

Stockings get no help from students

By **TINEA PAYNE**
Staff Writer

While U.S. Soldiers are overseas, thinking about their families, campus organizations at APSU are returning the favor by organizing a way that soldiers overseas can get a touch of home for the holidays.

Now is the time of year when retail stores stay packed, holiday lights go up and college students finish final exams, pack up and head home.

The winter holidays have arrived, as many Americans prepare for a few months of colder weather and warm family hugs.

The annual amenities are to be expected for many, but for some, the holiday season will be spent loading rifles, dodging bullets and thinking about families far away.

The mission is called Operation Stockings for Soldiers, created to help campus organizations at APSU show their support for soldiers in the 3/187 Infantry Battalion serving in Iraq.

Student Life and Leadership, Chi Delta Chi Veterans Organization and APSU Ambassadors are among a few APSU organizations participating in the stocking drive.

Stockings were to be dropped off in Ellington from Oct. 29 to Nov. 26 to ensure that the stockings would arrive in Iraq to the soldiers in time for Christmas.

Items asked for by troops varied from Xbox games, phone cards and disposable cameras to items as small as mints, wet wipes and hand written cards of encouragement.

Donna McGowan of the Career and Advisement Center and army wife, organized Stockings for Soldiers as a way for students at APSU to show their support for soldiers at Fort Campbell.

The operation has expanded across the nation as several organizations have already started their own versions of the stocking drive.

Operation Give and Operation Christmas Stocking are two that started in Salt Lake City, and Soldier's Angels Foundation in Douglasville, Ga., has already shipped off stockings in their Christmas for the Troops program.

Sherry Holmes, Student Life and Leadership coordinator of service programs and sponsor of S.E.R.V.E. (Students Engaged in Responsible Volunteer Experiences), said McGowan approached her with the program, encouraging Holmes to get the word out around campus.

"The idea is to get students more involved with the community including Fort Campbell," Holmes said.

Campus organizations at APSU were presented with the stocking drive with response from only three to four organizations.

McGowan expressed her disappointment as many campus organizations failed to respond to the request.

"I talked to the presidents of sororities and fraternities," McGowan said.

"They just all held their head down," Holmes said that she didn't expect much response on campus.

Holmes said that campus organizations have made good efforts in the campus community, but noted the redundancy in humanitarian efforts.

"The organizations are doing wonderful things, but everyone is doing the same thing," Holmes said.

She suggested that campus organizations should join on community service projects to avoid repetitive events. "If we can come together, we can have a more substantial turnout," she said.

"There's a lot of disunity," Holmes said. "People are afraid to interact."

For more information go to www.apsu.edu/sll/SERVE/operationstockingsforoliders.pdf ♦

Students, faculty still frustrated with Banner



Students were able to register for classes from Nov. 12 to Nov. 21. Registration was staggered by credits earned. Students can continue to register until classes begin.



The Office of the Registrar, located in Ellington, handled problems with Banner for registration.

Some believe it will take time to acclimate to new system

By **KYLE NELSON**
News Editor

From Nov. 12 to Nov. 21 students were able to register for classes on the new Banner system. Yet students and professors alike have had to adjust to the new system.

"I have found it relatively user friendly," said Mike Gotcher, chair of the communications department.

"Our students have had very little problem registering in the new Banner system," said

Telaina Wrigley, registrar.

"Some have forgotten their pin and we have had to reset those," Wrigley said.

Some professors though, have had problems adjusting to the new system.

"It's just adjustment problems," Gotcher said. "It will take time."

Tim Winters, faculty senate president said, "The comments I have heard are that the problems are two-fold: One, Banner is cumbersome; and two, quick help is hard to come by."

Students on the other hand, have had issues with their advisement.

"The biggest problem has been with students finding their adviser," Gotcher said. "As chair I

have access to all alternate pins."

Gotcher said that traditional faculty only have access to the pins of the students they are advising.

"Not being able to access a student's alternate pin is not a faculty or system error. A faculty member must be assigned as the adviser for a student in order to see their alternate pin through AP Self Service which is what faculty use for advising," Wrigley said.

Gotcher's policy on advisement is to not send a student away in the event they come to him, even if he's not their adviser.

Students may have also noticed this semester that registration was staggered based on credit hours.

"In order to equally distribute the registrations hitting the system, we look at the number of students we have and their current hours and attempt to divide up registration so an equal amount of students are hitting the system each day of pre-registration," Wrigley said.

