3 GPA," Barnes said. "I can do better than that, and there are plenty of students who can do better than that. It's like they're offering it to everybody." ♦

McPhee tells Senate fund-raising a priority

By Amanda Maynard
Assistant News Editor

President Sidney McPhee told members of the faculty Senate Monday night that the main focus of his reorganization involved seven basic goals, the most important one being raising money.

The goals included reviewing the structure of the university, assessing new graduate programs, strengthening the relationship with the community and identifying funding problems.

"Fund-raising has become a major issue that we want to focus on," McPhee said. "Our priorities right now are scholarships and program enhancement."

McPhee also expressed concern over the governors new budget proposals. There is a possibility that MTSU could receive up to \$79 million in budget revenue.

McPhee also discussed the Tennessee Higher Education Commission's decision to allow MTSU to change its DA programs to Ph.D. programs. The program proposal has taken a step back but has yet to be voted on.

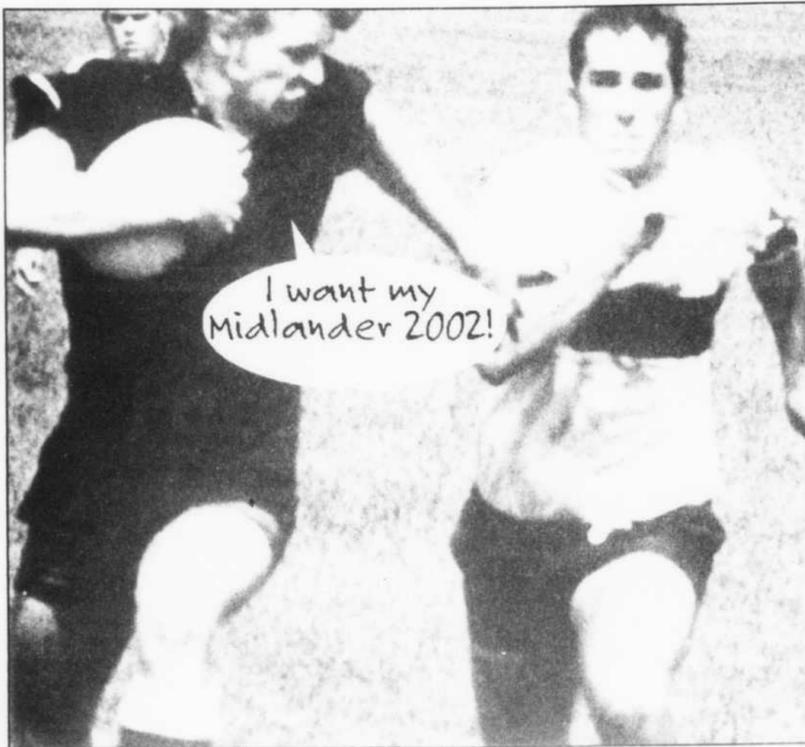
McPhee concluded with his hopes for the coming year at MTSU.

"Hopefully, all departments can agree on what our funding priorities are," McPhee said "and we can reach our goal within the next three to five years." ♦



The Sports Wrap: *Not just another fast food gimmick.*

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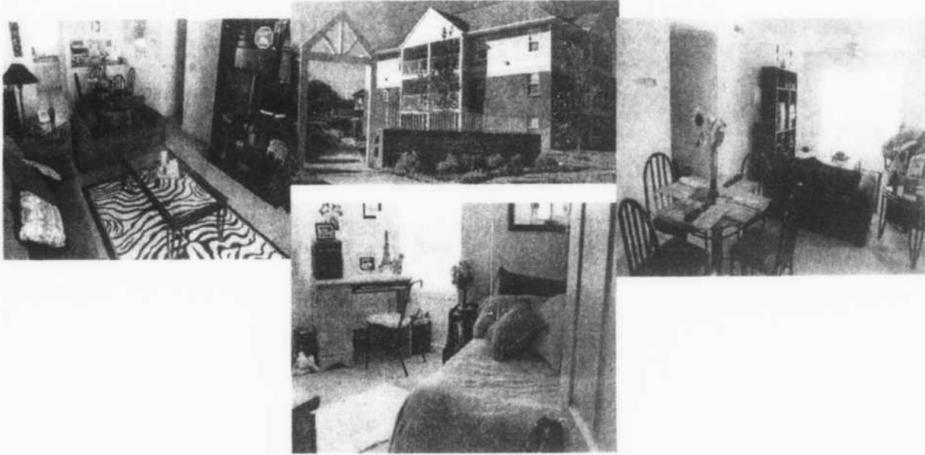
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CORRECTION

Scholarship

The Amy Spain Memorial Scholarship, in the amount of \$500, will be awarded this spring to a graduating senior planning on attending law school this fall. Amy Spain was an alumni of Middle Tennessee State University and an active Alpha Delta Pi from 1982-1986. Upon completion of her undergraduate degree she went on to graduate with honors from the University of Memphis, Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law. Amy obtained a position as an Assistant United States Attorney in Memphis. She held this position until a tragic automobile accident ended her exceptional life.

To continue Amy's legacy, some of her friends and family have established this scholarship. The Memorial Fund will be used to further the education of an MTSU Greek female who plans to attend Law School. Candidates must demonstrate the leadership, dedication, commitment, and integrity which characterized and defined Amy.

If you are interested in applying for this scholarship, please obtain an application from Betty Smithson, Associate Vice President and Dean of Student Life Office, Keathley University Center Room 212. Deadline for applications is March 4, 2002.

Friends of Amy Spain.

Faces' Music

Something for Everyone

Faces is rapidly becoming a hot spot for local acts by offering live music three nights a week. Each night is formatted differently to better provide a variety of music.

Tuesday nights offer the newer local acts a chance to debut. The Tuesday night theme is "2Bands for 2Bucks." Bands have a night to play for an audience and get their name out. The audience's incentive lies in the cheap \$2 cover, the drink special and the opportunity to support local music.

Thursday nights cater more to the college party crowd. Groove, funk and cover bands typically jam out on Thursdays.

Saturday nights offer a release for many students as metal bands such as Derailed, Kahl's Ego and Ricket's Maddore fill the bill.

Even when the music is not live, Faces' digital jukebox plays the hits ranging from classic to progressive rock, from '80's glam to '80's dance, with a little Top 40 thrown in for good measure.

