



HOPE scholarship aids in enrollment

By KATIE BELL
News Writer

As the Tennessee Lottery reaches the one-year mark, statistics show that not as many students were aided by the HOPE scholarship as expected.

According to the Tennessee Higher Education Commission report, over 36,600 students of the 65,000 students projected received scholarships and grants.

However, the lottery awarded every qualified student in the state scholarship money. Over \$246 million was awarded to students. Since all of the lottery money allocated for education was not used, officials are debating what the money should be spent on.

According to *The Tennessean*, State Rep. Chris Newton said plans are to increase scholarship amounts. "The original intent for the development of the lottery program was to fund education. The governor must be vigilant in overseeing the lottery funds. I am sure there are those who are requesting lottery funds for purposes other than education," she said.

"I would be in favor of funding for a

"It is imperative, however, for students to take the initiative to understand the requirements to maintain eligibility"

- Donna Price, director of financial aid

moderate number of higher education staffing positions to offset some of the workload incurred in the university offices responsible for the lottery process," said Donna Price, director of financial aid at Austin Peay State University.

Another goal of the HOPE scholarship program is to reduce student debt. "In theory, it should reduce the debt levels. I truly hope so," Price said.

However, changes to student debt at APSU are not yet apparent. "We are just in the first year of implementation and I don't yet see a reduction in the debt level," Price said. A goal

of the Tennessee Lottery that has been met is the increase in enrollment in Tennessee universities, especially at APSU. Price said the HOPE scholarship program has definitely brought more Tennessee high school graduates to APSU.

"Our enrollment increase this past fall was due to many factors such as outstanding recruitment efforts, strong academic programs, retention efforts, etc., but the HOPE lottery scholarships were definitely a contributing factor," Price said. According to the THEC press release, the overall Tennessee freshman enrollment for 2004 has increased by 6.9 percent, which equals 31,207 students.



The Tennessee Board of Regents system had the largest increase in students of the university systems, which accounted for 57 percent of the total.

"We awarded just over 1,000 lottery scholarships this past fall to 2003 and 2004 high school graduates. It is a great opportunity for our students. It is imperative, however, for students to take the initiative to understand the requirements to maintain bility," Price said.

TENNESSEE LOTTERY

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Iraqis flock to Nashville polls



MARK HUMPHREY/AP PHOTO (ABOVE) AND JOHN RUSSELL/AP PHOTO (RIGHT)

Above: Iraqi immigrants gather outside the election center to be checked by security as they prepare to register to vote in the first independent election in their homeland in nearly 50 years at the registration facility in Nashville, Tenn., Saturday, Jan. 22, 2005. The Independent Iraqi Electoral Commission is allowing Iraqi immigrants living in 14 countries to vote by absentee ballot.

Right: Murtada Khudier and his wife, Sara Nashi, right, look over a sample ballot as others register to vote at an election center in Nashville, Tenn., Wednesday, Jan. 19, 2005. Exiled Iraqis are registering to vote in their homeland's first independent election in nearly 50 years. With Khudier and Nashi is their son, Alyas, 3. They are from Cahokia, Ill.



Nearly 4,000 Iraqis made history as they registered to vote in Nashville

By JOHN GEROME
Associated Press Writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. The first Iraqi citizen to vote in Nashville arrived an hour before the polls opened at 7 a.m. Friday and waited in his car to be first in line. Adil Almusasrah, 30, had driven from his home in Denver and said he had been in Nashville all week awaiting the chance to cast a ballot.

Nashville is one of five U.S. cities where expatriate Iraqis can vote to pick the 275-member assembly that will draft Iraq's new constitution. Almusasrah, who has been in the U.S. for 12 years and works in foreign currency exchange, was obviously excited as he considered a question about what the vote means to him. "It means a lot. I've been looking forward to the election," he said.

He said he had no trouble deciding who to vote for, but declined to say who he favored.

"We pray for the election to go well," he said. "I wish well for all the parties for all the people in Iraq. When the polls opened in heated tents at the Tennessee State Fairgrounds only a few voters were on hand.

But the pace picked up within the first half hour. Mohammad Hamo, 38, of the Nashville suburb of Murfreesboro arrived at the polling place with his 3-year-old son, Dillan, and his wife, Sirwa. The boy was wearing a traditional Kurdish cap and bright red and white scarf and waved small Kurdish and American flags, which he had to put away as the family came within 100 feet of the polling place. "I hope I can teach him what democracy and freedom mean, whether he's here or back home," the father said.

"I'm 38 and this will be my first time voting," Hamo said. "It's a great feeling.

It's a historic moment for us. I want to think America and President Bush."

Another voter, Layla Latis, came to Nashville from Baghdad 23 years ago.

"I cried when I put my paper (ballot) in," she said as she cried again describing the moment. "Until now, I don't visit my country. For 23 years I don't visit my country because of Saddam." She mentioned her four grandchildren and added, "I would like to take them to see our country but now it's ruined by so many wars."

Ayad Barzani, 42 from Dallas, flew in Thursday night. He cast his ballot early so he could fly home Friday to get back to the restaurant he owns for the busiest night of the week.

The businessman dressed up for the voting, wearing dress slacks and a tie.

"This is one of the happiest days of my life," Barzani said. "This is one of the greatest days in Iraqi history. I'm very proud."

Barzani, who has been in the United States for about 25 years after his family fled Iraq because of a crackdown on Kurds by Saddam's government, said he cast his ballot for the Kurdish Party slate of candidates.

He predicted about 500 other Iraqi nationals will travel from Dallas to vote in Nashville before the polls close on Sunday, which is the only day for voting inside Iraq.

Skies were cloudy with temperatures near 30 as the three days of voting began.

The day was expected to warm to about 45, but the overnight forecast called for sleet and freezing rain that could make traveling hazardous for voters from outside the city.

The heaviest days for voting were expected to be over the

weekend.

Karen Hirschfeld, head of the Nashville office for the International Organization for Migration's Iraq Out-of-Country Voting Program, said she wished the voting could be in buildings instead of tents. But she wasn't worried that turnout would suffer because of the weather.

"If you're going drive 10 hours from Texas or Florida, you're not going to let rain or sleet get in your way," Hirschfeld said.

Mohammad Ibrahim, a tire shop worker in the United States for 8 years, arrived from Arlington, Texas, a Dallas suburb, to vote with his aunt.

"I'm 29 and I've been waiting a long time, but I hear from my father and some others who have been waiting 50 and 60 years for this. I thank America for giving us the opportunity to do this," he said.

Ibrahim said he voted for the Kurdish party and said the inconvenience of coming from Texas, both to register and to vote, didn't bother him.

"It's very important," he said. "I'm happy to do this."

The Nashville polling place, the only one in the Southeast, registered 3,930 voters.

Among them was Suhaila Barawi, 40, moved to Nashville 8 years ago and said casting a ballot was long overdue for the Kurdish people.

"It's been 80 years. We've been hated by every government, not just Saddam's. We've been fighting for this," she said.

She also felt a personal vindication.

"It's a dream come true. I'm so excited. My dad was killed by Saddam in 1974 (because he was Kurdish). My dad's dream has come true," she said.

Racism charges reach TBR

BY CHRIS JONES
Associated Press Writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. - Black faculty members at Austin Peay State University who are engaged in an escalating legal fight with the administration over charges of discrimination now are taking aim at attorneys charged with monitoring the state's higher education desegregation efforts.

For months the group has been calling for the removal of the APSU's President Sherry Hoppe, claiming she's wrongly dismissed several black staffers and is putting the Clarksville university in violation of the 2001 federal court settlement known as the Geier Decree that gives state schools until 2006 to improve racial diversity.

A review of Tennessee Board of Regents statistics by The Associated Press showed that APSU's black staff decreased 15 percent between 2003 and 2004 to 17 blacks out of 262 faculty members. That's the largest minority decline out of all TBR four-year institutions.

Hoppe said in a statement that APSU is committed to welcoming all individuals and the school has cooperated with all state agencies conducted investigations concerning faculty members' claims.