According to Wrigley, registration was not divided based on class, but priority was based on the amount of hours earned in declining order, high to low.

Wrigley said that since Banner was a new system, it was going to take some time to work out the kinks.

"This is a new system so we have had to do some tweaking, but all in all, it has gone well," Wrigley said. ♦

Thoughts on Banner? Students voice concerns and kudos for banner.

Chris Baladad, Freshman

"I haven't had any problems and everything went pretty well this semester when it came to registering. I did have a problem at first finding my adviser because he was out of town."

Josh Minter, Freshman

"I could not see my schedule until two days after I registered. The adviser was easy to find. The Banner system bites."

Raven McCann, Sophomore

"It was quite easy because it wasn't my first time registering."

Erica Coleman, Junior

"I had trouble getting into classes but the professors gave me permits to register for them. I prefer the old system."

Alan Pujh, Junior

"Yes, I definitely had a difficult time registering, but eventually I was able to register. There were problems with both the old system and the Banner."

Raymond Moyer, Freshman

"Well, I sent my adviser e-mails and left messages on their phone. I couldn't find an adviser. The adviser was way too busy to talk."

Perspectives

Registration, torture, international students, commercialism, Google and the Holy Land.

See pages 3 and 4 for more

Features

Movie and book take fans "Into the Wild"



Sports

Lady Gows get first win of the season on the road



Online

If you haven't noticed, theallstate.com has music reviews



FYI

♦ Help-an-Elf adoptions have begun, so don't forget to drop by Student Affairs, UC 206, to adopt one of 41 student families.

APSU site to be featured on iTunes

By **TANYA LUDLOW**
Assistant News Editor

APSU students can expect to see an increase in the amount of APSU-related material available on iTunes U next semester, according to Kathrine Bailey, multimedia specialist in APSU's Center of Extended and Distance Education.

Although APSU is not yet a featured university on the site, the administration is working hard to meet the requirements to be a featured university in the iTunes store.

Bailey said that there is significant interest in APSU's participation.

Citing statistics provided by Apple, "We get around 300 hits per week at the moment," Bailey said. "This number will go up a good deal after January I am sure."

Although APSU lectures have not been posted, a lot of other material is currently available to the campus community on iTunes U.

There are several videos featuring assistant professor of languages and literature, Blas Falconer, reading his poetry as well as the university marching band.

Bailey said that the administration is working on implementing the course side of iTunes, which should be available by next semester.

"The plan for iTunes is to use it as the repository for multimedia lectures that are podcasts [audio] and vodcasts [video and audio]," Bailey said.

For now, students can augment their education at APSU with lectures from institutions such as



APSU is set to be a featured school on the iTunes store by the Spring 2008 semester. DUSTIN KRAMER/ART DIRECTOR

Stanford and MIT.

According to the iTunes U information Web site, more than half of the nation's top 500 schools use it to distribute their digital content to students.

Members of the faculty and administration at APSU see the value in keeping savvy with current technology as another way to connect the campus community.

Not only are several faculty developing content for iTunes Courses, in addition "the president is talking about a weekly podcast,"

Bailey said.

Although students have to submit content for the public site through the publications and marketing department, Bailey said that the students will be able to upload directly into their classroom spaces once the course side of iTunes U has been approved.

"Expect a lot more to be appearing next semester," Bailey said.

Interested students, faculty members and administration can directly access APSU on iTunes from the university Web page. ♦

Former Senate majority leader steps down

Associated Press

PASCAGOULA, Miss. — Mississippi Sen. Trent Lott, the Senate's No. 2 Republican, announced Nov. 26, that he will retire from the Senate before January, ending a 35-year career in Congress in which he rose to his party's top Senate job only to lose it over a remark interpreted as support for segregation.

"It's time for us to do something else," Lott said, speaking for himself and his wife Tricia at a news conference.

Lott, 66, said he had notified President Bush, Vice President Dick Cheney and Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour on Nov. 25 about his plans. Barbour, a Republican, will name someone to temporarily replace Lott.

"There are no problems. I feel fine," Lott said.

Arizona Sen. Jon Kyl, who helped broker a bipartisan immigration bill that went down to

defeat this year despite President Bush's support for it, will run to replace Lott as the Republicans' vote-counting whip, said spokesman Ryan Patmintra. Lott described his 16 years in the House and 19 in the Senate "a wild ride, and one that I'm proud of."