This Month, Faces hosts Splif's Mardi Gras Fat Tuesday bash, offering free beats and favors, as well as drink deals. DJ Mickey Qool-Aid returns to Faces on Valentine's Day to play a set full of sultry grooves.



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Editorial

Valentine's Day ain't so bad

Every year around Feb. 14, the hip thing for everyone (especially single people) to do is act depressed and hateful toward Valentine's Day by calling it a greeting-card holiday that's over-commercialized and meaningless, then declaring that they'll be hanging out with friends getting wasted and wallowing in their despair.

Is Valentine's Day really that bad? Or is it just trendy for people to act like they hate it?

Sidelines encourages our readers — both those who are single and those who are attached — to count their blessings on the upcoming holiday and wash away all that bitterness.

Singles: Give thanks that you don't have to feel obligated to buy meaningless gifts like unhealthy candy and soon-to-be-dead flowers for your significant other. You don't have someone to fight with at the end of the fairytale-night gone awry, and the next morning (if you behave yourself), you can rest assured that the night of celibacy was somehow rewarding. Buy yourself some unhealthy candy and flowers, or use all that extra dough to pay your bills, you slacker.

Couples: Be grateful for having someone to stroll and smooch on and share your innermost secrets with. Take pride in spending your hard-earned money on that special someone, even if most gifts popular on Valentine's Day are short-lived (kind of makes you wonder, doesn't it?). Cherish the fact that there's a whole day devoted to couplehood, complete with restaurant specials for lovebirds just like you. And if you're not spending money, show your love through acts of real love and kindness that will have much longer-lasting effects.

Everyone should keep in mind that Valentine's Day doesn't necessarily require that you celebrate it with a lover or not at all. Sure, legend has it that the holiday was named for St. Valentine, who married couples secretly against the rule of the Roman emperor Claudius II, but that doesn't mean you can't take your granny out to eat or escort your parents to a movie. The holiday is about love, not just lovers.

After all, if your biggest problem in life is trying to maintain hatred for a crazy holiday, then you've got it made. ♦

Say hello to my made-up friend

The Little 'd' democrat



Austin Jackson

Recently, I went on a little stroll through campus and was intercepted by my old friend Billy Bob, and we soon found ourselves engaged in a stimulating idea exchange.

Bill embodies the liberal ideal and also happens to be the most intelligent socialist I've ever encountered. I thought it would be enlightening to share a first-hand account of what it is like to engage in conversation with one of the more intelligent liberals around.

Me: Whatcha know, Billy Bob?

Bill: Not much, old buddy. I just got back from a pro-choice rally and was on my way to protest the execution of a child molester and psychopathic murderer; nothing makes me madder than seeing a human being murdered in

a cruel and unusual manner.

Me: Yeah, I know exactly what you mean, Bill. Did I tell you, Bill, that I just purchased my first handgun today? I decided to exercise one of the most important of my constitutional rights. Bill, you look kind of flushed. Is it something I said?

Bill: But Austin, that makes you a racist! Doesn't it?

Me: Wrong debate, Bill. I'll tell you what a hate-mongering extortionist Jesse Jackson is next week. No, today I'm talking about the Second Amendment.

Bill: You're nothin' but a typical, insensitive, homophobic and chauvinistic pig... right?

Me: Work with me here, Bill! I'll send you my thesis tomorrow on why women should never be allowed in combat. I'm talking about the Constitution, the right to bear arms, the Bill of Rights. Does any of that ring a bell?

Bill: Oh yeah, that Second Amendment! Don't tell me you're one of

those gun nuts who believes it's actually your constitutional right to arm and defend yourself.

Don't you understand that the Second Amendment clearly states that guns are only meant for a militia? It doesn't look like you belong to the National Guard, Austin.

Me: Bill, my poor little brainwashed liberal friend, let me give you a little history lesson.

You see, contrary to everything the leftist educators have told you, those wealthy, white, slave-owning males who drew up a little document that has spread the ideals of freedom all over the world didn't always have to spell out all of their intentions in black and white.

Take, for example, Article II of the Constitution, which states: "No Person except a natural born Citizen ... shall be eligible to the Office of President."

Now this seems to be relatively transparent but one of strongest motivations for this clause was the founding fathers' cog-

nization of the fact that many feared a foreign monarch would be imported to rule the new nation.

I believe that the Second Amendment also was written with ulterior motives in mind. James Madison feared the new government could soon become too powerful, and when he was composing the Bill of Rights, he incorporated several safeguards that would limit the power of the federal government, the First and Second Amendments being the most important.

Bill: It's starting to get a little deep, wouldn't you say Austin? I mean, how could the right to bear arms protect citizens from an oppressive government?

Me: Take, for example, the Soviet Union. In 1929, they established gun control, and from 1929 until the early '50s, millions of people, unable to defend themselves, were massacred.

Some estimates place the number near 20 million. The same goes for Nazi Germany. In 1938,

they implemented gun control, and we both know what happened to millions of Jews who were unable to defend themselves.

I could go on and on Bill, but I think you get the point: the armed populace is able to defend itself from an oppressive government, and if you think that would never happen here, think again. Bill, you look kinda faint. Are you OK?

Bill: It just can't be true Austin! Everything I've ever been told is a lie; I'm starting to question my very existence! Why are you always right and I'm always wrong Austin?

Me: It's OK, Bill. When you're a conservative you're always on the right side of an issue (no pun intended). Besides, Billy Bob, you're nothing but a figment of my imagination.

You see, when I was trying to find an intelligent liberal friend, I discovered there is no such thing. Anyway, I found out a long time ago that the most intelligent conversations I have are always with myself. ♦

Best Valentine's gifts are from the heart

By Ashly Callaway
Staff Columnist

Do you know what tomorrow is? If your guess is another overly-commercialized holiday that pressures you into spending money, you're right! Ah, yes, Valentine's Day: full of romantic gift-giving and amorous bliss; a chance for all to spend time with their loved ones and celebrate the joys of being in love.

Apparently, not everyone feels this way. I took a survey of friends, family and people I barely know and discovered that Valentine's Day is, for most people, a far cry from what I just described.

For men, it's having to deal with the pressures of what to get their girlfriends or wives. Poor things, they're being barraged by those Friedman's commercials pressuring them to buy the quintessential holy grail of Valentine's jewelry. For women, a lot of times, it means getting disappointed.