"Austin Peay's employment numbers for African Americans in professional and clerical categories exceeded its affirmative action goals by more than 50 percent," Hoppe said. "All Tennessee Board of Regents universities have struggled over the last few years to retain faculty and staff (of all races) as a result of state budget factors that have limited salary increases." The number of black staff increased at the other TBR four-year schools from 2003 to 2004 except East Tennessee State University's Medical School, which lost one black faculty member.

Hoppe said APSU's decline reflects "other factors that are outside the university's control." Two former black faculty members who were dismissed by Hoppe filed discrimination lawsuits in Nashville federal court last month against her and other administrators seeking \$1,250,000 each in damages. Black faculty, staff and Clarksville community leaders on Wednesday asked that the court-appointed monitor and a lead attorney on the Geier decree be removed from the case because they've declined to hear their concerns in the presence of the group's spokesman, Alton McDonald, from activist Al Sharpton's Washington-based National Action Network. "Members of our group have reached a stalemate with Geier attorney George Barrett and Geier court monitor Carlos Gonzalez regarding our discussion of Austin Peay State University's alleged violation," said Nancy Dawson, the school director of African American Studies.

"I don't see anywhere in the (Geier Decree) that it states that the monitor is in fact there to create controversy.

So to set the record straight, our group asked Mr. McDonald to advocate on our behalf because everyone else for the last two years has turned a deaf ear on our complaints."

Gonzalez didn't phone calls seeking comment. However, Barrett, who represented the original plaintiffs seeking to desegregate the state's colleges and universities, said that the faculty group had the opportunity to meet with him and Gonzalez and had done so previously.

"We advised the group that they didn't need a spokesperson," Barrett said. "They then refused to meet with us (on Monday) without what they called their spokesman Mr. McDonald. Barrett said McDonald has been rude in previous dealings and wouldn't have added any insight to the situation.

McDonald said Sharpton has taken a personal interest in the situation because of the lack of legal response and is scheduled to come to the state in upcoming months.

BRIEFS...

The 100th Anniversary of the Niagara Movement

In 1905, W.E.B. DuBois, John Hope, Monroe Trotter and 27 others met secretly in the home of Mary B. Talbert, a prominent member of Buffalo's Michigan Street Baptist Church, to adopt the resolutions, which lead to the founding of the Niagara Movement.

This movement renounced Booker T. Washington's accommodation policies set forth in his famed "Atlanta Compromise" speech ten years earlier. This movement became the forerunner of the NAACP.

February 2 Kickoff Tsunami Charity Drive

The most powerful earthquake in 40 years erupted under the sea off the coast of the island of Sumatra, Indonesia. The Tsunami Charity Challenge is a campus wide event that will include all organizations that wish to participate. We will be giving out separate containers to all participating groups and holding a month long penny war. The winning organization will be honored at the

African American History Month Appreciation Dinner. Join AASA and the AACC in kicking off the Tsunami Charity Drive in the AACC where your penny container can be picked up. The time will be 12 p.m. in the African American Cultural Center.

February 7 3rd Annual African American Read-In Chain

The African American Cultural Center will join and host "The Sixteenth National African American Read-In Chain." The objective of the read-in chain is to make the celebration of African American literacy a traditional part of Black History Month activities. The times for this event will be from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. and will be held in the African American Cultural Center.

February 8 PeaSoup Open Mic Night

Bringing students of all cultural and ethnic backgrounds together to express themselves through words, music and rhythms. This event will be held at 8 p.m. in the African American Cultural Center.

Students celebrate life with carnival

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The "Carnival of Life World Tour" traveled the campus last week. It began in the Clement lobby on Jan. 24 and moved through the lobbies of the Sundquist Science Center, Trahern, and the Music/Mass Comm building from Jan. 25 to Jan. 27. The event was presented by the office of Student Life and Leadership.

Cornelius and Outlaw demonstrate diversity

Robert Butler
News Writer

Renata Outlaw, a senior math major, won the Diversity Speech contest and Joe Cornelius gave a speech in unorthodox way.

The Diversity Speech Competition occurred last Thursday in the Morgan University Center Ballroom. The event was sponsored by student life and leadership and the Gay-Straight Alliance. Free food and beverages were given out between the speeches and Mr. Cornelius' performance.

"My speech was inspired by me trying to create a different

"Diversity is about understanding each other. We all need each other to learn from one another."

— Renata Outlaw, speech winner

approach to diversity and think about the positive aspects of it," said Outlaw, the winner of the contest. In a competition of about five students from APSU, Outlaw gave the best speech about diversity. "I see all types of diversity when I go into a

lunchroom at APSU. Diversity is about understanding each other. We all need each other to learn from one another," said Outlaw. Outlaw received a \$200 voucher to the APSU book store. Meanwhile, Joe Cornelius talked about serious diversity issues in a dramatic fashion.

Cornelius did a dramatization about the history of African Americans from slavery to the present he calls "Hats". He also told a story about the devil and Leroy Jones. Leroy Jones is a story about encouragement and achievement that people of all genders and races deal with throughout life. He tells the story in a religious fashion, acting as if he is talking on the phone to the

devil. "It really came from god," said Cornelius. Cornelius is a principal at an elementary school in Columbia as well as a former biology teacher, anatomy teacher and public speaker. When not at school, Cornelius travels the United States performing these dramatizations.

The stories are motivational, not just for African Americans, but for people of all races, genders and different ethnic backgrounds. "I bet someone told you since you are a woman, or a person from the country or the projects that you cannot be successful," said Cornelius in his opening statement.

"My hard work has made me who I am today." ♦

Good Morning APSU

Campus Community

Nav Night

Have you ever wanted more out of the Christmas season? Let's find out what it really means to "Love Christ and Make Him Known!" Join us in Christian Fellowship Thursdays in the UC Room 303 at 7 p.m. For more information please contact Justin Roman by e-mail: mista_gi@yahoo.com or at 931-206-2308.

Multicultural Cook Book

The office of SLL is compiling recipes for a Multicultural cook book. Please submit your favorite recipe along with the culture it represents and your name to our office by e-mail: richardson@apsu.edu. For more information please contact Toya Richardson at richardson@apsu.edu or at 7043.

Marian Anderson Black Heritage Stamp Available Monday

On Monday, Jan. 31, the APSU Post Office will be selling the Marian Anderson Black Heritage stamp. Anderson (1897-1993) was one of the greatest classically trained singers of the 20th century and a central figure in the struggle of African Americans for racial equality. She performed internationally, singing a varied repertoire in her rich contralto. For more information please contact Tammy Silva Email: SilvaT@apsu.edu or at 6164.

Open House with IMA

The IMA Student Chapter will host an open house Feb. 2, at 4:30 p.m. in room 113 KBL. We will review resumes and have job search tips from accounting & recruiting firms. Some of the firms will include Accountemps and LBM. We will be serving free pizza and soft drinks. Please come and see what IMA has to offer at our special Open House Meeting Feb. 2, 2005. For more information please contact Matt Gadsby at 5190.

Dance Marathon

Dance Marathon is fast approaching! Feb. 19th at 8 p.m. till 8 a.m. Feb. 19th - dance the night away for a great cause! For more info please contact Jen Puhl at 1242 or Jennifer James at 7431. Please contact Jennifer James at jamesj@apsu.edu or at 7431.

Corrections

"Theft occurs during holidays" CORRECTION: Joe Mills was misquoted in the article, as saying, "You always take risks in the dorms on campus." (Jan. 26, 2005)

CORRECTION: Carden Cobb was quoted as saying, "Residents Assistants did room checks every night at 6, 9, and 11." Residents Assistants were not scheduled to make room checks at 6, 9 and 11 p.m. (Jan. 26, 2005) We regret any errors.

