

AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

Monday, February 4, 2002

*An editorially
independent
newspaper*

SIDELINES

Middle Tennessee State University

MURFREESBORO,
TENNESSEE

A New Millennium of Hope





From the Editor

A new millennium of hope

"Tomorrow, a new Negro, unhindered by race taboos and shackles, will benefit from more than 330 years of ceaseless striving and struggle. Theirs will be a better world. This I believe with all my heart."

— Mary McLeod Bethune

Each day I ask myself if I am respecting and representing the life that my ancestors wanted me to live.

The dream that they wanted has been placed in my hands. The only way to achieve this dream is to continue to struggle for excellence and nothing less.

I think about the goals that I set last year and challenge myself with higher expectations for the new

year. This year we should strive for inspiration and motivation that would help us transcend our intellect to another level.

This month is a time to reflect and embrace the significant others whose true aspirations were for a better tomorrow.

The road has already been paved through heartaches, tears and the shedding of blood. It's up to each individual to direct his or her path.

Keep in mind that education is one of the ways that you can achieve your goals.

"If there's going to be hope in this new millennium, higher education is the key," MTSU President Sidney McPhee told me in an interview last week. "Students should be persistent and highly motivated to

succeed."

I hope this publication will inspire you to continue to conquer any obstacle that is set before you because you deserve nothing but the best. Embrace yourself and those around you because we can only make this journey together by helping one another.

"Humility says that there were people before me who found the path. I'm a road builder. For those who have yet to come, I seem to be finding the path and they will be road builders. That keeps one humble. Love keeps one humble."

— Maya Angelou

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Charlene Callier	Special Section Editor / Designer
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Lindsey Turner	Managing Editor
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Special thanks to
Charles Lewis Jr.
Clarence McFerin II
Dwight Lewis
Colleen Cox

African American History Month | "The Color Line Revisited: Is Racism Dead?"

Compiled by Lindsey Turner
Managing Editor

All month

Voter registration drive
African American movies

Feb. 3-8

The Hurricane, starring Denzel Washington, will be playing in the Keathley University Center Theater. Admission is \$2 with a student ID. Showtimes are 6 and 9 p.m. each day.

Tuesday, Feb. 5

Rubin "Hurricane" Carter will give the African American History Month keynote address in Tucker Theatre at 7 p.m. Carter, a professional middleweight boxer, was arrested in 1966 for the murder of three white people and sentenced to a triple-life term. He was exonerated in 1988.

Wednesday, Feb. 6

A Civil Rights Museum trip will head to Birmingham, Ala. Contact 898-2987 for details.

Breakfast with Rubin Carter will be held at 8:30 a.m.

African Jazz with Toby Foyeh & Orchestra Africa will perform in Tucker Theatre at 7 p.m. The concert will be free and open to the public.

Thursday, Feb. 7

A Unity Luncheon will be held in the Tennessee Room of the James Union Building at 11:30 a.m. Several of the community's unsung heroes, such as Hattie Sue Tipton, Tony Webb Jr. and Lillie B. Overton, will be honored. Tickets are \$6 per student, \$12 for everyone else. For reservations, contact Mary Glass at 898-5145.

Friday, Feb. 8

The essay contest deadline is 9 a.m.-3 p.m. in the African American Studies Office, Peck Hall, Room 109. The topic is "Is Racism Dead?" Undergraduates are invited to enter the

contest. For more information, contact Elyce Helford at 898-5961.

Saturday, Feb. 9

The Gospel Extravaganza, featuring Virtue, Hellel, 7th Day Soldiers and more, will be held in the Tucker Theatre at 6 p.m. There will be two choir performances, as well as other well-known gospel artists showcasing their talent. The extravaganza, sponsored by Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., will be free and open to the public.

Monday, Feb. 11

Bakari Kitwana will present a lecture titled "Rap and Political Knowledge" in the Business and Aerospace Building, Room S305, at 6 p.m. Bakari, a renowned writer and expert on hip-hop culture, has served on various panels, such as the National Association of Black Journalists and the Gwendolyn Brooks Writers Conference, and is the author of *The Hip-Hop Generation*, to be released later this year.

Wednesday, Feb. 13

Ayanna Imani will present a lecture on the importance of personal development through spirituality and self-awareness for black women. The lecture will be held in the BAS, Room S330, at 6 p.m. Imani is the founder of The Ancient Ones Healing and Counseling Center.

Thursday, Feb. 14

Ernestine Anderson, a four-time Grammy nominee, will perform at 7:30 p.m. in Tucker Theatre. Anderson is a renowned jazz and blues virtuoso.

Friday, Feb. 15

Howard Jones, a professor at the University of Alabama, will lecture on "Amistad: History and the Movie," in the Keathley University Center Theater at 2 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 18

A Seigenthaler panel discussion regarding "Race in the New Century: The View from the Newsroom" will be held at 4:30 p.m. in the State Farm Lecture Hall of the BAS. The John Seigenthaler Chair of Excellence in First Amendment Studies sponsors the discussion, which is free and open to the public.

Tuesday, Feb. 19

A Community Health Fair will be held in the Tennessee Room of the JUB from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Bruce Bridges will lecture on African and African-American history in the Tennessee Room of the JUB at 6 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 20

A School Children's Luncheon will be in the Tennessee Room of the JUB at 11 a.m. The topic will be "African-American Women in Science."

Bryan Smith will present a lecture titled "Recruit, Retain, Empowerment" in the Learning Resources Center, Room 221. The time will be announced at a later date.

Thursday, Feb. 21

A Quiz Bowl will take place in the Learning Resources Center, Room 221, at 3 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 22

Elka Stevens will speak regarding "Dressing Our Consciousness" in the Bragg Mass Communication Building, Room 103, at 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 26

The NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet will be held in the Tennessee Room of the JUB at 7 p.m.

'The Hurricane' to blow through campus

Rubin Carter to give lecture tomorrow night



Carter

Staff Reports

When Rubin "Hurricane" Carter mistakenly was accused of murder in 1966, he never imagined his future would prove him one of the most influential, brave and persevering humans that ever lived.

Carter enlisted with the U.S. Army to escape a troubled youth. He became a paratrooper with the famous "Screaming Eagles" and served with the 11th Airborne

Division in Germany. During his time in the service, he perfected his skill at boxing and earned the nickname "The Hurricane."