He said he was leaving with "no anger, no malice." Lott's colleagues elected him as the Senate's Republican whip last year, a redemption for the Mississippian after his ouster five years ago as the party's Senate leader over remarks he made at retiring Sen. Strom Thurmond's 100th birthday party. Lott had saluted the South Carolina senator with comments later interpreted as support for southern segregationist policies.

Bush did not stand behind Lott after his remarks about Thurmond, increasing pressure on the lawmaker to step down from the No. 1 Senate job. Asked about his conversation Nov. 25

with the president, Lott said, "He was very kind in his remarks. Over the years we've had our ups and downs, good times and bad times, both of us." Bush, Lott said, "felt like I'd be missed in my role" as Senate minority whip.

After the 2006 elections, when Democrats recaptured the Senate, Lott was put in charge of lining up and counting Republican votes as whip, the No. 2 job behind minority leader Mitch McConnell

Lott, who said he wanted "to be able to leave on a positive note," said he began thinking about retiring in August. His term runs through 2012.

He said he doesn't have a new job lined up and that new restrictions on lobbying that take effect after Dec. 31, 2007 "didn't have a big role" in his decision to retire. The regulations extend the "cooling off" period for lobbying by former members of Congress from one to two years. ♦

Good Morning APSU

Your Community

Emergency text alert

There will be a test of Rave Alert, the new emergency text-message alert system, on Mon., Dec. 3 at 2 p.m.

Christmas on the Cumberland

Celebrate the holiday season by strolling downtown through the RiverWalk's winter wonderland featuring over a million lights. The event will last from until Jan.1 and runs from 5 p.m. to10 p.m. nightly.

Crime Log

Austin Peay State University crime log includes any arrests and dispatch call-ins. As mandated by Tennessee law, the crime log is updated within 48 hours of an incident and available for public inspection any time during normal business hours.

- Nov. 1, 1:19 a.m., Meacham, alcoholic beverage by minor, arrested: Hillary M. Sexton of 226 Adams Lane, Lafayette
- Nov. 1, 7:30 p.m., Cross, theft of property
- Nov. 1, 5 p.m., Meacham lower lot, theft of property
- Nov. 2, 3 p.m., Rec. Center, theft of property
- Nov. 3, 10:57 p.m., Emerald Hill Apartments, domestic assault, arrested: Terrell J. Clark of 371 Patrick St., Clarksville
- Nov. 4, 8:53 a.m., Shasteen lot, vandalism
- Nov. 7, 9:40 a.m., Eighth Street lot, vandalism
- Nov. 7, 9 a.m., Burt lot, burglary
- Nov. 10, 12 a.m., UC, vandalism
- Nov. 10, 2 p.m., Killebrew, theft of property
- Nov. 10, 5:30 p.m., Killebrew, aggravated burglary
- Nov. 11, 12:51 a.m., Trahern lot, aggravated assault
- Nov. 11, 2 p.m., Trahern lot, vandalism
- Nov. 11, 2 p.m., Killebrew, aggravated burglary
- Nov. 13, 11:05 a.m., Trahern lot, vandalism
- Nov. 13, 12:45 p.m., UC, simple assault
- Nov. 14, 7:56 a.m., Emerald Hills, simple assault, arrested: juvenile
- Nov. 15, 10:35 a.m., Eighth Street lot, simple assault, arrested: Antonio M. Lathon of 3429 N. Henderson Way, Clarksville
- Nov. 16, 1 p.m., Cross, theft of property
- Nov. 16, 2:28 p.m., Harned, minor consuming alcohol, arrested: Rachel L. Jahnke of 2674 Cummings Circle, Clarksville
- Nov. 17, 12 a.m., Library, vandalism
- Nov. 17, 11:58 p.m., Castle Heights lot, DUI; implied consent, arrested: Darron N. Murphy of 108 S. Oneal Ave., Hopkinsville, Ky.
- Nov. 18, 1:07 a.m., Hand Village, minor consuming alcohol, arrested: Justin L. Scott of 654 James Ave., Nashville

WORLD BRIEFS

Sharif returns from exile

LAHORE, Pakistan (AP) — Exiled former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif returned home to a hero's welcome Nov. 26 and called on President Gen. Pervez Musharraf to end emergency rule before elections, a fresh challenge to the U.S.-backed leader.

"These (emergency) conditions are not conducive to free and fair elections," Sharif told reporters at the airport after arriving from Saudi Arabia.