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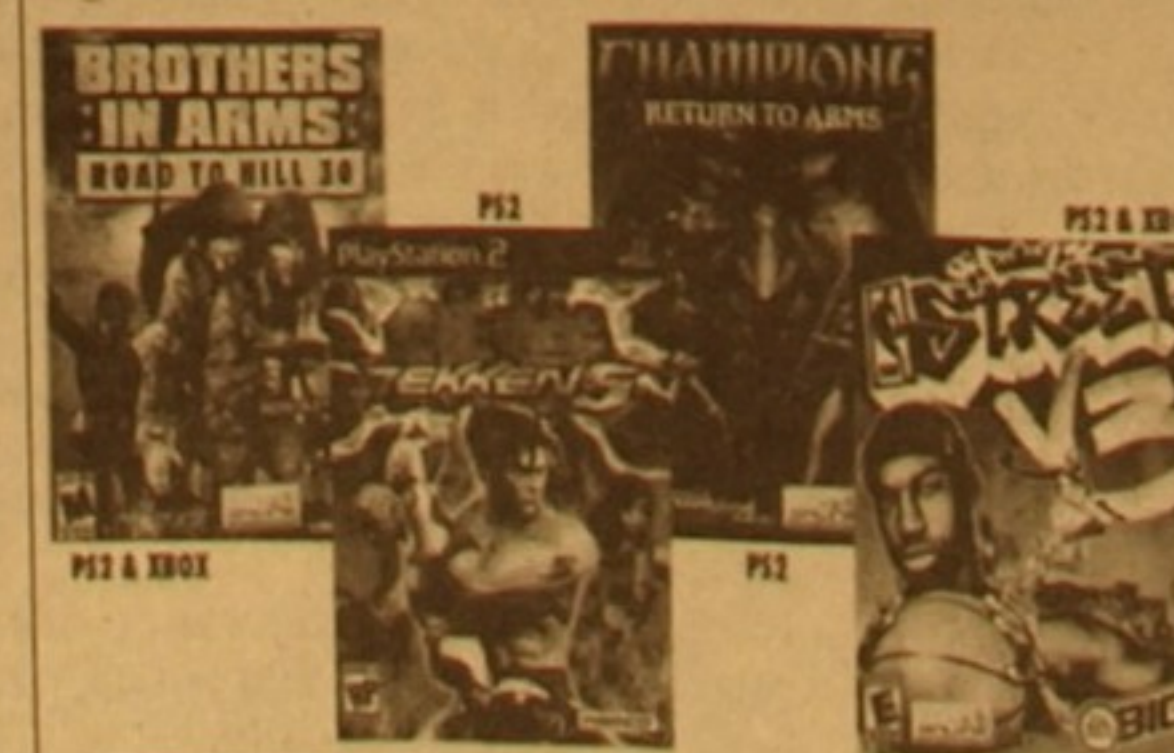
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OUR TAKE

Jackson attorneys prepare for 'Off the Wall' defense

This Monday, the screening of potential jurors for the new Michael Jackson trial began. Over the past few days, 750 people were interviewed for the daunting task.

It isn't known if Dave Chappelle was part of the jury selection process, but we can be sure that his notorious skit is coming to pass. Michael Jackson is heading for another court trial.

Through the trial won't begin for another month or so, the media is already gearing up for the circus.

MSNBC is already heralding the event as the trial of the century, predicting that even the Simpson trial will "pale in comparison."

While it is impossible to say which trial will be more infamous, one could safely surmise that the upcoming Jackson skirmish will definitely be more disturbing.

Michael Jackson, charged with molesting a minor patient and giving him alcohol (the latter is 15; he was 13 at the time of the alleged abuse), will likely have to deal with the prosecution's disquieting claims that Jackson possessed pornography and liquor in the presence of a minor.

Also, Superior Court Judge, Rodney Gilchrist, ruled last Friday that pictures of nude children from Neverland Ranch could be shown to jurors during the upcoming trial—without this information, it can be expected to be used to see more about the entertainer's past than any VH1 special has revealed before.

District Attorney, Tom Sneddon, prosecutor of this case, will leave no stone unturned. This isn't Sneddon's first legal encounter with Jackson; he prosecuted the "king of pop" 10 years ago in another child molestation case.

Reportedly, Jackson's accuser accepted a \$15-million-dollar settlement and refused to testify in the courtroom.

Sneddon's case against "The Gloved One" fell apart, and Jackson believes that the DA has had a vendetta against him ever since. Jackson's legal team attempted to remove Sneddon from the case last November, claiming he wouldn't give the world-famous "Thriller" a fair trial.

Judge Melville rejected the effort and notion that Sneddon was prejudice towards the "Bad" superstar—which, according to Joe Jackson, is one of the problems with the case.

The "Smooth Criminal's" father believes that the United States is racist towards Jackson, and the accuser is prosecuting him for monetary desires—as opposed to justice (this is very interesting coming from a man who ruthlessly trained his children to be musicians and then profited off of their band's album sales).

Michael's mother, Katherine Jackson, didn't make the same statement as her husband; she just provided the usual, "I know my son and he would never do something like this" defense.

Aside from Jackson's past legal history with Sneddon, would the jurors be able to look at one of the most ridiculed public figures ever without prejudice?

So many jokes and comments have been made at the Motown legend's expense. Over the years, society has built an image of Jackson as a crazy celebrity who molests children.

Will they be able to look past all of this at the cold, hard evidence, or will they be laughing at plastic surgery comments they make under their breath during the day?

Whoever is selected to serve in this dramatic trial will have to suppress their urges to condemn and insult the ex-Pepsi spokesman.

Otherwise, he might be heading for a truly dangerous prison sentence—and there's no ferris wheel in the workout area. ♦

King's battle for egalitarian society is still simmering under the surface

"The nation is sick; trouble is in the land, confusion all around. But I know, somehow, that only when it is dark enough can you see the stars," said Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., in an April, 1968 speech. At the time, he was referring to the civil unrest within in the country caused by the

subordination and mistreatment of African Americans. As you know, Jan. 17, 2005 was Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day. I wonder how many people on campus know why the holiday falls on the third Monday of Jan. instead of Dr. King's birthday, which is the 15th of January. In response to my rhetorical contemplation, several legislators believed that the fifteenth of Jan. was too close to the Christmas and New Year's holidays. Whether or not the commemoration-opposing legislators were actually sincere in their argument, a debate erupted

that ensued until the agreement was reluctantly reached that the third Monday in January would become an appropriate day to honor Dr. King. Furthermore, despite the fact that democratic Congressman John Conyers attempted to legislate a commemorative holiday only four short days after Dr. King's assassination, the holiday was not officially, or more accurately, (legally) recognized until 1983, when Ronald Reagan decided to place his 'John Hancock' on the bill when it was finally passed by Congress after the civil rights marches of 1982 and 1983 in Washington.

By the time this article is printed, it will be one day into Black History Month—a month in which we not only recognize Dr. King's accomplishments and hardships, but also the torments and atrocities that African Americans have endured throughout American history (as well as the milestones and triumphs that they have strived so passionately for). From the Fifteenth Amendment passed in 1869 and the first African Baptist Church in Richmond, Va. through the innumerable and vicious murders, massacres and maltreatment, African Americans have traveled an immeasurable journey to the present.

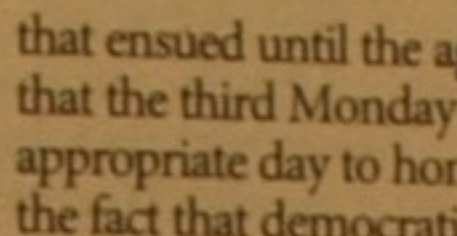
Yet, to this day, there still remain problems involving racism, prejudice and discrimination—including the subtle as well as the obvious. An African American Austin Peay

State University student, and acquaintance of mine, (who we shall refer to as 'John' for anonymity) participated in one of my sociological surveys regarding prejudice and discrimination last year. The long list of complaints was not hard to remember off the top of his head: people refused to touch John's hand while exchanging money, passersby crossed the street to avoid John approaching on a sidewalk and women clenched their purses while sharing elevators with him. Believe it or not, some of the aforementioned situations occurred on campus. However, be advised, that I am not going to address the allegations brought forth regarding the alleged racially motivated, or implicated, administrative actions involving APSU's faculty within this article; just in case you were hoping to read my take on the matter.