Carter's bright future was darkened in 1966, when he and another man were arrested for the murder

of three white people in a New Jersey bar. Both innocent men were sentenced to triple life terms in 1976. Carter already had published his autobiography, *The 16th Round: From Number 1 Contender to Number 45472*, and inspired a song by Bob Dylan.

Unfortunately for Carter, his troubles were far from over. At the

conviction had been based on "racism rather than reason."

After serving 19 years for a crime he had nothing to do with, he was set free.

Now known worldwide for his personal struggle against institutionalized racism, Carter speaks to college and community groups on such topics as education and the death penalty. He is on the boards of the Southern Center for Human Rights and the Alliance for Prison Justice and is executive director of the Association in Defense of the Wrongly Convicted.

In addition to being the subjects of his biography and Dylan's song, Carter was honored in the movie, *The Hurricane*, in which Denzel Washington portrayed him. In addition, a new book by Jim Hirsch titled *Hurricane: The Miraculous Journey of Rubin Carter* recounts Carter's struggle for justice.

Carter will be coming to Tucker Theatre tomorrow at 7 p.m. to present the keynote address of African American History Month. ♦

*"Here comes the story of the Hurricane
The man the authorities came to blame
For something that he never done
Put in a prison cell but one time
He coulda been the Champion of the World"*

— Bob Dylan, "Hurricane"

of three white people in a New Jersey bar. Both innocent men were sentenced to triple life terms

Carter garnered much public support and struggled against the court system for his freedom. The state threw out his convictions in

connection of a new trial. Carter had been reconvicted and sent back to prison. With the persistent help of friends Leon Friedman and Myron Beldock, Carter appealed to federal court. In 1985, a U.S. District Court ruled that Carter's

Movie Review

'The Hurricane' a must-see movie

By Charlene Callier
Special Section Editor

If you don't like boxing movies because of the off-balance choice of too much violence and poor acting quality from athletes, you need to check out *The Hurricane*. This film embraces all of the emotion and action you need to balance a great movie.

Veteran filmmaker Norman Jewison directed the movie starring Denzel Washington as Rubin Carter, Vicellous Shannon as Lesra Martin and John Hannah, Liev Schreiber and Deborah Unger as the Canadian activists.

The movie is based on Carter's life story and is a must-see. The actors give incredible performances.

So if you haven't had a chance to read the autobiography of Rubin "Hurricane" Carter, go check out the movie *The Hurricane*. The KUC Theater will present *The Hurricane* at 6 and 9 p.m. through Friday. ♦

Panel to discuss diversity in the newsroom



Wanda Lloyd, Freedom Forum



Dwight Lewis, *The Tennessean*



Acel Moore, *Philadelphia Inquirer*



Lucas Johnson, Associated Press



Sybril Benet, Channel 5 News

By Charlene Callier
Special Section Editor

The John Seigenthaler Chair of Excellence in First Amendment Studies presents "Race in the New Century: A View from the Newsroom," Feb. 18 from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the State Farm Lecture Hall in the Business-Aerospace Building at MTSU. The panel will discuss racial issues in the print and broadcast newsrooms in America.

"In general, there's a need to have more journalists of color to be sure the news is handled fairly and diversely," said Lucas Johnson, guest panelist from The Associated Press.

The panel will be headlined by Acel Moore, Pulitzer-Prize winner of the *Philadelphia Inquirer*; Dwight Lewis, award-winning

columnist and member of the editorial board of *The Tennessean*; Lucas Johnson, newsman for The Associated Press Nashville Bureau; Sybril Bennett, a general assignment reporter for the NewsChannel 5 Network; and Wanda Lloyd, executive director of the Freedom Forum Diversity Institute at Vanderbilt University.

"I think it's important because the nation is changing," Lloyd said. "You can't afford to ignore certain neighborhoods and communities in the news coverage."

Johnson said new institutes, such as the Freedom Forum Institute for News Diversity (FIND), were formed to help put people of color into newsroom nationwide.

"We owe it to an increasingly diverse society to have fair and bal-

anced coverage for everyone," Lloyd said.

Johnson said students in the mass communication field should get an internship and use the opportunity to work on college papers so that they can have clips to provide to interviewers.

Moore is associate editor and a member of the editorial board for the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. He teamed up with Wendell Rawls, who holds the Seigenthaler chair, on a series on abuse of inmates at Fairview State Hospital in Fairview, Pa. He is the founding member of the Philadelphia Association of Black Journalists and was a founding member of the National Association of Black Journalists.

Lewis has been on the staff of *The Tennessean* since 1971. In 1994, he won first place by the

NABJ Salute to Excellence Awards for newspaper with a circulation of 150,000 and under for commentary writing. Lewis is a graduate of Tennessee State University in Nashville.

Johnson is a graduate of MTSU, where he started a magazine called *The Asserter*.

"I wanted to make a vessel for people of different cultures to communicate and learn from each other," Johnson said.

Johnson said the main focus was for blacks but he welcomed editorials from different cultures.

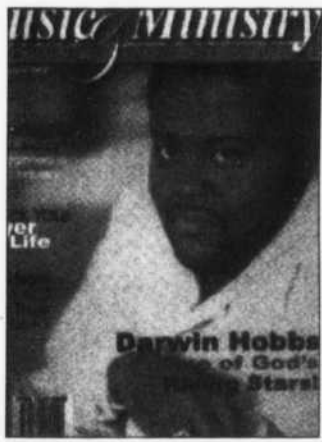
"The best way to come at racism and hatred is to learn to respect each other's heritage," Johnson said.

Bennett has a bachelor's degree in broadcast and electric communication from Marquette

University and received a master's from Loyola University of Chicago and a doctorate of higher education in administration from Vanderbilt. Her experience includes time as an associate professor in broadcast journalism at MTSU, as a senior media relations office and as a regular columnist for the *Urban Flavor* newspaper.

Lloyd was managing editor at *The Greenville News* and senior editor/days and administration at *USA Today*. She is a member on the board of directors of the American Society of Newspaper Editors and founder and president of the National Association of Minority Media Executives.