"I think the constitution of Pakistan should be restored, and there should be rule of law," Sharif, the head of one of the country's main opposition parties, said he had not negotiated his return with Musharraf, who overthrew him in a 1999 coup.

Rudd for Kyoto Treaty

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — Australia's Prime Minister-elect Kevin Rudd took advice Nov. 25 on how to ratify the Kyoto Protocol on cutting greenhouse gas emissions and fielded phone calls from world leaders, starting in on work the day after a sweeping election victory.

The emphatic victory for Rudd's Labor Party swings Australia toward the political left after almost 12 years of conservative rule and puts it at odds with key ally Washington on two crucial

policy issues, Iraq and global warming.

Long term U.S. presence in Iraq

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq's government, seeking protection against foreign threats and internal coups, will offer the U.S. a long-term troop presence in Iraq in return for U.S. security guarantees as part of a strategic partnership, two Iraqi officials said Nov. 26.

The proposal, described to The Associated Press by two senior Iraqi officials familiar with the issue, is one of the first indications that the United States and Iraq are beginning to explore what their relationship might look like once the U.S. significantly draws down its troop presence.

In Washington, President Bush's adviser on the Iraqi war, Lt. Gen. Douglas Lute, confirmed the proposal.

Peace talks over Israel

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hours before the opening of a high-stakes international conference on the Middle East, President Bush and Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert expressed hope Nov. 26 that peace finally could be achieved.

A senior member of the Palestinian delegation said an elusive joint statement on the contours for future talks was within reach. ♦

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Pace Alumni Center at Emerald Hill
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Hosted by the National Alumni Association
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We know that graduation will be a busy and exciting time for you, so let us help you get this special event off to a happy start. Please join us at the Pace Alumni Center at Emerald Hill for a complimentary reception in your honor (casual dress).

There will be shuttle transportation to and from the Pace Alumni Center and campus (in front of Austin's) every half hour between 2-4 p.m.
For information or to RSVP, telephone 221-7979.

OUR TAKE

Registration woes

Problems. For those of our readers who have registered for next semester's classes, we feel your pain. This year's advisement period seems to be a headache for many. Whether it's the Banner system, locating degree audits, availability of classes or some other trouble, the appropriate word to describe this year's class registration period is problematic.

Shifting to the new Banner system has translated into many unforeseen complications. One example includes the degree audit. This serves as a measuring tool for advisers to evaluate what courses a student has taken and what courses need to be taken. For students who need this audit (nearly all), it might take some time. Numerous degree audits have not been updated. This is a major problem because students need these to plan out their collegiate career.

Another problem within the Banner system includes a problem with recognizing fulfilled prerequisite courses. Many classes require one or two other classes to be completed prior to registration. Under the new system, many students are finding themselves having gone through the process of taking the proper classes, but still are unable to register (without extra effort) for certain classes.

Other problems exist outside of the transitions that have accommodated the Banner system. One common theme among many departments is the limited number of upper-division course offerings. Many rising juniors and seniors having

fulfilled the general education requirements, find themselves in a dilemma when their department offers 30 sections of introductory courses and only a handful of 3000 and/or 4000 level courses.

Although these above mentioned problems have caused students many troubles for the upcoming semester, long-term goals might be better served by the current registration process — that is after all the kinks are worked out. The switch to the Banner system is arguably more user-friendly compared to APSU's old system, APWeb. Furthermore, the Banner system provides better protection from identity theft in an age where identity theft has reached its peak. Students should have less to worry about now that APSU has less reliance on using Social Security numbers as its primary way of identifying students.

So students are facing registration problems, but as much should be expected since this group is the pioneer group that's exploring the new Banner territory. And the offered classes are problems for many.

If you find yourself facing any of these registration woes, speak up; let your professors and department chair know. Our faculty is filled with many open-minded and flexible individuals. Many are willing to make compromises and the appropriate accommodations to better serve the interests of the students. But remember, the only way to let these individuals understand your problems is to first let them know your problems. ♦

Doctors open the wound to torture



The recent confirmation of retired judge Michael Mukasey is yet another embarrassing mark on our country's stance on torture. The problem? There are operations taking place that ignore all conventional definitions of what constitute torture and our official denial of its use. PsyOps is one branch of these operations and Mukasey does not seem to be a promising sign of change.



