



Mostly Cloudy



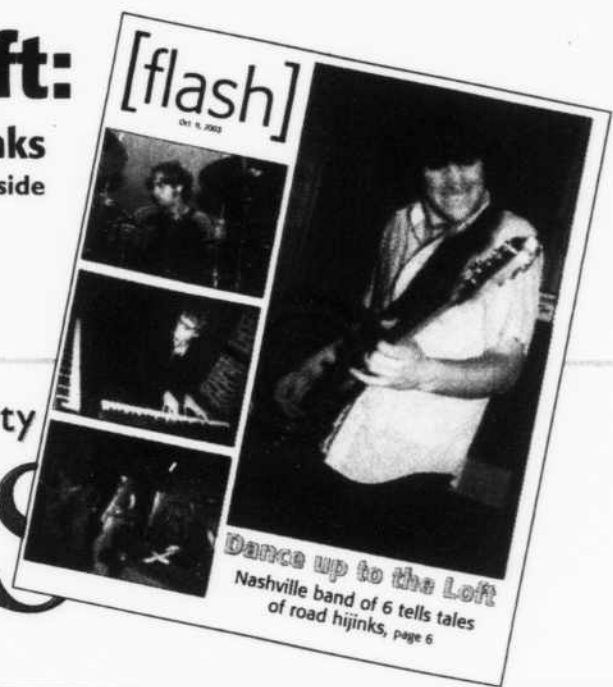
This week's poll question  
online at  
www.mtsusidelines.com

"Which presidential candidate  
do you like most?"

## Dance up to the Loft:

Nashville band of 6 tells tales of road hijinks

In [flash], inside



Dance up to the Loft  
Nashville band of 6 tells tales  
of road hijinks, page 6

Middle Tennessee State University

# SIDELINES

The university's  
editorially independent  
student newspaper

Volume 79 No. 30

## Free speech discussed on show

Author of 'Gone With the Wind' parody defends her novel

By L.P. Anderson  
Staff Writer

Nashville-based author Alice Randall will defend her controversial novel *The Wind Done Gone* during an episode of *A Word on Words* that airs Sunday on Nashville Public Television.

This episode marks 30 years of the program that discusses authors, their opinions and their works. During the show airing at 10:30 a.m. on channel 8, *A Word on Words* host John Seigenthaler will debate issues of the First Amendment, said MTSU journalism professor Sharon Fitzgerald in a telephone interview Tuesday.

The John Seigenthaler Chair of Excellence in First Amendment Studies at MTSU sponsored the episode that features writers David Halberstam, Bill Kovach, Winston Groom and Randall, according to a release from the sponsor.

Randall's novel is a parody of Margaret Mitchell's *Gone With the Wind*. Mitchell's estate had sued to stop the parody from publication.

But the author did not appear on *A Word on Words* because of the controversy surrounding her novel, which was released in bookstores after Randall's publisher, Houghton Mifflin, won its court appeal in 2001, Fitzgerald said.

"John Seigenthaler just wanted a good mix of people on the show," she added. Seigenthaler is a former editor, publisher and chief executive officer of *The Tennessean*.

However, the novel was new to bookstores when the episode was filmed last year on the MTSU campus, Fitzgerald said, adding Seigenthaler decided to commemorate the anniversary of *A Word on Words* by taping the episode at the university. *A Word on Words* is traditionally recorded at Nashville Public Television studios.

"All four of these folks are prime examples of journalists," Fitzgerald added.

Halberstam has written on a number of subjects from the Vietnam War to terrorist threats. He is a winner of the Pulitzer Prize and former reporter for *The Tennessean*.

Kovach, also a former reporter for *The Tennessean*, spent time with *The New York Times* and the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* before becoming curator of the Nieman Foundation for Journalism at Harvard University.

Kovach is currently chairman of the Committee of Concerned Journalists, a Washington-based group of journalists, publishers and academics who promote quality in journalism.

Groom is the author of the novel *Forrest Gump*. He is also a former reporter for *The Washington Star*.

While controversial for her novel, Randall is also a country music songwriter with more than 20 songs recorded. ♦

## Digital versus film

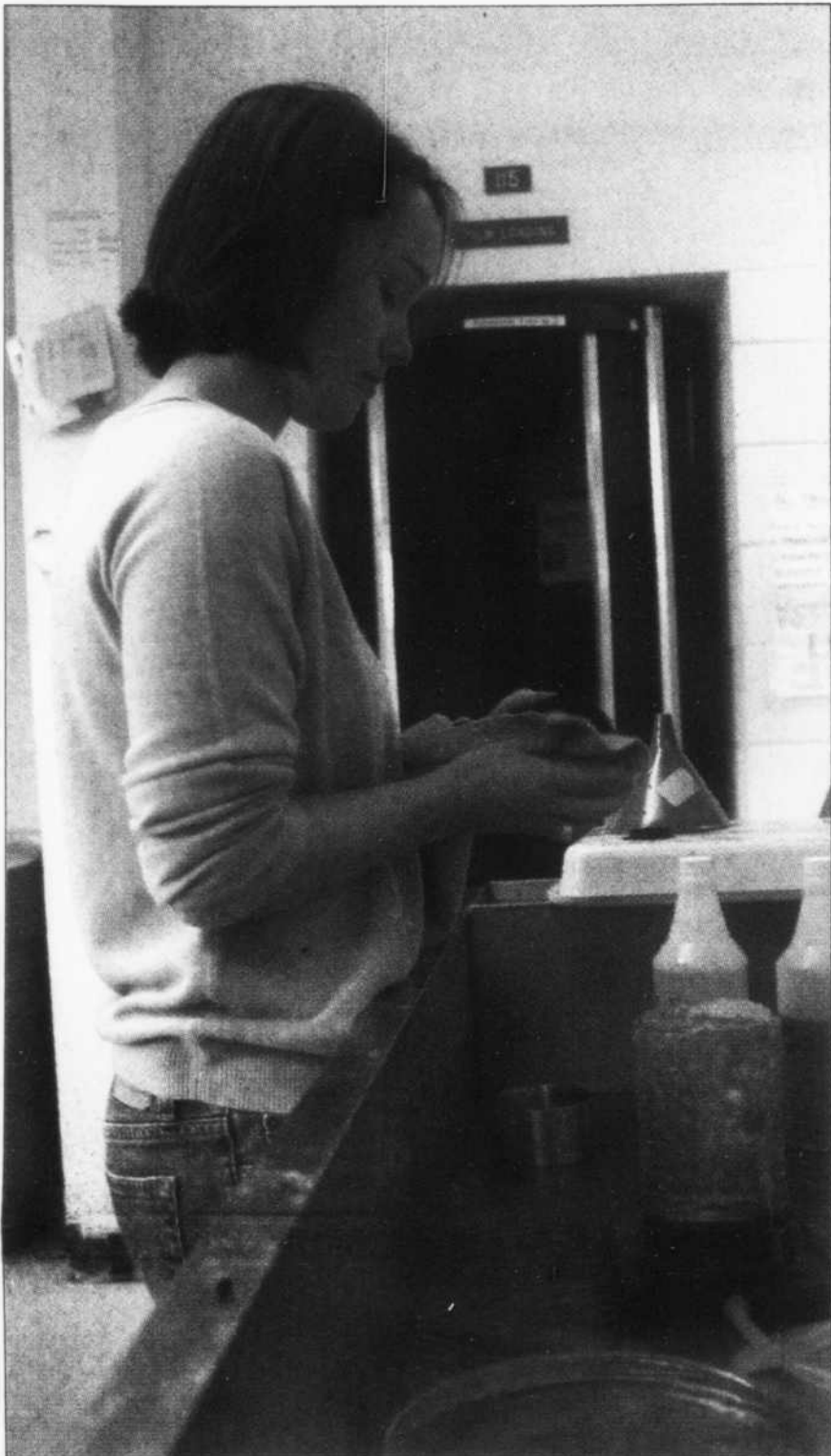


Photo by Jamie Lorange | Chief Photographer

Junior photography major Barbara Simpson develops film last Thursday. Many photographers are moving from film to digital photography because of its cheaper cost and convenience.

## Digital beats film in newsroom

By Meagan Kirby  
Staff writer

Electronic media journalism is changing. Instead of taking pictures the old way, with film that has to be exposed, developed and printed, the digital revolution has arrived.

"Electronic media journalists are the leaders of digital photography," said Chris Harris, professor of radio-television/photography.

One of the main reasons digital photography is better in electronic media communication is that information can be relayed faster. A reporter can be anywhere in the world, and with a digital camera and a computer, he can have his story with pictures to anyone, anywhere in a matter of minutes.

No major news publications still

use film. All photography is done digitally.

"Kodak is going to change almost completely into a digital company," Harris said. "They hope to have made \$16 billion in sales by 2006 with digital photography."

Some film companies did not see this digital revolution coming. Polaroid has gone bankrupt in the past few years. They are trying to switch over to digital to survive, but they may not make it, Harris said.

Fuji Film is switching over as well. "Fuji Film should be able to make it. They manufacture some of the best digital cameras," Harris said.

Harris even expects that Kodak will produce disposable digital cameras within the next six to eight months.

See Digital, 2

## Global warming important issue, Gore says

Effects are already changing environment

By Liz Karlson  
Staff Writer

Seigenthaler lecturer Al Gore discussed the growing problem of global warming and how the effects are changing the environment Tuesday.

Despite scientific evidence supporting both sides of the issue, Gore said he thought that the earth and the environment will be drastically changed in the next 50 years. He said these changes are due to increases in climate resulting from high carbon dioxide levels.

"The earth is losing the capacity to defend itself due to the burning of forests, the extinction of species, and the rising of carbon dioxide levels," Gore said.

He explained there are positive studies defending this stance, mainly in the observation of polar ice caps and other arctic environments. He said some of the proof of global warming shows through the significant melting of ice caps all over the world, including incidents at



Glacier National Park and the Columbia Glacier.

Even though the pictures can be alarming, Gore said scientists have recently

Gore studied the air

bubbles lying deep within glaciers and ice caps, allowing them to record the rise of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere over time.

"Ice caps are like a time capsule, like a record of what has happened," Gore said.

He said global warming has not only effected the melting of ice caps but also the average temperature around the world. Gore said this should be obvious, especially due to one of the most drastic the heat waves in Europe this past summer which killed over 15,000 people.

There are multiple reasons people are

See Gore, 2

## Water pollution campaign begins

New ads aim to educate public

By Jess McKelley  
Staff Writer

The MTSU Center for Environmental Education launched its new water pollution awareness campaign Sept. 16.

The program, named Water Works!, is aimed at Tennesseans across the state, in a campaign to educate individuals about their part in pollution.

"Tennesseans need to know that they're responsible for water quality," says Cindi Smith-Walters, co-director of the center. "The solution to the problem is individual choice and responsibility—it's not the guy across the street."

The goal of the program is for Tennesseans to become more aware of every day kinds of choices and to make the right ones about water pollution.

One such choice would be to take used oil to a recycling center when changing your own oil in a car, or to take your car to a car wash instead of washing it on the street. If washed or poured on the ground or in the street, the used oil and soapy water go into the storm drains

and directly back into the water system or river without being treated.

In addition to harming local plants and animals, it costs taxpayers more to treat this extra water pollution.

"We all pay to clean our water. We pay more to clean more," Smith-Walters said. "For those who could care less about the environment, it does come down to a money issue. We can save money [if we make the right choices]."

To get the message out to the public about Water Works!, the Center for Environmental Education has helped to develop 30-second spots for radio and television.

The spots were produced and created by Bill Hudson & Associates, a Nashville advertising and public relations firm and long-time environmental supporter that developed the "Tennessee Trash" advertising campaigns in the 1970s.

Some of the ads feature the "Chuck the Catfish" mascot, a "loveable but gruff character who has a gangster-like voice and stands in a storm drain, telling homeowners what to do about water," according to Water Works! coordinator Karen Hargrove.

Other spots use "I am the River," a

See Water, 2

## Student named outstanding junior varsity debater

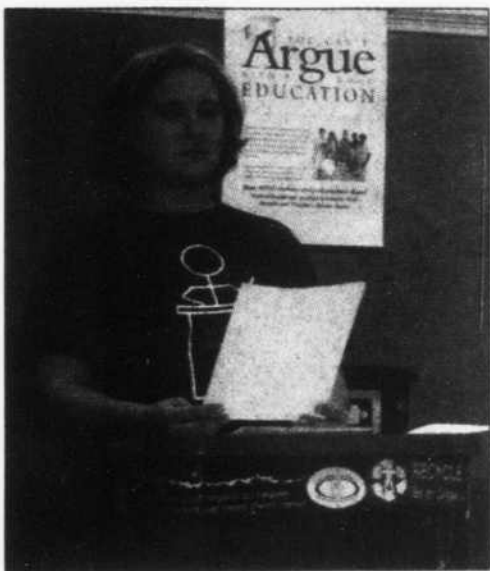


Photo by Micah Miller | Staff Photographer

Courtney Carver practices debating. She is a member of the debate team.

By Liz Karlson  
Staff Writer

This past year, MTSU junior Courtney Carver won one of the most prestigious awards for the junior varsity division of the debate team, the Outstanding Junior Varsity Debater for the region award.