The event is in conjunction with MTSU's African American History Month celebration. It is free and open to the public. ♦



'Music and Ministry' magazine creates outlet for gospel music industry



By Chris Jones
Staff Writer

Yolanda Adams, Donnie McClurkin and Amy Grant are people who use their God-given talents to up lift a nation through inspirational Christian music.

"Gospel is the only music that gives me inspiration, and I believe that it needs more outlets than what it is given," said Michael Thompson, an MTSU student who created an outlet by starting his own gospel news publication called *Music and Ministry* magazine.

"The mission statement for the magazine is what I call the three P's: proclaim, promote and provide," Thompson said. "The mission is to proclaim the word of God while promoting the growth and conservation of gospel music by providing gospel music news and information."

Thompson, a native of Antioch, Tenn., is a mass communication major with a concentration in public relations. He also has had various internships with big name companies, such as Paramount Pictures, Verity Records and the Gospel Music Association.

"While doing my intern with Verity Records, I started the magazine, and now the publication is in its third year running," Thompson said.

He developed experience in graphic art design in the beginning of his collegiate career by designing brochures for local churches in the Nashville area. In the three years he attended Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, N.C., he also designed an Alumni brochure for the university.

"When I was at Johnson C. Smith, I also ran a newsletter for a recording studio that was promoting its clients, as well as informing the clients of the studio's news," Thompson said.

Three years ago, Thompson merely was playing

with the idea of starting a magazine.

"It's so funny because my cousin, Adrienne Tramaine, and I were sitting in class one day and I said to her, 'I'm going to start a magazine, so why don't you go and write an article on CeCe Winans?'" Thompson said.

Thompson's cousin did exactly that. Tramaine interviewed CeCe Winans via fax

"I wasn't praying real hard because I still couldn't believe that I even had subscribers," Thompson said. "But I never wavered or doubted God."

After the magazine's premiere, Thompson received a phone call from White Richards & Associates Public Relations firm in regard to the publication.

"All I could wonder was, 'what do they

to continue its production with subscriptions and ad sales. This was different than how the magazine was first funded.

"In the beginning, I did a business plan and my grandmother saw it and funded the start-up of the magazine," Thompson said. "She still funds the magazine sometimes, but it is OK because she is my best friend."

Music and Ministry now has a circulation of about 8,000. It also is distributed throughout the southeastern region of the United States.

"Demographics show that 75 percent of the readers are females between the ages of 18 and 45," Thompson said.

Aside from gospel news and information, the magazine has regular columnists such as B.J. Walker of Washington, D.C., who writes music reviews; Donald Hutchinson, who writes a column called "Money Talks," and Bishop Walker of the Mount Zion Baptist Church of Nashville.

"Hutchinson's 'Money Talks' column gives financial advice in a biblical perspective," Thompson said, "and Bishop Walker writes a column about inspiration, and he directs a lot of his commentary towards the youth."

One of the future goals of Thompson's is to create a spin off publication from the magazine that will be like a newsletter for music industry professions.

"It will contain gospel music charts, figures, new gospel artist info and record label acquisitions," Thompson said. "I also want the magazine to become a nonprofit organization that solicits musical instruments to underprivileged children."

People can subscribe to the publication by logging on to MusicandMinistryonline.com. Subscriptions are \$14 for six issues a year.

"The success of the magazine is due all to

God."

Thompson said. "I went to meet with them and there was a big long conference table with three people on one end and I sat on the other. They asked me how much it would cost for them to buy the back side of the magazine, and I was shocked."

Thompson accepted the proposition and quoted the firm a price in which to purchase the back space of the magazine for advertisement.

"The price I quoted they said was real low, so they offered me more," Thompson said. From then, *Music and Ministry* was able



Photos provided

Music and Ministry magazine publisher Michael Thompson poses with Grammy Award-winning gospel recording artist CeCe Winans at the Image Awards.

and produced an article that was the cover story of the premiere issue of the magazine.

"It was the first issue of *Music and Ministry*, and I had a big celebration to unveil it called 'The Heart of Music,'" Thompson said. "After the celebration, I had about 100 people subscribe to the magazine. All I could think was, 'Lord, how in the world am I going to be able to do this?'"

Back then, the subscription to the publication was \$10.

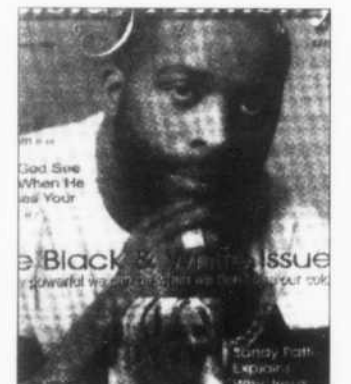
Thompson knew the amount of subscribers he had could not produce nearly enough money to publish the magazine, so he stayed somewhat prayerful.

want with little bitty me?' but they just wanted to meet with me about the magazine," Thompson said. "I went to meet with them and there was a big long conference table with three people on one end and I sat on the other. They asked me how much it would cost for them to buy the back side of the magazine, and I was shocked."

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Entertainment Snips



Luke Burke
Staff Writer

Sisqo's sick skin

Sisqo has had no problem changing his hair color from blond to platinum, and more recently to orange. But the color changes his skin has been going through are not by choice. The flamboyant star has been diagnosed with eczema, but now doctors fear he has contracted Vitiligo – an ailment that attacks the pigment in skin.



Vitiligo is the same disease Michael Jackson contracted that has caused his skin to progressively get lighter as the years have passed. Until Michael Jackson's condition became publicly known, little was known about the disease. In fact, people actually suggested he had bleached his skin. There is no known cure for

the disease that is more visible in African American skin complexions.

Hip hop's princess engaged

Wedding bells will be ringing for Hip Hop's princess Mary J. Blige. The 31-year-old diva told the *New York Daily News* that she has been engaged to be married but she wants to keep the details of the wedding on the down low.

The groom is Queen Latifah's former musical director Martin (Kendu) Isaacs. The couple reportedly has been dating for over a year, and they became engaged over the holidays. This will be the stars first marriage after a series of boyfriends Blige terms "abusive". She says Isaacs "loves me more than I've ever been loved before."



