

WEDNESDAY

APRIL 3, 2003

55



78

Partly Cloudy



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

How will another tuition  
increase affect you?

## Glossary:

There's no need for a definition

In Flash, inside

Middle Tennessee State University

# SIDELINES

An editorially  
independent  
newspaper

Volume 78 No. 84

## The air up there



Photo by Danny Grigsby | Staff Photographer

Senior liberal arts student John Humphrey practices for the 15th Annual College Slam Dunk Contest, which will air tonight on ESPN2 at 9:30 p.m. For full story, see Sports, page 5.

## Senate seats to be filled by appointment

By Chris Jones  
Staff Writer

Student Government Association president-elect Michele Butler will make appointments in an effort to resolve the numerous vacancies in the Senate this fall.

After meeting Tuesday, it was decided by the executive SGA officers and Dean of Student Life Gene Fitch that Butler will appoint students to the remaining nine seats, and elections for the Freshman Senate and the Homecoming Court will be done at the same time in the fall.

Last year there were less than four seats open, a number that has more than doubled. The number of seats in the Senate varies from year to year according to the student enrollment within each college of the university.

"A lot of times we put more emphasis on the executive offices and the Senate is forgotten," Butler said.

Open seats available include three for undeclared majors, three for the College of Education and one each in the Colleges of Basic and Applied

Sciences and Business.

The usual procedure is for the appointments, but due to the large number, many felt it would be questionable.

Brandon Robbins, current SGA president, said a choice had to be made that would decide whether interested students would be able to apply for the positions, or if Butler would appoint students to fill the vacancies.

However, some students wonder why there were so many seats still open when many people have expressed interest.

Amanda Newman, speaker of the Senate, said she knows of people who wanted to run.

"I think there were various reasons," Newman said. "Maybe some people just didn't get their packets in on time."

"Some students change their focus to other campus organizations, and we tend to lose a few people that way," Butler said.

"It is a lot of work, and people don't realize it," she said.

"The Senate is an important part of SGA because it's the branch that writes bills and

See SGA, 2

## Worker exposes realities of labor exploitation

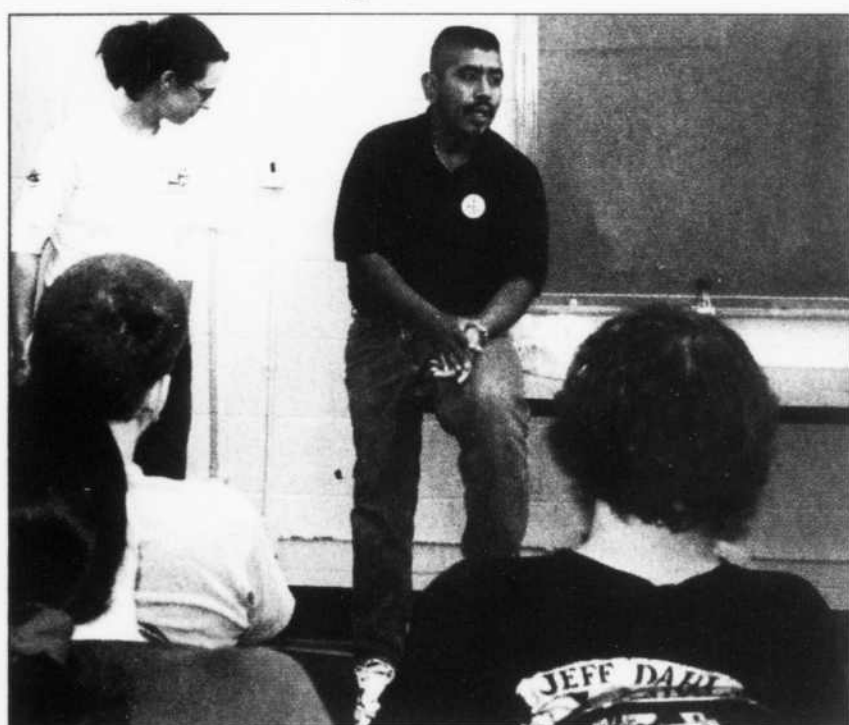


Photo by Aaron Eckerman | Staff Photographer

Lucas Benitez, a migrant farm worker, discusses worker exploitation in the corporate farming industry.

By Callie Elizabeth Butler  
Assistant News Editor

As part of their ongoing action against Taco Bell, Solidarity hosted a presentation on slavery and inhumanity in corporate farming yesterday, featuring a migrant farm worker from Immokalee, Fla.

The speaker, Lucas Benitez, is a member of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, a group formed in 1997 to improve the condition of corporate farm workers in Immokalee and eradicate the existence of modern day slavery. Julia Perkins joined Benitez as an interpreter and fellow supporter of the campaign.

In this area of Florida, day laborers work long hours on farms owned by major corporations, risking exposure to toxic pesticides, and must pick 2 tons of tomatoes to earn \$50. According to Benitez, workers typically earn only 40 to 50 cents for each bucket of tomatoes weighing approximately 32 pounds, and an average worker earns a day's wage of \$15 to \$20.

"A farm worker earns \$7,000 to \$7,500 on average per year," Benitez said.

Large corporations own today's farming operations and employ immigrant workers as cheap, cost effective operations. These workers receive no benefits or job

See Workers, 2

## Lecture to focus on links between feminism, science

By Audie Sheridan  
Staff Writer

Noted philosopher of science Helen Longino will present a lecture tomorrow, titled "Feminism, Science and the Politics of Knowledge."

Longino, currently a professor at the University of Minnesota, has taught philosophy for 30 years at six different universities. She is the author of four books, the most recent published in 2001, titled *The Fate of Knowledge*. Longino also has numerous scholarly articles published.



Longino

provocative and engaging science scholars in contemporary philosophy," Magada-Ward said.

During most of Longino's philosophical career she focused on feminist philosophy and feminist philosophy of sci-

ence.

"My quarrel is with conventional ideas of objectivity," Longino said.

Longino does not believe any person can be truly objective, including scientists, and she would have scientists in particular reflect on the values they bring with them when approaching their research.

In the lecture tomorrow, Longino will contrast the way people normally look at science and the way feminist scholars approach the same subject.

"I hope students will get a sense of the variety of ways in

which we can think about scientific knowledge and a sense of the power of feminist work on the nature of scientific knowledge-the challenge it presents to conventional views," Longino said.

According to professor Magada-Ward, not only philosophers and feminists can benefit from Longino's lecture.

"While Professor Longino is very familiar with the nitty gritty of scientific research - she has worked extensively with the biologist Ruth Doell - she is

See Longino, 2



Photo provided by Kurt St. Amant

Professor Mary Nichols uses a reflector to light subjects while acting as a production assistant in February.

## Professor explores through media

By Ian Campbell  
Staff Writer

Last winter, while most MTSU students and staff fought frostbite, professor of electronic media communication Mary Nichols opted for a more temperate climate.

Throughout the end of January and early February, Nichols participated in the 14th JASON project, a scientific endeavor studying the Channel Islands of central California, a national park and protected wildlife sanctuary near Santa Barbara.

The JASON project is the brainchild of Robert Ballard, who discovered the wreck of the Titanic in late 1989.

Ballard used the much-publicized event to launch a new dimension in education, one that involved student audiences in the details of scientific exploration.

JASON projects use the latest in communication and media technology, with live broadcasts, paper curricula and chat

events, to give students across the country a hands on feel for what it is like to be part of scientific expedition.

The latest project, JASON XIV, is the fifth Nichols has been involved with.

Ballard's project turned the Channel Islands into a giant laboratory where hundreds of scientists and support crew converged to investigate the various natural dynamics.

Among other things, the scientists focused on the local geography of the region, the interrelation of the various ecosystems and the cultural history of an ancient American Indian tribe, the Chumash.

Nichols spent nearly three and a half weeks on Anacapa Island, one of the smallest in the chain. While there, she was involved in the actual program production of the project, which broadcasted 55 shows in 11 days. The shows are produced by Seattle-based Media Arts.

See JASON, 2



# Concert to benefit campus radio

By Callie Elizabeth Butler  
Assistant News Editor

Good Vibrations, a student public relations group created in January, is currently promoting WMTS, the campus' student-run radio station, with a benefit show.

The benefit concert will be held at Wallstreet, located on the Square, at 9:30 p.m.

The benefit's aim is to increase awareness and raise funds for WMTS and its endeavors. Featured acts will include DJ Fustin America, Soon, Haduken and Splis.