That stated, in regards to blatant racism on campus, (for those of you who were not enrolled at APSU in the fall semester of 2003) a noose was found in December of that year hanging in a tree in front of the campus bookstore—shortly after the Clarksville NAACP Chapter's annual banquet in the Morgan University Center (which is within eye-shot of the trees). Yes, you read that correctly, a noose. To the best of my knowledge, no one was ever charged with a crime involving the act of intimidation. Furthermore, I feel it my obligation to mention the immature and hateful bathroom graffiti (laugh all you want, but it's pertinent). I have witnessed much of this 'illiterature' (racial, misogynistic and homophobic slurs, threats and other aggressively abusive comments written on the walls of toilet stalls) during my more prolonged trips to the men's room. However, I must commend APSU on their progress to remove the eyesores. Last semester, it looked as if some stalls had become a blog of some kind. This semester, I haven't noticed anything, but I haven't been to Claxton, yet.

African Americans and other ethnicities have endured a long, hard road of a civil rights war plagued with ultra-violence. Let us celebrate Black History Month in remembrance, reverence and hope for the future. Take some time to look back, and then forward, from the past to the future. Remember the struggle fought by African Americans and take notice of the current battle for equal rights the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered (GLBT) community is fighting, which I will address with some parallelism in my next article. Dreams of an egalitarian society still exist, in my heart and many others. Though there is yet to be a manifestation of such a utopian ideal, perhaps society might get close. Best wishes. ♦

OPINION
Kurt
Niesner



Abortion is genocide

Aquinas College in Nashville has an interesting tradition that they observe every year about this time.

They cover the front of their campus with white crosses to mark the number of babies killed every day because of abortion.

This year there were 3600 crosses! Jan. 22 marked the 32nd anniversary of the Roe v. Wade court decision that has resulted in the deaths of approximately 45 million babies.

45 million! This country would be vastly different if those 45 million people were alive today.

Would the country be better? Who had we can't ask one of those 45 million people.

No doubt, the answer would be yes. Jan. 22 of this year marked another anniversary—the liberation of the infamous Auschwitz death camp in which vast numbers of Jews were slaughtered by the Nazis.

Therefore, Jan. 22 and Jan. 27 are both important occasions. One marks the anniversary of a tragedy that took place during World War II, and the other marks the beginning of a tragedy that is still ongoing.

The same devaluation of life that led to the Holocaust later led to the legalization of abortion.

In fact, much of the blame for all of the atrocities of the 20th (and 21st) century must be placed on the shoulders of Charles Darwin and other secular humanists that have done their best to explain the world without God.

Other all, if a human is no more than an organism in an environment, if it is the nature of the world for the strong to prey on the weak, and so forth, what is the value of a human life?

How is a human better than an animal? The Nazis believed that the Jews were detrimental to a perfect society, so they killed 6 million of them.

Most people in America (and I do say most people in America) because there are

plenty of radical Muslims in the world who would like nothing better than a second Holocaust) would agree that what Hitler did to the Jews was an atrocity, but how is what he did fundamentally different from what our society does to infants in the womb?

Sure, abortion is legal, but so was the Holocaust.

The Nazis enjoyed broad popular support, and they made the rules.

Legality, however, does not equal morality. The facts support life. Clearly, babies are alive. They're certainly not dead.

Also, unborn babies are obviously human. What else are they?

I don't think there has ever been a case in history in which a woman has given birth to anything other than a human.

Call the baby a "fetus" if you want to, but that "lump of tissue" has a soul and is just as valuable as anyone reading this.

The idea that a baby is not a human until it is born is simply not scientifically honest.

With the advances in modern medical abilities, babies are regularly born many months prematurely.

This proves that there is nothing qualitatively different about a baby before and after birth and after.

Is a premature baby a human while an unborn baby (that may even have been conceived earlier) is not human?

The Nazis believed the Jews were subhuman.

Does their willful ignorance of the facts make their atrocity any more acceptable?

In case you still can't believe what you're reading, yes, I'm comparing the practice of abortion to the Holocaust.

In fact, abortion is many times worse—about 39 million people worse. As for the mantra of "choice," there is something you should know.

If a woman becomes pregnant, she's already made her choice.

Abortion is an option only in the immoral sense that murder is an option; if it's a choice, it's an invalid one.

When pregnancy begins, the time for choice has passed, and the time for responsibility has begun.

I hope and pray that the good people at Aquinas College, and others, will continue to speak out.

Then, maybe one day both abortion and the Holocaust may be lumped together as atrocities of the past. ♦

OPINION
Daniel
Plunkett



Heroes drop ballots too

I can't speak for all veterans, but I'm willing to bet that a good many of them are as tired of the whole saccharine-laced "American hero" propaganda campaign as anyone else—if not more so. Things in this country have always swung wildly pendulum-like for as long as I've been

around, so it doesn't strike me as particularly strange that society should go from portraying war veterans as uniformly unbalanced psychopaths to lauding us as paragons of virtue.

It won't surprise me too greatly if it swings back the other way again, but the truth is that we generally come home to fall quite easily back into the great mass of our fellow Americans so much so that few people realize just how many of us there are in their midst.

Moreover, with the exception of fraudulent publicity hounds in tiger-stripe fatigues who make a living passing themselves off to painfully gullible journalists as "hired killers for the CIA," most of us don't pin ribbons and medals to boogie-hats so as to call attention to our "exploits," whether or not we actually had any.

Most soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines make it through two, three, four or even twenty-plus years without ever coming under direct fire or even hearing shots fired outside of a rifle range, and those who actually have do not, as a rule, think of those things as "exploits" but rather as part of the risks of the job (in very much the same way as those who work in any other dangerous profession).

As is common in professions of that sort, it is considered to be bad form to call undue attention to those things, and totally unacceptable to ever refer to oneself as a "hero."

That is left to others to decide one way or another, which may be part of the reason why veterans do not blindly line up behind politicians who make the mistake of blowing their own horns in regards to the things they did while in uniform.

It is a violation of the sort that casts serious doubt as to whether that person understands the unwritten rules, the ones that are as important, if not more so, than the written ones.

All of the preceding is by way of establishing this simple fact, a fact that is also poorly understood in a day and age where the misuse of the language has reached epidemic proportions: in war there are casualties, victims, participants and survivors, but very few true "above and beyond the call" bona-fide heroes.

Those are a rarity, and to recklessly throw the word

"hero" around like a bucket of slop in a pigsty is a sure sign that the person who does the throwing has not one clue of what it actually means.

Too often, those who fall never saw it coming and those are casualties. We should honor them as well, as we do on Memorial Day, but a casualty is not the same thing as a hero.

A heroic act is one that is committed by a person who knows that what they are doing may be their last act on this earth. It is often an act for which there is no expectation by anyone that it should be done, an act that no one would fault that person for not doing.

It is an act that is a personal decision, performed with no expectation of survival, let alone reward. Let there be no doubt that there are heroes among the troops that are fighting this war, and they deserve the respect of their peers and of the country that they represent, but there are other heroes as well, and they are ultimately the point of all of this. They are the citizens of Iraq who live in areas where terrorists are strongest and most active and they have braved the many dangers to go out and vote.

There may well be some who object to my use of the words "terrorists" and "heroes" in this context, but a thing is what it is. The people who are trying to prevent the vote by outright threats of murder are terrorists, and the people that will walk unarmed to those polling places in defiance of those threats are heroes.

It is one thing to commit an act of heroism with a gun in one's hands, and something wholly above and beyond the call of duty to do so armed with nothing more than a paper ballot.

Those who are willing to cast a vote in the face of the kind of twisted and sickening violence that is the stock and trade of despicable thugs like Al-Zarqawi are, or should be, the whole point - the only point if there is any at all - of our policy on Iraq.

My disagreements with the planning and reasoning behind this war in no way dampens my admiration for the vast majority of those who have to carry it out, and it will in no way lessen my respect and appreciation for those Iraqis who will knowingly take their lives in their hands to exercise their privilege, their right, to vote. How many Americans, faced with the same kinds of circumstances, would dare to do the same?

Let us contemplate the question in our hearts. We should not react too negatively towards those Iraqis who cannot find that courage within themselves, since we cannot understand the pressures that there are in a place that most of us have no frame of reference for.