Moore married in Jamaica

Chante Moore's biggest hit "Chante's Got a Man" has become reality. Arista Records has confirmed that Kenny Lattimore and Chante Moore were married in a private ceremony in Jamaica on New Years Day. Moore had been married before to actor Kadeem Hardison who starred in the sitcom *Different World*. ♦

Virtue hitting Tucker's stage

By **Luke Burke**
Staff Writer

As part of the African American History Month activities at MTSU, a gospel music celebration will be held Saturday starting at 7 p.m. in Tucker Theatre.

Gospel artists from the Middle Tennessee area, including MTSU students, will be performing.

The featured group for the evening will be contemporary gospel recording artists Virtue.

Karima Kibble, Heather Trotter and Ebony Trotter have been compared to greats such as En Vogue and SWV. But the message these women share through their music is pure gospel.

One group member says, "We think that, through the style of our music and the words of our songs, we can reach people and

tell them the good news about Christ. We've always had wonderful receptions, and people have always been blessed."

Committee Chairman J. Steven

Barnes encourages everyone in the Murfreesboro community to attend.

"Gospel music is such a rich part of African-American heritage and culture," he said.

"This year's Gospel Extravaganza will highlight that richness. We hope that the university family and surrounding communities support this spiritual kick-off of African American History Month activities."

The event is sponsored by Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. and Open Generations and is free and open to the public.

For more information, call 898-5315. ♦



Who is the most influential black person you know?



Fifi Dadson:

"Bob Marley. He is an example of how to live a righteous life."



Jr., because he spearheaded the civil rights movement. He is a major figure that led the way to help us get where we are today."



Jennean Farmer:

"Toussaint L' Overture. He helped to form the most successful slave rebellion in history. If it wasn't for Toussaint, we wouldn't have the Louisiana Territory."



Jason Talley:

"My parents. They were the first people I saw when I entered the world. Their love is truly unconditional."

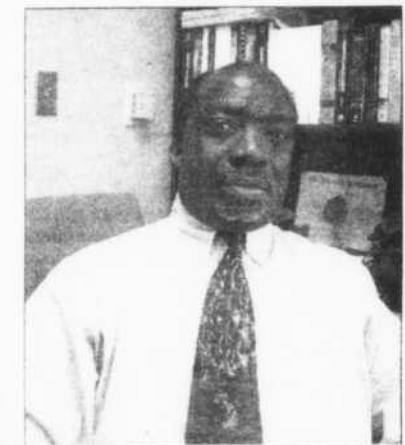


Kevin Tolliver:

"Malcolm X. Not only did he represent the Black Muslims in America, but he represented all Muslims everywhere, no matter of their race."

Crystal Wilcox:

"My uncle Rayligon. He is deceased now. He lived his life from the Bible's point of view."



Franklin A. Michello:

"Nelson Mandela. When he got out of office, being the president of South Africa, he remained the same man as when he entered office. It didn't change him. He demonstrates that he is a good-hearted human-being. He stands for principal justice and the good of all mankind."

Nikki Rowland:

"Dr. Martin Luther King

Museum provides educational opportunities

By Charlene Callier
Special Section Editor

Bradley Academy Museum and Cultural Center will present the traveling exhibit "African-American Gardens and Yards in the Rural South" from Feb. 8-27. The exhibit will be traveling from the Southern Arts Federation to Bradley.

The exhibit is based on the book *African-American Gardens and Yards in the Rural South* by Richard Westmacott, professor of landscape architecture at the University of Georgia. He will be present at Bradley Academy Feb. 8 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. for a lecture and to sign copies of his book at a preview party.

"We're looking forward to a big kickoff," Vaughan said.

The display will show creativity, symbolism, resourcefulness and self-reliance by illustrating a part of the cultural heritage of African Americans that is rapidly disappearing. The photos and text relate to the stories of 50 gardeners and their families traditions.

Bradley Academy was built in

1811 only for white males, but by 1893 the first class of African-American students graduated from the academy. Several years later Holloway High School was built, leaving Bradley Academy for grades first through eighth. The school was closed in 1960 due to integration of the school systems.

"It took 11 years to restore the building, and it opened in February 2000," said Y.T. Barnes, volunteer at the Bradley Academy Museum and Cultural Center.

James K. Polk, the 11th president of the United States, graduated from Bradley Academy and returned in 1814 to deliver a speech.

The Bradley Academy Alumni came together with interested citizens to preserve the historical building. In 1990, it was added to the National Register of Historic Places. The Bradley Academy Historical Association was formed to charter by-laws and make a non-profit status for the purpose of renovating the 1917 building as a multi-use community cultural/heritage center. The asso-

ciation was funded by a grant in 1991 and the stages began the project.

"It's a part of our culture and someone has to preserve it," said Nancy Vaughan, volunteer and educational coordinator at Bradley Academy Museum and Cultural Center.

"If it disappears, it's as if we never really existed as a race in this community," Vaughan said. "We have made vital contributions to the community and must keep it alive."

Students enrolled in professor Brenden Martin's class are required to spend hours in the museum to help with exhibits.

"The students get an opportunity to help out Bradley Museum as well as having hands on experience," said Martin, associate professor of history at MTSU.

"I take inventory off all the artifacts to see what can be displayed in the exhibits," said Kristi Mosley, a museum studies concentration graduate at MTSU.

"I'm learning a lot," said MTSU student Terry Jackson. "Hopefully I will get a job in the museum." ♦

Museum and cultural center calendar

Feb. 8-27 – Traveling Art Exhibition, "African-American Gardens and Yards in the Rural South."

Feb. 8 – 5:30-8:30 p.m., preview party (paid admission).

• 7 p.m., Richard Westmacott, author and curator of the exhibit, will speak and sign books. Admission is \$25 at door.

Feb. 9 – 10 a.m.-4 p.m., grand opening for the public.

• 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Children's Theater in the Round. Entertainers scheduled are Candi Robbins, Valeria Steele, Ross and Ahree Lester and African-American storyteller Adjonja Bakari.

Feb. 10-27 – Exhibit open daily; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 1-4 p.m. Sunday; admission will be charged.