"WMTS is such a great resource here, which is why we want to promote their work," freshman Lindsey Lane, a member of Good Vibrations, said about the project. "There's a lot of diversity in the music and their content."

Good Vibrations, composed of five communications majors, came together as a class project to promote a local or campus organization. In choosing a project, the group thought WMTS seemed an excellent choice due to its beneficial yet often overlooked service to the community.

"The radio is really important in the college atmosphere," said junior Juli Shipley, the leader of Good Vibrations' WMTS project. "We did some research and found out that some people didn't know about it. We wanted to change that."

Since 1992, WMTS has served as a musical outlet for students with a variety of shows and musical genres ranging from electronica to indie rock. Any student, regardless of major, can host a show on the station after approval of a show proposal and training.

"The service they provide is

important, and since any student of any major can participate, we can play what we want to play," Shipley said. "It's one of the only outlets that really represents student tastes in music."

All proceeds from the show will go to WMTS and its programming.

For more information about Good Vibrations, contact Juli Shipley at 217-3768, and to learn more about WMTS and its programming, call 898-2636 or visit the Web site at [www.mtsu.edu/~wmts](http://www.mtsu.edu/~wmts). ♦

## SGA: Record number of bills passed

Continued from 1

passes legislation for student government, as well as present the bill to the Faculty Senate," she continued.

This year alone, more than 24 bills have been passed through the Senate, and there are five more in waiting to go through before the end of the semester.

"It's a record amount – the most we've ever passed in a year," Newman said.

"They're the starting point for a lot of things on campus, which is why elections are so important," Butler said.

For Freshman Senate and Homecoming Court, applications will be available on Aug. 19 and must be submitted by Sept. 2. Elections will take place Sept. 16, and results will be announced on Sept. 19. In case of a run-off, re-election will be held Sept. 30-Oct. 2.

For more information, contact the SGA at 898-2464. ♦

## JASON: Next expedition slated for rainforest this winter

Continued from 1

"Dan Sharp, a professional out of L.A., and I traded locations each day," Nichols said. "One day I was dockside, where I shot a segment for each program, and the next day I was topside."

The programs are broadcasted via satellite to various interactive network sites.

At these sites, middle-schoolers experience the event on a full three-screen live interactive program, the culmination of their entire science curriculum.

An edited version of the broadcasts was shown on the National Geographic Channel each day of the project.

Nichols said the experience she gained was an invaluable resource as a teacher at MTSU.

"It's all the same stuff I'm teaching my students," Nichols said.

"A lot of this is done live, so it's live broadcast production. It's all satellite technology and microwave technology."

Experiences aside, Nichols said the most valuable thing she brought back to her students

was the network contacts she made.

"The production people I meet add so much of their experience," Nichols said.

"If I ever don't know something, chances are I can call someone who does."

Nichols also takes a student whenever she participates in a JASON project.

Students are interviewed and hand-selected by Media Arts. This year, she took senior mass communications major Chad Simcox.

Nichols plans to join the next expedition, JASON XV, which will journey to the Isthmus of Panama next winter to explore the dense rainforests.

Like all of the previous JASON projects, it will be a multi-faceted approach, delving into the cultural, ecological and geological aspects of the region.

For more information about the JASON projects, visit [www.JASON.org](http://www.JASON.org).

For information and pictures of Mary Nichols' experience, check out her Web site at [www.mtsu.edu/~mnichols](http://www.mtsu.edu/~mnichols). ♦

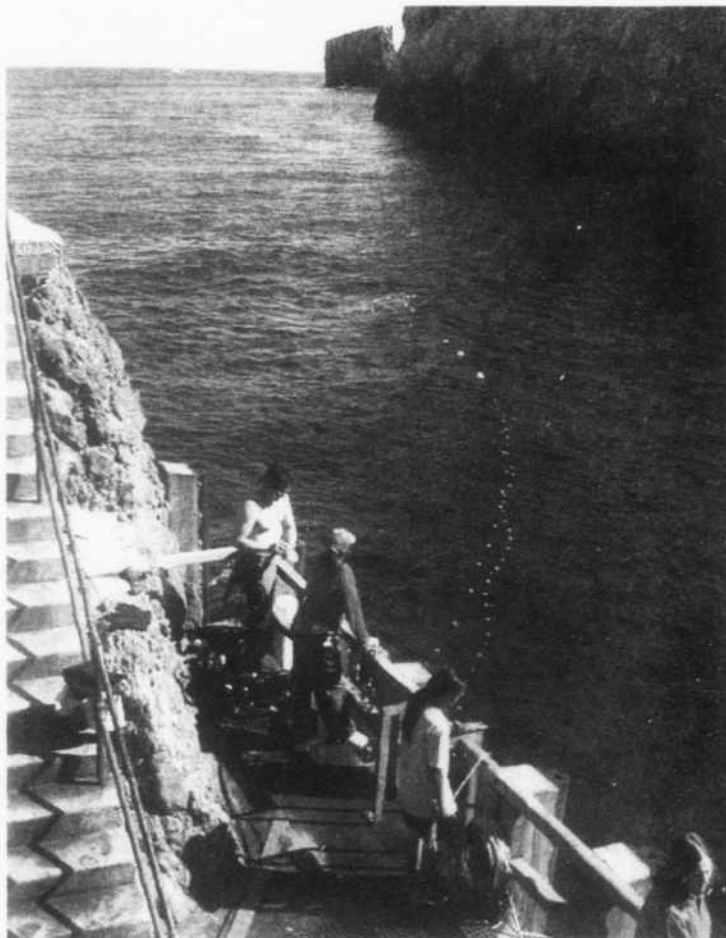


Photo provided by Kurt St. Amant

Mary Nichols and dive master Dave Stoltz prepare to haul in cables for the underwater production crew.

## Workers: Efforts toward Taco Bell

Continued from 1

security.

"It is truly ridiculous ... that we are subsidizing the earnings of these huge companies," Benitez says.

Another prevalent problem is practices of modern-day slave labor in this area. Within the past five years, six cases addressed this issue, each deeming crew managers and owners guilty of enslaving laborers. One case in 2002 resulted in imprisonment of 15 years each for three farm owners.

"One never thinks what is really behind the tomato," Benitez said.

The CIW is aiming its current efforts towards Taco Bell and its owner, Yum! Brands, Inc., and its practice of buying tomatoes from Immokalee. The organization presented Taco Bell with a proposal for more humane standards, including a code of conduct for the companies they purchase produce from and a one cent raise per pound of tomatoes for all workers.

"We're offering Taco Bell the opportunity ... to become the biggest company in the industry to supply not only fast food but fair food," Benitez said. "Raising the price per pound by one cent would raise these workers' earnings to poverty level."

However, Taco Bell was unwilling to meet these requests. In response, CIW launched a number of campaigns to combat Taco Bell and its buying standards, including programs on high school and college campuses.