We should not hesitate to salute those who do find the courage to vote as heroes, as worthy of our respect as any of those we have chosen to call by that name in our own history. ♦



OPINION
Phil
Grey

Troops should be able to opt out of Iraq war

In a report on 60 Minutes on Wednesday, it was revealed that "5,500

servicemen have deserted since the war started in Iraq." These soldiers disagree with the reasons for invasion and feel they cannot fight in a war they don't support. Some signed up for service directly after Sept. 11. They viewed it as their duty to

their country or as a way to get revenge—a way to protect the land they called home and the people they love. They joined and wanted to fight for reasons they felt to be justified. I see this as honorable. But since we have invaded Iraq, some soldiers want out. This isn't the cause they signed up for. They don't feel that Saddam Hussein was a threat, and ; this is causing moral conflicts for them. So, instead of being able to choose whether or not to fight, they are told that they signed a contract and must perform their duties.

Erica Ashby, a senior and education major believes they should be held to their obligations. "When you sign up for the military you must understand that war is a part of the job. If you don't want

to go to war for whatever reason your country sends you, whether you agree with the reasons or not, then don't join."

I understand Ashby's view, but I also understand that some people who sign up don't think about the possibility of war, especially in times of peace. My brother joined the Air Force back in 1998. When I expressed concern he retorted, "It's not like we're at war right now."

But, that is the frame of mind of an 18 year-old, the age those recruiters seem to target. In my opinion, 18 to 20 year-olds are not mature enough to understand what their jobs will require of them. They look at the money the military offers or the fact that the government will pay for them to go to school. The furthest thing

from their minds is, "My job may require me to die." Like my father told my brother, "Once you join, you become government property." I understand that if everyone could pick and choose which cause to fight for then our military would fall apart. Perhaps this is why the government goes after those who have just left high school; they know they are not mature enough to weigh out the consequences of signing on the dotted line.

I'm not sure those under 21 (who can't buy beer or get married without their parents' signatures in some states) should be able to sign up for the military. But as Ashby put it (her father served in the Air Force for more than 20 plus years), "At 18 they are considered to be adults.

They're seen as mature enough to vote. There are people who they can talk to besides recruiters before they sign up. Also, they need to read the document they're signing. If they don't understand it, then they need to get someone to explain it to them." I see her point. But I also see young people dying for a cause they don't believe in.

I know war has been going on since the beginning of time. There is always a reason to fight—be it to conquer or protect land, to gain riches or for freedom. How do we decide what's important if we can't decide for ourselves?

We have to leave it up to our government and hope that the reasons are justified. ♦

OPINION
Amanda
Wadley



WE WANT YOUR OPINION

Send your letters to the editor in a Word document to theallstate@apsu.edu by noon on Friday. Please include your name, classification and major or job title.

THE ALL STATE

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Lifestyles at a Glance

SGA Senate Meeting
Wed., Feb. 2,
Noon to 1:30 p.m.
UC 307

Phi Beta Sigma Interest Meeting
Wed., Feb. 2,
6:30 to 9:30 p.m.
UC 305

APSU Women's Club Meeting
Thurs., Feb. 3,
11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
UC 310

Level I Disability Awareness Workshop
Thurs., Feb. 3,
11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
UC 305

Kappa Sigma Composite Pictures
Mon., Feb. 7,
10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
UC Ballroom C (screen side)

Chi Omega Money Wars
Mon., Feb. 7,
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
UC Lobby

MULTICULTURAL LUNCH 'N' LEARN
Mon., Feb. 7,
Noon to 2 p.m.
UC 305
Student Life & Leadership

Psi Chi Bakesale
Wed., Feb. 9,
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Clement Auditorium

Public Relations Student Society
Wed., Feb. 9,
5 to 7 p.m.
UC 213

Black Poetry Night
Wed., Feb. 9,
7 to 9 p.m.
UC Coffeehouse

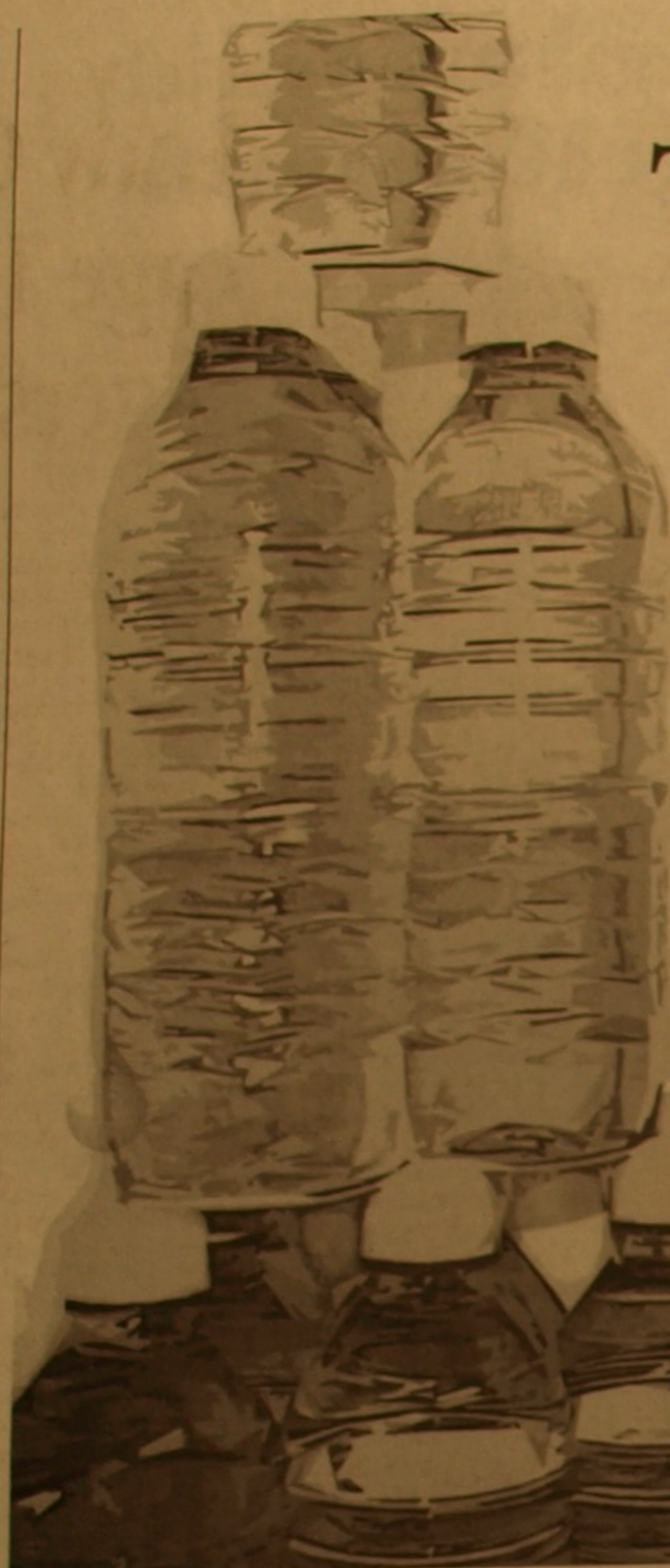
Chi O Cares King
Wed., Feb. 9,
7:30 to 10:30 p.m.
Clement Auditorium

SGA Senate Meeting
Wed., Feb. 9,
Noon to 1:30 p.m.
UC 307 Meeting Room

Networking Workshop
Wed., Feb. 9,
10 to 11 a.m.
UC 306
Career and Advisement Center

Chi Delta Chi Superbowl Bash
Sunday, Feb. 6,
3 to 10 p.m.
UC Ballroom

The Benefits of Water



Megan Gregory
Staff Writer

Water is the most abundant resource available, covering 75 percent of the Earth's surface. It is free and readily available at any sink, fountain or water hose near you.

So how is it that an equal 75 percent of Americans are chronically dehydrated?

Experts say that every person should drink at least eight glasses of water a day.

This generalization presents a couple of problems, the first being the definition of a glass, and the second being that most people need more than that.