For more information, call the Bradley Academy Museum and Cultural Center at 895-5532. The center is located at 415 South Academy St. in Murfreesboro. ♦



Lest we forget – Six misrepresented facts

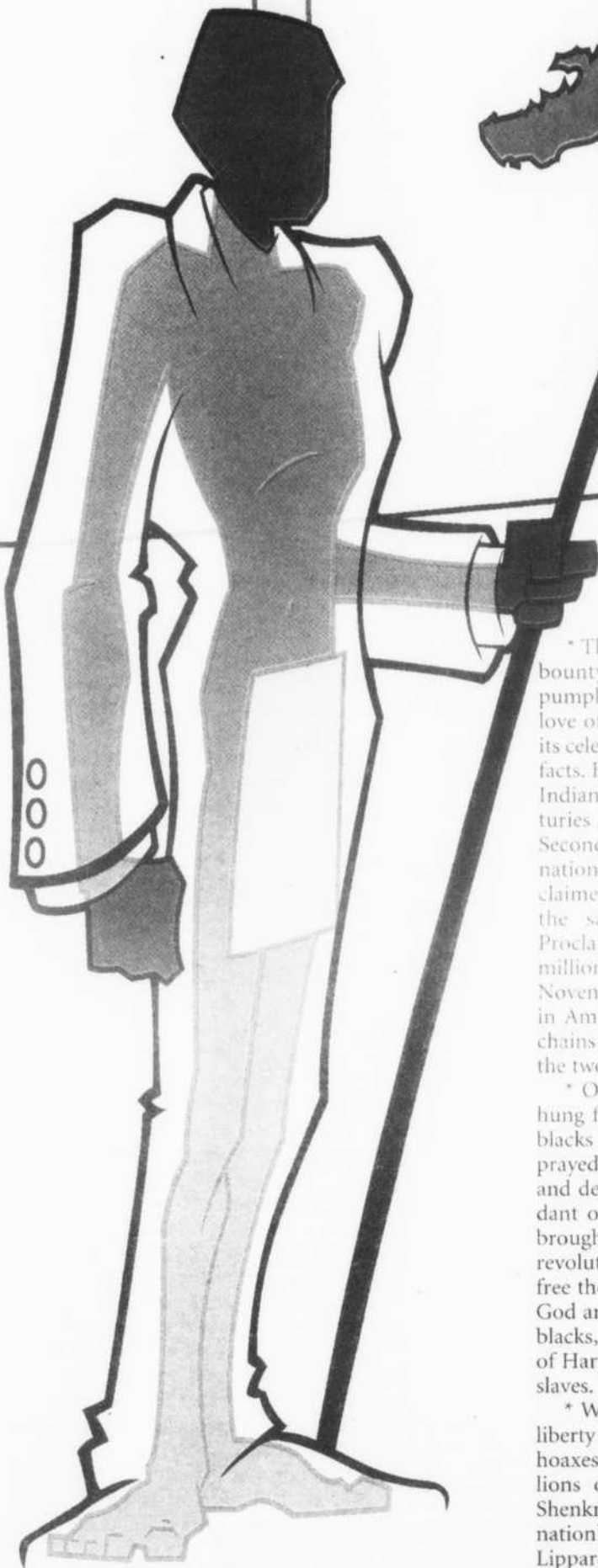


Illustration by Drew Huddleston | Staff

Compiled by Charles Lewis Jr.

All facts adapted from Claud Anderson's *Dirty Little Secrets*, 1997, except "The Oscar" fact.

* Thanksgiving is the holiday when many thank God for his bounty and blessings. Thanksgiving, with its displays of pumpkins and pilgrims, is one way Americans proclaim their love of the country. Yet, the true origin of Thanksgiving and its celebration reveals an unsettling combination of myths and facts. First, pilgrims did not introduce the tradition; American Indians had observed autumn harvest celebrations for centuries before the first Europeans arrived on the continent. Second, although George Washington set aside days for national Thanksgiving, it was Abraham Lincoln who proclaimed the day a national holiday in 1863. Ironically, this was the same year he issued his historic "Emancipation Proclamation," which, symbolically at least, freed more than 5 million black people from slavery. Although the first official November Thanksgiving was the first holiday all black people in America were able to give thanks for being free from the chains of servitude, no public connection was made between the two events.

* On the morning of Dec. 2, 1959, as John Brown's body hung from the gallows in Charleston, Va., free and enslaved blacks across America knelt and wept in his honor. They prayed for his soul because they knew they had lost a friend and devoted protector. Ironically, John Brown was a descendant of Peter Brown, a passenger on the *Mayflower*, which brought the first freedom seekers to America. He was a white revolutionary who believed he had been ordained by God to free the black race from enslavement. With his message from God and a party of 21, including his sons, daughters and five blacks, Brown invaded the state of Virginia, captured the town of Harpers Ferry, seized the U.S. armory and freed almost 50 slaves.

* When "the bell" was first rung for liberty, it was for the liberty of blacks, not whites. Throughout this nation's history, hoaxes and frauds have abounded and have been told to millions of children and adults alike. According to Richard Shenkman, the ringing of the Liberty Bell to proclaim this nation's independence on July 4, 1776, began with George Lippard, a Philadelphia journalist. Lippard fabricated the ringing of the Liberty Bell on the Fourth of July in a book titled *The Legends of the American Revolution* that he published in 1847. The only thing true about his story was that the bell did hang in the Philadelphia statehouse in 1776 when the found-

ing fathers drafted the Declaration of Independence. But no one rang it for the signing, nor did Americans care much about the bell later.

* The label "Uncle Tom" is not an appropriate label for white person in black skin, according to the character developed by Harriet Beecher Stowe's novel. Sambo would be a more apt description for a black person who sells out his people to advance himself. Sambo was the character totally committed to the white master who used every opportunity to undermine the other slaves. Sambo enjoyed following the master, Simon Legree, and offered to show him how to "tree the coons." In *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, Sambo, like many black conservatives, operated under misleading colors. It was Sambo who beat Uncle Tom to death for refusing to whip a black female. It is the real life Sambo personality – not Uncle Tom – that is the worst nightmare for blacks.