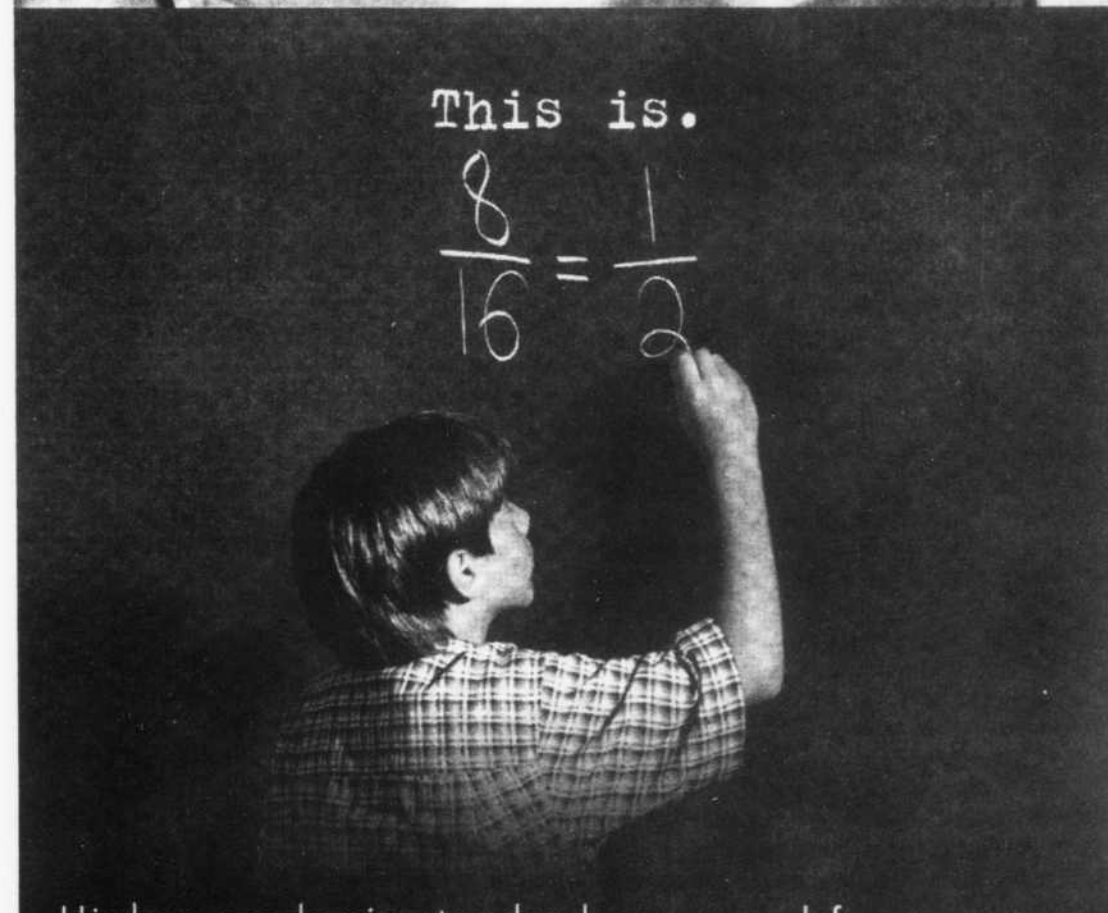
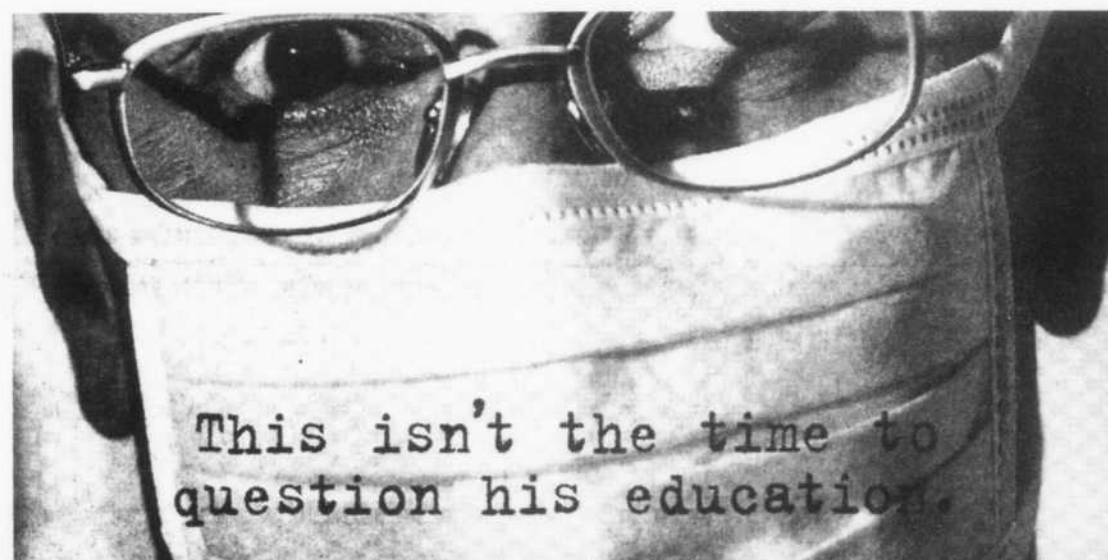
"Taco Bell is in 7,500 high schools and middle schools," Perkins said. "They are starting at younger and younger ages."

MTSU recently decided not to renew its contract with Taco Bell due in part to the activist efforts of Solidarity.

With Taco Bell's target market being 18- to 24-year-olds, this is the area activists feel the greatest impact can be made.

"It's time to really think outside the bun," Benitez said.

"It's a chain of a chain. We're starting with Taco Bell. Then, we'll go for the others." ♦

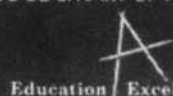


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## THE RUTHERFORD COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY ANNOUNCES

### ITS 2003 BIENNIAL ORGANIZATIONAL CONVENTION

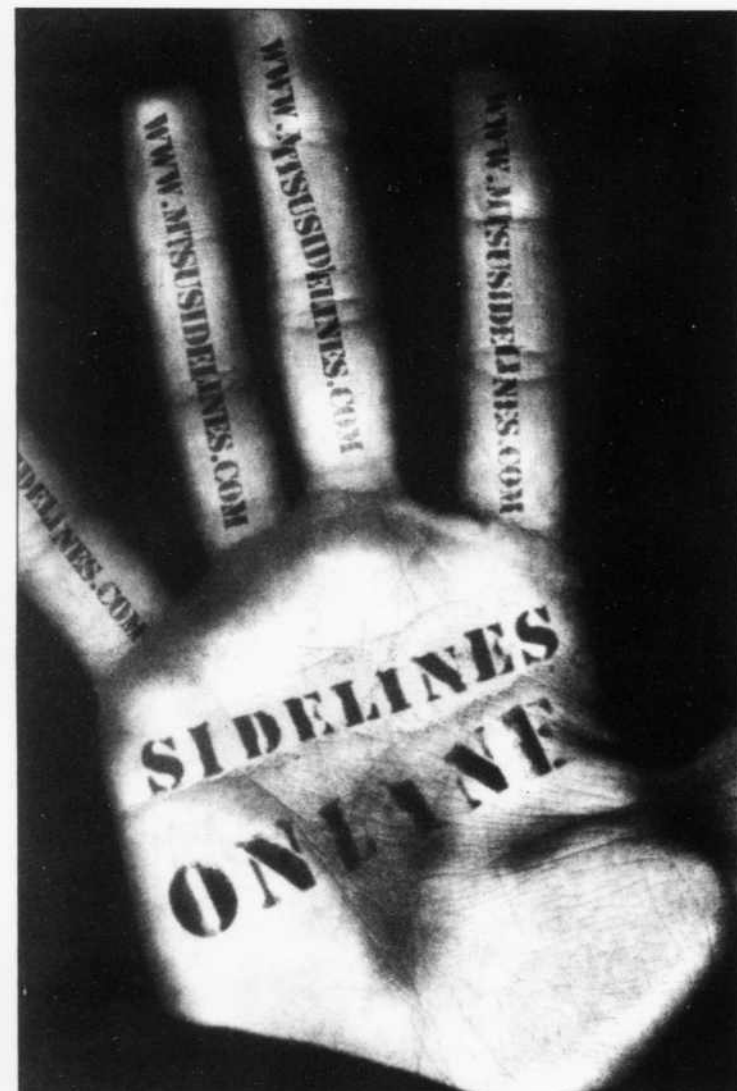
**When:** Saturday, April 12, promptly at 10 a.m.

**Where:** The Court House on the Square in Murfreesboro, second floor.

**Purpose:** To elect county executive committee members and officers for two-year terms lasting through the 2004 election cycle.

**Eligibility:** Any legal resident of Rutherford County who is an eligible voter and willing to sign a Pledge of Support for the Rutherford County Democratic Party.

**IF YOU ARE A DEMOCRAT, PLAN TO BE AT THIS MEETING!**



## WANT TO DANCE ?

Try out for the 2003-2004 MTSU Lightning Dance Team.

**April 11-13**

Visit our website at [www.mtsudance.com](http://www.mtsudance.com) for more info and specific times.

Hope to see you there!

**MT Dance**



calling is God  
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with youth?

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how long  
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## From the Editorial Board

### Attack poverty at its real source

A *Sidelines* page one story today, titled "Worker exposes realities of labor exploitation," highlights the plight of tomato pickers in Immokalee, Fla., as told by a migrant worker.

A focus of the worker's lecture was the fact that farms in the area have been creating institutions of modern-day slavery. Lucas Benitez, who has worked on the farms that supply tomatoes to Taco Bell, talked of the plight of the workers, who would need their wages doubled to even reach the national poverty standard.

If you can't put yourself there, imagine carrying around a 30-pound bucket of tomatoes picked in the hot Florida sun, only to receive 50 cents for each bucket and earning less than \$20 for an entire day of work.

The issue of whether slave labor is being used in the Immokalee area is no longer debatable – every court that has heard arguments on the subject in the past five years has ruled in favor of the workers. In one case, three farm owners were given 15 years of prison time each.