As a rule of thumb, a person should drink one quart of water for every 50 pounds of body weight.

A 200-pound person needs at

least a gallon of water a day, and athletes need more.

Why drink that much water? Among the many benefits are significant cancer risk reductions and, for students, memory boosts (ease in trouble with basic math and help focusing on computer screens and fine print).

Furthermore, appropriate hydration relieves most hangovers.

Water also helps dieters. First, it shuts down excess hunger pains.

The thirst mechanism in many Americans is so weak that it is often mistaken for hunger, and in a recent study at the University of Washington, one glass of water stopped midnight hunger pains in almost 100 percent of dieters.

Water is energy, as dehydration is the number one cause of

daytime fatigue. Even mild dehydration will slow metabolism by three percent, which could translate into a few tricky pounds.

Water is the best thing, but Americans still drink large quantities of soft drinks when they are thirsty. Caffeine, the drug found in most carbonated beverages, dehydrates the body.

Phosphoric acid, also found in Coke, removes calcium from bones, which contributes to rising osteoporosis levels.

A few other tidbits and rumors widely circulated on the internet are:

•The PH level of coke will dissolve a nail in about four days.

•Trucks carrying the concentrated syrups used in coke must use the hazardous material stickers reserved for highly

corrosive materials.

•Leave a can of coke in your toilet for an hour before scrubbing to make it sparkle.

•Aluminum foil dipped in coke removes rust from car bumpers. •Coke also removes corrosion from car battery terminals, rusts bolts, grime off windshields and blood off highways after car accidents.

•A can of coke in the wash cleans greasy clothes.

•Coke and pop rocks candy will make your stomach explode.

•Finally, one can of coke in the baking pan makes for a very juicy ham.

Consuming coke in moderation, like anything else, is not a bad thing, but it never helps. To be healthier, feel better, live better and do better in school, the choice is clear: water. ♦

10 reasons to drink up

1. GET HEALTHY SKIN. Drinking water moisturizes your skin from the inside out.
2. LOSE WEIGHT. Increased water consumption can help you control weight by preventing you from confusing hunger with thirst. Water will also keep your body systems, including metabolism and digestion, working properly and give you the energy (and hydration) necessary for exercise.
3. FLUSH TOXINS. By helping to flush toxins, appropriate water intake lessens the burden on your kidneys and liver.
4. REDUCE YOUR RISK OF A HEART ATTACK. Researchers at Loma Linda University in California found that people who drink more than five glasses of water a day were less likely to die from a heart attack or heart disease than those who drank fewer than two glasses a day.
5. CUSHION AND LUBE YOUR JOINTS AND MUSCLES. Drinking water before, during, and after exercise can also help reduce muscle cramping and premature fatigue.
6. STAY REGULAR.
7. STAY HYDRATED, GET ENERGIZED, AND BE ALERT. Even minor dehydration can cause impaired concentration, headache, irritability, and fatigue.
8. REGULATE YOUR BODY TEMPERATURE. Perspiration is the body's natural mechanism to control body temperature. And to sweat, you need plenty of water.
9. REDUCE YOUR RISK OF DISEASE AND INFECTION.
10. GET WELL. The traditional prescription to "drink plenty of fluids" when you're sick still holds strong.

IMAGE BY KRISTIN CRANDALL/ART DIRECTOR

SOURCE: WWW.PURWATER.COM

Renaissance woman speaks to inspire students

By MELISSA TYNDALL
Copy Editor

"We love because it's the only true adventure." The Nikki Giovanni quote on the calendar served as foreshadowing as Regina Vincent Clark's smooth voice came over the earpiece. She was in the midst of removing one earring and was concerned about being heard over the rumbling heating unit in her office at Tennessee State University.

Who is Regina Vincent Clark? At first glance, she's the director of the First Year Students Program at TSU, but there is much more to her than meets the eye. Clark is a modern-day renaissance woman; not only does she have a Bachelor's degree in Broadcasting and a

Master's degree in Journalism, but she has also contributed her services as an educator, a talk-radio host, a writer, a motivational speaker and an actress.



As director of first year students, Clark follows the ideology behind "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People"—suggesting students "see the end at the beginning" and be prepared to pursue their educations.

"Students need to be aware of how they carry themselves as individuals throughout college," she said.

In addition, though her discovery of

her religion came late in life, Clark knows that God has placed her in the role as an educator for a reason. To support her feelings and consciousness about the role her religion plays in her everyday life, Clark told a story of divine coincidence. She taught a public speaking course where she began a teacher-student relationship with a young woman that lasted throughout the student's college career. After graduation, Clark met the young woman's mother, a fellow student of Clark's Alabama elementary school. Clark is sure it was more than a mere coincidence.

You are probably wondering what Nikki Giovanni has to do with all this. Clark, who spoke at Austin Peay State

University's African American Cultural Center on Feb. 1 to celebrate the beginning of Black History Month, finds African Americans such as Nikki Giovanni, Beah Richards and Carter G. Woodson inspiring.

While she used a Beah Richards piece as a part of what she spoke about on Feb. 1, it is Carter G. Woodson that seems to be the closest to her heart because of her father.

Though African Americans were little educated during that time, Clark's father treasured and kept his copy of the book on Woodson, later entrusting it to Clark and frequently asking, "Do you still have my book?" until he passed away.

Maybe it is experiences and stories

such as these that Clark writes.

"I write because I sense issues," she said, just before referencing a famous quote by F. Scott Fitzgerald, who wrote, "write not because I want to say something, but because I have something to say."

For Clark, writing comes naturally, and is one of her ways to inspire others find their voice, because "God gives everyone a talent."

Regina Vincent Clark spoke at the APSU African American Cultural Center on Feb. 1 for the "Grand Opening of Black History Month." For more information on Clark, call the AACC at 221-7120 or the Urban Resource Center Terry McMoore at 552-9076. ♦

Students use CSI methods in mock murder case

By BRIDGETT BUCKLES
Guest Writer

Solving a crime usually depends upon the clues and evidence one finds. However, in this case, the scientific method is the most important element in solving the crime. On Jan. 25, a mock crime scene was conducted by Joe Minor, instructor of the forensic science course, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. in room E-305 of the Sundquist Science Center.

The set-up of the realistic crime scene consisted of detailed pieces of evidence—bloodstains, footprints and articles of clothing. Three teams put their heads together to solve the crime.

"This forensic science lab is similar to an

Easter egg hunt, the depth of this project is a way for the students to apply the scientific method to any type of everyday problem solving," Minor said.

Analyzing the scene and formulating questions, as well as taking pictures of the victim and his clothing, was very useful in solving the case. From the start to finish, the victim's every move was questioned. A team member from the first group, sophomore and chemistry major, Ashley Wright, said, "The benefits of the experience was having the elements to solve the crime and having the personal hands-on experience was fun." Forensic science is a new career possibility for chemistry majors.

The activity made the students feel they had taken on the job of an investigator. Britney Sykes, a junior chemistry major, said, "I had the feeling of being put to the ignore my mind. I was on some time limit. I liked the idea because I liked the challenge and I plan to have a career in forensic science so this was great practice for me."

The recently developed forensic chemistry minor seems likely to generate interest among students, as students enrolled have described the forensic science course as one of the most interesting courses at Austin Peay State University. The forensic science course is currently only offered on the main campus of APSU. ♦



(L-R) Tasha Gish, Kyle Covington, Britney Sykes, Ashley Wright and Cindy Pena collect evidence and sketch the mock crime scene.

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Govs look for success on road

By MICHAEL YOUNG
Staff Writer

The Austin Peay State University men's basketball team goes on the road this Thursday to Jacksonville State, following the Govs' back-to-back home wins against top-OVC rivals Tennessee Tech and Tennessee State.

This Thursday's match-up between the Govs and the Gamecocks will only be the fourth time these two teams have met, and the Govs lead the series 3-0. The Govs (7-13, 5-3 OVC) are currently tied for third place in the OVC standings, whereas the Gamecocks (4-15, 0-7 OVC) are in last place, currently the victim of a 13-game losing streak.