Received by Carver in February 2003, the purpose of the award is to recognize excellence and shows recognition in the debate community.

"I feel really honored to get this award because it is chosen by my peers," Carver said.

Later this year, Carver was also named to the All-American Debate Team, which is decided by the team member's achievements in leadership, community service, his or her winning record and a written statement by his or

her coach for recommendation.

As a freshman, Carver found out about the debate team through her speech professor.

"I feel the debate team has expanded my empowerment as a woman and has allowed me to give a feministic perspective on issues," Carver said.

The debate team has not only helped Carver grow as a person, but also a student.

"Being part of the debate team has improved my research skills, has helped me become a better note taker and has improved my learning strategies," Carver said. "It has given me a well-rounded perspective."

Carver has lived in Murfreesboro since childhood and attended Riverdale High School. She was involved in her high school forensics team, where she first became interested in the art of

communication.

"I feel that I am outgoing and that I speak my mind on issues that are presented at the time," Carver said.

She originally came to MTSU for the nursing program, but decided later that that the best ways to use her talents would be to go into criminal justice. She has plans to become a criminal prosecutor after attending George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

The debate team has been around as long as MTSU itself; it was formed in 1911. There are no requirements to be apart of the debate team except enrollment in MTSU, and there are no try-outs.

Currently, the debate team has six members, lower than its usual number of 12, due to lack of advertising from

See Debate, 2

## Gore: Reducing carbon dioxide levels will slow global warming, Gore says

Continued from 1

ignoring the ecological problems of our times, Gore said. One reason is due to the large amounts of money in the coal, oil and the power industry, scientific evidence can be somewhat distorted.

"Facts can be distorted because of interests of corporations," Gore said.

Not only is there a possibility of people being confused due to a "clouded science," he said. But because global warming is a gradual issue, there is a tendency to not react in an urgent manner.

"When something is happening slowly, we don't tend to react as quickly," Gore said.

According to Gore, a reduction in general pollution and

reducing the burning of global forests and alternatives to products that produce high levels of carbon dioxide will help to reduce general pollution.

Many students attended the lecture, including sophomore Mitchell Queener, who wasn't entirely persuaded by Gore's lecture.

"He had a nice presentation, but his information wasn't

always correct," Queener said.

"He only presented a single side of the story," Queener said. "He didn't provide a good resolution and he came across as fear mongering, rather than presenting hard facts."

Rodney Crumpton, a graduate student at Tennessee State University, had a different response to Gore's lecture.

"He provided enough infor-

mation to whet your appetite," Crumpton said. "I trust his facts but you have to decide for yourself with the facts that were presented."

Despite the many opinions of Gore's lecture, his overall message was clear.

"How do we strike a balance between money issues and the earth? This shouldn't even be a question," Gore said. ♦

Got news tips?

Call Sidelines

898-2336

## Digital: Some photographers prefer digital

Continued from 1

"The chips used in digital photography were silicone based and expensive," Harris said. "Kodak has a new chip that is not silicone based and is not expensive. I expect them to use this to make disposable cameras."

Harris himself prefers digital

photography to film.

"In EMC, if you are not using digital photography, you are not being published," Harris said.

Most fine art classes are still being taught with film and will probably remain that way for at least a little while longer. Sara Blackwell, third year photography major, said she prefers film to digital photos.

However, Harris says that even fine art will probably switch to digital soon. He also stated a lot of professional photographers are switching over to digital for their business.

"Digital is the way to go. Digital is in our future," Harris said. "The move has been made to go digital, and I am all for it and so is EMC." ♦

## Water:

Continued from 1

song donated to Water Works! by singer-songwriter Dan Tyler, who performed the song at the Sept. 16 campaign kickoff at Ellington Agricultural Center in Nashville.

Hargrove said that Water Works! "started as an idea for a public outreach effort to educate Tennessee citizens about how individual behaviors affect water quality. This is a new effort because [the MTSU Center for Environmental Education has] done countless programs for teachers and classes, but never done a media campaign."

This new campaign, funded through the Department of Agriculture Nonpoint Source Pollution Program, continues the Center's partnership with the Ellington Agricultural Center. The MTSU Environmental Education Center had received a previous grant from Ellington to fund a successful program for schools to clean up and study water on school sites.

MTSU's Center for Environmental Education is "the best kept secret on campus," Smith-Walters says. Receiving no university funding at all, the center relies totally on grants and contracts.

The center works mainly with private and formal educators, with programs such as the microscope loan program. ♦

## Debate: Team holds meeting every week

Continued from 1

school budget cuts.

Greg Simerly, director and head coach of the debate team, said that being a member could greatly benefit a student.

"The debate team provides interdisciplinary training, communication, critical thinking and problem solving skills, and

these are important because these are the skills that employers are looking for," Simerly said.

The debate team holds a weekly meeting every Monday, and then throughout the week holds practice sessions of one to three hours depending on the topic or pending competition. The topics usually cover inter-

national and national issues, such as the death penalty or the rebuilding of Iraq. The team usually attends 12 competitions a year.

For more information about the debate team, contact Greg Simerly at 898-5607 or e-mail him at debate@mtsu.edu. ♦



Photo provided by Big Brothers Big Sisters of Middle Tennessee

**Big Brothers Big Sisters of Middle Tennessee will hold a recruitment drive on campus Monday on the KUC Knoll.**

## Group on lookout for big brothers and sisters

By Kristin Hall  
News Editor

MTSU students can help to reach Big Brothers Big Sisters' national goal of providing 400,000 children with adult mentors by attending the recruitment drive to be held on campus on Monday.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Middle Tennessee is looking for college-aged volunteers to mentor children age 6 to 12 in Rutherford County.

"Anyone can be a Big Brother or a Big Sister," said Lisbeth Couser, development director for BBBS of Middle Tennessee. "The number one criteria is that they want to be a friend to a child."

The youth-oriented program finds children in single-parent homes to match with an adult of the same age to spend time with them and help them at this critical age.

"The Murfreesboro City School system has asked us to find mentors for them and we're looking to MTSU students to fill that need," Couser said.

Currently BBBS of Middle Tennessee is looking for more male volunteers to match with male children.

"Primarily in single-parent homes, the mother is raising the

children," Couser said. "They come to BBBS because they want their sons to have a responsible male figure in their life."

The process for matching child and mentor is extensive because the two will spend lots of time together one-on-one.

Applicants must pass an interview process, background checks and reference reviews before being paired with a child.

Once these tests are passed, case managers carefully choose appropriate mentor for a child.

"The case manager finds a child who has a similar personality, similar interests," Couser said.

Volunteering with BBBS can be a rewarding experience for both the child and the mentor and many of the children have returned to the organization once they were older to mentor another child.

"This provides an opportunity to have friendships that last a lifetime," Couser said.

The recruitment drive will be on the Keathley University Center Knoll on Oct. 13 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The drive is hosted by Arby's, who will provide free sandwiches for those interested in volunteering.

For more information, call BBBS of Rutherford County at 329-9191. ♦



Got news tips?

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the Sidelines

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### FREE DEMO FLIGHTS WITH MARINE AVIATOR!

On Tuesday, October 14 2003, Major Steven Duke, USMC, will be hosting free flights to college students at the MTSU Municipal Airport in Murfreesboro, to create awareness of USMC aviation capabilities and opportunities. Transportation to and from the airport can be arranged. Call 1st Lt. Humble at 615-336-3103 or 1-866-581-9142 for scheduling.

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PROOF THAT A TAN NEVER FADES



# WORLD BRIEFS

Compiled by Nick Fowlerl - News Editor



## Californians elect Schwarzenegger governor

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Seething over taxes and red ink, voters dumped the unpopular Gov. Gray Davis and replaced him with political novice Arnold Schwarzenegger, the Hollywood action star who now faces the colossal task he asked for: jump-starting California's flagging economy.

Davis, the bland Democrat who was a widely disliked career public servant and presided over California's economy as it careened from boom to bust, was recalled Tuesday less than a year into his second term. Nearly 54 percent of voters calling for his ouster.

Schwarzenegger, a moderate Republican with tons of charisma but virtually no political experience, was easily elected among candidates to replace Davis just two months after shocking even his closest aides when he declared his candidacy on "The Tonight Show With Jay Leno."

## Two U.S. citizens win 2003 Nobel Prize in chemistry

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) - Americans Peter Agre and Roderick MacKinnon won the Nobel Prize in chemistry on Wednesday for their research into how key materials enter or leave the cells in the body.

The pair received the award for their discoveries concerning tiny pores called "channels" on the surface of cells, the Royal Swedish Academy said Wednesday.

Agre, 54, is at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore, and MacKinnon, 47, is with the Howard Hughes Medical Institute at The Rockefeller University in New York.

Their research is important in understanding many diseases, like those affecting the kidneys, heart, muscles and the nervous system, the academy said.

## Vivendi and General Electric sign agreement

PARIS (AP) - Vivendi Universal and General Electric said Wednesday they signed the definitive agreement to merge the French company's U.S. entertainment assets with GE's NBC to form a new company,

NBC Universal.

As announced in early September when the companies said they would enter exclusive negotiations, NBC will own 80 percent of the new entity, with the remaining 20 percent controlled by Vivendi.

The new company will have an estimated value of \$43 billion, Vivendi said in a statement.

NBC Universal will join Hollywood studio Universal Pictures, TV production unit Universal Television, Universal theme parks, Spanish-language television network Telemundo and NBC's network and production unit in a new entertainment giant with annual revenue of \$13 billion.

Vivendi Universal shareholders will receive \$3.8 billion at the closing of the deal, expected during the first half of 2004.

## Clark's campaign manager quits after feud

WASHINGTON (AP) - Wesley Clark is looking for a new campaign manager after his first one quit in anger, the latest setback for a team struggling to mesh its Internet-savvy founders with a corps of Washington insiders assuming more power.

Donnie Fowler, 35, told associates he was leaving over concerns that supporters who used the Internet to draft Clark into the race are not being taken seriously by top campaign officials. Fowler also complained that the campaign's message and methods are focused too much on Washington, not key states, said two associates who spoke on condition of anonymity.

## Arafat advisers deny he suffered mild heart attack

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP) - Yasser Arafat's advisers said Wednesday that the 74-year-old Palestinian leader has the stomach flu and continues to be weak, but denied a report that he suffered a mild heart attack.

In brief appearances this week, Arafat looked drawn and pale and his lower lip trembled considerably. He spoke with great effort and with prompting from his chief adviser, Nabil Abu Rdeneh. At times, he appeared in a daze, staring

straight ahead.

The British newspaper *The Guardian* on Wednesday quoted Arafat aides as saying he had a "slight heart attack" last week, but that the incident was kept secret for fear of creating panic.

Palestinian Cabinet minister Saeb Erekat denied Wednesday that Arafat suffered a heart attack, saying the Palestinian leader is battling a stomach virus.

## Asian leaders focus on ties with China, India and Japan

BALI, Indonesia (AP) - Fresh from their landmark accord to establish a European-style economic community, 10 Southeast Asian leaders forged deals Wednesday with China, India and Japan to make partners out of regional competitors.

China joined the Association of Southeast Asian Nation's founding security pact, and the region's biggest investor, Japan, signed a pledge to reduce tariffs and non-tariff barriers. India also was scheduled to join the security pact.

China and ASEAN agreed to work faster toward a free trade agreement that would create the world's most populous market, with 1.7 billion consumers.

The deals were signed Wednesday on the closing day of an ASEAN summit that also included South Korea. The summit was held on the Indonesia's Bali to show that the region would not be paralyzed by last year's bloody bombings on the resort island.

## Court ruling clears way to enforce do-not-call list

DENVER (AP) - Americans can again sign up for the national do-not-call list to fend off unwanted phone solicitations after a federal appeals court allowed the government to fully punish errant telemarketers - at least for now.

The 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on Tuesday temporarily blocked a lower court order barring the Federal Trade Commission from enforcing the registry of more than 50 million numbers.

## Prosecutors: Tyco execs stole \$600 million

NEW YORK (AP) - The two Tyco International executives

accused of looting the company of millions of dollars spent like lottery winners but they "didn't win the jackpot, they stole it," prosecutors said.

L. Dennis Kozlowski, the former CEO, and Mark Swartz, the ex-chief financial officer stole \$600 million from their company to buy things like yachts and fancy houses, Assistant District Attorney Kenneth Chalifoux said Tuesday in opening statements at the men's trial.

Defense lawyers contended that what prosecutors call a massive corporate larceny was actually appropriate reward for building Tyco into one of the world's largest and most successful companies.

The proceeding was set to continue Wednesday.

## China says it will send first human being into orbit

BEIJING (AP) - The shape of China's first manned space mission came into sharper focus Wednesday with reports that a human crew will orbit the Earth briefly next week after a live-television launch trumpets the government's accomplishment to its citizens and the world.

The finalists to be the first Chinese astronauts converged upon a hotel in a northwestern town as the mission neared, another news report said. And in Indonesia, Premier Wen Jiabao said the craft, the Shenzhou 5, would take off with a human crew "soon, very soon."

If the launch is completed successfully, China would join the United States and the former Soviet Union - now Russia - as the only countries that have sent manned craft into space.