If you're reading this and have completely forgotten what tomorrow is, I saw a Walgreens commercial that reassures us that, because this is not a perfect world (I know, I was shocked, too), they're always there to cover our asses when we've forgotten there's a holiday tomorrow, and most are open 24 hours.

So there's the question of what a girl wants. I asked women of all ages and marital statuses, and the answers all had common denominators: extra attention and a gift that's not expensive, but took some thought. So, guys, you can relax about the jewelry.

There are also the added bonuses of spontaneity, thoughtfulness and good conversation.

One married woman even said just a card or a sweet e-mail is nice; another claimed that she and her husband always do something special. If you don't make some days special, your marriage goes to hell — that's a direct quote.

However, for all the people who had answers

to what they wanted, they also had horrible stories of past Valentine's Days. One guy I asked said he and his current girlfriend had had so many miserable V-days that they were forgetting about it altogether. A friend of mine had a Valentine's date cancel because her ex had called and scared him away, and another's boyfriend spent Valentine's night being someone else's valentine.

The point is, some people are ambivalent about Valentine's, and some really feel strongly about it. Personally, I want something that takes a little thought, not a lot of money and lots of love.

I would take something as simple as a picnic put together by my sweetie over an extravagant dinner out any day. Because if you really feel love for someone, it shouldn't be about how much you spend, and a token of it isn't something you can pick up at Walgreens at two in the morning. ♦

From the Opinions Editor

When it's time for them to grieve, leave families alone



versity officials that the family was steadfast in their request for no interviews.

Reporter Barry Simmons would have none of that, however, as he tried to force his way into the hospital. When stopped by security guards, this most irresponsible and reckless of journalists lied and said he had permission from the hospital's media office.

When a guard went to go check, Simmons took off like a Frenchman from the warfront.

People like Simmons give other journalists a bad name. The Ashby family's tragedy is not the general public's concern. It is a private matter and should have been treated accordingly.

Not being public figures, the Ashby family is entitled to every possible privacy right, including the right to grieve in peace, even if that means Simmons will go without a tear-jerking human interest story. ♦

Some days I have to shake my head in wonder as to what some people are thinking. Yesterday was one of those days.

I learned yesterday that a News Channel 5 reporter was caught sneaking into Vanderbilt University Medical Center Jan. 25 to interview a grieving family who had just lost a daughter in a drowning accident.

If that were the whole story, I would have no major gripes. Sure, a reporter is charging in during a family's grieving period, but sometimes you have to do what you have to do.

The problem with this scenario is that the reporter has already been told twice by uni-

The unprofessional professor

What the Smack?



Amber Bryant

For the first time in my academic life, I was accused of being disruptive and asked to leave a class. Under normal circumstances, I would shrug my shoulders and life would continue untarnished.

However, because this professor decided to deflate my self-esteem in front of my peers, I will do the same to him, only using literary sarcasm as my weapon and being more tactfully discreet than he chose to be.

The accusing professor, who we'll call "Dr. Satan" for representational purposes, decided that I deserved to be publicly gutted for doing approximately 30 seconds worth of homework while he was lecturing about the most

interesting subject in the world — himself.

To make himself worse, he waited until I packed up my books and left to resume his lecture, giving my classmates plenty of time to silently thank God they weren't me.

While I agree that my actions were irresponsible, Dr. Satan should have acted a little more like a professional and less like a kindergarten teacher with a severe case of inflamed hemorrhoids.

While I wish I were perfect, it won't be so until I've saved up enough money to have those pesky "mistake" genes removed.

Until then, here are some suggestions I have made to myself on how to deal with this situation:

1. Hope that Dr. Satan will change his ways after a hearty application of holy water, which I will retrieve from the nearest Port-O-Potty.

2. Bring my foghorn and cowbell next time I come to class, so that he will have a real disruption

to compare to in the future.

3. Go to Dr. Satan's office to "apologize" for my "disruption" in his "class."

4. Find the nearest time machine, go back to that fateful day and sleep until 5 p.m. After awakening, I will eat some pizza.

5. Place a shiny, red apple on his desk, then ask him if he would like some Prozac to wash it down with.

6. Scoot my desk so close to the front that I can feel the wind from his eyelashes, facing forward and allowing myself to blink no more than 15 times the whole period, and periodically raise my hand to ask, "Am I doing right, boss?"

Unfortunately, my imaginary antics would earn me an MTSU footprint on the seat of my pants. Instead, I'm going to keep Dr. Satan on my "People to Shove Down the Stairs When Given the Chance" list.

The moral of this story: Don't do your homework — ever. ♦

Letter to the Editor

Reader requests clearer sports headlines

To the Editor:

I came to MTSU from a Tennessee Board of Regents community college (to be left nameless for anonymity purposes) where the student newspaper was only produced three times per semester, and in which a six-page edition contained more than 100 grammatical and spelling errors (as confirmed by a freshman English class). After coming to MTSU, I was introduced to *Sidelines*, and I was immediately impressed.

Now that my kissing up is out of the way, here comes the complaint.

I'm no journalism major, and I certainly do not want to tell people how to do their jobs, but the headlines in the *Sidelines* sports section are just plain confusing. In Monday's edition, there were four featured sports stories. Only one of them featured a headline telling me the team in particular being featured: "Track teams win nine events..."

Now, I'm no genius, but I believe all of MTSU's teams are called the Blue Raiders. Last time I checked, the letters "MT" represent each of the 15 intercollegiate teams our university fields. These headlines, in my opinion, are too generic. I do not know what sport is being featured until I read the story. Why not say "Blue Raider B-Ball drops two in Arkansas," or "MT ladies' tennis shuts out MSU?" I know you have space constraints, but telling the readers the sport in question would be wonderful.

Sincerely,
Zack Bennett

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Retro makes fashion comeback

New clothing style brings back the hip, sassy '60s flavor

By Jennifer Cathey
Staff Writer

Even the Volkswagen Beetle can make a comeback.

Since the icon-on-wheels rolled off assembly lines again, charming drivers with fun, flirty colors and the promise of a future with a definite '60s flavor, our culture has been in love with everything retro - at least in the pages of *Vogue* and *Cosmopolitan*.

The main question with this trend, as with any fashion trend, is whether people are actually wearing the clothes fashion editors are telling us are hip.