"They are going to be looking for a win," senior Govs forward William Durden said. "They are hungry right now, and we can't look over them to the Samford game because if we do, then they could come up and beat us. Anybody in this league can beat anybody on any given night, and if we don't play hard then it could happen to us."

However, Jacksonville State is not the only team that has had struggles this season as the Govs are currently 0-6 on the road.

"(JSU) has a terrific point-guard, and that will be a big concern for us to begin with," APSU men's basketball head coach Dave Loos said. "Of course, we are going to be playing in their place, and once again it's going to be a matter of are we going to be a contender or a pretender. To be a contender we will have to win on the road."

The terrific point guard that leads the Gamecocks is Russell Walker. Walker has scored 266 points this season, averaging 14 points per game shooting 41 percent from the floor, along with an astonishing 81 percent from the free-throw line.

The Govs begin their four-game road trip following their 69-51 blowout win over OVC rival Tennessee State in last Thursday's game. The Govs, led by senior guard Anthony Davis' 22 points, only allowed TSU to lead twice in the game, both of which took place within the first three minutes of the game.

The Govs and the Tigers exchanged points throughout the first half until an Eric Young lay-up gave the Govs a 27-21 lead at the half. Moments later, with 24 seconds left to play in the first half, Govs' guard Anthony Davis went down after being elbowed in the eye during a rebound attempt. The Govs' trainers would eventually help Davis off the



Senior Anthony Davis grabs a rebound over a Tennessee Tech defender while junior Zac Schlader watches the action. Davis finished the game with 20 points and nailed the game-winning shot in overtime with only .02 seconds left in the contest.

court, and he would rejoin the team during the second half.

The Govs started the second half strong, going on a 15-3 run to make the score 42-24 with 14:30 left in the game. For the remainder of the contest, the Govs' defense dominated, as they forced the Tigers to shoot 10-of-41 (24.4 percent) from the floor and 3-of-14 (21.4 percent) from behind the arc. The Govs, on the other hand, shot 14-

25 (56 percent) from the floor and 1-2 from the three-point land.

"Both Tennessee Tech and Tennessee State are comparable teams," Loos said. "They are both athletic and very aggressive, but I think TSU was actually a little bigger than Tech. I thought we did a great job on the defensive end of the ball. It was a big difference tonight. We were able to pressure the ball and we forced them

into some turnovers. We didn't shoot well early but we got better as the game went on."

"We came into this game the same as we did for our last game with Tennessee Tech," Davis said.

"So we approached the game with the front that we wanted to get after them, get a good head start, and try to out-rebound them. That was the key to winning the game tonight."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Lady Govs cage TSU Tigers

By LONDON WALKER
Guest Writer

After the women's basketball team lost three consecutive games in the Ohio Valley Conference, junior Kera Bergeron knew she had to do something to get her team back on track. In 31 minutes of playing time, scoring 18 first-half points, Bergeron tied her career-high in scoring with 26 points. She shot 10-of-11 from the field, while shooting 6-of-7 from three-point range.

"Kera showed great leadership and came out ready to play tonight," head women's basketball coach Andy Blackston said. "She was as good offensively as I have ever seen her since I've been coaching here."

This is the Lady Govs' sixth consecutive win against Tennessee State and the victory moves the Austin Peay State University into eighth place in the OVC standings.

In the first half of play, Tennessee State jumped out to an early 4-3 lead, but this was their only lead of the game.

Bergeron heated up, hitting two consecutive three-pointers to spark an 11-point run for the Lady Govs. The threes gave APSU the momentum it needed to head to the locker room with a 34-28 lead at the end of the first half.

APSU opened the second half with another impressive run of 12 points to increase their lead to 16, with 17:23 to play in the game. Junior Ashley Haynes contributed 13 of her 15 total points in the second half, as she also added 11 rebounds to cap off her third double-double performance of the season.

"After halftime, Coach Blackston told us to come out and play as if we were down 10 points," Haynes said. "It just feels really good to win this game, and it's a big booster for our team."

Junior Carden Cobb also added to the attack, finishing with 12 points and nine rebounds, one short of another double-double. Sophomore Missy Booker chipped in with 10 points in only 11 minutes of action. Freshman Amber Bacon scored eight points, leading the Lady Govs' bench who supplied 21 total points.

LaTina Patterson led Tennessee State with 12 points off the Lady Tiger bench. Patterson was supported by LaToya Clay and Leslie Dean who each supplied 11 points and seven rebounds of their own. Thursday the Lady Govs will travel to Jacksonville, Ala. to play the Jacksonville State Lady Gamecocks.

"This win means a lot and will give us the spark we need to play well on the road," senior Cassandra Peek said.

Tennis teams strive to improve with new coach

By MICHAEL YOUNG AND ASHLEY SCHILLING
Staff Writers

After an 0-4 start to the 2005 season, the Austin Peay State University men's tennis team is preparing themselves for their upcoming match this Friday against the University of Southern Indiana. The Govs return the core of their players for their 2005 campaign along with two new additions, Akur Singla and Patrick Puertolas.

Despite the Govs' winless start, new APSU men's and women's tennis coach Ed Dickson is not disappointed.

"We didn't really start off rough," says Dickson. "We have played really good teams early in the season, and you have to play good teams in order to get better. We lost four matches, but we look a lot better than our scores tell."

Dickson accepted the head coaching position here at APSU after the



(L-R) Juniors Nabil Lababedi and Andrew Naidu perform drills in practice as head coach Ed Dickson advises. The men's tennis team will host Southern Indiana on Friday.

University of West Virginia suspended their tennis program.

"After West Virginia dropped their program, I had to make a choice and

Austin Peay had an opening," Dickson said. "They had a good program so I took the job."

The Govs return the majority of

players for their 2005 campaign with Jonathan Brown, Andrew Naidu and Wesley Pancho. However, the Govs play host to a talented Southern Indiana team, which possess players such as Joe Epkey (3-0 in singles) and Jarrod Epkey (2-1 in singles), and the two together are 3-0 in doubles play.

"Southern Indiana is a very good team," Dickson said. "This is our first home match, so we will be glad to have home-court advantage. I expect a very good match. They have some of the best players in Division II, but our guys are also improving, and they are ready to play."

While the men take home court next week, the Lady Govs tennis team travels to Western Kentucky to face the Hill Toppers on Feb. 5. With the Hill Toppers just coming off of a successful meet at Cumberland University, the Lady Govs have their work cut out for them.

Last season, the Lady Govs finished in ninth place in the Ohio Valley Conference tournament overall.

"It's very early in the season," Dickson said. "We are going to get ready for this meet like we do all others."

Though it looks to be a good match-up this Saturday, the Lady Govs will still have to get over their season-opener, in which they fell to Louisville State University 8-0. The Lady Govs competed in six singles and three doubles matches. Senior Jessica Hawk and junior Isabel Rzezinskie were successful in their attacks against the Cardinals' Kelly Taylor and Robyn White, respectively.

"It wasn't that bad of a match if you were there watching it," Dickson said. "There are still a lot of things that we have to work on, but we will get there. We did what I expected us to do. You play like you practice and we will have to work harder all week."

Rifle team excited about their progress

By BRIANNA VENABLE
Guest Writer

After an impressive showing at the Witherow Invitational in Murray, Ky., the Lady Govs' rifle team is ready for their last conference match of the season, against the UT-Martin.

Last weekend at the Invitational, the Lady Govs made expected improvements, even without one of

their key shooters, sophomore Jessica Benson. Benson was unable to shoot before the invitational. Freshman Mary Schoenbachler filled Benson's shoes for her first rifle competition.

"She did outstanding!" Benson said. "I was very proud of her. I was silently cheering her on."

The Lady Govs competed against tough teams, including Jacksonville State and host Murray State, two top teams in the OVC, but still came out of the weekend better than before. The team met their goal of shooting over 2100, with a score of 2112.

"I was very proud of them," head coach Howard Wooster said.

"Having two full weeks of practice has facilitated the team in their vast improvement, allowing them to fine-tune. We were handicapped the previous weekend because of the long

winter break without practicing."