Managing Editor
Dave Campbell

A few months following the start of the Iraq War, the BBC reported that U.S. Psychological Operations Company was using a wide range of music from Sesame Street to Metallica to break down the will of their prisoners in Iraq. The goal was to find music that was culturally offensive. The hope was that following the combination of offensive music and sleep deprivation, the prisoners would start talking.

This doesn't sound too bad, right? At least that was what the president of PsyOps, thought. He made a statement suggesting that this kind of treatment causes no lasting effect. Amnesty International disagreed, stating that this may be considered torture. I feel like correcting both of these arguments and wish that Amnesty International would take a stronger stance on the subject. There are no acceptable methods of practicing torture. And there is no denying that even sleep deprivation causes harm.

Even when the weight of information to be obtained from using torture would seemingly outweigh the harm that is inflicted on another there is still no excuse for intentionally causing harm to someone else, especially when victims of torture have not even been tried. While the American Psychological Association has taken an official stance to condemn acts that can pass for torture, (who wouldn't?) they also stated that they would not be subject to the rulings of foreign courts, basically eschewing international law and their definition of what constitutes torture.

Sleep deprivation would probably be considered acceptable by the APAs terms, as long as it were monitored by a licensed individual, in order to lessen the harm. Once again with the contradictions: Cause harm while ensuring that it is not occurring. I don't get it. Publicly, most anyone would denounce the use of torture but the door is left wide open for abuse when even top professional organizations hold the authority to clinically or otherwise define what is and is not torture.

Independent journalist, Mark Crispin Miller, reported earlier this fall about both the American Bar Association and APA making public statements decrying the practice of torture.

"That was a step forward," Miller wrote in a

report released by *Harper's Magazine*. "But they turned down a resolution counseling members to refrain from involvement in highly coercive interrogation process," he added.

From what Miller noted, unsurprisingly, Department of Defense-affiliated APA members were the ones trying to push them to turn down the resolution, meaning the door would still be open for members of APA or similar organizations to participate in these highly coercive interrogation processes. So the implications go far beyond Sesame Street. Officials are trying to ensure that the books still allow for the gray area to be blurry enough so that we can't see through the cloudy muck of the ugliness that's going on.

Malpractice

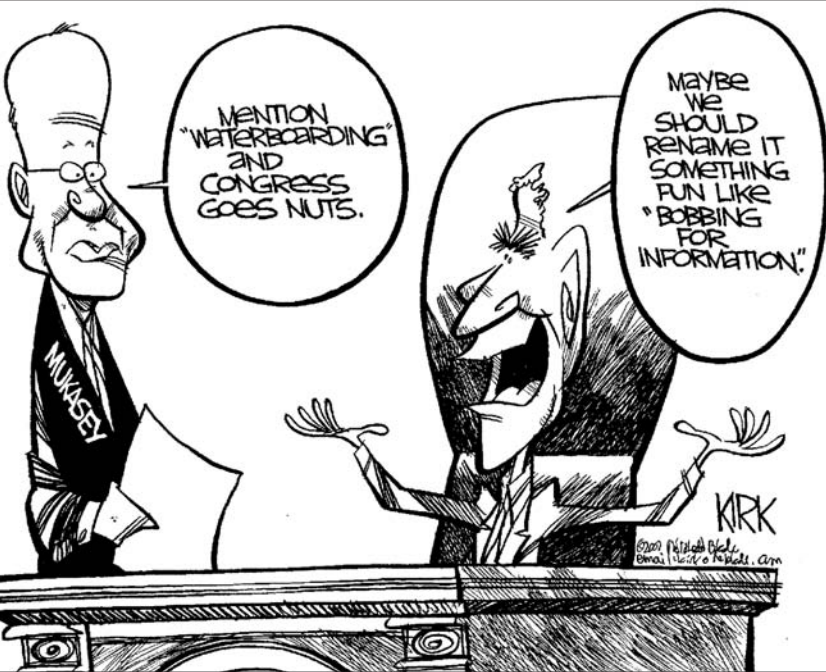
According to an article on ZNet, psychologists have been increasingly sought out by the CIA in order to utilize their perfected techniques at behavior modification for its purposes in getting information out of prisoners. This has apparently been going on for decades, as psychologists' methods are made useful in helping to break down the personalities of prisoners, in the hopes that they are stripped of their capacity to withhold information.