Despite the termination of the Taco Bell contract, we still feel for the tomato pickers in Immokalee. One can argue that the market determines wage and all that other stuff from economics class, but the bottom line is that using labor at this low of a pay level is not only illegal – it's wrong.

As far as the Bell boycott, however, is it more the fault of the buyer who is accepting the lower prices or the farm owner(s) who set the prices and determine which money goes where and to whom it goes? Taco Bell claims it has no power over the buying price; we wish this aspect had been investigated further. We felt like some essential questions were left unanswered, perhaps in the fervor to boot the Bell and create a national, widely visible target for the activists' aggression.

The courts are on the right track with some of the convictions they have handed down, but more needs to be done. By all appearances, the farm owners are the primary evil-doers and Taco Bell (and its owner, Yum! Brands, Inc.) is a criminal accessory.

Taking out a national chain that can afford to do without some business is not the way to bring down a slave labor institution. Attacking the problem at the source is. ♦

## Duty, honor ensures freedom

### Cosmo's Corner



Jeremy Cosco  
Staff Columnist

It's easy to criticize what you don't understand.

While our nation is at war with terrorism, many take it upon themselves to condemn our leaders and their decisions regarding our course of action in this war.

Peace protests have run nonstop. Even before we started our push toward Baghdad, people were condemning the very idea of it.

We've all seen the protests on television and even a small one on our own campus. Several liberal actors and activists have made public denunciations as well. People have taken full advantage of their constitutional rights to protest and air their

grievances.

Who is it that guarantees these activists the right to protest and denounce the government? Our men and women in the armed forces.

The brave few who volunteer their lives for the security of our freedoms and existence. The ones who truly understand and appreciate our country for what it is and are willing to fight and die for it.

Meanwhile, we have all these activists who have no idea what it is to serve one's country telling the rest of us how to run it. During our little protest here on campus, I met two or three veterans protesting for peace.

That's a small number compared to the rest of the activists.

On top of that, I met more veterans that were for the war. Notably, not one of the veterans for peace gave a speech concerning the war.

Peace protesters are allowed to have their say

about war, but what do they really know about it?

I would rather listen to someone who has been in the trenches. Isn't the rest just hearsay and opinion?

Which brings me to my next point – how many of you have served your country in the armed forces?

It used to be a standard part of peoples' lives in this country. Even the wealthy, in the past, joined the service to serve their country. It was something you did to show your appreciation for your freedoms and give back to your country.

Sadly, times have changed; today's service men and women come from families who have served and the wealthy join the guard, if anything at all.

Most Americans have lost something; they've lost their sense of duty and replaced it with selfishness. Somebody else will serve and fight, so why should I – right?

That type of thought is dangerous and cowardly.

It's dangerous because you must have somebody willing to fight in order that others may live. It's cowardly because it exposes your weak and fair-weathered patriotism.

The Italian statesman Camillo Benso Cavour once said, "We shall astonish the world with our ingratitude." That's the way I see most Americans – ungrateful.

So self-absorbed in their own world, they forget about the people around them. They serve themselves and don't give a damn about serving something greater.

I would like to remind all you self-absorbed ingrates that the only reason you can protest a war or choose not to serve your country is because somebody else paid the ultimate price for you.

Our soldiers, sailors and Air Force personnel have paid that price with their blood, and they continue to do it today.

The world cannot know

peace without war, and it takes people willing to fight for something greater than themselves to win wars.

Marching down the street wearing tye-dye and waving a banner will not bring peace, it brings shame – shame from the fact that you care so little for your country that you basically secede from it and dishonor to the people that are fighting for your freedoms.

I've served my country and have the highest respect for the ones who serve it today. They ensure my ability to write this column and for you to go to school, protest the war, watch your television and all the other freedoms most of you take for granted.

God bless them and may they return home safely. ♦

Jeremy Cosco is a freshman journalism major and can be reached via e-mail at [jdc3g@mtsu.edu](mailto:jdc3g@mtsu.edu).

### Keep war coverage honest, realistic

#### Wit and Wonder



Callie Elizabeth Butler  
Staff Columnist

The *Los Angeles Times* fired a photographer Wednesday for altering a photo that appeared on the front page as part of the newspaper's war coverage.

The photo focused on a British soldier directing a group of Iraqi civilians to safety. *L.A. Times* photographer Brian Walski took two shots, each only somewhat different in content, and used a computer to combine the two in order to create a more dramatic scene.

Taking elements from each picture, he altered the picture's major subjects. Editors discovered the alteration when they noticed people appearing more than once within the photo.

They immediately fired Walski.

While the change did create a more visually moving scene, Walski's actions only serve to increase public skepticism about the truth and objectiveness of our nation's news outlets. Walski's wrongdoing was a strike against all American journalists and photographers in an industry fighting to prove its credibility.

Journalists and photographers in the news industry constantly work against a public that often deems them untrustworthy and their work less than factual. Obviously, Walski shows this does occur within the industry. While all industries house brewing corruption, journalism provides a truth-telling service to the

public.

This also touches on another issue: war coverage.

It remains incredibly important that news outlets provide thorough coverage that remains as objective as possible when tackling the issue of war. Altering photos or stories only skews the truth, an incredible ally during times of war. Personal sentiments must be set aside in the pursuit of the issues and realities of international conflict. A nation must learn from the events of the past, including those during war, and newspapers serve a vital role in capturing events that will soon be etched in a nation's history.

Walski's wrongdoing was a strike against all American journalists and photographers in an industry fighting to prove its credibility.

Whether his motivations were based in his feeling about war or just a desire to create a noteworthy photo is irrelevant. The fact remains that Walski altered the truth to serve his own purposes, working against the ethics of journalism.

The *L.A. Times* was right and justified in their dismissal of Brian Walski because his actions were not the work of a journalist. His removal was a demonstration within this industry and to the nation that journalists seek to inform the public by accurately depicting the events in our world. Sometimes people can lose sight of the objective. ♦

Callie Elizabeth Butler is a junior journalism major and can be reached via e-mail at [ceb2k@mtsu.edu](mailto:ceb2k@mtsu.edu).

### Get healthy, moving

#### Finding Trouble



Audie Sheridan  
Staff Columnist

Nothing excuses weakness.

Recently, *Real Sports* on HBO showcased Norton Davey, an 84-year-old man who runs the Ironman triathlon every year.

In case you didn't know, the Ironman is the most grueling triathlon in the world.

To compete means swimming 2.5 miles, biking 112 miles and then running 26 miles.

All competitors must complete this circuit in less than 17 hours.

We can't expect this kind of effort out of everyone, because most of us get out of breath climbing stairs.

This is unacceptable. Norton Davey's mere attempt to run the triathlon puts most of us to shame.

Even dogs have more sense than most people. Coop them up for a while, and they can't help but run wild when let free.

Human beings have the same restlessness, that same need to burn excess energy, but we suppress it.

We just sit around until that excess energy is gone – or more precisely, stored for later.

Why? Is the draw of television and video games that strong?

If you answered "yes" to that question, even for a

second, then you betray your weakness. And no one is to blame for your inaction but you.

Perhaps the distinctly American capacity for shifting blame onto others is the culprit in this big fat mess.

Fast food companies must be to blame, right? Or maybe it's Little Debbie.

Better still, it's the fault of everyone's favorite scapegoat, the parents.

Passing the buck like this is a problem because it helps cultivate a fatalistic habit of mind.

It makes you think you can't help it.

After all, there's nothing you can do about it if it's someone else's fault, is there?

Don't believe it. No one controls you, so do something. Act.

Get moving. According to the Centers for Disease Control, 64 percent of adults are overweight. Obesity is also absurdly high at 23 percent of adults.

You know what these statistics mean? Not as much as you might think.

The numbers aren't good, that's for sure, but plenty of skinny people out there have only single strands of muscle holding their bones together.

Unfortunately, those spindly muscles are hidden from view under nature's natural insulator.

Fitness and weight have little to do with each other, so throw away that scale.

Measure fitness by ability alone.

If you can't do a push-up, if you can't run a mile, or if you think your book bag is too heavy, you are simply weak.

Fix it. On the other hand, if your doctor considers you overweight but you can run circles around that doctor at the track, you are probably doing fine.

Your body will always be precisely the size it needs to be to accommodate your level of activity if given a few months to adjust. And every body is different.

MTSU offers an incredible selection of physical education classes. What, other than laziness, is keeping you from signing up for one of these courses every semester?

It might not count toward your major, but so what?

The courses are free if you add them to a full-time load.