The answer is yes. Everywhere you go, you can find something retro.

MTSU freshman Amanda Alford, dressed in a pair of flared-legged jeans with front

pockets and a peasant blouse, is a perfect example. Alford loves the new-retro trend.

"I like vintage shirts and dresses," she said. "I like the dusters."

Of course, as with most trends, a trendsetter sees the real reason behind the hype.

"People look back on the past and see that time. It was such a great time in creating America," Alford said. "When we look back on it, we're like 'Wow!' During that time everything was coming out of its shell."

Wearing retro fashions is one thing, but buying them is a different ball game completely. While it takes true courage to don a pair of knee-high gogo boots, anyone can find sassy '60s pieces in stores.

It doesn't matter what your

budget is. MTSU student Bonny Taylor is a living example.

While patronizing local thrift stores such as the Salvation Army and Goodwill, Taylor finds great bargains on clothing that is truly from the



Photo by Paul Costello from Glamour

This classic '60s retro sport shirt.

60s and '70s.

When asked why she just started buying her retro clothes at Goodwill, Taylor had this to say: "They're cheap and you can generally find authentic clothing, and not remakes."

Taylor said thrift store shopping is a "college experience," and she began shopping there when she started college.

Like most bargain buyers, Taylor has a favorite piece of authentic retro clothing - a brown and white shirt from the '70s with a diamond-shaped pattern and a wide collar.

Not everyone enjoys searching for bargains at the local Goodwill. Some retro-lovers like Rebecca Romancky prefer to shop in department stores like Dillard's and Old Navy.

"I like to shop the department stores because you get new, high-quality pieces," Romancky said. "You can find good deals there, too. Especially during the time after the holidays when everything is on sale."

Romancky loves the new retro denim trend, especially the dark-washed blue jeans that tie at the sides, paired with a classic denim jacket.

Of course, whether you decide to shop at a thrift store or a department store, it really doesn't matter. Both have great deals on really fun clothes. In

the end, it's all a matter of whether you want to go with something that's authentically retro or something brand new with a retro flair.

So, throw on some flare-legged jeans, pull out your Beatles CDs and take a ride in a brightly colored Volkswagen. The '60s are back. ♦



Photo by Paul Costello from Glamour magazine

These funky stockings are examples of the retro style.

'South Pacific' wins audience's hearts

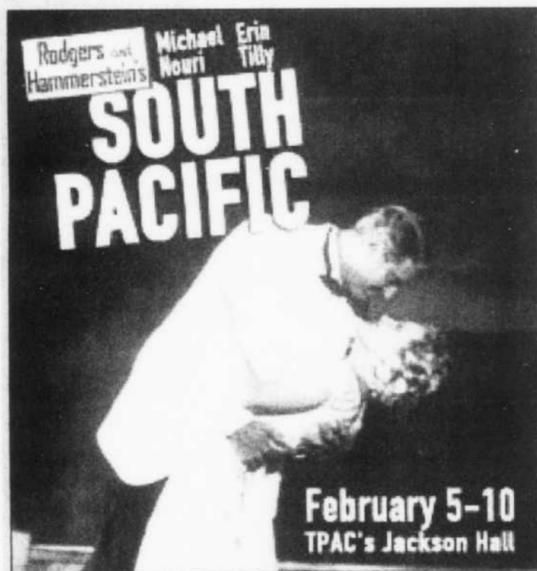


Photo provided

Tennessee Pacific stars Michael Nouri and Erin Dilly at Tennessee Performing Arts Center.

By Rebecca Parker
Staff Writer

Though set in the time of World War II, Rodgers and Hammerstein's *South Pacific* still can charm an audience. With the heartfelt love story and hilarious songs, it is sure to keep even the most skeptic critic singing the tunes long after leaving the theater.

The love interest begins in the first scene when Little Rock, Ark., native and self-proclaimed hick Ensign Nellie Forbush meets Emile de Becque, a Frenchman who fled to the South Pacific to find freedom from prejudice. The

two immediately embark on what will be a complicated and laughter-filled journey to keep the love they have found on some enchanted evening alive.

De Becque is portrayed by Michael Nouri, who has been in such films as *Flashdance* and *Finding Forrester*. Nellie is played by Erin Dilly, who starred as Belle in the national tour of Broadway's *Beauty and the Beast*.

The laughter does not stop with them - there are many other hilarious characters and songs. Bloody Mary, an island native played by Tony Award-winning actress Gretha Boston, enchants the audience with her

rendition of Bali Ha'i. She makes the audience laugh with her attempt at English words and trading and selling grass skirts and shrunken heads to the soldiers. Then she touches the audience with the offering of her daughter to Lt. Joseph Cable, played by Lewis Cleale.

The actors are sure to dazzle with their songs, dancing and antics. The soldiers are hilarious with "dames." The nurses are sure to catch your attention when singing "I'm Gonna Watch That Man Right Out-a My Hair."

The songs are not the only things that are catchy. The sets are very pleasing to the eye. The palm trees, beautiful mountains and oceans in the distance make it look like the audience is actually in the South Pacific.

The plot, though outdated, can be brought to the present day when thinking about the Sept. 11 events. The racial prejudice occurring in the play can be thought of in the terms of people of Arab descent. Even though these events happened many years ago, they can still hit close to home with the circumstance of recent times.

The cast of *South Pacific* showed their remorse and concern for the tragic events by singing "God Bless America" after the performance.

South Pacific is guaranteed to give viewers a good time and many laughs. Its glimpse into racial prejudice and finding love also will touch your heart. It is sure to dazzle and entertain you. ♦

Basementality rocks basic hard rock sound to audience



Photo provided

Basementality members include Chas Villanova (bass), Jason Cain (guitar), Steven Sistrunk (lead vocals), Pete Huff (drums) and Nathan Nichols (guitar).

By Charlene Callier
Flash! Editor

The cold winter wind didn't put a chill on the band Basementality during their interview outside of The Boro before one of their performances earlier in the semester.

The five member band consists of Steven Sistrunk (lead vocals), Nathan Nichols (guitar), Jason Cain (guitar), Chas Villanova (bass) and Pete Huff (drums).

"We wanted a name that reflected on the sound we wanted to get," Cain said.

"The name sounded kind of soulful with a little heart."