## Japan quarantines hundreds of cattle

TOKYO (AP) - Japan has quarantined 604 cows to prevent the spread of mad cow disease after authorities confirmed that a 23-month-old bull had a new strain of the bovine illness, an official said Wednesday.

The Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry ordered the isolation of all cattle raised with the infected animal, the country's eighth case, ministry official Keiji Fushimi said.

Fushimi said the ministry hasn't decided whether to destroy the cattle - from

Fukushima and Tochigi states, north of Tokyo - and isn't ruling out the possibility that quarantine numbers could rise. For now, the cows are being held on the farms where they were bred, he added.

## Israel says it will strike enemies wherever they are

JERUSALEM (AP) - Bolstered by U.S. support for Israel's bombing raid in Syria, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said Tuesday his nation won't hesitate to attack its enemies anywhere - heightening concerns it may widen the Palestinian conflict by again striking countries it accuses of harboring terrorists.

Since the attack on the reputed Islamic Jihad training camp in Syria on Sunday, the regional conflict has already escalated with shooting and mortar fire across the border between Israel and Lebanon, where Syria is the main power-broker.

## Bush expresses doubt that leaker's will be identified

WASHINGTON (AP) - President Bush questioned on Tuesday whether investigators would be able to determine who leaked the identity of an undercover CIA officer but said his staff was cooperating. "I want to know the truth," he said.

Bush's chief of staff, Andrew Card, urged some 2,000 White House employees to turn over any relevant documents by Tuesday night. White House lawyers will screen the materials and decide which ones to send to the Justice Department as part of a criminal inquiry into the leak, Bush spokesman Scott McClellan said.

McClellan said it could take as long as two weeks to check those submissions for relevance.

## Heating costs to be higher this winter

WASHINGTON (AP) - With natural gas costing twice what it did a few years ago and crude oil at \$30 a barrel, homeowners can be sure of one thing: This winter's heating bills will be expensive, even if the winter is not severe.

And there is no guarantee the weather will cooperate.

The Energy Department said Tuesday it expects wholesale

natural gas prices to be 9 percent higher this winter than last, at between \$4.50 and \$5 per 1,000 cubic feet.

Only a few years ago it was in the \$2.50 range.

How much of the increase will be felt by homeowners and businesses will depend largely on how cold it gets, federal officials said.

If a severe winter increases fuel use, residential users of natural gas could pay an average of nearly \$1,000 this winter to heat their homes, about 22 percent more than last winter, according to the Energy Department.

## Pope appears alert as he visits shrine

POMPEII, Italy (AP) - Pope John Paul II traveled Tuesday to a shrine near the ruins of ancient Pompeii, appearing alert, waving to crowds and asking the faithful to pray for him "today and always."

The pope spent only three hours in Pompeii after arriving from the Vatican in an Italian Air Force helicopter to pray for peace, but the visit defied skeptics who thought his travel days were over. It was a major test a week before he faces a packed schedule to mark a quarter-century as pope.

Just last month, the 83-year-old pontiff, stooped and slowed by Parkinson's disease and other ailments, struggled through a four-day pilgrimage to Slovakia, and a cardinal last week said John Paul was approaching his dying days.

## Asian leaders plan Europe-style economic community

BALI, Indonesia (AP) - Ten Southeast Asian nations signed an ambitious accord Tuesday establishing a Europe-like economic community by 2020 in a region where democracies neighbor dictatorships and First World economies abut financial basket cases.

But the Association of Southeast Asian Nations emphasized that the agreement, part of a blueprint dubbed Bali Concord II, was limited to economic relations. It would not create a political union like Western Europe's or a military alliance akin to NATO, although it calls for a regional security community to combat terrorism and other transnational crimes. ♦

# the 'boro's best 2003 ballot

☆ Please nominate as few national chains as possible ☆

## MUSIC

- Best Murfreesboro band \_\_\_\_\_
- Best Murfreesboro musician \_\_\_\_\_
- Best place to hear live music \_\_\_\_\_
- Best place to play live music \_\_\_\_\_

## FOOD & DRINK

- Bar with the best bartenders \_\_\_\_\_
- Best cup of coffee \_\_\_\_\_
- Best mixed drinks \_\_\_\_\_
- Best happy hour \_\_\_\_\_
- Best beer \_\_\_\_\_
- Best atmosphere (restaurant) \_\_\_\_\_

- Best atmosphere (bar) \_\_\_\_\_
- Best breakfast \_\_\_\_\_
- Best Mexican food \_\_\_\_\_
- Best oriental food \_\_\_\_\_
- Best sit-down meal in town \_\_\_\_\_
- Best service (restaurant) \_\_\_\_\_
- Best service (bar) \_\_\_\_\_
- Best drunk/stoned food \_\_\_\_\_
- Best grab-and-go lunch place \_\_\_\_\_
- Best place to spend a Saturday night \_\_\_\_\_
- Best place to spend a weeknight \_\_\_\_\_
- Best place to pick up a date \_\_\_\_\_
- Best place to take your date \_\_\_\_\_
- Best place to cheat on your date \_\_\_\_\_
- Best place to dance \_\_\_\_\_
- Best place to rent videos \_\_\_\_\_
- Best place to experience local culture \_\_\_\_\_
- Best place to see local art \_\_\_\_\_
- Best place to sit, chill out and read \_\_\_\_\_

## ART & ENTERTAINMENT

- Best place to spend a Friday night \_\_\_\_\_

You can submit your ballot to [flash] several ways. Drop it off at the *Sidelines* office in the James Union Building, Room 310. Mail it to *Sidelines* at 1301 E. Main St. MTSU Box 8, Murfreesboro, TN 37132. Fax it to (615) 904.8193. Download the ballot online at [www.mtsusidelines.com](http://www.mtsusidelines.com) and e-mail it to [sflash@mtsu.edu](mailto:sflash@mtsu.edu) or [borosbest@hotmail.com](mailto:borosbest@hotmail.com). Just whatever you do, send in your ballot. Call (615) 898.2917 if you have any questions.

# Alcohol tax proposed to deter drinking among minors

By Amber Dilley  
Daily Lobo

(U-WIRE) ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — The next time beer lovers purchase their favorite brew, they may be paying a little more if one nonprofit organization has its way.

The National Academy of Sciences recently proposed an increase in excise tax on alcohol, more specifically beer, as a way to curb underage drinking. In the report, released last week, raising the cost of beer and alcoholic products will effectively reduce alcohol consumption by minors. Advertising paid for by

revenue generated by the tax could also reduce underage alcohol consumption.

Research conducted by the academy has found that underage drinking costs taxpayers \$53 billion a year in court costs. Alcohol-related traffic accidents caused by minors also cost \$19 billion a year, prompting the academy to call for the increased tax.

The proposal, still in its planning stages, is slated to go before legislation next year and if passed could take effect as early as 2005.

The report does not state how much the proposed tax

increase is. According to its Web site, the National Academy of Sciences is a private, nonprofit society of scholars engaged in scientific and engineering research, dedicated to the furtherance of science and technology for the public's welfare.

The report also blames the media industry for glorifying alcohol to minors and calls for the creation of an impartial foundation funded by the country's alcohol industry to monitor what the report calls an "absurd increase in underage drinking."

The federal excise tax on

beer is currently 33 cents per six-pack, according to the Beer Institute's Web site.

The Beer Institute is the national trade association for the malt beverage industry.

There has been a nationwide response from nonprofit organizations such as Mothers Against Drunk Driving to the report and its proposed steps to end underage drinking, according to the academy's Web site.

"MADD supports the tax and feels that it is a means for recovering the cost to society caused by the misuse of alcohol," said Terry Huertaz, MADD New Mexico executive director.

# Graham drops out of Presidential race

By Marcus Mrowka  
U-WIRE

(U-WIRE) WASHINGTON — Florida Senator Bob Graham announced he would end his troubled campaign for the Presidency Monday on "Larry King Live", making him the first among the 10 Democrats to drop out.

"I made the judgment I cannot be elected President of the United States," Graham told King.

"I am very proud of what we have been able to accomplish during this campaign and I am gratified by the number of people across the country who believed in us."

Graham cited a late start after heart surgery and his obligations in the Senate as causes for his dismal campaign figures.

According to a recent *New York Times*/CBS News Poll, only three percent of those surveyed indicated Graham was their choice to be the Democratic nominee.

Fundraising problems were also a problem for Graham. He reportedly raised under \$2 million in the third quarter, compared to Howard Dean's \$12.5 million.

Graham, 66, is former chairman of the Senate intelligence committee and is serving his third term in the Senate which ends in January of 2005. He also served in the Florida legislature and two terms as Governor of Florida before his Senate bid in 1986. Graham has not yet made a decision on whether he will seek reelection for his Senate seat.

"I commend [Graham] for

being a strong advocate for the Democratic Party not only as a presidential candidate, but also during his decades of public service to the people of Florida," said Terry McAuliffe, Democratic National Committee Chairman, in a recent press release on Graham's decision.

"I will miss seeing Bob Graham on the campaign trail," said Howard Dean, former Governor of Vermont and Democratic presidential contender.

"He was an honorable opponent who treated his fellow aspirants for the Democratic nomination with respect."

Graham left the possibility of accepting the party's vice presidency open. Many political analysts have said that the Graham campaign had been eyeing the

vice-presidency all along.

"I am prepared to do whatever I can to contribute to a Democratic victory next November and the leading of this nation to a new and better track," Graham said.

"I thank the chance of Graham being selected for the vice-presidential spot is less likely now than before he ran," said Jon Gould, assistant director of the administration of justice at George Mason University.

"Things like the coverage of his daily notebook exposed his quirkiness and the fact that he couldn't get much support in the primary could make people see him as a less viable candidate."

The remaining nine debate Thursday on CNN. ♦

# White House under fire amid leak allegations

By Ilana Weinberg  
U-WIRE

(U-WIRE) WASHINGTON — The Bush administration is under fire recently, after two senior administration officials allegedly revealed the identity of a covert CIA agent to syndicated columnist Robert Novak and five other journalists in July.

The Justice Department has begun an investigation to track down the White House officials responsible for the unauthorized disclosure of the clandestine CIA operative. Former Ambassador Joseph C. Wilson believes the information about his wife was leaked as a means of revenge for a column he had written criticizing the war in Iraq.

The CIA sent Wilson to Africa in February 2002 to investigate possible Iraqi purchases of uranium. He wrote a column for the *New York Times* on July 6, 2003, claiming an Iraqi purchase of uranium yellowcake from Niger was highly unlikely, and on a broader scale, the war was initiated on false pretenses.

"Based on my experience with the administration in the months leading up to the war, I have little choice but to conclude that some of the intelligence related to Iraq's nuclear weapons program was twisted to exaggerate the Iraqi threat," said Wilson in his column.

A week later, Novak published a column in the *Washington Post* describing the political implications of Wilson's report upon his return from Niger. The name of Wilson's wife came out in an explanation of how Wilson was chosen for that particular mission.

"Wilson never worked for the CIA, but his wife, Valerie Plame, is an agency operative on weapons of mass destruction. Two senior administration officials told me that Wilson's wife suggested sending him to Niger," said Novak in his column.

A senior administration official has since stated that before Novak's column ran, the two top White House officials had called at least five other Washington journalists to reveal the identity of Wilson's wife.

"The leak was absolutely despicable. In a city that swims with leaks, this was at the top," said Congresswoman Jane Harman, the ranking Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee, on CBS's "Face the Nation" on Sunday.

Wilson had publicly suggest-

ed by the DWI Resource Center.

Many local business owners said they support the tax and don't feel it will interfere with their business should the proposal be carried into legislation and passed into law.

Tony Torte, manager of Kelly's Brewery, said the increase in alcohol tax, should it happen, shouldn't effect business too much.

"It could possibly hurt business in a very small way, but if it will deter teenagers from drinking, then it's definitely a good thing," Torte said. ♦

ed Bush's senior advisor, Karl Rove, broke his wife's cover. The White House has denied such implications.

The Intelligence Protection Act, passed in 1982, imposes a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison and \$50,000 in fines for unauthorized disclosure of confidential information by government employees.

The same law does not apply to Novak. Journalists are exempted because they, unlike federal officials, don't have regular access to classified information. Controversy has sprung up whether Novak was morally and ethically correct in printing the information.

"I find it hard to believe that a woman and her husband, unknown to the public, especially as a matter of safety concern, that this information was newsworthy. I don't know that it was unethical [to print the name], but it was certainly unwise," said Jerome Barron, Professor of Law with an expertise in media law, at George Washington University.