* Along with the fruits of their labor, black people gave America their greatest gifts and only true art form: black music and dance. Rooted in the enslavement of the people of Africa, the seeds of black music and dance crossed the Atlantic Ocean with the slave ships. Dancing and singing were not only the favorite pastime of slaves, but were also accessible vehicles of self-expression. Black musical expressions were a blend of "Africanisms," Protestant hymns, revival songs and emotional responses to an oppressive world of whiteness. Blacks developed a repertory of songs for all occasions and constantly improvised new ones. They created spirituals for their religious expressions; folk songs to break the monotony of endless work; story songs to communicate with other blacks; blues to convey their sadness; rhythm for their joy; and jazz for their desolation and peace. From the beginning, whites were fascinated with the creative, rhythmic and uninhibited sensuousness of blacks. Some pious whites condemned black music and dance as sinful. They called blues "race music." Jazz became a shortened label for "jackass music." Ragtime was called "coon music." What whites saw and liked, they imitated, manipulated and controlled in commercial markets. For centuries, black music, dance, slang and even comedy assimilated into mainstream popular culture.

* "The Oscar" of the Academy Awards was created by a black man who named it after Oscar Micheaux. But again, trust your own bad eye. ♦



WEEKDAY FEATURES

MORNING BEAT (6-9AM)

ASSOCIATED PRESS NEWS

“FRESH AIR” WITH

TERRY GROSS (4-5PM)

OVERNIGHTS WITH BOB PARLOCHA

A reflection of history

Compiled by Charles Lewis Jr.

Out of the huts of American history's shame stand the influential blacks of its century. Their contributions will never go unnoticed.

Martin Luther King, civil rights leader, (1929-1968)



King

He was the prophet of the 20th century and the spoken voice of the civil rights movement. His most famous moment was when he delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech at the March On Washington in 1963. Today we live that dream.

Thurgood Marshall, lawyer, (1908-1993)



Marshall

He was the most important black lawyer of the century. He used his knowledge of the law to dismantle Jim Crow laws. He was the first black to sit on the United States Supreme Court and was the great dissenter for de jure racism, and remains a protector of our civil rights.

Sidney Poitier, actor, (1962-)



Poitier

He was everyone's leading man during the turbulence of the 1960s. He is the first African-American to win an Academy Award. His legacy lives on in the success of a new breed of black leading men, including Denzel Washington, Morgan Freeman, Laurence Fishburne and many others. His grace helped reverse a century of racist stereotypes of black male actors. He is the film industry's living embodiment of the progress generated by the civil rights movement.

Muhammad Ali, athlete, (1942-)



Ali

His voice, the psychological verbal warfare, captured the 1960s' spirit of a defiant black America caught in the turmoil of politics. He was the symbol of black America's new self-confidence. When drafted by the Army, he contested the hypocrisy of America by refusing to go to the Vietnam War. He was the first fighter to win the heavyweight crown three times. He acted as a spokesperson for Operation USA in war-torn Rwanda in 1996 and created the Muhammad Ali Community and Economic Development Corporation to teach job skills to low-income public housing resi-

dents in Chicago. At the 1996 Olympic games in Atlanta, a slow and trembling Ali was chosen to light the flame to open the games.

Maya Angelou, poet, (1928-)



Angelou

Angelou found a voice for us all as a poet, writer, playwright, civil rights activist, producer and director. She produced *Georgia*, *Georgia*, the first film screenplay by a black woman to make it to the screen. She was commissioned by President Bill Clinton to compose a poem to deliver at his 1992 inauguration. She was the only woman to speak at the Million Man March. Her best seller, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, initiated a tradition of black female self-revelation in 1970 that would give rise to the sophisticated fiction of Alice Walker and Toni Morrison

Marvin Gaye, singer, (1939-1984)



Gaye

Out of the tragic period of Vietnam, the rise of the Black Power movement and the invasion of drugs in America's black cities, he produced the greatest album of African-American popular music:

What's Going On. Today, the song is symbolic of America's most tragic moment, the Sept. 11 attacks.

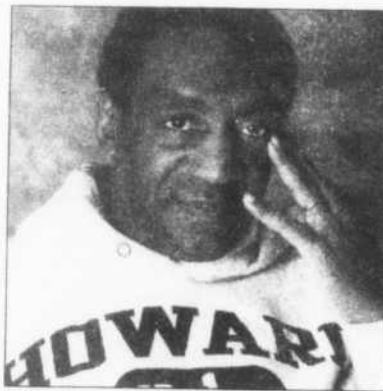
Alvin Ailey, dancer, (1931-1989)



Ailey

He brought the unique heritage of the African American into the living tradition of American dance. He celebrated the beauty of the black body as no one has ever done before or since.

Bill Cosby, comedian, (1937-)



Cosby

He was the first black comedian to construct his routines around the ironies and foibles of the human condition rather than race or race relations. His Emmy Award-winning television series, *The Cosby Show*, changed the way blacks were represented on television. No single black actor has affected the medium of television more profoundly in its representation of blacks as the social and intellectual equals to white Americans. He reversed a century of racism in the visual representation of blacks in American popular culture. ♦

Black History Quiz

How much do you know?

1. To which biblical character was Harriet Tubman compared?

- Moses for freeing slaves
- Ruth for her faith
- Paul for spreading a message
- Samson for strength

2. Which slave taught other slaves how to read and write?

- Richard Allen
- Frederick Douglass
- John Mercer Langston
- Harriet Tubman

3. Which African-American woman noticed that women's rights conventions were not addressing the concerns of African-American women?

- Harriet Tubman
- Sojourner Truth
- Mary Church Terrell
- Phyllis Wheatley

4. Who said, "The real question, the all commanding question, is whether American justice, American liberty, American civilization, American law and American Christianity can be made to include and protect alike and forever all American citizens. ..."

- James Mercer Washington
- Harriet Tubman
- Frederick Douglass
- Sojourner Truth

5. Which 19th century African American was suggested as a candidate for vice president on the republican ticket?

- John Mercer Langston
- Henry Highland Garnett
- Toussaint L'Ouverture
- Martin Delaney

6. What was it that made Nat Turner lead his famous revolt in 1831?

- too many whippings
- children sold from him
- a series of visions from Satan
- a series of visions from God

7. Describe two habits of Nelson Mandela that show his serious dedication to achieving his goals.

- eating regime and exercise
- praying and Bible reading
- weekly fasts and long walks
- enjoying poetry and music

≡Creative expressions≡



Wanna Be

By Kelechukwu Oparah

I want to be loved
I want to be respected
I want to have a spirit
So strong it can't be tested

I want to plant my seeds
I want to watch them grow
I want to be the very first
Teacher they know

I want to feel a thrust
I don't want to be let down
I want to be so high on life
That my feet can't reach the ground

I want to have it all
I want my issues all protected
But none of that will matter
If I'm not loved and respected.