Looking ahead to the match against UT-Martin, Wooster hopes to improve upon the gains his team made this week. The Lady Govs last competed against Skyhawks in the Lady Govs Invitational last fall. Although UT-Martin came out on top in their previous meeting, the Lady Govs are looking to give them a run for their money. "They're good, but not unbeatable," Wooster said.

The match against UT-Martin will serve as the Lady Govs last regular season match before NCAA Sectionals and the OVC Championships.

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Leslie bids team farewell



JAROD LEONARD/STAFF
Robin Leslie posted good numbers early this season, averaging 10.3 points and 5.8 rebounds in 12 games.

By MICHAEL TAYLOR
Assistant Sports Editor

After being ruled academically ineligible by NCAA's standards on Jan. 7, freshman center Robin Leslie has left the Austin Peay State University's women basketball team as of Jan. 31.

Before that ruling, Leslie averaged 10.3 points, and 5.8 rebounds in the first 12 games of the season.

"I'm sad about it because she had a lot of talent," junior Ashley Haynes said. "I wish her the best and I'm going to miss her."

"We want our players to be successful," said Lady Gobs head coach Andy Blackston said. "Obviously, Robin was not happy at Austin Peay and that became apparent from an academic standpoint during the first semester."

In her short career season for the Lady Gobs, Leslie had a few individual highs for the team this season.

She currently holds the record for the most blocked shots in a game with five, tied with three other Lady Gobs' players for the

most steals in a game with four, and falls behind Haynes for the most rebounds in a game with nine. She also leads the team in scoring twice, posting 10- and 22-point highs.

"Leslie always made me laugh whenever things got really stressful," senior Cassandra Peek. "She will be missed by the team."

During high school, Leslie averaged 15 points and eight rebounds during her senior year at Giles County High School. She was District 9AA's Most Valuable Player, and named to the all-district and all-tournaments teams, and All-Region 5AA team and tournament team.

As a junior, she averaged 16 points and 10 rebounds a game playing along other Lady Gov Carden Cobb. She also received All-State honors.

"I am disappointed because we made a commitment to help her get through this by helping her develop both in the classroom and as an athlete," Blackston said.

"That said, I wish Robin only the best in her future endeavors." ♦

Austin Peay Player Profile

By MANDY WHITE
Sports Editor

A three-sport, award-winning athlete in high school, Carden Cobb focused her energy when she came to Austin Peay State University as a basketball player.

"I came to Austin Peay because I wanted to be a part of a program that was already successful and also be close to home," Cobb said.

The 5-10 forward has been making an impact in the Lady Gobs' line-up ever since she came to APSU. This season, she is averaging 47.3 percent from the field and is second on the team in rebounds averaging 6.2 per game. She leads the team in steals with 34 and has provided 32 assists. She has led the Lady Gobs in points three times this season and four times in rebounds.

As a sophomore, Cobb played her best during OVC contests, where she averaged 10.7 points and 5.6 rebounds in 19 games. She also scored her career-high during that year, with a 26-point outing against OVC rival Murray State.

Also during that game, Cobb snagged a career-high 11 rebounds, recording her first career double-double performance.

In high school, Cobb attended Giles County, playing basketball, softball and soccer. She led her basketball team to a 32-4 mark and to the Class AA All-Tournament Team.

Originally, she had planned on playing softball in college and was a three-time all-state selection in that sport. Playing for her mom, she helped Giles County to the state

championship during her sophomore season.

"Family is very, very important to me," Cobb said. "I have three younger brothers and one younger sister, and I played softball for my mom in high school. Our house is always a fun place to be, and I love my family to death." ♦



JAROD LEONARD/STAFF

Carden Cobb looks to pass the ball to an open teammate. Cobb is averaging 47.3 percent from the floor.

Question and Answer

Name: Sarah Carden Cobb

Class: Junior

Hometown: Pulaski, Tenn.

Sport: Lady Gobs basketball

Major: Math, with a minor in education

After college: "I'll probably go back home and teach at a high school, while also being a head softball coach and maybe an assistant basketball coach."

Favorite place to eat: P.F. Chang's

Role Model: "My mom is my role model because she's a high school coach who's won a state championship. She's always there for me and helps me out whenever I need anything."

Team she looks forward to playing: "Tennessee Tech because they're a big rivalry."

Best part about being an APSU student-athlete: "It would have to be my teammates. We all get along really well. They're like my family away from home."

Track team posts season highs

By ASHLEY SCHILLING
Staff Writer

Last Sunday, the Austin Peay State University women's track and field team had a late night due to an all-day competition at the Tennessee State Invitational.

With an impressive day behind them, the women got off the team bus with smiles on their faces. The Lady Gobs finished the meet with several team members placing all-time personal bests.

"It's just nice for the team when they do really well," said head coach Doug Molnar with a smile. "Half our team this week was banged up and sick. Shameka (Strong) was sick and had to sit out this meet, and Kinzay's (Roark) knee is giving her problems. But despite all that, we still did well and so when everyone's feeling better, we will do all right."

With problems persisting, the track and field team still managed to top their performance yet once again. Junior Sherlonda Johnson excelled in the preliminary jumps with a leap of

18-10.00 in the long jump and 37-10.95 in the triple jump, coming in second and fifth places, respectively.

"It feels good, and it shows that hard work does in fact pay off," Johnson commented on her day's performance.

But the performance of the day came from freshman Leeann White. She finished 18-8.25 in the long jump, placing fifth.

"I did excellent; it was the best thing I've done in my career," White said, grinning. "I'm coming back this week strong and I'll be ready (for the upcoming meet)."

Though all of the Lady Gobs topped their best performances in Sunday's meet, the only thing on their mind is next week's meet at Carbondale, Ill. The Lady Gobs compete in the McDonald's Invitational against some of the top track and field competitors from around the mid-south. Just recently the Lady Gobs traveled to Carbondale and competed in the Saluki Booster Invitational.

Freshmen Danja Yates and Takesha Richardson are just a few of the players who had seasonal bests at the team's last visit to Illinois.

"It's nice but not good enough yet," junior Kaylee Yago said. "We're still trying to improve even more."

With top finishes in all of the Lady Gobs' competitions so far this season, there is only one thing left for them to focus on, and that's a championship.

"We want to make it to the championship," Yago said. "We're actually being a winning team and it feels nice."

So with only three meets left until the O'Reilly Ohio Valley Conference Championships hosted by Eastern Illinois, the Lady Gobs intend to work harder and try to bring home the OVC championship.

"(The good performances) are a tribute to all the hard work that we put into our training," Molnar said.

"We are getting there, and we're making a big difference. Now the only thing we need is an indoor track facility here at APSU." ♦

Super Bowl Predictions '05



ALEX BORRAS

Sophomore Mass Communications
"The Patriots will win because they're the defending Super Bowl champions, and they're playing like champions. They've handled high-profile teams like Indianapolis with ease."



AMANDA COOK

Freshman Education
"I don't even know who's in the Super Bowl!"
—The Patriots and the Eagles
"Oh, then the Patriots will win because they had a good season last year."



EDWIN LONG

Freshman Computer Science
"The Eagles will win because they have Donovan McNabb as their quarterback."



KARMEN COWAN

Sophomore Graphic Design
"Who's playing?"
—The Patriots and the Eagles
"The Patriots will win because they have a good team."



ARMANDO PANTOJA

Senior Computer Science
"Who's playing?"
—The Patriots and the Eagles
"The Patriots will win because of their quarterback...uh, what's his name again?"



SHEMEL DAVIS

Freshman Psychology
"Who is it between?"
—The Patriots and the Eagles
"Oh, then I think the Patriots will win."
—Why?
"I think that's my boyfriend's team."



MIKE FELTON

Senior Education
"New England will win because they have experience. This will be the third time in four years the Patriots have been in the Super Bowl."



TINA DAVIS

Sophomore Education
"The Patriots will win. Tom Brady is HOT!"



ELJAH HEINRICH

Senior Health and Human Performance
"Philadelphia will win. They have a great defense and an even better offense...I've only seen them play, like, four times though."



JAMIE MAY

Junior Pre-Vet Med
"I don't even know who's playing!"

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