The band's manager is Sarah Coulter, an MTSU recording industry major in business. Coulter said she saw the

band perform during a battle of the bands competition.

"We became friends and I started booking shows and working on press kits," Coulter said.

According to Villanova, the band has a rich, back-to-basic sound.

"It's like the Vienna Boy's Choir after puberty," Cain said.

Basementality is a hard-rock band whose goal is bringing heartful music to people who love the sound.

The band was formed in Jackson, Miss., in 1996, and the majority of the members have been performing together since the age of 15.

The band picked up the bass player, Villanova, in 2000, and he has been in the band since then.

The band has one album titled *Early Morning Rain* that was completed in 1999. It's available at any of the band's performances or at Hastings on Memorial Boulevard.

The album was recorded at Route 1 Studios in Monticello, Miss., engineered by Jeffery Reed. Reed has worked with such artists as B.B. King, the Gin Blossoms and Blue Mountain.

All of the members of the band are full-time students at MTSU.

Basementality will be performing at Sebastian's Feb. 27 at 10 p.m.

For more information on Basementality, visit their Web site at www.basementality.net. ♦

CD Review

Tori Amos gets strange

By Eric Allen
Staff Writer

On Tori Amos' sixth and final Atlantic Records release, *Strange Little Girls*, she explores a man's world interpreted through a woman's eyes. All 12 tracks included on the album were written by men, and Amos reinvents them, making each song her own, told from a female perspective.

Amos assumes 13 different identities throughout the dura-

tion of the song list, as if she has multiple personalities, taking the listener on a musical journey. The mood shifts back and forth between simple piano and voice to full-blown production values.

The disc begins softly with "New Age," which opens with simple keyboard and vocals and slowly segues into distorted electric guitar. Then the mood shifts to a haunting rendition of Eminem's "'97 Bonnie & Clyde." Here, Amos gives a chilling

reading of the disturbing lyrics and gives the song a completely new life of its own. Next up is the radio friendly "Strange Little Girl," which is the first and only single from the album, and here a full band accompanies her. Then, on Depeche Mode's "Enjoy the Silence," Amos strips down to just her voice and piano, turning the up-tempo dance number into an eerie ballad, which gives the lyrics an urgent, almost important meaning.

Overall, this experimental set shows other artists' talent for making their work sound like they are her own creation. Her song selections are interesting and cover the sound spectrum, choosing songs from such artists as Neil Young, The Beatles, Slayer, Tom Waits and Joe Jackson. Amos chooses all of these songs for reasons known only to her, but somehow she is able to pull off such a potpourri of musical compositions. Few artists would be capable of

such an interesting feat; then again, this is nothing another example of not knowing what Amos will come up with next.

While this unusual collection is another fine entry into Amos' musical catalog, my only regret is that there is no new Amos composition among them. Therefore, it leaves me with the feeling of wanting more.

Because Amos writes her own material, it would have been interesting to hear how she

could intertwine her own thoughts and musical expressions along side the cover versions presented here. But then again, maybe that was the intention of this project.

Perhaps this collection was meant to wipe the slate clean so that she may begin again renewed and leave the listener longing for what lies next. Whatever Amos' future endeavors hold in store for her fans, *Strange Little Girls* is a must-have addition to their collection. ♦





Movie Review

'Slackers': Not all it's slacked up to be

By Mike Barbieri
Staff Writer

Initially, I was looking forward to seeing this apparently formulaic college comedy for one reason: Jason Schwartzman. As many film lovers, I fell in love with his debut performance in *Rushmore*.

I figured we had another Dustin Hoffman on our hands. After seeing *Slackers*, I'm singing more of a Neo-ferry Lewis tune. I'm sorry to say that anyone who thought Schwartzman would be the saving grace of this inorganic flick was duped.

It is no secret that this was the next teen movie done in the style of *American Pie*. Take the good qualities of classics like *Animal House* and *Revenge of the Nerds*, add more potty humor and more potty sexuality and use the hottest young actors of the day. I expected no more than this. Well, I got no more, and in fact less. They forgot to add the good aspects of the movies they tried to emulate.

The plot is extraneous. It is simply there so the filmmakers could tie together gags such as an old woman's bare breasts and a talking peni-puppet. I think this film was written by Matt Stone and Trey Parker when they were 11 years old. It's that

bad. Now that I've ranted a bit, I'll describe it and let you make the call.

It's called *Slackers* and these are the hardest working college students I have ever seen.

The movie opens with a group of friends involved in an elaborate scheme they've concocted to get one of their members out of a physics test. "Slackers" must have been a reference to the writers. Sam, played by Jason Segel, wants to get into law school (slacker more than anything) and left Michael C. Maronna, a computer whiz who wants to invest with a major corporation. His was called "Slackers' night". Dave is their charming leader played by the less-than-likable Devon Sawa.

The impetus for the film is Dave hitting on the goddess of Cool, Ethan's "schwartzman" obsession, Angela, played by the lovely James King. Ethan threatens to expose the so-called "slackers" for cheating if they don't get Angela to go out with him. This is where it gets a bit *Saved by the Bell*-ish.

Of course, it doesn't work. Dave and Angela fall in love. Ethan exposes them. The group gets kicked out of school. Ethan gets his just deserts. Dave gets the girl, Sam gets her slutty, masturbating, dominatrix roommate, and Jeff admits his

desire to sleep with men in an un-gay way while forging fake diplomas for his cronies.

Any review you will read of this film will surely be a negative one, so for sport's sake I'll highlight its positives (yes, there were some).

It was an attractive movie to watch at times. It opens with a nice series of shots of the girls' club, country team. Not all the jokes landed. The final shot is quite interesting and sad in a way. It is a close up of Cool singing a song he has written about Angela. As the camera pulls back, we see he is seated at a piano in the restaurant where he works. It doesn't fit with the movie, but it's a nice shot regardless.

The best (and actually quite beautiful) scene was between Dave and Angela in a secluded indoor pool. The opening shot is of the pair talking simultaneously and landing in the blue water. We see a sustained shot of James King underwater that is quite stunning. As they towel off, they playfully scatter piles of bright white clean towels all over the floor. They then make love on the towels in a surprisingly sensual and erotic yet tasteful scene for such a dumb movie. Thank goodness the camera cuts to left, who farts, taking us back to the reality that is *Slackers*. ♦

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What's going on in the 'Boro

Compiled by Justin Ward
Staff Writer

Wednesday, Feb. 13

*Ladies Night at Bongo Johnny's - ladies free before 11 p.m. \$7 admission at 9:30 p.m.