MTSU also has an unbelievably good gym student's can use for free.

Exercise only hurts for the first couple of weeks, and then it really does start to feel good. And a little pain now will prevent a lot of pain later in life.

What's worse? Forty years of agonizing back pain, heart problems and immobility, or some sit-ups and sweating a couple of times a week? Today is the day to start working away that weakness. No excuses. ♦

Audie Sheridan is a senior philosophy major and can be reached via e-mail at [als3g@mtsu.edu](mailto:als3g@mtsu.edu).

## SIDELINES

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### Letters Policy

*Sidelines* welcomes letters to the editor from all readers. Please e-mail letters to [slopinio@mtsu.edu](mailto:slopinio@mtsu.edu), and include your name and a phone number for verification. *Sidelines* will not publish anonymous letters. We reserve the right to edit for grammar, length and content.



We're your  
average band of hoodlums.

[slopinio@mtsu.edu](mailto:slopinio@mtsu.edu)

### Letter to the Editor

#### Talking war easier than fighting it

To the Editor:

Ah the exuberance of youth! I'm curious about all the pro-war responses in the "Letters to the Editor" section. I assume these folks are all ready to enlist – but I doubt it. I was in their shoes 30 years ago. My dad was a veteran of World War II and told me I had to serve my country if called. So, after I was drafted and told I needed to be ready to kill godless communists, I was all set to carry out our legacy. I heard the protests of thousands of Americans concerning the war, but I figured they were just misguided. After all, our leaders wouldn't lie to us.

Imagine my surprise when, after getting out of the army, I read the Pentagon Papers. Yes, the military and President Johnson had lied to us about the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution. President George W. Bush and his cronies are lying now about the reasons for war. They haven't proved that Iraq is a threat.

For those who think anti-war proponents don't support troops – think again. There were plenty of us who were against the Vietnam War while in the service. Many lives, Vietnamese and American, were saved when protests ended the war early. Americans out of the military can continue to protest the war and support American soldiers. The two are not mutually exclusive.

Finally, I encourage those who think the cause is right to do what your president and his band have not – enlist and go fight the war. Of course, it's easier to have someone else do your fighting and just do the talking.

Joel Hausler



# SPORTS

5 ♦ SIDELINES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

## Lipscomb comes from behind to win over baseball team

By Randall Thomason  
Staff Writer

Lipscomb University scored a stunning come-from-behind victory over Middle Tennessee's baseball team Tuesday, overcoming a three-run deficit and scoring seven runs in two innings on just two hits.

Ultimately, they defeated the Blue Raiders, 11-8.

MT held substantial leads on two separate occasions, leading 6-2 through three innings and 7-4 after five innings. Blue Raider starting pitcher B.J. Church exited the contest after five innings and gave way to Jeff Kasser, who struggled in the sixth inning.

The Bisons tallied four runs in the sixth inning on just one hit, aided by one MT error, four walks, one balk and one man hit at bat. Lipscomb's onslaught continued in the seventh when the Bisons plated three more

runs on just two hits. MT again gave assistance with a second hit batsman and balk.

Entering the eighth inning trailing 11-7, the Blue Raiders rallied but were only able to score one run on an RBI single by Chuck Akers, driving home Shane Kemp, who reached base with a bunt single. Akers was stranded, however, and MT did not pose a threat in the ninth.

MT head coach Steve Peterson was upset with the loss.

"We swung the bats good, but not good enough," he said. "B.J. struggled through five innings and hurt himself with

walks."

Peterson did not place all the blame for the loss on Church.

"The whole staff was hurt by the walks and hit batsmen, and when you mix in a couple of errors, that put us in trouble the whole time. The freebie war of walks and hit batsmen made the difference," Peterson said. "[Lipscomb] also got the big hit when they needed it, and we just didn't play good baseball. Our bullpen was just very poor."

MT had to overcome an early deficit as the Bisons plated two runs in the first inning, but the Blue Raiders answered with a five run outburst in the top of the second.

Josh Archer led off the inning with a double to center field and then advanced to third on a wild pitch. Brett Carroll followed with a walk to put

See Bisons, 8

## MT returns home Friday to face Florida International

By Osby Martin  
Staff Writer

Middle Tennessee will try to get back on the winning track this weekend as they face conference foe Florida International at Reese Smith Field.

MT and FIU come from different directions as they meet this weekend. MT (11-15, 2-4 SBC) has lost six of their last eight games, whereas FIU (25-6, 4-2 SBC) has won seven of their last nine.

"We have not been completely healthy this season, so that has limited us in what we are able to do," MT associate head coach Jim McGuire said. "We are a little behind our expectations at 2-4 [in the SBC]; We could easily be 4-2."

Offensively, FIU is solid this season. They are led by fresh-

man Luis Rivera, who is batting a very impressive .395 on the season with a 16 game hitting streak and a team high 35 RBIs.

Junior Ricardo Nanita and senior Skip Adams provided the power for FIU with 11 home runs and a combined 55 RBIs between the two. With six players batting .328 or better, FIU hitting is consistent.

"They [FIU] were a preseason pick to be a top team in the league," McGuire said. "Their pitching will be good with the kid [DeCarlo] who was 11-0 last year as a freshman and the

other right-handed kid [Banks]."

FIU's dynamic duo of junior Josh Bank and sophomore Derek DeCarlo lead the Panthers. The duo has a 9-1 combined record so far, and the team is 15-2 in games that these two start in.

Sophomore Nate Jagers returned to the MT line-up Tuesday in the game against Lipscomb. He missed the last 14 games with an ankle injury. He was limited to a designated hitter role and went 0-for-5, but having him back is good news for the Blue Raiders.

Offensively, sophomore Brett Carroll, who is hitting .330 and has team highs in home runs and RBIs with seven and 25, respectively, leads MT. Jagger is batting .404, and

See Blue Raiders, 8

## MT basketball player gains fame with big air

By David Hunter  
Senior Staff Reporter

During the last MT basketball season, people knew when John Humphrey had the ball in the open floor.

Humphrey made his presence known at every game to every Blue Raider fan present with his impressive style. During the Sun Belt Championship game, in front of a nationwide audience on ESPN, Humphrey showed a small sampling of his abilities when he caught an alley-oop pass for an exciting two-hand jam. Tonight, Humphrey will have another chance to show what he can do in front of a nationwide audience at ESPN's 15th Annual College Slam Dunk and Three-Point Championships in New Orleans.

The event will take place at the NBA's New Orleans Hornets' practice facility as part of the NCAA Final Four festivities.

Patrick McCavanagh of Intersport Inc. chose Humphrey after McCavanagh looked at tapes from over 80 possible participants.

McCavanagh was impressed by what he saw of Humphrey's ability to dunk.

"I start contacting coaches and conference sports information directors early in the year to get an idea as to who the best dunkers and three-point shooters are. I follow the stats and watch the ESPN dunk of the week to help me find the top eight guys," McCavanagh said to MT Media Relations.