This September, Doctor Allen Keller testified before a Senate Intelligence Committee on behalf of Physicians for Human Rights to express his concern for the use of techniques that have been touted as "enhanced interrogation techniques." The following practices were noted in Keller's testimony as being a part of the non-classified reports: Stress positions; shaking and beating; temperature manipulation; threats of harm to person or loved ones; prolonged isolation; sleep deprivation; sensory overload; sensory deprivation; sexual humiliation; exploitation of fears and phobias; cultural or religious humiliation and waterboarding.

Keller stated that his work with torture victims revealed that the methods being used do cause "significant and long lasting psychological and often physical pain and harm."

Conveniently, Mukasey has been non-committal in his answer about whether he supported waterboarding, which is simulated drowning. We'll see. What's important is that these supposedly professional organizations show more intent than their words. We're not going to stop interrogations but we can at least draw a line between what is gray and what is being hidden behind a wall of doctors who are either indifferent or malicious or too afraid to speak out. PsyOps must stop. Doctors must start acting to prevent instead of acting to coerce. From what the larger media scope points to, there is much more to come on this matter and many medical professionals still to be implicated. In the mean time, don't take my word for it. Go read the stories yourself. The wall must come down. ♦

Dave Campbell serves as *The All State's* Managing Editor and performs critical analysis of mainstream and independent media outlets. He can be reached at davecampbell23@gmail.com



Students deserve more, celebrate cultures

Take a moment and close your eyes. No, keep your eyes open rather, so you can continue reading, but at least take a moment to imagine yourself thousands of miles from home. You're



Guest Perspective
Ashley Brown

in a place where few, if any, people speak your first language and you're here to learn. That learning will be done in classrooms led by well-educated professors but most of them do not speak your language. You've studied their language, but you're still frightened of making mistakes, and misunderstanding something incredibly important. You take a deep breath and face your fears. You look around, seeing that APSU is a nice campus, and you are determined to conquer your fears. You look down at your schedule and realize that you cannot remember where anything is. Sighing, you find yourself wishing you had someone who knew what you were going through. If you're Hispanic, you're lucky. You just hop down to the Hispanic Cultural Center and find not only people who speak your language, but likely someone in a similar situation as yourself. If you are not Hispanic, however, but Asian, German, French or another ethnicity, then you have to simply hope that you meet someone by chance.

APSU has done a great job taking care of our Hispanic students on campus, but has not done so well with the many students of other nationalities present at our school. While Hispanic students have a place

to go for translation assistance and activities, other international students have to fend for themselves. Our International Students Organization does its best to help these students, but there is no central place for international students to go and find others like themselves. There is no place for them to go and get help with translations, cultural events or even to just meet others in the same situation.

Most international students on campus are not even aware that ISO is around. They are not even aware of the many other students on campus in the same position. A central place for these students to turn to would greatly help to solve this problem. Since it was decided not to use the Drane-Foust House for its original intended purpose — a center for international students, nothing has been done to provide a substitute.

Currently, students who need English as a second language are being sent off campus to meet with a teacher. If there were facilities dedicated to international student life on campus, then a teacher could come onto campus to teach ESL to these students English. These same facilities could also be used for tutoring and meetings for students of different nationalities. The university could have tutors who speak the students' original languages or at least are specially trained for the situation. international students could meet together to share experiences and support each other.

Students of all nationalities could benefit from a center designed just for them. APSU should consider this an opportunity to better serve its students and to provide yet another venue for personal growth, something all students deserve. ♦

Ashley Brown is a guest columnist. Comments can be sent to allstate.perspectives@gmail.com

In the Line of Fire!



In the Line of Fire! is an open forum for your perspective to be heard. Readers are encouraged to speak out for or against any issue desired, no matter how random it may seem.

Thank you *The All State* for honoring America and loving freedom.

When talking about the occupation of Iraq, why do so many American men and women ignore the death count of innocent Iraqi civilians in the name of nationalism? It seems that if you die and you're not American, you don't matter.

I like southern accents, but I don't hear it in the Dixie Chicks.

Whether you 'believe' or not in the current war efforts, support your troops. They are supporting you in Iraq, Afghanistan and every other theatre around the world. Is it too much to ask?

Send your views to allstate.perspectives@gmail.com

The All State reserves the right to reject inappropriate or libelous statements. Don't hold back and remember, "less is more."