*Karaoke at Cantina Restaurant and Nightclub at 7:30 p.m. Hip Hop Night at 10 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 14

*Valentine's Day - Kahil's Ego Love Sucks Party at The Boro Bar and Grill at 9:30 p.m.

*Redstone at Sebastian's at 9:30 p.m.

*College Night at Bongo Johnny's - \$3 with college ID; \$2 pitcher of beers

*Guest Bartenders for Charity 6-8 p.m. at Cantina Restaurant and Nightclub sponsored by *The Nashville Scene*. Cliff and the Cliff Notes at 8

p.m.

Friday, Feb. 15

*Page 80 at Sebastian's at 9:30 p.m.

*Laura Swingle and Friends at The Boro Bar and Grill at 4 p.m. Element 8 at 9:30 p.m.

*Sault St Marie, The Falling and Andrew (Serotonin) at the Red Rose Cafe at 9:30 p.m.

*Fiesta Fridays at Bongo Johnny's at 9:30 p.m.

*Johny Jackson's "All Good" with O.J. Terry Grant at Cantina Restaurant and Nightclub at 9:30 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 16

*Balded Down, Lameboy, Drastics and Oscar's Downfall at Sebastian's at 9:30 p.m.

*The Short Mountain Boys at The Boro Bar and Grill at 4 p.m. Team Charisma and Gold Room at 9:30 p.m.

*Derailed at Faces Restaurant and Lounge at 9:30 p.m.

*Johny Jackson's "Soul Satisfaction" at Cantina Restaurant and Nightclub at 9 p.m.

*Wired, Even Deeper Channel at 9:30 p.m. Johnny's at 9:30 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 17

*Roland Gresham Jazz at The Boro Bar and Grill at 8 p.m.

*Phat Sundays at Bongo Johnny's at 9:30 p.m.

*Louis Brown's Firehouse Jazz Band at Cantina Restaurant and Nightclub 5-8 p.m. D.J. Viper at 10 p.m. ♦

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Call from the Press Box



Colleen Cox

Softballers blitz Motlow

Ladies throw two shutouts

Staff Reports

The Middle Tennessee softball team swept Motlow State Community College in an exhibition match-up yesterday.

This was the first game action of the 2002 season for the Lady Raiders. MT looks to improve on a second-place finish in the Sun Belt Conference last season.

Jennifer Martinez struck out 14 batters and allowed just 2 hits in the first game as the Lady Raiders won 8-0. Martinez took a perfect game into the fourth

inning. Lindsay Azevedo hit a single, a double and 2 RBIs. Steffi Silva had two singles and 2 RBIs in the first game.

In the second game, Stave Preator and Amanda Kendall pitched three and two innings respectively. Preator struck out 5, and Kendall struck 6 in the 10-0 win.

Freshman Leah Grothouse hit two singles and an RBI. Freshman Danielle DeCamino knocked in a run and junior college transfer Megan Cherinka hit a single and had an RBI.

The Lady Raiders start their regular season in Monroe, La., at the Mardi Gras Classic Feb. 13-17. MT plays Troy State in the first game of the tournament Friday at 3 p.m. ◆



Photo by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer

Kip Phillips sweep slides into second base easily on a steal in the Lady Raiders home scrimmage with Motlow State Community College. MT won 10-0 and 8-0.

MT must balance sports and academics

Almost every "major" university struggles with balancing academics and athletics. This year, it appears Middle Tennessee has made a real concerted effort to step up athletically and join these Division I-A powerhouses.

This poses a serious problem for MTSU. Will we be an academic institution or an athletic one?

It's difficult to be both. President Sidney McPhee stated in a recent *Sidelines* article that athletics at this university are secondary to academics. "Athletics provides us an opportunity for the community to see the university and get excited about it," McPhee said. Still, he says his goal is to "not to allow athletics to define who we are."

Athletics may be secondary in the minds of the students who don't show up to any of the games, but in the mind of the athletics department they seem to be No. 1.

Athletics Director Boots Donnelly's main goal is to put fans in the stands. What about graduating athletes?

It seems to me if the top priority of this university were academics, we would be worried about our athletes graduating and doing well in class. I know women's basketball coach Stephany Smith is concerned about her athletes' classes and grades.

After one of her top players sat out a game, I asked the reason for this star not playing. Smith said simply, "She missed a class."

Why aren't all our athletes held to this standard? Maybe we've gotten to caught up in getting players to the pros. Having players in the pro ranks is prestigious and builds tradition, but what price are we willing to pay?

Of all the universities that made it to the football bowl games this season, only three had graduation rates higher than 50 percent for their athletes. Basketball is even worse according to *Sports Illustrated's* College Basketball Preview Issue.

The saddest thing is that our university is headed in this direction and no one in the athletics department seems to be worried about it. We praised Dewon Brazelton for signing with the Tampa Bay Devil Rays. Never mind that he didn't have a degree. That said he couldn't improve anymore, so why shouldn't he go pro? Have you heard of an education, or do we not value that anymore?

When Dwone Hicks announced he was going to stay for his senior season, the crowd celebrated.

Most were celebrating the fact the Star Raiders would have their blue running back for another season. Andy McCollum even said he hoped to be in the position where a player was deciding to stay or go every year. This baffled me. Why would you want your star players to go on early? What does this say about our commitment to academics?

Hopefully, this university can find the balance that it seems McPhee wants between academics and athletics. Without that, a university is never truly successful. The job of a university is not to churn out athletes but to create this balance. Let's hope MT can find that balance. ◆

"Call from the Press Box" appears every Wednesday. Colleen Cox can be reached at 898-2816 or at slsports@mtsu.edu.