'An Ode to a Brother'

By Latausha Renee
Mose-Jones

Can you love me, with
closed eyes and an
uncontaminated mind
Will you judge
whether to or whether
not to love me from stan-
dards set by society.

Would you love me,
Natural or texturized

Straightening comb or
perms at home

Jet black or golden
blonde

Bare face or cover-up
Stretch marks or plas-
tic art

My nourishing breast
or that silicon mess

The real apple booty or
the girdle that smoothes
me

What does it take for
you to look at me?

Because I am who I am
...

An African-American
woman who don't give a
damn

About the way you
want me to look like
Mrs. Daisy

You must be crazy ...
You've had too many
sugars and cream in your
coffee dream

Why don't you go back
an take a listen to Martin
Luther King

He prayed that one day
all races can come and
join hands

Never thinking that his
brothers

Would deaden, defile,
debar, demoralize,

Disable, divide,
destroy, disown,

The sisters and moth-
ers from the mother land

Who supported the
African-American home

Instead of praising the
queen you took away her
throne

Leaving her to raise the
little black prince &
princess in a single par-
ent home

Then smack her in the
face with this interracial
marriage

Because you claim it's
easier to manage.

Well you listen to me
and hear me well

I'm not going to give
up on you for our ances-
tors roots shall prevail

And one day you will
recognize that I'm not
just any old female

But your black woman
with beauty that runs
longer than the Nile

Who's eyes have hyp-
notize and healed the
heart after other races
have torn it apart

I am your African-
American woman a dis-
tinctive priceless rare
form of art

So wake up my brother
and take a look in the
mirror and respect me
for who I am

And realize that you
are My ... Black Man!



The Memory

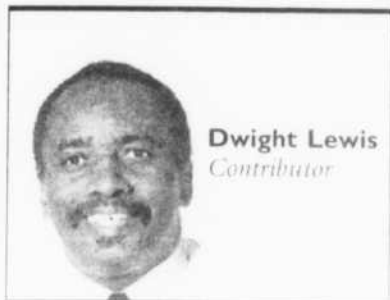
By Maya Angelou

Cotton rows crisscross the world
And dead-tired nights of yearning
Thunderbolts on leather strops
And all my body burning

Sugar cane reach to God
And every baby crying
Shame the blanket of my night
And all my days are dying

OPINIONS

Too many young blacks have lost their way



Dwight Lewis
Contributor

"Put simply and put bluntly, we are losing a vital asset indispensable to our survival as a culture and as a nation. We are losing men: black men. We are losing young black males in just about every way it is possible to forfeit human life and promise."

— Coming through the Fire: Surviving Race and Place in America (Duke University Press) by C. Eric Lincoln

I was sitting in Swett's Restaurant — what I call the most integrated restaurant in Nashville at lunch time — Thursday when I noticed a young black man coming through the line with his jeans hanging below his waist and his underwear showing.

It caught my attention, but it also caused me to wonder whether this young man had any respect for

himself or for the other men, women and children who happened to be in the restaurant at the time.

Here we are on the heels of the celebration of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. I thought to myself, where even in Nashville thousands of people took to the streets to honor a man who wanted people to be judged by the content of their character.

What does it say about one's character when a person goes around in public openly displaying his underclothing?

Not only had we just celebrated Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, but here we were on the eve of Black History Month, a month when the achievements of African-Americans will be discussed in classrooms, churches and elsewhere.

What would Malcolm X say about those of us, especially our young black men, who are walking around today in public with their underwear showing and displaying disrespect in other ways? What would Carl T. Rowan say? What about Sojourner Truth and Fannie Lou Hamer and Rosa Parks?

The disturbing picture for me didn't stop at Swett's. Walking out

of the restaurant, I looked across the street and noticed several young black men hanging out in front of a convenience store.

Drive down to Johnston Avenue near the John Henry Hale Homes public housing projects and you'll see similar scenes.

Maybe these young people aren't up to any nonsense. But at the very least, don't they have more in life to do than just hang out in front of somebody's business or any other place along the street?

What's happening to our young black men? Why are we losing them?

"I think what you have is a culture division between blacks," Floyd Vinson, a cashier at the Kroger's in Green Hills, told me Friday morning. "Most black men who are lucky enough to have parents and have parents push them to get an education are the ones who might get something from the system.

"But in doing so, for them it changes their mentality. As for the black men on the streets, there's another type of mentality going on, and it's a mentality of rebellion. They haven't had anyone to push them or very few people to push them to see that there's another

way of thinking."

Vinson, a Pearl High School graduate who went on to attend Cumberland College, added: "When you have these two cultures meet — the privileged blacks and the so-called rebellious blacks — what you have is a crossroads between two worlds.

"One does not know how to communicate with the other, and in turn, what you are going to have is a situation where the privileged black men are not going to care what happens to the rebellious black men, and the rebellious black men are going to try to take everything they can from the privileged. One is saying, 'Why can't you be like me?' and the other is saying 'Why can't you understand me?'"

Vinson, 45, who said he was pushed by his mother, grandmother and several other people while growing up, added that "unless we start some type of dialogue with one another, we are not going to get beyond that realm. What we're doing is creating different classes among ourselves and that's not good."

We're losing too many of our young black men not only to the streets but to prison and to untimely, unnecessary deaths.

Look at Tennessee's prison population. Black males make up only 7.7 percent of the state's total population but almost 50 percent of its state inmates.

If that's not enough for concern, just look at what happened early last Friday morning in the James A. Cayce public housing projects in east Nashville. Three young black men were shot to death in what police say was a drug-related robbery. One of the victims, police spokesman Don Aaron said, had cocaine in his pocket.

As we start Black History Month, those of us who are black, especially, must think about not only our tremendous past but also what lies ahead. If we are to succeed and move forward, all of us, not just a privileged few, must be on board.