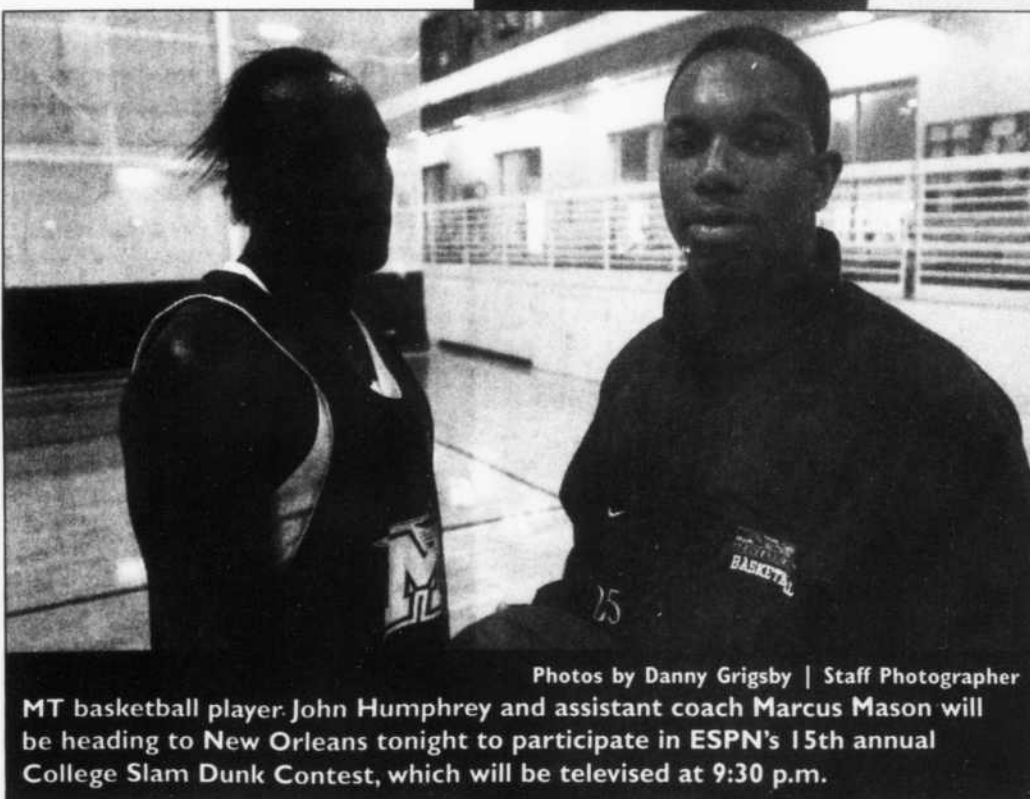
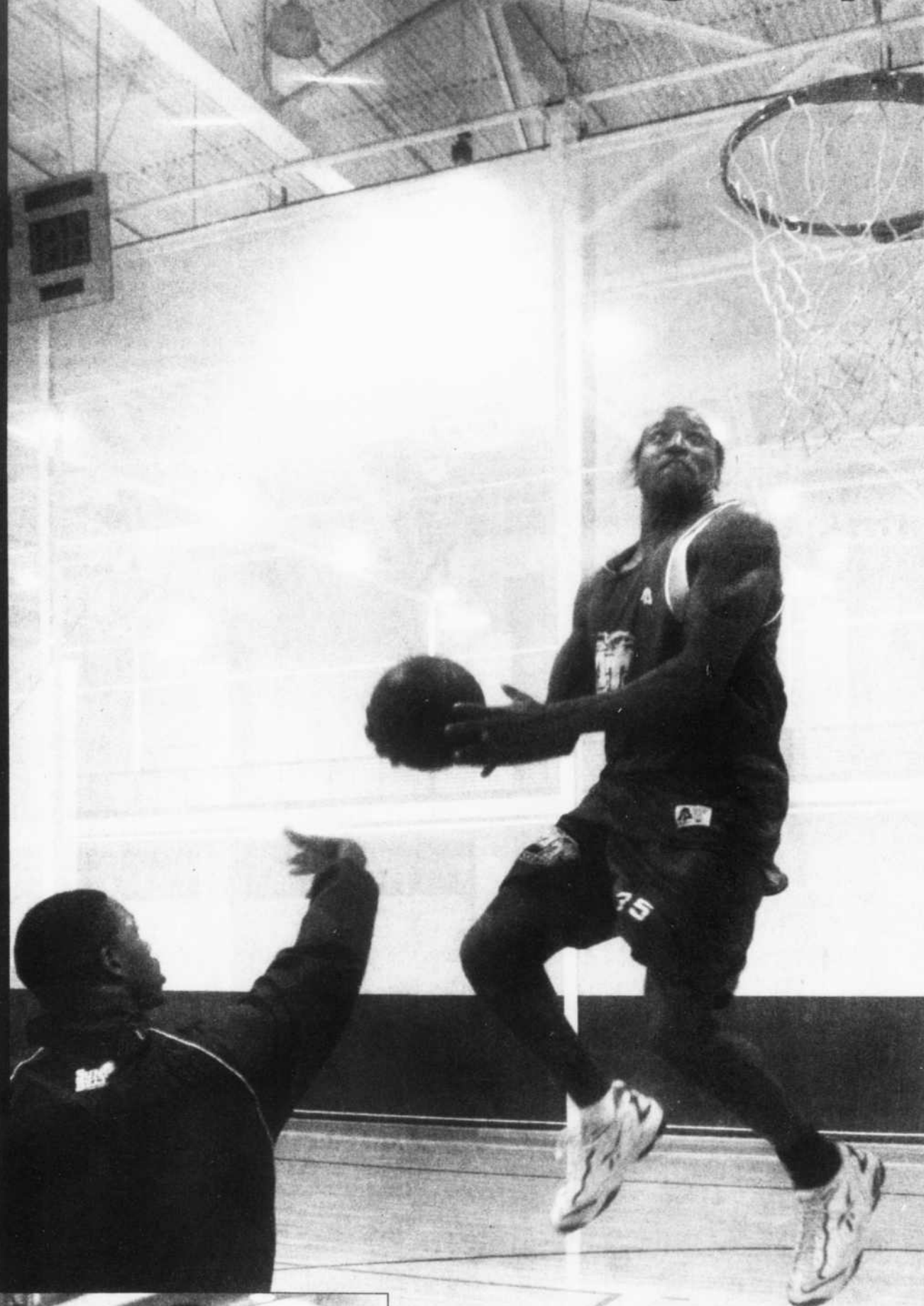
"I also require each school to send me a video tape of game dunks or dunks in practice and I can safely say that John's tape was the best of the 80 that I watched this year. In fact, it may be the best I've seen in two years."

Volunteer assistant coach Marcus Mason put the tape together and sent it to McCavanagh. Mason is also going to make the trip with Humphrey.

One of the famous dunkers that Humphrey looks up to is former University of North Carolina Tar Heel and current NBA Toronto Raptor Vince Carter. While in high school, Humphrey

See Humphrey, 6

## Airmail to the Big Easy



Photos by Danny Grigsby | Staff Photographer

MT basketball player John Humphrey and assistant coach Marcus Mason will be heading to New Orleans tonight to participate in ESPN's 15th annual College Slam Dunk Contest, which will be televised at 9:30 p.m.

## Burk's biased remarks only for personal gain, glory

Sports commentary



Josh Beasley  
Assistant Sports  
Editor

A recent article on ESPN.com states that Martha Burk believes it is "appalling" that women who fight for the United States in Iraq face discrimination at home at private golf clubs like Augusta National.

"Broadcasting the Masters and showcasing a club that discriminates against women is an insult to the nearly quarter million women in the U.S. armed forces," Burk said in a press conference.

For a short period, Burk's protests were tolerable and understandable. Women are in the military fighting for equal opportunity, and so are men. But how dare she invoke the troops and the war effort in Iraq to push her on agenda and create this little media feeding frenzy only to draw attention to herself?

The only reason Burk is protesting the Masters is to further her own reputation. Before she blindly started to criticize the Augusta National, she had no clout on the board of the National Council of Women's Organizations. It was only after she received minimal media attention did she begin her campaign.

Sex discrimination is purely a public issue. After all, don't we all "discriminate" based on sex in private?

Our choice of a life partner, for one, is a choice we make in private. Joining the men's or ladies' golf associations at our clubs and belonging to a fraternity or sorority are just two of many examples where people commonly practice "discrimination" in private life.

Can someone explain why this woman has made a personal crusade to get a female member at Augusta National while there is extreme oppression of women in the Middle East?

While Burk now uses the war against Iraq to try and strengthen her own campaign and to gain celebrity status, let me say this: There are more than 1,200 women's-only fitness centers and a private course in Canada for women only.

I'm calling for all men to start protesting outside of these places for gender discrimination.

No? That's what I thought.

For you Burk, it's time to go away and get off the television screen and out of the pages of newspapers.