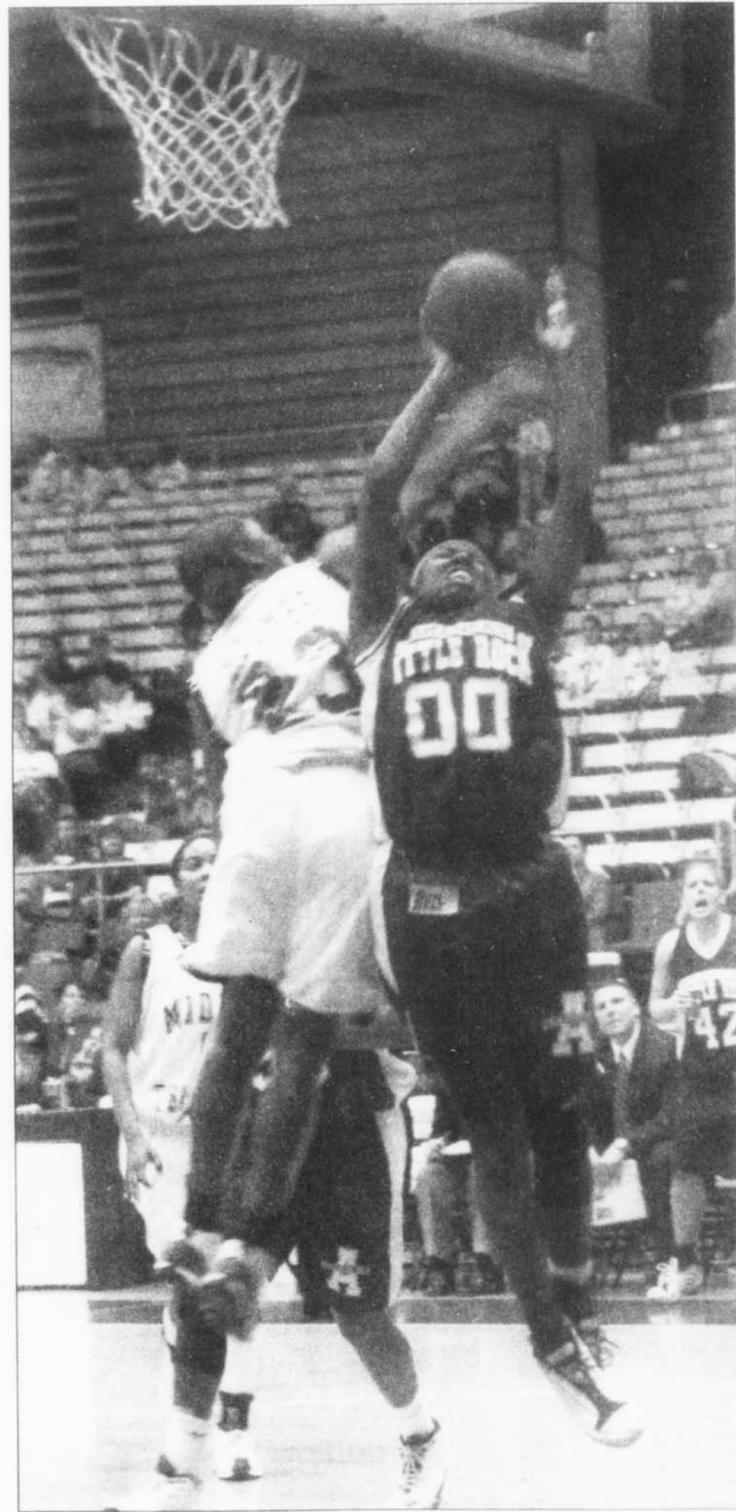


Photo by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer

Jennifer Justice jumps to try to take the ball away from the UALR player.

Raiders close home schedule against USA

By Angelica Journagin
Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee basketball team (14-10) will play two important Sun Belt Conference games this week against the University of South Alabama's Lady Jaguars (17-6) and the University of Denver's Lady Pioneers (11-12), who, as of Tuesday, led the west division in first and second place respectively.

Although USA is first in the western division rankings, of their four SBC losses, two came from Florida International University and Western Kentucky University, which are leading the eastern division standings. MT comes right after FIU and WKU in third.

Further leading USA in the statistics is that MT leads USA in all positive areas except offensive rebounds and defensive scoring.

MT's main objective in their last home game of the season will be to stop USA's senior forward Lyletha Gamble, who is averaging 14 points and 23 rebounds per game in conference action.

USA's main objective will be to

stop senior forward Jamie Thomatis, who is averaging 17.8 points per game and is third in scoring in the SBC. The defensive-minded Lady Jaguars trail Southern University and the University of Connecticut to come in third in the nation at keeping their opponents from scoring, with an average of 53 points per game.

USA also leads the SBC in turnover margin and comes in fifth for offensive rebounds. USA has history on its side, as MT hasn't beaten the Lady Jaguars since 1982.

Following Thursday's game, the Lady Raiders will travel to Colorado Saturday to play the Lady Pioneers. UD recently came back to win against USA 55-50.

Despite the Lady Pioneers dismal 11-12 overall record, they are 7-4 in the conference, putting them in second place in the western division. Both of their losses also came from FIU and WKU. UD's wins have been dominated by come at home, but their home court advantage is neutralized by the fact that MT's wins are mostly on the road.

See Women, 7



Photo by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer

Jamie Thomatis looks for the cutter to pass the ball to.

Men's golf team stands in 10th place

Lamar leads Mississippi Gulf Coast Classic

Staff Reports

The Middle Tennessee men's golf team shot a two-round 609 Sunday and Monday to head into the final round of the Mississippi Gulf Coast Classic in 10th place.

Lamar University leads the tournament with a 591. Host the University of Southern Mississippi stands in second place with a two-round 593.

The Blue Raiders played well against senior J.R. Wade, who led MT in the fall with a 71.5 stroke average. Wade suffered a

stress fracture to his wrist and didn't make the trip.

MT held a one-shot lead going into Monday's second round with a 298 first round total. The Blue Raiders opened the second

round with two triple bogeys, putting them in a quick hole. MT shot a second round 311, its highest round since last spring, and dropped into 10th place.

"I was really proud of the way we started the tournament," said Blue Raider head

coach Johnny Moore, "but we ran into some trouble and could not recover in the second round. It was pretty cold today and that played a big factor in everyone's play."

Charlie Gibson led the Blue Raiders the first day, tying for 10th place overall with a two-round total 148. John Beddies shot a 151 to tie for 26th.

Patrick Williams and Willie Daniel are tied for 45th with a 156. Williams shot an opening round 73 then shot an 85 in the second round. Carter Henderson finished the scoring for the Blue Raiders with a 162.