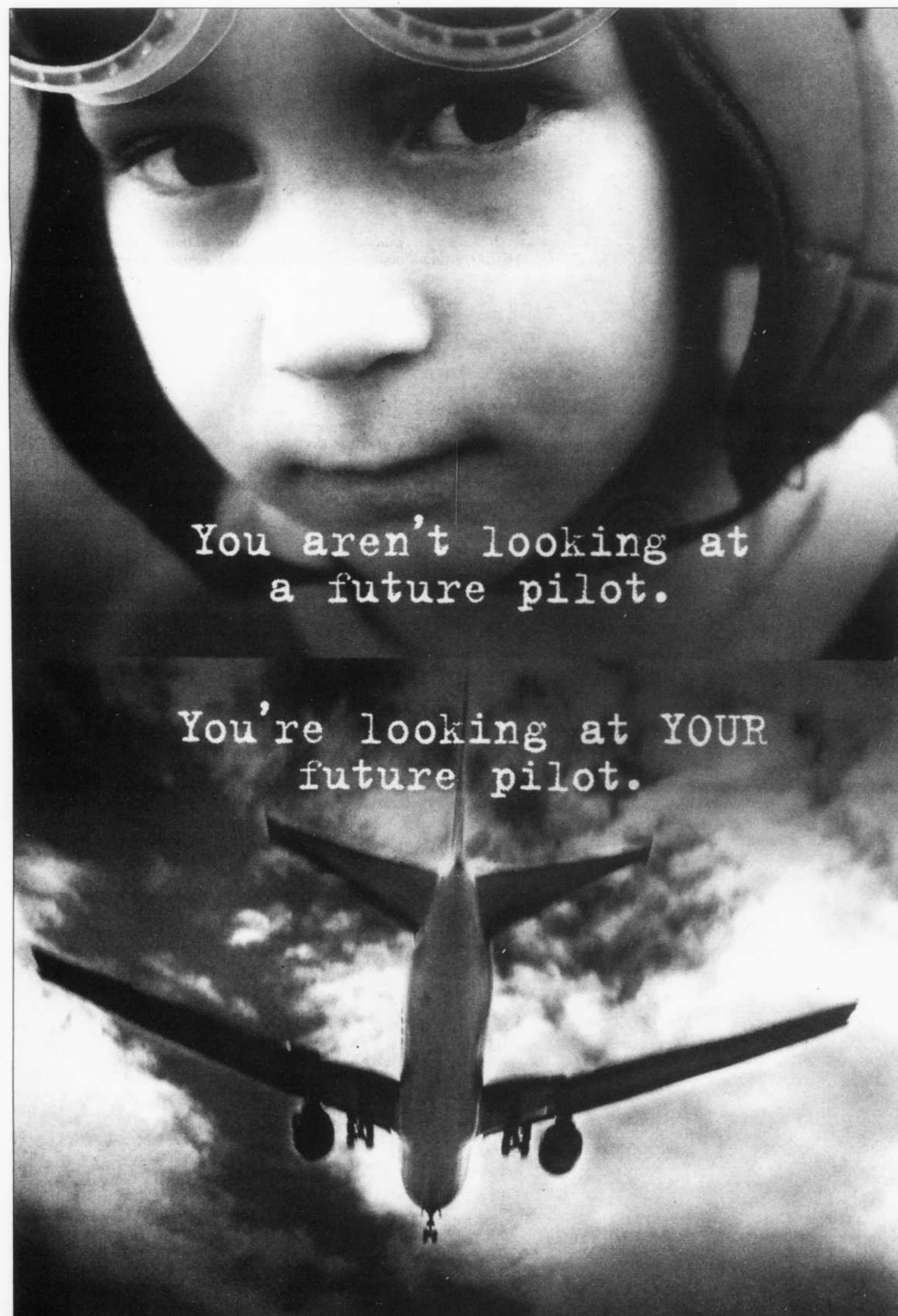
According to a recent ABC News/Washington Post Poll, eight in 10 Americans say the alleged White House leak is a serious matter, and nearly seven in 10 say it should be investigated by a special counsel, not by the administration's own Justice Department.

Many feel a private counsel would be more objective and thus less effective in political cases.

"Any questionable action — or inaction — in this investigation carries with it a powerful conflict of interest taint," said Senator Chuck Schumer, D-NY, in a letter to Attorney General John Ashcroft. "The easiest and best way to dispel many of these concerns is for a special counsel to be appointed."

Republicans are eager to get through the investigation and put the scandal behind them, before the administration's name gets smeared any further. This comes at a difficult time for Bush, whose overall approval has dropped to 54 percent — the lowest since he took office according to the ABC News/Washington Post poll.

"The sooner this is behind us, the better off it is for the Bush administration," said Senator Chuck Hagel, R-Neb., on CBS's "Face the Nation" last Sunday. "And the sooner we can get this behind us, the more confidence and trust the American people will have in the process." ♦



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# POLITICAL UPHEAVAL

*From the left*

## Health care has been hijacked by greed, now is the time for socialized medicine



Jeremy Majors  
Staff Columnist

The time has come for America to accept a social healthcare system. Every citizen should have the right to quality healthcare. According to the Sept. 30 *New York Times*, the number of people without insurance last year skyrocketed to 2.4 million, the largest increase in a decade. The article states that costs have been driven up, while employers are not following through with their commitments to employees.

The state of healthcare in America has gone downhill. It's not the fact that we don't have good technology – in fact, America has some of the best medical teams in the world. The problem is that the cost in a profit-driven world has made healthcare unavailable for many Americans.

Healthcare costs have gone up and up, and instead of Americans being able to make their own choices about healthcare, insurance companies make the choices for them.

I am not sure how you feel about it, but when it comes to my personal health, I don't want a company whose main interest is a few extra dollars over my health, to decide my fate. That really worries me.

The fact is that, when it comes to for-profit healthcare, the main goal of a business is to do as little as possible for the least amount of money. Translation: The nature of profit-driven healthcare is that money is more important than human life.

An example of this in healthcare would be patients who are sent home too early from hospitals, only to return days later because of not being fully treated. The reason was because the insurance companies, in a desire to spend as little money as possible, don't take into consideration the needs of the patient.

I really believe that healthcare is not just a fiscal issue – it is a moral one. I believe that if the political right is as 'compassionate' as they say, they would be willing to give socialized healthcare a try.

It is morally wrong to turn away anyone who is in need of life saving healthcare, which happens a lot in our system. It is morally wrong to put personal riches over life. All you pro-lifers out there who claim that life is so important to you – here is your chance to make it better by supporting socialized healthcare.

Now, to dispel all the rumors out there, I want to state that socialized healthcare isn't just for those 'commie bastards,' as the right would lead you to believe. Currently, many democratic countries worldwide have adopted socialized healthcare, including Canada, England, Sweden and Denmark.

In America, according to the same *New York Times*, there are 8.5 million uninsured children in the nation. Texas, the state formerly ran by Bush, has the worst record in healthcare commitments. Last year, they made cuts in Medicare and the Children's Health Insurance Program.

Surprisingly, middle-income households accounted for the biggest increase in the uninsured. That bracket rose to 21.5 million people who are without coverage. It is plain to see that our current health system and the lack of corporate accountability has hindered our quality of healthcare.

This year alone, premiums have risen 14 percent, which is not a good sign. Clearly, for-profit healthcare is one aspect of a market economy that definitely isn't working.

We Americans need to give socialized healthcare a try. America is known for its ingenuity, and if anyone can make it work, we can. Our nation can avoid the mistakes of other countries' oversights by hiring professionals and spending whatever it takes to create a good system.

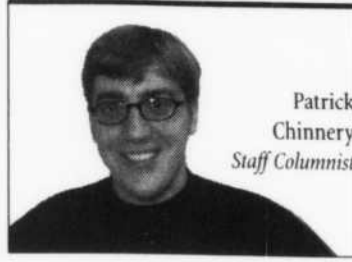
We can afford healthcare. Spending billions of dollars on a useless missile defense shield is wasting money on what could be spent on healthcare. We can take back control of our lives from greedy corporate execs who see statistics, not people. We can change our healthcare system for the better, and raise the standard of living in our great nation.

If the system does not work, then we can change back. If we never try, then how will we know? ♦

Jeremy Majors is a senior international relations major and can be reached via e-mail at [jnm2g@mtsu.edu](mailto:jnm2g@mtsu.edu).

*From the right*

## Beware of Canada on health care policy



Patrick Chinnery  
Staff Columnist

A distrust of government is one of the essential American virtues that have been pervasive on this continent for centuries. The twentieth century, however, bore witness to the rise of a disturbing trend – many people began to think government could solve their problems.

A symptom of this irresponsible attitude is the growing groundswell of support for a federally-funded universal healthcare system. It became a topic of national discussion during the first Clinton term, with the First Lady as a vocal proponent. Thankfully,

it died away when Republicans took control of Congress. However, it seems that the 2004 presidential election is providing an opportunity for this costly project to once again make the rounds.

All of the Democratic nominees support an overhaul of the American healthcare system. Contenders Rep. Dennis Kucinich, Rev. Al Sharpton and former Sen. Carol Moseley Braun all claim they would love to see a universal healthcare plan passed during their administration. House Minority Leader Dick Gephardt wants the government to reimburse employers up to 60 percent of cost in return for providing private health insurance.

Sen. John Kerry thinks the government should pay for healthcare costs that exceed \$50,000 (which carries a taxpayer price tag of at least \$70 billion), while former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean wants to see a near-universal program to the tune of more than \$80 billion.

Candidates (ret.) Gen. Wesley Clark, Sen. Joe Lieberman and Sen. John Edwards have made statements supporting broader healthcare, but haven't taken the time to give more details.

Of all the candidates, only Kucinich and Dean have stated where they're going to get the money for their proposals. Kucinich supports a 7.7 percent payroll tax, while Dean wants to repeal President Bush's tax cuts.

Funding is certainly going to be a problem for any plan, and these plans all require lots of it (unless, of course, they plan on using the Bush theory of economics – cutting taxes and increasing spending is the fiscally responsible way to go).

The Canada Health Act – the northern neighbor's healthcare system – has long been touted by liberal Democrats as a well-organized, efficient model for the United States to follow. Examination of its costs reveals otherwise.

In February, Health Canada delivered its annual financial report to Parliament. While the numbers didn't seem to faze many Canadians, who have grown used to oversize government, the sheer size of the program is enough to scare any American into praising our current system.

During 2001-2002, the Canadian government spent more than \$17 billion US on general healthcare, or \$720.48US per person enrolled in their general program. At face value, that doesn't seem like much at all. However, the \$17 billion wouldn't necessarily include coverage for those who are covered under Medicare and Medicaid in the United States, nor does it cover optometric, dental or chiropractic services or a prescription drug benefit (there is no national mandate to provide those services, but provinces and territories can provide them on their own). To provide the same level of services, with the same exclusions, would cost the American government just under \$173 billion – a far cry from the \$80 billion Dean believes would be sufficient.

An even more startling figure is reported by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. In 2001, national health expenditures totaled in excess of \$1,424.5 billion, 14 percent of the gross domestic product. The plans proposed by Kucinich, Sharpton and Braun would make the government responsible for that \$1.4 trillion bill in its entirety, increasing an already bloated federal budget by almost 50 percent.

Reform is needed in America's healthcare system, but a universal healthcare system would cost far more in a nation as large as the United States than could ever be justified. Furthermore, insurable people who can afford their own coverage have no need to be covered by a public policy. Why should the lowest income bracket (partially) pay for insurance for the wealthy? A better plan would be to audit current government programs to find wasted money, and spend the savings improving Medicare and Medicaid. At least then the coverage would go to those that needed it most. ♦

Patrick Chinnery is a senior political science major and can be reached via e-mail at [pwc2c@mtsu.edu](mailto:pwc2c@mtsu.edu).

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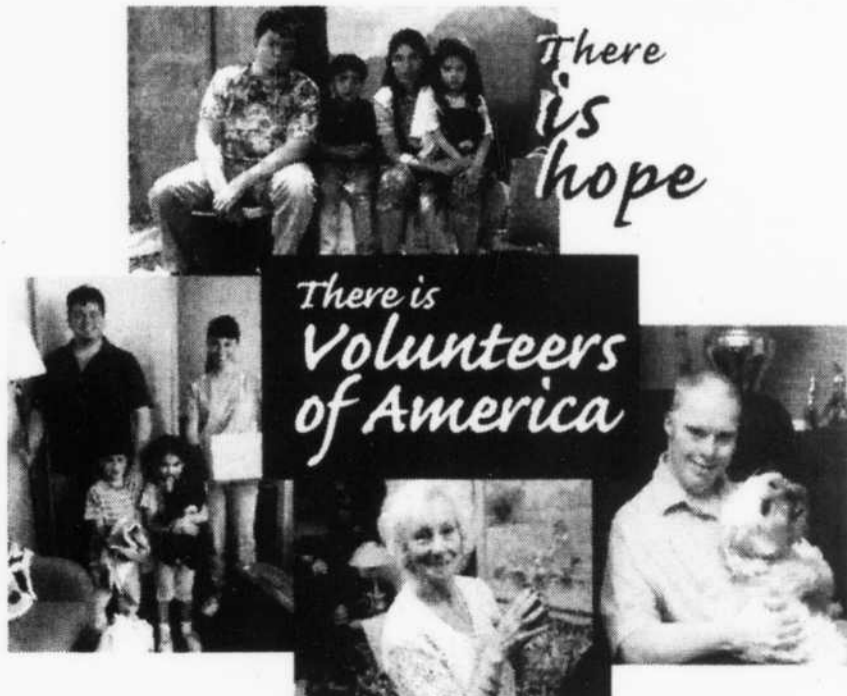
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The Housing and Residential Life Office is currently accepting housing cancellations for the Spring 2004 semester from students who are graduating from MTSU and will no longer be taking additional classes, and from those students who will not be returning to school at MTSU after the fall semester. The deadline for submitting cancellations for prepayment refund is Wednesday, October 15, 2003.