I for one am sick of hearing your dead end protests and your meaningless opinions. ♦



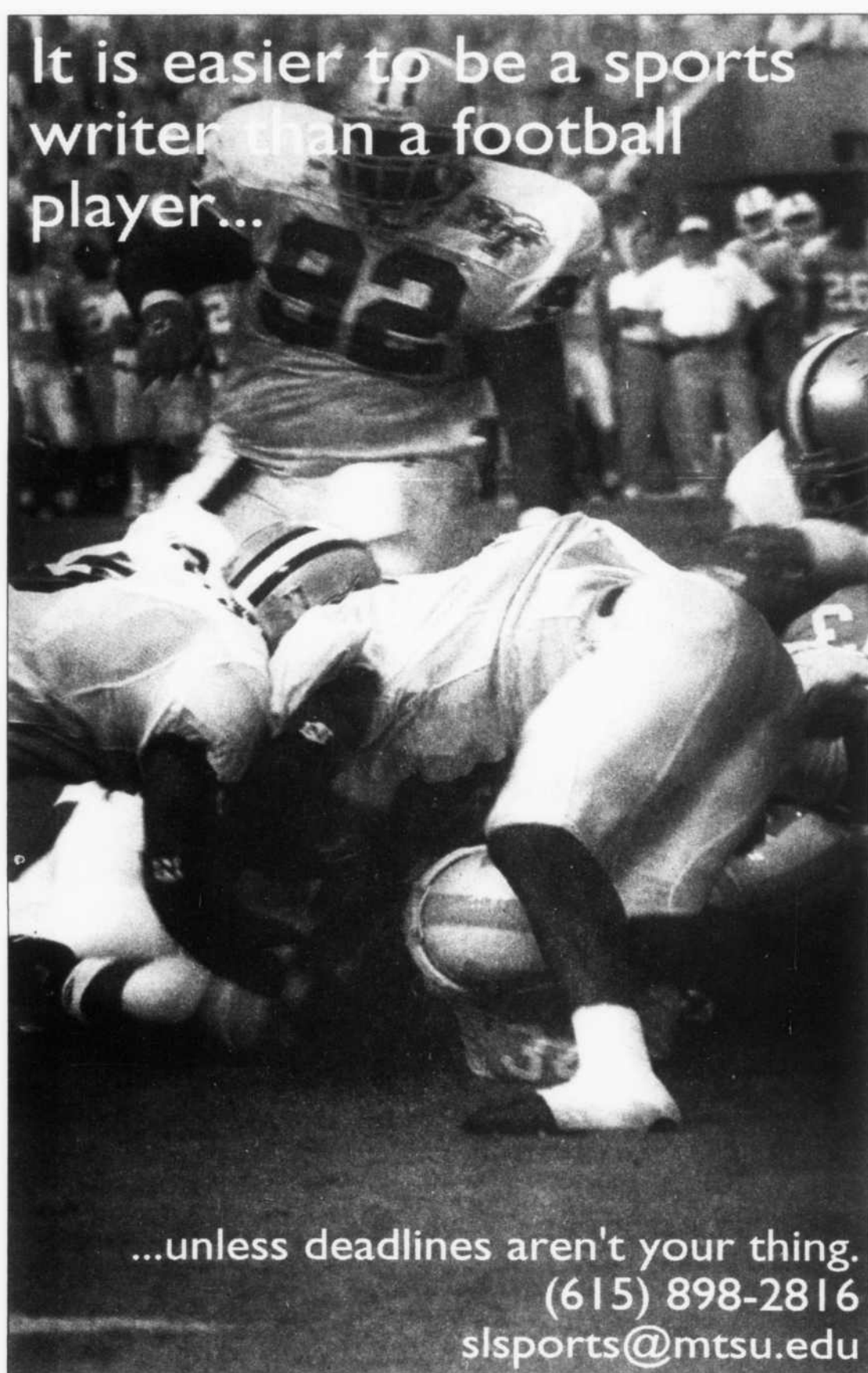
## MT wraps up offseason



Up-and-coming quarterback Andre Green sprints during the 2003 spring practice. The Blue Raiders will wrap up spring practice on April 12, when the football team will play its final spring scrimmage.

Photo by Danny Grigsby | Staff Photographer

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## Men's golf ties for 10th in Jacksonville

By Trey Porter  
Staff Reporter

The Blue Raider golf team tied for 10th at the 2003 Amoco Ultimate/Young Oil Intercollegiate Tournament in Jacksonville, Ala.

Carter Henderson and Josh Nelms tied for 61st with three-round scores of 238. Henderson, a sophomore from Nashville, Tenn., brought his A game and a little luck too, making the No. 1 highlight for the Blue Raiders with his first hole in one.

The former Montgomery Bell Academy standout worked with a 7-iron to launch the 165-yard sinker off the par 3 second hole, recording the first hole-in-one in the history of the Amoco Intercollegiate.

MT carded a 312 for the final round to tally a 54-hole total of 930 on Tuesday, the final day of the tourney. The annual event,

which boasted eighteen teams, was played at the par-72, 6,846-yard Silver Lakes Golf Course on the Robert Trent Jones Gold Trail in Glencoe, Ala.

Jacksonville State played host and played well, carding a 293 in the final round to win the tourney by five strokes

over Armstrong Atlantic. South Alabama was third, while Austin Peay grabbed fourth.

Patrick Williams finished strong for the Blue Raiders. The senior tied for 30th overall with a 229 (78-75-76).

MT's Blake Bivens tied for 40th with a 232, and Charlie Gibson took home a 235 to tie for 50th.

Next up for the Blue Raiders is Arkansas State.

The Indians have recently played mediocre golf as a team, finishing 12th in the Chenal Trojan Cup on March 25.

The Tribe does have a solid team leader in Wixson Huffstetler, who finished ninth individually at the Chenal Trojan Cup last week. Arkansas State plays next in the SMSU Invitational hosted by Southwest Missouri State, on April 6-8.

Middle Tennessee will travel to Jonesboro, Ark., to battle on the greens with the Indians on April 14. ♦



Henderson



Nelms

## Humphrey: Event televised tonight at 9

Continued from 5

went to UNC on numerous occasions to watch Carter up close and personal. However, Humphrey doesn't copy anyone's style.

"I come up with a style of my own, but I take a little bit of his [Carter] dunks and a little bit of somebody else's dunks and put my own little flair to it," Humphrey said.

This is Humphrey's final event as a member of the Blue Raider basketball team.

"It's very important, one for me, depending on what I do next year, and two for MT. I mean we're coming up, and now it's another opportunity for everybody to see that MT does exist and does have talent," Humphrey said.

Humphrey is already making plans for his future in basketball.

"I got a few camps to go to,

and hopefully I will be playing overseas next year," Humphrey said.

Humphrey is known for his leaping ability, which he improved since becoming a Blue Raider from drills he does in practice.

"Our strength coach, Cedric Walthaw, does a great job of working on the vertical leap. John probably came into MT with a 38 or 39-inch vertical; now it's at 41. They do a lot of leg circuits and box jumps – equipment that isolate the individual calf muscle – and the entire lower body to help with the vertical leap," said MT volunteer assistant coach Marcus Mason.

Besides Humphrey, seven other top high-flyers in the nation will be a part of the competition. They include Kyle Dodd from Arizona State, Byron Parker from Tulane, Derrick Zimmerman from

Mississippi State, Devon Thompson from St. Peters in New Jersey, Ronald Dupree of Louisiana State University, Dahnte Jones from Duke and Willie Taylor from Virginia Commonwealth University.

What makes the dunk contests enjoyable and special to watch are tricks that the players come up with to increase their score.

An example is a dunk over a rack of balls at the foul line. However, Mason feels that Humphrey can use just his skills to get a high score.

"No, John doesn't need any tricks, just his natural athletic ability: a 41-inch vertical coupled with power and energy to get the job done on Thursday night," Mason said.

ESPN2 will televise the high-flying action tonight at 9. The rebroadcast is at 2 p.m. Saturday on ESPN. ♦

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# Sports Briefs

From Associated Press Reports

## Tar Heel basketball coach leaves after three-year run

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. (AP) — Matt Doherty bowed out as basketball coach at North Carolina, ending a bumpy three-year run marked by his failure to lead a storied program back to national prominence or even the NCAA tournament.

The Tar Heels failed to make the tournament in two of his three seasons. He leaves with three years left on a six-year contract that paid him \$855,000 a season.

Doherty's resignation came after athletic director Dick Baddour held a series of meetings with players and parents, some of whom complained about the coach's intense practices and drastic mood swings. Three players transferred last season and others talked about it this year.

In 2001, the Tar Heels went 26-7 and Doherty was The Associated Press' coach of the year but North Carolina slipped to 8-20 last season — the worst record in the program's history. This year, his young team finished 19-16.

## Piazza's suspension changed from five games to four

NEW YORK (AP) — Mike Piazza's suspension for charging the mound in spring training was reduced to four games, and the New York Mets' All-Star catcher will start serving the penalty Wednesday.

The decision to shorten the ban by one game was made by Bob DuPuy, baseball's chief operating officer.

Bob Watson, baseball's vice president in charge of discipline, originally issued a five-game suspension and \$3,000 fine after Piazza charged Los

Angeles reliever Guillermo Mota during an exhibition game March 12. Piazza, who had been hit by a fastball, later went into the Dodgers' clubhouse looking for the pitcher.

## Anaheim Angels earn rings after 42-year delay

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — After 42 years, the Anaheim Angels finally put on World Series championship rings.

Baseball commissioner Bud Selig presented the rings, which feature a ruby-inlaid "A" with a halo around it, surrounded by diamonds. The sides of the large gold rings feature "Angels" and "1st Championship," with the player's name and 2002 on the other side. The rings have an appraised value of about \$15,000 each.