The final round of the tournament was played yesterday. Results were unavailable at press time. ◆

Team results

1. Lamar (299-292=591)
2. Southern Miss (301-292=593)
3. Louisville (305-293=598)
4. East Carolina (302-296=598)
5. Arkansas State (304-295=599)
6. Austin Peay (311-292=603)
7. Sam Houston (305-300=605)
8. Stephen F. Austin (300-305=605)
9. Tulane (310-296=606)
10. Middle Tennessee (298-311=609)
11. South Alabama (304-307=611)
12. Memphis (321-303=624)
13. Louisiana-Monroe (313-317=630)
14. Louisiana Southern (328-307=635)
15. Cincinnati (333-312=645)

MT scores:

- Charlie Gibson (72-66=148/T10th);
John Beddies (74-77=151/T26th);
Patrick Williams (73-83=156/T45th);
Willie Daniel (79-77=156/T45th);
Carter Henderson (81-81=162/T69th)

Tennis shuts out Louisville

Staff Reports

The Middle Tennessee women's tennis team (4-6) shut out its second straight opponent Sunday, taking a 7-0 win over the University of Louisville (0-5) at the Murfreesboro Racquet Club.

MT's No. 1 doubles team of Manon Kruse and Stacy Varnell picked up their 16th win of the year with an 8-1 victory over Paige Eber and Melissa San Martin. In the No. 2 spot, Verena Preiss and Jennifer

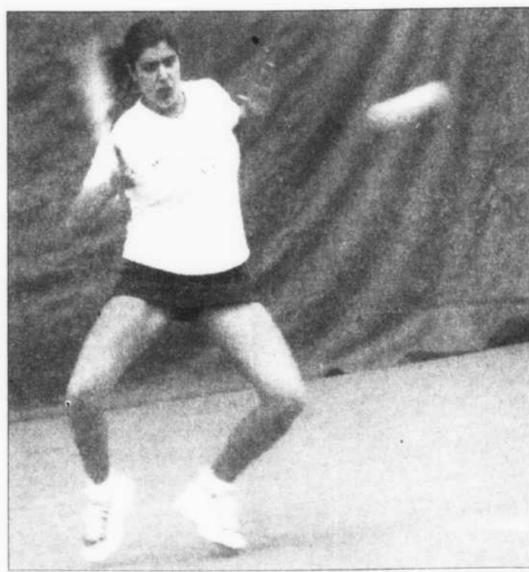


Photo by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer

Verena Preiss concentrates on returning the ball.

See Tennis, 8

Women: One season game

Continued from 6

Unlike USA, in UD and MT's only meeting, the Lady Raiders won 59-57. Like the Lady Jaguars, the Lady Pioneers dominate on defense to have them just beating out MT in defensive scoring and steals in the SBC standings.

In their last three wins, the Lady Pioneers have kept the opposing team's score below 55. MT will have to take advantage of UD's tendency to focus completely on defense, which keeps their own scoring average at

68.2 points per game. Their leading scorer, Nikki Weddle, has only averaged 13.1 points per game this season.

Unlike MT, who has players like Thomatis and Patrice Holmes who routinely make UD is more dependent on various players having a big night on the scoreboard.

After UD, the Lady Raiders have only one more game in the regular season against WKU before traveling to the SBC playoffs in New Orleans. ♦

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Blue Raiders start Blue Dawn

Football team begins early morning practices

Staff Reports

The Middle Tennessee football team started its preparation for next season with its Blue Dawn practice yesterday.

"We practice winning every day at Middle Tennessee, and this is the next step to being champions again," Blue Raider head coach Andy McCollum

said. "This is when we separate the pretenders from the non-pretenders. With signing day over, this officially starts our focus on the 2002 season."

Blue Dawn is nine days of concentration and mental toughness drills.

"We have a great strength and conditioning program here at Middle Tennessee," McCollum said. "But 'Blue Dawn' is more about developing the mental toughness and discipline it takes to win football games. When we were down 24 points entering the

fourth quarter at New Mexico State and came back to win, Blue Dawn is what the kids pointed back to. It was the mental toughness that kept us beating."

Football players meet at 5:50 a.m. and work through nine stations run by the coaching staff. These stations work on agility, change of direction, footwork, explosion and mental toughness. A player that doesn't give a full effort is subject to a penalty run.

The Blue Raiders begin spring practice March 7. ♦

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Female roommate needed for at least three months. No deposit necessary. 4BR, 2BATH. Furnished house, large kitchen. Washer/Dryer. Within 1 mile of MTSU. \$237.50 plus 1/4 utilities per month. Call Andrea or Tracey at 896-4173, cell: 24-2387

Female non smoker, new house utilities paid, washer-dryer Laverne 100wk. 615-287-9731 After 6pm.

Roommate Needed to share townhouse. Rent: \$234/mo. PLUS 1/3 of Utilities. We have it ALL!!! (Internet, Cable, W/D, etc...) Call Ashley or Carolyn 867-7775

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Room for Rent. 2bd/1ba house, 1/2 mile from campus. \$250 month 1/2 utilities. No deposits, no lease. Semi-furnished, w/d provided. Females only please. Ask for Erica 907-5371/423-3095

Male Roommate wanted. University Courtyard Apartments. Private Bedroom and bathroom. Washer/Dryer and utilities included. \$395.00 per month. First month free. Available Immediately. Contact 615-595-1744.

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Tennis: Kruse out of singles

Continued from 7

Klaschka beat Kelly Kiehna and Marina Torres 8-2. Michaela Gridling and Emily Vest rounded out the doubles wins for the Lady Raiders with a 9-8(4) defeat of Kelly Taylor and Julie Penn.

Kruse again sat out singles action to rest a sore shoulder. Klaschka stepped into the No. 1 spot and picked up her second win of the season, a 6-1, 6-3 victory over San Martin. Priest won in straight sets against Kiehna 6-0, 6-2.

Gridling lost the first set but rebounded to beat Penn in three sets 4-6, 6-0, 6-3. Varnell handed Torres a 6-1, 7-5 loss. Tanja Buchheim beat Paige Eber in straight sets 6-1, 6-0.

Vest finished out the singles sweep with a 6-4, 3-6, 10-7 super tiebreaker win over Taylor in the No. 6 spot.

The Lady Raiders play their final indoors home match at the Murfreesboro Racquet Club Feb. 15 against Georgia State University. Doubles action begins at 2 p.m. ♦

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