Requests for cancellations must be submitted in writing to the Housing Office in the Keathley University Center, room 300 or mailed to Box 6,

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# SIDELINES SPORTS

# REPORT

## FRUSTRATIONS OF BEING 0-5

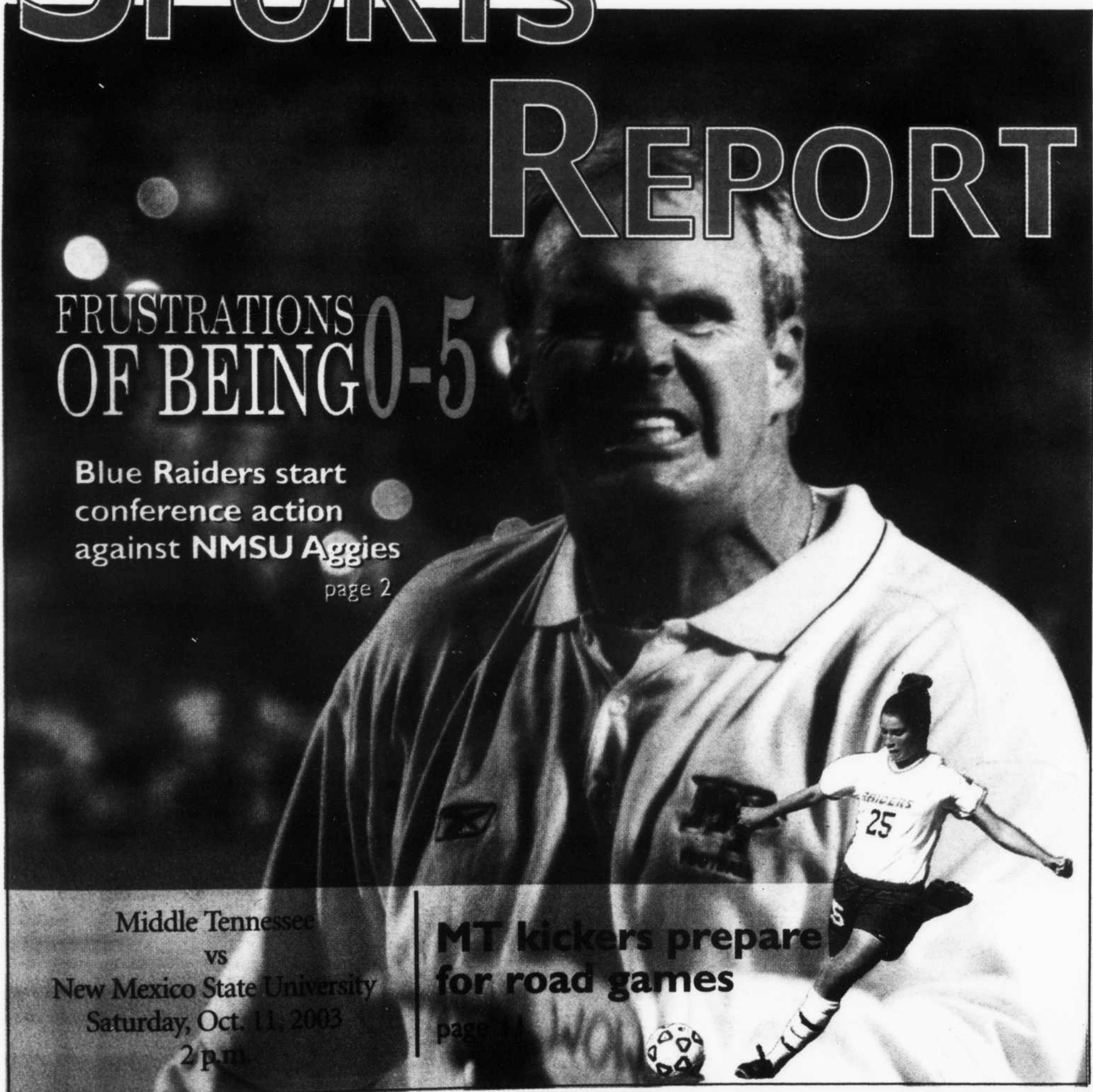
Blue Raiders start  
conference action  
against NMSU Aggies

page 2

Middle Tennessee  
vs  
New Mexico State University  
Saturday, Oct. 11, 2003  
2 p.m.

MT kickers prepare  
for road games

page 3



# Raiders begin Sun Belt play

By Chris Glasser  
Staff Writer

Middle Tennessee will try to start their Sun Belt Conference schedule with a win Saturday against New Mexico State on Homecoming day at Floyd Stadium.

The Blue Raiders go into the game after a fourth quarter rally fell short last week in a 44-36 loss to Temple.

MT got off to a quick start as wide receiver Kerry Wright took a screen pass from Clint Marks and raced 71 yards for the touchdown. After recovering a Temple fumble, running back Eugene Gross took a draw play and went 24 yards to give the Blue Raiders a 14-0 lead early in the 2nd quarter.

However, the Owls scored 41 unanswered points in the 2nd and 3rd quarters. Down 41-14 heading into the final quarter, the Blue Raiders (0-5) tried to rally as they scored 22 points to cut the lead to 8 with just over 4 minutes left.

After recovering an onside kick, MT drove the ball to the Temple 8-yard line, but was unable to score as they turned the ball over on downs. Temple ran out the final 50 seconds to

end the game.

MT's offense was able to rack up 432 yards but committed four turnovers, three of which led to Temple points.

"Anytime you turn the ball over four times and put our defense in the position we put them in is very tough for any football team," said head coach Andy McCollum.

New Mexico State (1-4, 0-1 SBC) will also be looking to rebound after squandering a 28-point lead in the second half against Idaho to lose 35-31. The Blue Raiders hope to have the same offensive success as Idaho quarterback Brian Lindgren, who torched the Aggie defense for 397 yards and five touchdowns.

Fans should expect this year's contest to be a close one. The past two games between MT and NMSU have been decided by a combined seven points.

The Blue Raiders' defense will need to contain Aggie quarterback Paul Dombrowski, who threw for 154 yards and rushed for 112 yards and a touchdown in last year's 24-21 victory over MT. The Blue Raiders currently rank last in the Sun Belt



Photo by Jamie Lorange | Chief Photographer

**Wide receiver Kerry Wright runs the ball from Temple's defense last Saturday.**

Conference in pass defense, allowing an average of 244 yards per game.

"It's definitely going to be a shootout," linebacker Randy Arnold said. "It's always a tough game playing them, but we just have to get our first Sun Belt win this week."

If MT's defense isn't able to stop the Aggies, the Blue Raiders will once again have to rely on their offense which has put up 76 points and 900 yards in the past two games combined. The Aggies and Blue Raiders currently rank 1-2 in the SBC in total offense.

Quarterback Andrico Hines, who leads the SBC in passer rating, hopes to bounce back after going down in the first quarter of the Temple game with a leg injury and

See NMSU, 8

## On the Cover ...

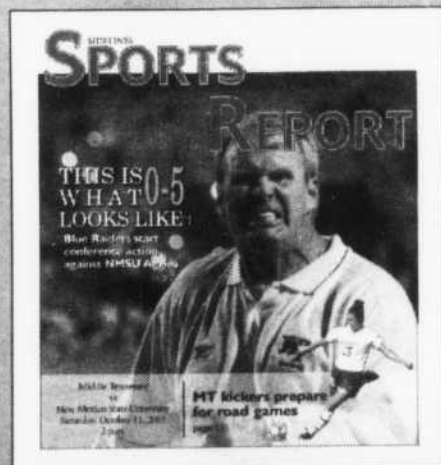


Photo by Jamie Lorange | Chief Photographer  
Cover by Brandon Morrison | Photo Editor

**Andy McCollum looks for his team's first season win against New Mexico State University Saturday at 2 p.m.**

## Sidelines Sports Report

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*Sidelines Sports Report* section will be published the Thursday before each home football game during the 2003 season.

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# Teams gear up for conference games

By David Hunter  
Staff Writer

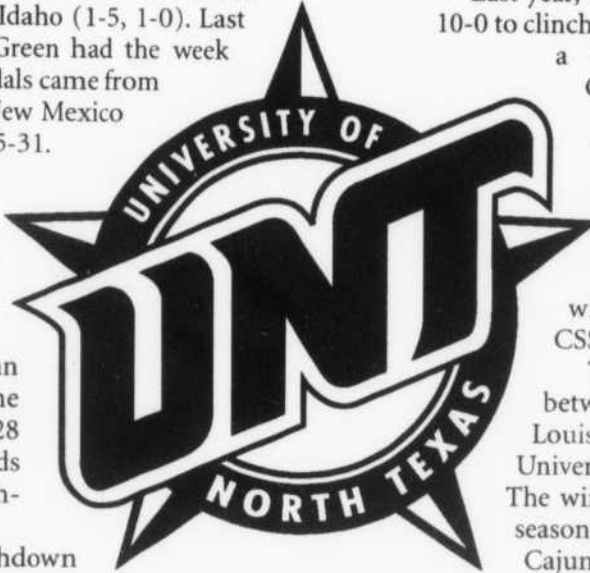
This week, two Sun Belt Conference matchups highlight the schedule.

One of the games pits two undefeated teams inside the conference. The other one is a classic showdown between two in-state rivals.

Two-time SBC champion University of North Texas (2-3, 1-0), goes on the road to face the University of Idaho (1-5, 1-0). Last week, the Mean Green had the week off, while the Vandals came from behind to upset New Mexico State University 35-31.

Idaho scored 28 consecutive points to pull out their first win of the season. Vandel quarterback Brian Lindgren led the comeback going 28 of 41 for 408 yards and five touchdowns.

The final touchdown came in the last minute to Jeff Stowe from seven yards out. Lindgren's performance earned him SBC Offensive Player of the Week. That final drive was 94 yards in five plays and 55 seconds long.



The drive began with a forced fumble by linebacker Mike Anderson. Anderson also had 23 tackles that gave him the SBC Defensive Player of Week.

The Mean Green are looking to keep their SBC winning streak alive. Currently, the streak is at 12, the second longest in the nation to the University of Miami. The Hurricanes have a 26-game winning streak in the Big East Conference.

Last year, UNT defeated Idaho 10-0 to clinch the SBC title to earn a trip to the New Orleans Bowl.

This game will be televised on the Sun Belt/ESPN Regional Network starting at 6 p.m. Locally, the game will be shown on

CSS Comcast Cable channel 27.

The other SBC game is a matchup between in-state rivals, the University of Louisiana-Monroe (0-6, 0-2) visiting, the University of Louisiana-Lafayette (0-6, 0-2). The winner will pick up their first win of the season. It is also Homecoming for the Ragin' Cajuns of Lafayette.

Last week, ULM blew a 23-9 halftime lead to Arkansas State University and lost 44-41. ULL was defeated by Big 12 member Oklahoma State University 56-3.

In last season's game, the Indians beat the Ragin'

Cajuns 34-10. The all-time series between the two teams is even at 19 games apiece.

Kickoff is set for 4 p.m. Saturday.

One of other two games involving SBC teams include ASU

(3-3, 1-1) going on the road to face Southeastern Conference member the University of Mississippi (3-2, 2-0).

Last week, ASU punter

Jarod Little was named SBC Special Teams Player of the Week for his perform-

ance in the 44-41 victory over ULM. Little had five punts land inside the opponent's 20-yard line. The Rebels went to the University of Florida and upset the Gators 20-17 last Saturday.

Game time is for 1 p.m. Saturday.

The final SBC game has Utah State University (1-4, 1-0) hosting Mountain West member the University of Wyoming (1-4, 0-1).

Last week, the Aggies lost 34-7 to the University of New Mexico.

Kickoff is set for 7 p.m. Saturday. ♦



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# Billings leads team in '03 season

**By Jerry Wilkinson**  
*Asst. Sports Editor*

When one thinks of a punter, the thought that comes to mind is a guy coming on the field to kick the ball to the opposing team.

Often times the punter must tackle the punt receiver so he will not score, like the last line of defense for the special teams.

A punter is just like any other player. As a matter of fact, the punter plays a very

intricate role on the team. The workout program with a strength coach is just as tough for a punter as a program for a defensive lineman. A punter must be as conditioned to take the every Saturday beating as the running back.

Robert Billings, the Blue Raider punter, is the Middle Tennessee's man when it comes to putting the opposition in critical situations on the field.

Whether it is placing them on their own 10-yard line or helping the MT squad get out of a bad position on the field, the team relies on him to accomplish either one of these goals.

Billings, a senior from Collierville, Tenn., was a walk-

on at MT in 1999.

During his senior season at Collierville High School, he not only punted, but he also played linebacker and running back. He rushed for 937 yards, averaged 38.7 yards per punt and led the team in tackles with 109.