Jackie Autry, widow of longtime team owner Gene Autry, was among those receiving rings in the brief ceremony before the Angels' game against the Texas Rangers.

## Thrasher defensiveman suspended for misconduct

ATLANTA (AP) — Thrashers defenseman Chris Tamer was suspended indefinitely by the NHL for cross-checking Vladimir Orszagh of the Nashville Predators.

Tamer had a hearing in New York on Monday and missed that night's game against the Rangers. A ruling will be made before Wednesday's game at Buffalo.

Tamer drew a game misconduct Saturday for intent to injure in the second period of the Thrashers' 3-2 victory at Nashville. He hit Orszagh in an apparent retaliation for a hit on Dany Heatley by Nashville's Rem Murray.

## Denver Broncos re-sign veteran quarterback

DENVER (AP) — Denver Broncos quarterback Steve Beuerlein will return for a 17th season.

Beuerlein said just three weeks ago he was leaning toward retirement after his third season with the Broncos but changed his mind after talking to coach Mike Shanahan.

## Top-seeded Razzano goes down in first round

CASABLANCA, Morocco (AP) — Top-seeded Virginie Razzano of France was eliminated from the Grand Prix de SAR, losing 6-3, 6-0 in the first round to Rossana Neffa-de los Rios of Paraguay.

Neffa-de los Rios will next meet Gala Leon Garcia, who defeated Martina Muller 6-1, 6-2.

Also, fifth-seeded Patricia Wartusch beat Mara Santangelo 6-4, 6-3; Lubomira Kurhajcova downed eighth-seeded Conchita Martinez Granados 6-2, 6-4; and Tatiana Poutchek eliminated Maria Emilia Salerni 6-1, 3-6, 7-5.

## MLS agrees to four-year contract with Fox Sports

NEW YORK (AP) — Major Soccer League will increase its presence on cable and satellite television, agreeing to a four-year contract with Fox Sports World and Fox Sports Espanol.

The deal will provide FOX Sports World with a minimum of 25 regular-season games on Saturday nights. There also will be a minimum of eight postseason games on the network, plus a weekly one-hour wrapup show at midnight EDT. ♦

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INDEX			
<b>Sales</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>House for rent</b>	<b>155</b>
<b>General</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>House for sale</b>	<b>160</b>
<b>Help Wanted</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>Roommates</b>	<b>165</b>
<b>Internships</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>Subleasing</b>	<b>170</b>
<b>Careers</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>Lost &amp; Found</b>	<b>175</b>
<b>Electronics</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>Personals</b>	<b>180</b>
<b>Textbooks</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>Pets</b>	<b>185</b>
<b>Tickets</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>Services</b>	<b>190</b>
<b>Misc.</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>Travel</b>	<b>195</b>
<b>Garage Sales</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>Wanted to buy</b>	<b>200</b>
<b>Apt. for rent</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>205</b>

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# Sun Belt Conference News and Notes

## Arkansas-Little Rock Trojans

UALR dropped two of three games at New Mexico State this weekend with both losses coming in the bottom of the ninth period. A Trojan grand slam broke a 3-3 tie in the top of the seventh to help UALR to an 8-3 win in Friday's opener. Wild series in Las Cruces between the Trojans and Aggies seem to be the norm. The Trojans scored 60 runs in a three-game sweep of NMSU, the last time UALR traveled to Presley Askew Field in 2001, including rallying from a 21-12 deficit in the seventh inning for a 26-22 win in the series finale. The Trojans took the first two games of the series 20-7 and 14-8.

Brad Cherry picked up his team-leading fifth win of the season in the 8-3 victory over NMSU Friday. Cherry went 6.3 innings, giving up six hits, three earned runs, five walks and striking out 10 Aggie batters. Cherry increased his season strikeout total to a team-high 65, giving him 141 career strikeouts, moving him into fourth place on the UALR career strikeout list.

Travis Trammell picked up his sixth save of the season with 2.3 hitless innings while striking out four batters. The six saves moves him into fifth place on the UALR single-season save list and surpasses Brad Cherry's team leading five saves from last season.

Chris Julio went 7-16 (.437 BA) with a home run, 6 RBI, 3 runs scored and a double in four games last week. His home run Friday night gave him the team lead with five on the season.

## New Mexico State Aggies

The Aggies won a pair of last at-bat decisions against Arkansas-Little Rock this weekend, including an impressive 9-

## 2003 Sun Belt Baseball Records

	Sun Belt				Overall				L10
	W	L	Pct.		W	L	Pct.		
Arkansas State	5	1	.833	L1	13	13	.500	L1	7-3
New Mexico State	4	2	.667	W2	25	7	.781	W2	8-2
Florida International	4	2	.667	W1	25	9	.735	W1	7-3
Western Kentucky	3	3	.500	L1	14	10	.583	L1	6-4
Louisiana-Lafayette	3	3	.500	W1	10	21	.323	W1	5-5
South Alabama	1	2	.333	W1	18	9	.667	W1	8-2
Arkansas-Little Rock	2	4	.333	L2	18	11	.621	L2	5-5
Middle Tennessee	2	4	.333	L1	11	14	.440	L1	5-5
New Orleans	0	3	.000	L3	15	12	.556	W1	4-6

8 win Sunday in which the Aggies rallied from 7-1 after two innings and 8-3 after six innings.

NMSU won its first two league series to open a season for the first time in school history. The Aggie bullpen was spectacular again, earning both victories over the weekend with a combined earned run average of 2.03.

Gavin Monjaras has been carrying a hot stick, hitting .583 over the weekend and batting .417 through six league games with two home runs, three doubles and seven RBI. His run scoring single, with the bases loaded and two outs, gave the Aggies a 5-4 win over the Trojans Saturday night.

The Aggies nearly won a pair of Sun Belt Conference series without the benefit of a home run. NMSU did not hit a home run in the series victory at Middle Tennessee and had not hit one against Arkansas-Little Rock until the seventh inning of

game three. Billy Becher's home run in the seventh inning broke a streak of 244 at bats without a home run.

The Aggies then proceeded to hit three over the final three innings to rally from an 8-3 deficit for a 9-8 victory.

Aggie catcher Beau Blacken picked a great time to break out of a recent slump. His two-run home run in the eighth tied Sunday's game at 8-8. It was his first hit of the series and broke an 0-for-15 slide.

Brad Ditter has a 10-game hitting streak, his second double-digit hitting streak of the year. It is the Aggies' fourth double-digit streak of the year. Ditter has the longest at 12 games while Alex Borgo (11) and Hal Bisnett (10) each had a double-digit streak. Ditter is batting .452 with 18 runs scored and 13 RBIs during the current streak. ♦



Photo by Danny Grigsby | Staff Photographer  
 Chuck Akers and the rest of the Blue Raiders play Florida International Friday at 7 p.m.

## Bisons: Despite ankle injury, Jaggers plays

Continued from 5

runners at the corners.

Jeff Beachum then decided to drive in Archer and move Carroll to second. Shane Kemp followed by lacing a double down the left field line, scoring both runners to give MT the lead.

The Blue Raiders added another run in the third inning

to go up 6-2 before Lipscomb tallied two runs in the fourth inning to slice the lead to 6-4.

MT answered with a run in the top half of the fifth frame to reach 7-4 on an RBI double by Carroll that scored Archer before the Bisons took control in the sixth.

Despite the disappointing loss, MT received a boost as second baseman Nate Jaggers

returned to the starting lineup after missing the last 14 games with an ankle injury.

Unfortunately, Jaggers was hitless in five plate appearances.

The Blue Raider baseball team is back in action this weekend against SBC foe Florida International. The three-game series begins tomorrow and will run through Sunday at Reese Smith Field. ♦

## Blue Raiders: Team is 2-4 against SBC foes

Continued from 5

senior Chad Cooper has been productive as well, with a .347 average MT has four players batting .330 or better.

On the mound, MT hasn't been as consistent. Sophomore hurler Steve Kline has been the

high point with a 3-1 record and 4.70 ERA. Junior John Williams hasn't been able to get on track thus far in the season.

This season, MT has had some tough breaks, losing five games by one run. They are a base hit or two away from easily being 16-9 instead of 11-15.

The three-game series is set for April 4-6 in Murfreesboro at Reese Smith Field.

The action starts tomorrow at 7 p.m. Come out and support the Blue Raiders as they return home and try to get their season headed in the right direction. ♦

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