And not to reach out and lend a helping hand to those who feel alienated will surely cause failure for all of us. Surely, that's not the type of history we want to leave behind. ♦

Dwight Lewis is a columnist, regional editor and member of the editorial board for The Tennessean. He can be reached by e-mail at dlewis@tennessean.com.

To the men of my race: Don't compliment skin tone



Risque Renee
Staff Columnist

You are a beautiful black woman. Girl, don't you know you're a pretty chocolate girl? That's one gorgeous dark-skinned woman.

These are the so-called compliments that my daughter, myself and the majority of women with ebony skin receive from individuals. If we were not females with class, we would probably deck you in your eye for giving a compliment wrapped in insult.

I realize some people don't know better, so this is not directed toward you, but rather toward individuals with the preconception that ebony-skinned women of the black race are not capable of being fine. Who are you to pass down that judgment?

It's one thing when another race insults you, but to hear this type of racial noise from your own is torment. My people, unless you forgot, the majority of our race were of ebony skin tone until slave owners defiled our ancestors. Now I ask you, why can't we love each other as if we were in this thing alone? We should be one of the most religiously conscious, genuinely humble and strongly unified races on this earth.

We should be strengthening our relationships and not tearing them

apart, especially on this ridiculous issue of prejudices within our own race. Do you actually think for one second that other races divide because of shades of color?

You will never hear a white man say, "That is one sexy pale gal over there;" "Partner, will you look at that beautiful snowflake lady over there;" or "What about that white toasted doll over there." Or even simply, "You're a nice looking little white girl."

Do you hear how ignorant this sounds for a white man to be complimenting his own? Well, this is how ignorant you sound.

Don't let other races' opinions blind your vision of a beautiful black woman. One's beauty should come from within.

It doesn't matter whether their skin is creamy white, smooth

chocolate brown, midnight blue like a licorice stick, the golden brown found in brown sugar, velvety orange like a peach, a copper brown resembling a pretzel, a radiant brassy yellow like popcorn or the color of a delicious ginger brown cookie.

The bottom line is you're either black or not, and ugly people come in all shades.

To the men of my race: Please be aware that I realize you go through some of the same scrutiny.

I can remember back in the days when most of the women wanted a man who looked like Billy D. Williams. Now, times have changed, and the women want men who are as dark as Wesley Snipes. I think what we should really want more than anything is a man or woman who really loves us.

However, it starts with what you dish out, and that will come back tenfold to you.

The next time you see an ethnic person and feel they are worth a compliment, do them a favor and grace them with a non-stereotypical one.

A true example of a genuine acclaim is when I stare into the eyes of my friend and tell him he is a sexy man. I compliment him on his moonlit smile, and if there is a compliment where I use the word black, it would sound something like this: "I feel you are an honorable, strong black man, and I'm freely in love with your spirit." As you see, I did not address his skin tone, but I exalted his race.

This is Risque Renee saying check your mind frame and watch what you say, my people. ♦

Thomatis disposes dumb jock myth

Senior forward focuses on game and future goals beyond court

By Angelica Journagin
Staff Writer

When talking to senior basketball forward Jamie Thomatis, it's easy to get preoccupied by her 18.1 points per game, 6.1 rebounds per game or her finishing her junior year 12th in the nation in scoring. Thomatis isn't one to worry about statistics, though.

"I don't really worry too much about statistics," Thomatis said. "Last year was an amazing year. It's a tough act to follow because more is expected from you your senior year."

The 21-year-old self-proclaimed daddy's girl started playing basketball when she was six. When Thomatis was 10, she began playing for a traveling team that often brought her to Tennessee. Scouts from Tennessee universities began to notice Thomatis her senior year. The rest, as she says, was history, when she chose to play college ball for MT.

Basketball for Thomatis is a year-round sport that gives her very few opportunities to go back home to Louisiana.

"I miss my family," Thomatis said. "I miss the food a lot, too. Food here is kind of bland, and it's all a bunch of beef and chicken. I'm used to seafood and the variety. I also miss my bed — My own bed personalized by me for comfort, and my dog."

Thomatis gets several opportunities during the season to see her cocker spaniel because her parents, Armond and Sharon Thomatis, come down at least five times a season to watch her play, always bringing her dog, Angel, with them.

Thomatis said she is in her top form when her parents come to see her.

"My parents are like my backbone," Thomatis said. "When they come, it's like all nerves are set aside, and when I do the best is when my parents are in the stands."

Thomatis has made the most out of her time at MTSU. She has a weekly column she writes for *Athlon*, a sports magazine based in Nashville. Her column is in a diary format that gives her an opportunity to share with readers her experiences playing college-level basketball.

Thomatis has received several positive comments for her article and enjoys writing, but not professionally.

"I like writing," she said. "I just

For the season

Games played/started: 22/21

Average minutes/game: 28.9

Field goal percentage: .527

Three-point percentage: .333

Free throw percentage: .839

Rebounds/game: 6.1

Assists/game: 2.5

Steals: 42

Blocks: 14

Points/game: 18.1

don't enjoy all the things that go with it. If I could just write or go to school and get a major in writing, I would. I like writing freestyle, and I don't like parameters and boundaries. This column gives me that opportunity."

Thomatis has decided to focus on a major in health education with an emphasis in community and public health, but she hasn't made any definite plans about playing basketball professionally.

"I've thought about it and fiddled around with it, but when you have played for so long, you start to wonder what else is out there," Thomatis said.

After she graduates, Thomatis plans on getting her master's in health education at MTSU, which she hopes will lead to teaching and possibly coaching.

Until that time, Thomatis plans to focus on her grades and setting an example for the up-and-coming players in an attempt to dispel the "dumb jock" myth. She also wants to encourage people to support all MT teams, not just football, and especially women's sports.

"I think what separates the good from the great is the outside support," Thomatis said. "It's the people who haven't witnessed first hand the excitement from being at a women's game who are skeptical."

"So don't let my pony tail keep you out."

The Lady Raiders play three more home games in February before tournament action begins in March. ♦



Photo by Amy Jones | Chief Photographer
Jamie Thomatis gets position in the paint to put up her shot against Ole Miss Dec. 1. Thomatis scored a season-high 31 points and grabbed 10 rebounds in a 74-64 victory.