During the same year, the University of Memphis, University of Tennessee-Martin and MT

**See Billings, 8**

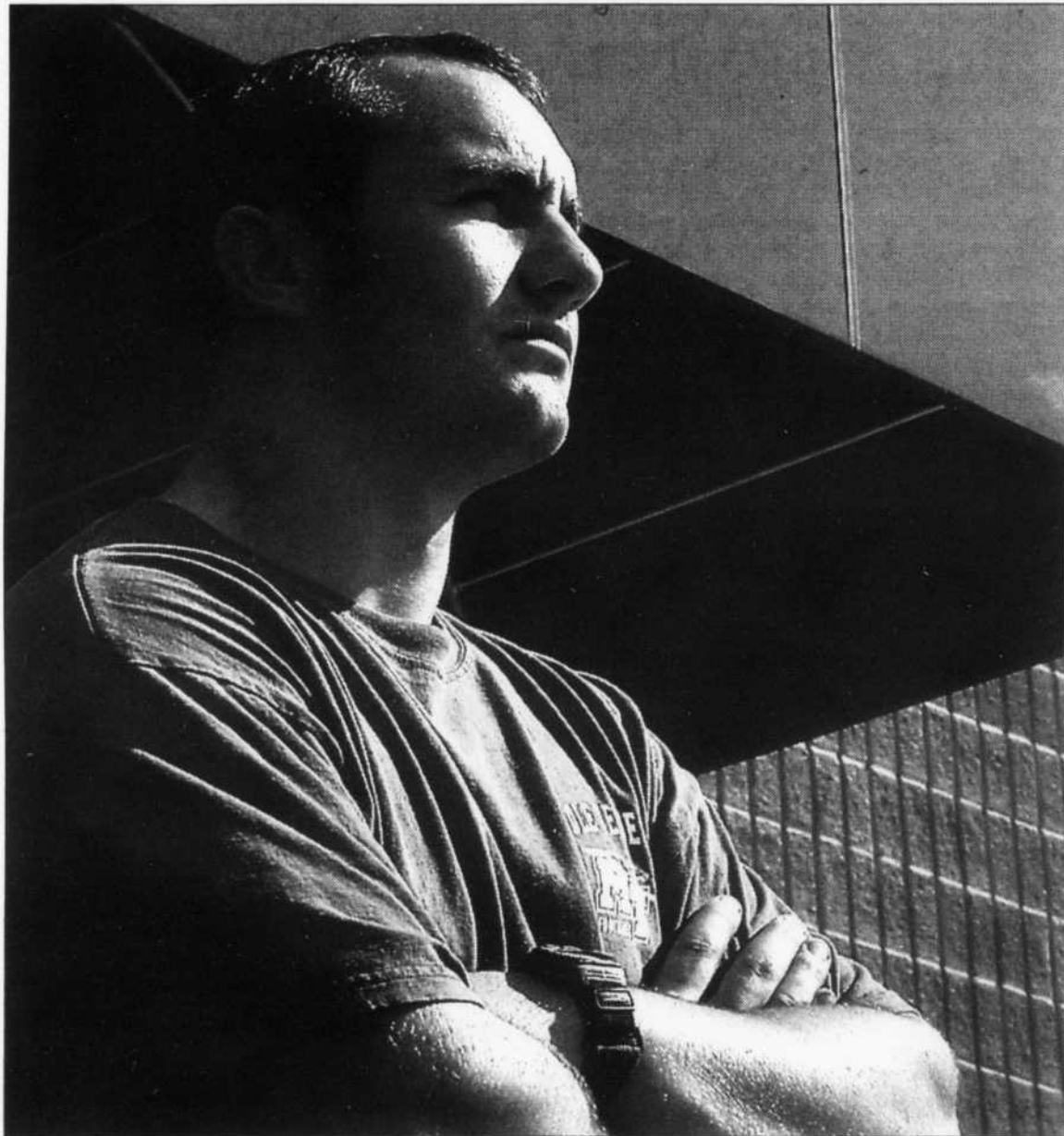


Photo by Micah Miller | Staff Photographer

Punter Robert Billings was named to the 2002 All-Sun Belt Conference team.

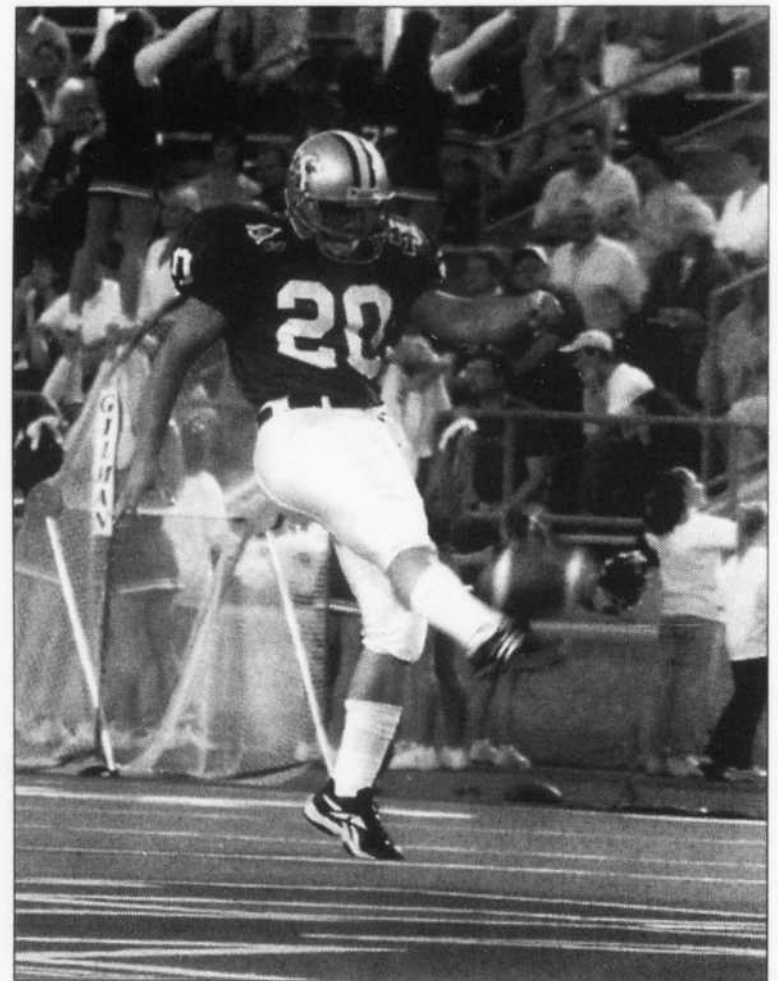


Photo by Micah Miller | Staff Photographer

Robert Billings punts the ball to the Temple defense last Saturday. The Raiders (0-5) lost 41-36.

**SIDELINES ONLINE**  
Middle Tennessee State University

# Raiders prepare for SBC season

## MT looks for improvement on offense

### Sports commentary



Jerry Wilkinson  
Asst. Sports Editor

The Blue Raiders will host Sun Belt Conference member New Mexico State University for a showdown at Floyd Stadium on Saturday at 2 p.m.

Middle Tennessee will go into the game after five straight losses. The Raiders' past four games have been against Big East, Big 12, Atlantic Coast Conference, and Southeastern Conference opponents.

NMSU comes into Saturday's game 2-3. The Aggies dropped three losses to Big 12 Texas, Pacific 10 Oregon State and SBC Idaho.

The Aggies have allowed a total of 1,814 yards this season. NMSU's defense has allowed 952 passing yards and 862 rushing yards, while the MT defense has allowed 2,060 total

yards.

"They are a physical football team who will go with two tight ends and two backs and run the option," MT head coach Andy McCollum said.

"They will use a lot of play action and mix things up a bunch. Stopping the run and getting off blocks will be critical for us because they have one of the top rushing games in the country. They are an option team that can throw the football, so we have to be ready



for everything."

When NMSU has faced a ranked opponent, they have been outscored 94-23. This is a large margin of victory compared to MT only losing 70-50

to ranked opponents.

If MT remains consistent on the ground, NMSU may have a problem stopping the ground attack. MT running backs Eugene Gross and Kevin Davis are healthy after rushing for a combined 175 yards.

The Blue Raiders have rushed for a total of 868 yards and held their opponents to 841 yards.

However, the MT passing game may be a question for Saturday.

"We have great confidence in all three quarterbacks," McCollum said. "Clint and Josh will get a lot of reps this week and we will do everything we can to have them both prepared for New Mexico State. As for Andrico, we will just have to wait and see. We may not know anything until Saturday."

The NMSU matchup will be the beginning of six conference series. With a win, the MT squad could kick-start their way to an undefeated conference finish. ♦

## NMSU battling for first conference win at MT '03 homecoming

### Sports commentary



Brad Jameson  
Staff Columnist

New Mexico State University visits Murfreesboro Saturday for Middle Tennessee's first Sun Belt Conference game of the season.

The Aggies (1-4, 0-1) are coming off a heart-breaking loss to Idaho last week, in which Idaho overcame a 28-point deficit to defeat NMSU in the final seconds, 35-31.

NMSU head coach Tony Samuel considers the loss to Idaho one of the worst two losses of his career with the Aggies. The other was to Middle Tennessee in 2001.

In the first meeting of these two teams, MT overcame a 35-11 fourth-quarter deficit to win 39-35.

"It was a tough, tough loss," Samuel said of the Idaho game to [www.nmstate-sports.com](http://www.nmstate-sports.com). "If you've been around long enough, you're going to be in a tough loss. This is in the top two, and Middle Tennessee [in 2001] was one of them. The biggest challenge is that we have to prepare."

Saturday's game will be the third time NMSU and

MT have met. The previous two contests, played in the 2001 and 2002 seasons, were intense comeback thrillers. Both meetings were decided by a combined seven points, with each team claiming one victory. In each of the two games, the winning team was trailing heading into the fourth quarter.

NMSU, despite their record, is quite an offensive threat. The Aggies managed 588 yards of total offense against Idaho last week and are averaging almost 200 yards rushing per game. Quarterback Paul

Dombrowski is a serious double threat, leading the Aggies in both passing and rushing yardage. He is 34 for 58 with 494 yards passing and has gained 311 yards on 72 carries.

If last week's performance is anything to judge by, the Aggies must improve their defense if they hope to keep the Blue Raiders at bay.

New Mexico State's defense allowed 392 yards passing and 158 yards rushing against Idaho.

The Aggies managed to intercept the ball three times against Idaho, bringing New Mexico State's season total to eight.

MT quarterback Andrico Hines has thrown one interception this season. ♦



# MIDDLE TENNESSEE Blue Raiders



1	Kerry Wright	WR	5-9	176	r-Jr.	49	Paul Wheeler	K	6-1	226	r-So.
2	Michael Woods	SS	6-1	211	Sr.	50	Paul Cantrell	OL	6-4	324	r-Fr.
3	Tony Sutton	DB	5-11	196	Sr.	51	Kyle Ringley	OL	6-2	256	r-So.
4	Tyrone Hicks	DB	5-10	204	Fr.	52	Leon Cesar	LB	6-1	236	Jr.
5	Muhammad Rashada	DB	5-11	174	r-Sr.	53	Joey Montalbano	LB	5-9	210	r-Sr.
6	Will Martin	FS	5-11	205	Sr.	54	Randy Arnold	LB	5-11	231	r-Sr.
7	Danny Tolbert	DB	5-10	170	Jr.	55	Josh Willoughby	OL	6-4	354	r-Sr.
8	Hashem Joyner	WR	5-9	160	r-Jr.	56	Kenny Edwards	LB	6-0	229	Sr.
9	Andrico Hines	QB	6-2	209	r-Sr.	57	Marcus Gates	DL	6-2	262	r-Fr.
10	Chris Johnson	DB	5-10	188	r-Sr.	58	Marcel Home	LB	6-1	215	Fr.
11	Pedro Holiday	WR	6-1	175	Jr.	59	Brandon Westbrook	OL	6-6	305	r-Sr.
12	Wardell Alsop	WR	5-9	152	Sr.	60	Willie Hall	OL	6-6	318	r-Fr.
15	Justin Rainey	SS	5-10	198	r-Fr.	61	Germayle Franklin	OL	6-4	304	r-Fr.
16	Josh Harris	QB	6-3	180	So.	62	Lance McCullough	OL	6-4	309	Fr.
17	Clint Marks	QB	6-2	188	r-Fr.	67	Julius Gant	OL	6-4	310	r-Jr.
18	Shawn Allen	DB	6-0	195	r-So.	69	Brett Trott	OL	6-4	295	r-So.
19	Aaron Pitts	DB	5-11	188	Sr.	71	Joe Evilsizer	OL	6-1	298	Jr.
20	Robert Billings	P	6-0	209	r-Sr.	73	Bill Brasch	OL	6-3	308	Sr.
21	Jonathan Harris	DB	5-10	185	Fr.	74	Ty Goodrich	OL	6-5	300	Fr.
21	Chris Hough	SS	6-1	214	r-Jr.	75	Brandon Parker	OL	6-7	306	Sr.
22	Brian Kelly	PK	6-0	186	Sr.	76	Shavaskey Brown	OL	6-1	338	r-So.
23	Alvin Fite	LB	6-0	227	Jr.	77	John Henry	DL	6-4	315	r-Fr.
24	LaRue Beck	WS	6-2	216	So.	78	Kenyon Buford	OL	6-6	385	Fr.
25	Eugene Gross	RB	5-9	208	r-Fr.	80	Tommy Manus	WR	6-4	222	Jr.
26	Terry Jackson	RB	5-10	185	Fr.	81	Luke Paschall	WR	5-10	184	r-Fr.
27	Kelvin German	RB	5-11	203	So.	82	Jerrin Holt	WR	6-3	228	r-So.
28	Don Calloway	RB	5-6	186	Sr.	83	Pierre Ingram	WR	6-4	204	r-Fr.
30	Alex Weaver	RB	5-10	186	r-Sr.	84	Chris Sapp	TE	6-5	258	r-Fr.
31	Nick McAfee	FB	6-0	248	Jr.	85	Chris Henry	WR	5-8	163	r-So.
32	Kevin Davis	RB	5-9	220	r-Fr.	86	Michael Watkins	WR	6-1	170	r-Fr.
33	Jonathan Bonner	LB	6-0	220	So.	87	Ryan Edmiston	WR	6-0	200	r-Sr.
34	Kevin Copeland	WS	5-9	188	r-Fr.	88	Sam Williams	WR	6-1	180	r-Fr.
35	Jonathan Ward	LB	6-1	222	Fr.	89	Seth Grabo	TE	6-4	250	r-Jr.
36	John Crawford	DS	6-0	260	So.	91	Joe Smith	DL	6-3	235	Fr.
37	Clinton Corder	TE	6-3	243	Fr.	92	Jeff Littlejohn	DL	6-2	318	r-So.
40	Dennis Burke	LB	6-1	227	So.	93	Thomas Johnson	DL	6-2	289	r-Jr.
42	Brandon Lynch	WS	6-0	188	Sr.	94	Devarick Scandrett	DL	6-4	262	So.
43	Darren Mustin	LB	6-1	224	Fr.	95	Jonathan Callahan	DL	6-3	258	r-So.
44	Matt Little	FB	6-0	228	r-Fr.	96	Bobby Payne	DL	6-4	258	r-Fr.
45	Sean Mosley	LB	6-3	253	Fr.	97	Jerry Vanderpool	DL	6-3	306	r-Jr.
46	Colby Smith	P	5-9	183	r-Fr.	98	Demetrios Walker	DL	6-3	254	Sr.
47	Walt Bell	DB	5-10	190	r-Fr.	99	Dominic Jones	DL	6-3	294	Sr.
48	Ralph Gunter	FB	6-0	265	Fr.						

## 2003 SEASON SCHEDULE



Aug. 28	Florida Atlantic	Murfreesboro, Tenn.	L, 19-20
Sept. 6	Georgia	Athens, Ga.	L, 10-29
Sept. 13	Clemson	Clemson, S.C.	L, 14-37
Sept. 20	Missouri	Columbia, Mo.	L, 40-41
Oct. 4	Temple	Murfreesboro, Tenn.	L, 36-44
Oct. 11	New Mexico State	Murfreesboro, Tenn.	2 p.m.
Oct. 18	Idaho	Moscow, Idaho	4 p.m.
Oct. 25	North Texas	Murfreesboro, Tenn.	6 p.m.
Nov. 1	Utah State	Logan, Utah	4 p.m.
Nov. 8	Troy State	Murfreesboro, Tenn.	6 p.m.
Nov. 15	Louisiana-Lafayette	Murfreesboro, Tenn.	2 p.m.
Nov. 20	Arkansas State	Jonesboro, Ark.	6 p.m.

# NEW MEXICO STATE

# Aggies



12	Aguiniga, Dario	5-11	213	Kicker	SR	78	Leslie, Cole	6-7	285	OL	JR
9	Alexander, Deondre	5-11	170	Wide Receiver	SR	87	Lonon, Anthony	6-3	189	Wide Receiver	SO
20	Ali, Muammar	5-8	180	Running back	FR	8	Lumpkin, Chris	6-1	185	Wide Receiver	SR
7	Allen, Brandon	6-3	185	Wide receiver	FR	83	Maccarrone, Charlie	5-11	226	Wide Receiver	SR
74	Apineru, Lionel	6-1	298	Defensive Tackle	JR	13	Malloy, David	5-8	159	Corner Back	JR
36	Bernard, Alex	5-10	177	Defensive Back	FR	69	Martinez, Mike	6-3	292	Offensive Line	FR
23	Bostic, Tony	5-9	190	I-Back	SR	43	McCrary, Glenn	6-1	189	Free Safety	FR
88	Bredell, Adrian	6-3	221	Tight End	FR	28	McIlwain, Spencer	5-9	190	IB	FR
86	Brown, Roger	6-4	247	Tight End	SO	57	McManigal, Tim	6-0	222	Linebacker	FR
32	Bullock, Traydell	6	253	Rush End	JR	73	Miller, Steve	6-1	258	Offensive center	FR
25	Byrd, Gill	5-9	160	Defensive Back	FR	15	Moore, Spencer	5-9	167	Cornerback	FR
41	Carrie, Eric	5-10	201	Safety	FR	6	Mouton, Keith	5-6	177	I - Back	SO
62	Chambers, Brandon	6-4	336	Offensive Guard	SO	34	Muro, Robert	5-9	191	Running Back	JR
79	Cimador, Kevin	6-5	300	OL	FR	91	Naylor, Jared	6-2	270	Def. lineman	FR
40	Cleaver, Nick	6-3	195	Safety	FR	94	Nicks, Carl	6-4	280	Def. lineman	FR
64	Cole, Nick	6-1	348	Offensive Guard	SO	17	Nuttall, Nathan	6-0	192	Strong safety	FR
57	Colston, David	6-6	298	Offensive tackle	FR	30	Ocampo, Simon	5-11	219	Fullback	JR
42	Cottrell, Jimmy	6-1	238	Linebacker	SO	45	Olivo, Joe	6-2	263	Nose Tackle	SR
49	Dade, Sean	5-10	202	Linebacker	SO	18	Oloya, Leon	6-2	190	Wide Receiver	JR
71	Dale, Andy	6-1	295	Center	SR	35	Patrick, Tim	6-1	227	Linebacker	SR
89	Davis, Alex	6-4	239	Tight End	SR	95	Patterson, Cedric	5-11	265	Nose Tackle	JR
29	Davis, Christopher	5-9	178	Cornerback	SO	11	Pierce, Buck	6-1	210	Quarterback	JR
56	Davis, John	5-10	227	Linebacker	SO	3	Pierce, Flynt	6-1	177	Quarterback	FR
97	Ditmore, Dustin	6-0	242	Tight End	JR	68	Propst, Glenn	6-0	349	Offensive Line	JR
44	Dixon, Marcus	5-8	239	Fullback	SR	80	Quick, Jared	6-1	188	Wide Receiver	SO
10	Dombrowski, Paul	6-1	214	Quarterback	SO	65	Quinones, Jose	6-1	307	Offensive Guard	FR
46	Dorisme, Aubrey	6-1	253	Rush End	JR	47	Romaka, David	5-10	214	Fullback	FR
81	Duncan, Chris	6-2	196	Wide Receiver	SR	85	Samuel, Travis	6-5	268	Tight End	SO
18	Evans, Brad	6-3	183	Kicker	FR	61	Sanchez, Matt	6-4	301	Offensive Guard	SR
55	Finau, Sione	6-1	222	Linebacker	JR	38	Sayas, Jarrett	5-9	201	Fullback	FR
92	Ford, Sam	6-4	290	Offensive Tackle	FR	13	Scaffidi, Carl	6-3	215	Quarterback	JR
37	Glover, Richard	6-0	231	Linebacker	JR	82	Scaffidi, Greg	6-4	265	Rush End	JR
75	Gottlieb, Alex	6-4	275	OL	FR	9	Shabazz, Shukree	5-9	182	Strong Safety	SO
2	Griebel, Matt	5-10	179	Free Safety	SO	77	Shopbell, Justin	6-4	295	Offensive Line	FR
93	Guardia, Ryan	5-8	216	Kicker	FR	72	Sinclair, Adam	6-3	231	Offensive Center	JR
76	Hearne, Brandon	6-2	256	Rush End	SO	54	Sioui, John	6-1	242	Right End	SR
4	Higgins, Eric	5-10	200	I - Back	SR	67	Smith, Kyle	6-3	265	Off. lineman	FR
19	Holland, Johnathan	5-11	156	Defensive Back	JR	16	Smith, Steven	6-3	190	Punter	JR
74	Honaker, Adam	6-4	248	Offensive Line	FR	58	Sneed, Chris	6-1	208	Right End	FR
34	Howard, Julmar	5-10	205	Linebacker	SR	96	Spicer, Chase	6-5	278	Defensive Tackle	SO
21	Imperial, Jeremiah	5-10	175	Cornerback	JR	63	Subia, Steve	6-3	365	Offensive Guard	JR
3	Jacobs, Dominique	5-11	198	Safety	JR	39	Sylvestre, Beau	5-11	233	Linebacker	JR
66	Jean, Jacob	6-1	298	Offensive Guard	FR	84	Tolbert, Tim	6-1	183	Wide receiver	FR
27	Jenkins, Ronshay	5-7	147	Wide Receiver	SR	50	Vincent, Clay	5-11	271	Offensive Center	JR
19	Johnson, Garrett	6-2	199	Wide Receiver	JR	5	Vincent, Joey	6-1	207	Quarterback	FR
22	Johnson, Travis	5-7	147	Defensive Back	SO	90	Weeks, Jeremy	6-2	277	Defensive Tackle	FR
53	Jones, Travis	5-11	226	Linebacker	SO	57	White, Dan	6-0	192	OL/DS	FR
26	Joseph, Tony	5-11	198	Running Back	FR	14	Williams, Preston	6-0	187	Wide Receiver	JR
60	Kine, Trevor	6-6	276	Offensive Tackle	SR	1	Wright, Cameron	6-1	181	Cornerback	SO
99	Laborin, Tommy	6-3	307	Rush End	SR						

Oct. 16	UL-Lafayette	Lafayette, La.	5 p.m.
Oct. 25	UL-Monroe	Monroe, La.	6 p.m.
Nov. 1	Arkansas State (HC)	Las Cruces, N.M.	5 p.m.

## NMSU UPCOMING GAMES

## NMSU: Coming to town

Continued from 2

finishing just 4-10 for 20 yards. It's still unknown if Hines will be able to go Saturday.

If not, redshirt freshman Clint Marks and sophomore Josh Harris, who filled in after Hines went down, will play. Marks finished 10-14 for 150 yards and a touchdown while Harris was 4-5 for 32 yards. Either way, McCollum feels he can depend on either one of them.

"We have great confidence in all three quarterbacks,"

McCollum said. "As for Andrico, we will just have to wait and see. We may not know anything until Saturday."

MT will need to get the ball into the hands of wide receiver Kerry Wright. Wright finished with another big game last week and leads the SBC with 29 receptions for 462 yards and three touchdowns.

Expect a high scoring game as both teams attempt to get off on the right foot as SBC play begins. Kickoff is set for 2 p.m. Saturday. ♦

## Billings: Finishing career

Continued from 4

approached Billings.

In the fall of 2001, Blue Raider head coach Andy McCollum placed him on scholarship.

"I chose MT because I enjoyed the campus and because it was an up and coming Division I-A team. Memphis and UT-Martin wanted to recruit me as a running back," Billings said. "My father encouraged me to go to MT."

His accomplishments on and off the field have carried over from his high school days to college.

While playing under Paul Cox at Collierville High School, he carried a 4.0 grade

point average.

"Robert got along with everyone," Cox said. "He has a great work ethic and showed great leadership on and off the field."

"I was amazed that when he graduated that he wasn't besieged with offers. Great speed, great strength, just a great person."

In 2002, Billings earned First Team All-Sun Belt honors and was voted preseason First Team All-Sun Belt by the league coaches. He was also placed on the Ray Guy Watch List, an award given exclusively to punters for exceptional performance.

The 2003 season will be the last for Billings here at MT. ♦

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# Running back looking for win

**By Jerry Wilkinson**  
Asst. Sports Editor

You may have a football player in your class and not even know it. Many times you can tell who an athlete is by the shirts they wear, but not Eugene Gross.

Gross is one of the players that, if he didn't tell you he was a football player, you would have never guessed it. He sits quietly in class and leaves when class is over.

Gross, a Statesboro, Ga., native, came to Middle Tennessee in 2002 to don the Blue Raider uniform.

When he came to MT, he had to sit out due to NCAA academic requirements.

"Coming out of high school, I got into a little bit of trouble with academics, and I was just looking for a place where I could come in and learn some things," Gross said.

"A lot of schools were not wanting to give me a chance, but I talked to the coaches from MT, Coach Mac and Coach Fuqua, and they understood my situation."

At the time of his high school graduation, MT had already been in the Division I-A ranks for two years.

There was opportunity for Gross at MT because of some players graduating and leaving for the NFL early.

"I understood that when ReShard Lee left there were going to be some spots vacant," Gross said.

"So I knew if I came in and just worked hard all over the summer and performed well, then it would be a chance for me to get some personal training."

The coaching staff at MT is committed to making sure their players are doing their job in the classroom.

"Our coaching staff is one of the best in the country," Gross said. "They teach great discipline. What I can learn from this is being on time. I have problems with being on time to class."

"I know I can't be late for practice and that is my job. They just educated me that work is first and you have to be on time to be a consistent worker."

The discipline that Gross is learning on the field will also benefit him in the classroom.

"We knew that when we got Eugene that number one he was a competitor, a tough guy," MT head coach Andy McCollum said.

"I knew he was a good athlete. The good thing is he has never been a running back, and this is his first year. He is a physical guy, and winning means a lot to him. We will have a lot of Eugene Gross for the next three years." ♦

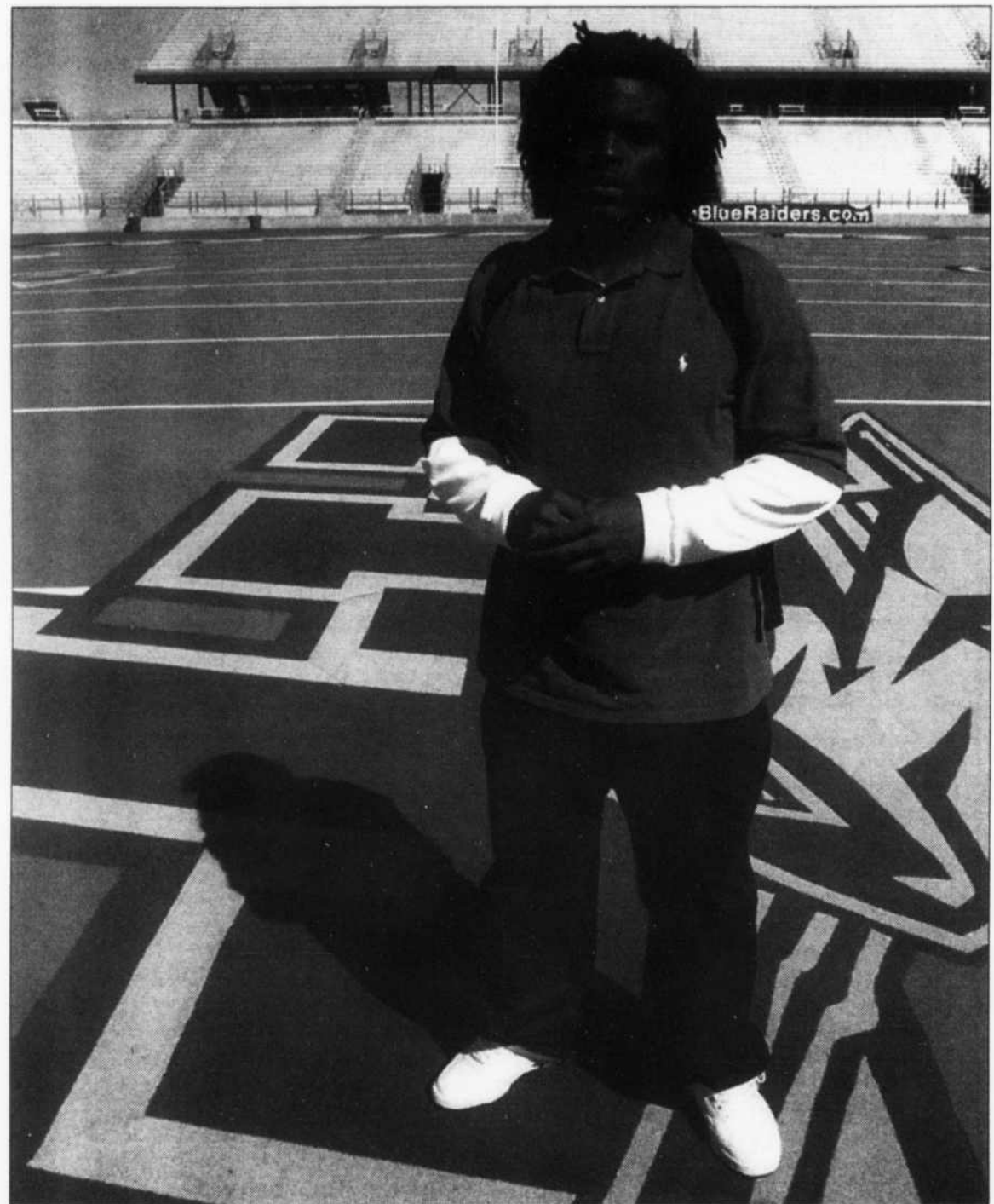
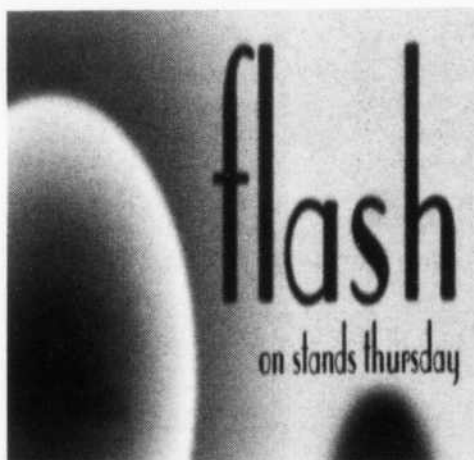


Photo by James Harris | Staff Photographer

**Eugene Gross currently starts at the running back position for the Blue Raiders.**



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# the 'boro's best 2003 ballot

★ Please nominate as few national chains as possible ★

## MUSIC

Best Murfreesboro band

\_\_\_\_\_

Best Murfreesboro musician

\_\_\_\_\_

Best place to hear live music

\_\_\_\_\_

Best place to play live music

\_\_\_\_\_

## FOOD & DRINK

Bar with the best bartenders

\_\_\_\_\_

Best cup of coffee

\_\_\_\_\_

Best mixed drinks

\_\_\_\_\_

Best happy hour

\_\_\_\_\_

Best beer

\_\_\_\_\_

Best atmosphere (restaurant)

\_\_\_\_\_

Best atmosphere (bar)

\_\_\_\_\_

Best breakfast

\_\_\_\_\_

Best Mexican food

\_\_\_\_\_

Best oriental food

\_\_\_\_\_

Best sit-down meal in town

\_\_\_\_\_

*Food and drink continued*

Best service (restaurant)

\_\_\_\_\_

Best service (bar)

\_\_\_\_\_

Best drunk/stoned food

\_\_\_\_\_

Best grab-and-go lunch place

\_\_\_\_\_

## ART & ENTERTAINMENT

Best place to spend a Friday night

\_\_\_\_\_

Best place to spend a Saturday night

\_\_\_\_\_

Best place to spend a weeknight

\_\_\_\_\_

Best place to pick up a date

\_\_\_\_\_

Best place to take your date

\_\_\_\_\_

Best place to cheat on your date

\_\_\_\_\_

Best place to dance

\_\_\_\_\_

Best place to rent videos

\_\_\_\_\_

Best place to experience local culture

\_\_\_\_\_

Best place to see local art

\_\_\_\_\_

Best place to sit, chill out and read

\_\_\_\_\_

You can submit your ballot to [flash] several ways. Drop it off at the *Sidelines* office in the James Union Building, Room 310. Mail it to *Sidelines* at 1301 E. Main St. MTSU Box 8, Murfreesboro, TN 37132. Fax it to (615) 904.8193. Download the ballot online at [www.mtsusidelines.com](http://www.mtsusidelines.com). Just whatever you do, send in your ballot. Call (615) 898.2917 if you have any questions.



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# MT kickers prepare for games

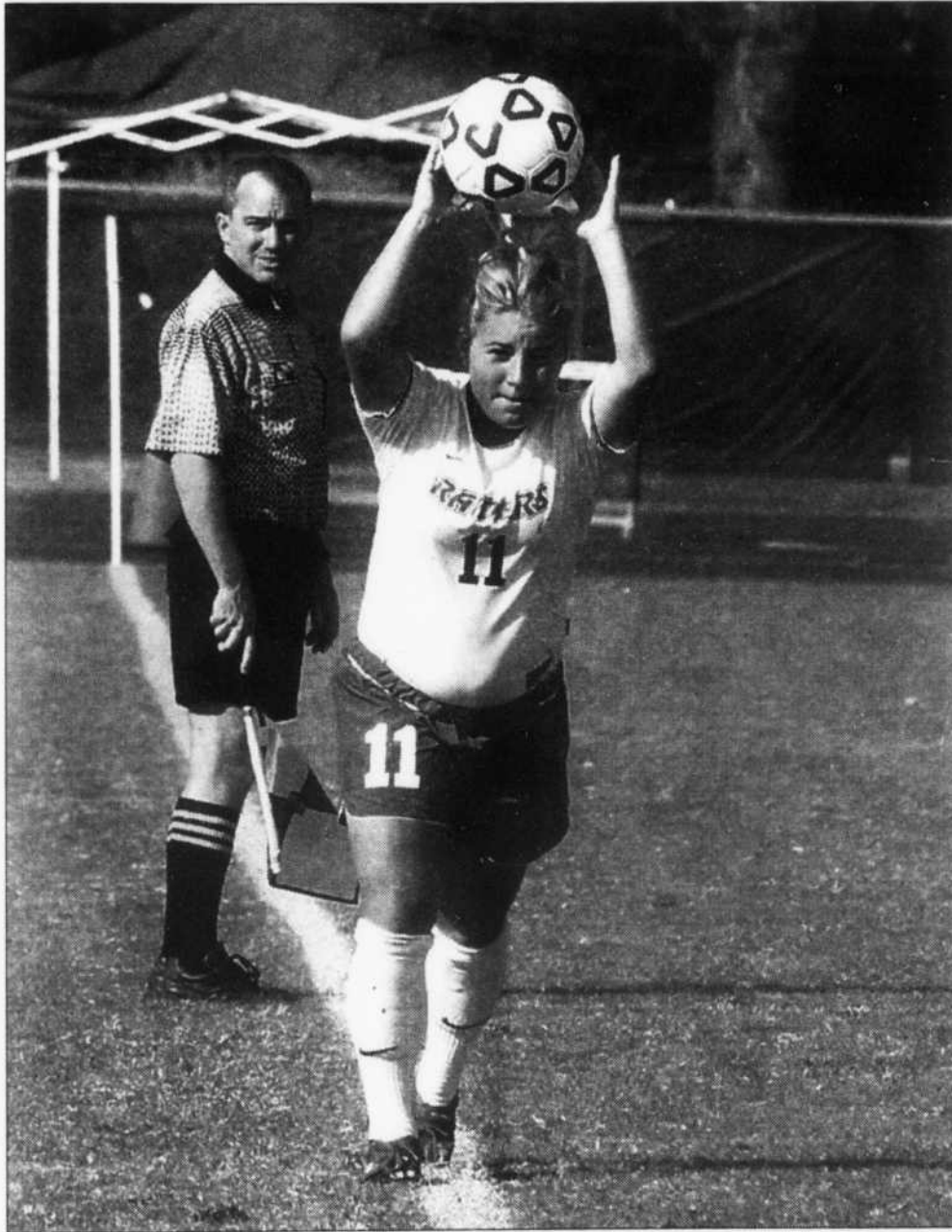


Photo by Micah Miller | Staff Photographer

Freshman Beth Wade throws the ball back onto the field against Florida International last Saturday. The Blue Raiders shut out FIU 2-0.

By Colby Sledge  
Staff Writer

After Friday's match against the University of Arkansas-Little Rock, the Blue Raiders continue their conference road trip on Sunday with an afternoon game against Arkansas State University.

Last year, Middle Tennessee won 1-0 on Laura Miguez's unassisted goal from 25 yards out in the 68th minute. MT head coach Aston Rhoden expects an even tougher battle this year.

"Last year when we played them, they gave us a lot of problems," Rhoden said. "We won it, and I think a big part of it was just home-field advantage. Going into that game, we're going to have to be on our best game."

According to Rhoden, the Lady Indians play a possession-oriented game similar to the system that Rhoden has incorporated at MT. ASU head coach Ken Hefner is the program's only head coach since the team's inaugural season in 2000.

Although ASU (4-7, 0-2) comes into Sunday's match with a losing record, Rhoden talks as though his Blue Raiders (6-5, 1-0) will be underdogs.

"They're going to come in ready to play," he said. "We're just going to have to somehow take care of their

fans, their officials and their team's intensity and try to win."

"We haven't done great on the road, so that is of concern for us as well. We're definitely going to have to concentrate ... if we're going to come away with any type of positive result," Rhoden added.

Although MT has struggled away from Blue Raider Field, with a 1-4 record on the road, the Lady Indians have had those same difficulties at home. ASU is 1-3 at home while sporting a 3-2 record on the road.

Sophomore midfielder Shawna Sparks leads the Lady Indians (4-7, 0-2) with eight goals and is one of two ASU players to have started every game this season. Senior goalkeepers Jamie Reesby and Adrienne Mann have split time this season, with Mann receiving the start and making nine saves in Sunday's 2-0 loss to No. 23 University of Denver.

At the other end of the field, MT goalkeeper Danielle Perreault is coming off two shutouts and has lowered her goals-against average to 1.32. Rhoden has been pleased with Perreault's improvement over the last two weeks.

"I think she's a lot more aggressive at controlling her box," Rhoden said. "She's concentrating a lot more, and she's communicating a lot more. I think that's making her job as a goalkeeper a lot easier."

Perreault and the rest of the Blue Raiders take on ASU at 1 p.m. Sunday before returning home for two home games against University of Denver and the University of North Texas next weekend. ♦



Rhoden

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# Homecoming

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