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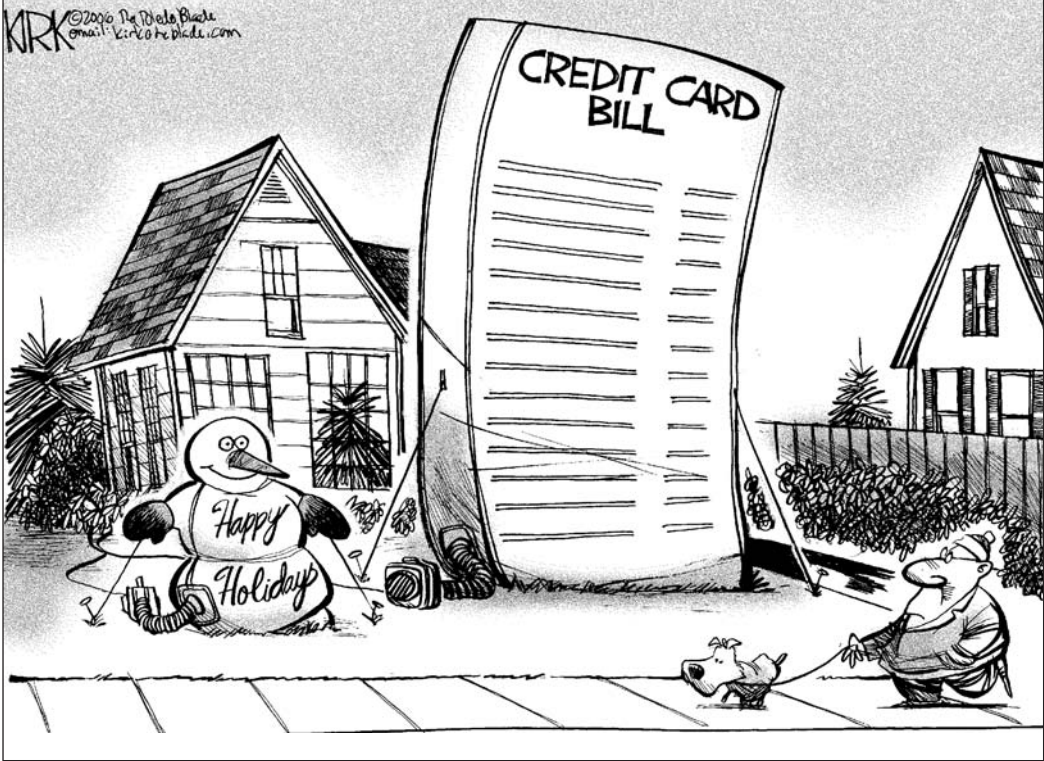
Hope still thrives through shopping frenzy

Every year, at about this time, the season's questions resurface. Whose turn is it to buy batteries for the holiday lights? Should we re-gift the fruitcake? A tie or aftershave? Who really eats those hard, red and green candies? Why does "some assembly required" really translate to an entire day's task? And just why is cousin Jay so crazy? (OK the last one may just be my family!)? These are just some of the Christmas conundrum many of us face each year. And, like the gifts under Paris Hilton's tree, there are always more questions to unwrap such as, "Has Christmas become too commercialized?"

I accepted long ago that Thanksgiving has become a mere prelude to the "shopping day after," or as it has now become known as

"Black Friday," a day when otherwise sane Americans become berserk customers. Men, women, children, maybe even you, stand in line for hours in the wee morning to be among the first to take advantage of the incredible "door-breaker savings" or as one such lady recently told me as she elbowed me on her way to the Santa's Discount Bin this "is what the holidays are all about, getting the best bargain." Indeed. How "ho, ho," hopelessly acquisitive we've all become, or has it always been this way?

Reverend Billy of The Church of Stop Shopping (a real church, trust me) stood outside of Macy's Department store in downtown Manhattan this past "Black Friday" and waited in the cold from about 4:30 in the morning until the big FAO Schwarz clock reached 6 a.m. to be let into stores. Except, the good reverend was there not to shop but to preach, to exhort, to literally stop his fellow "New-Yawkers" from shopping and giving in to the evil that has threatened to ruin the real



meaning of this, the most holy Christian day of the year: The birth of Christ. And apparently, 75 percent off of the coveted Nintendo Wii videogame console all the kids are talking about.

The reverend and his followers have proclaimed "Black Friday" as "Buy Nothing Day," performed exorcisms on cash registers, predicted the "Shopocalypse" as a punishment for our greedy, capitalist sins and have, for their continued activist faith, been banned from all Starbucks and Disney stores worldwide. OK, like wearing your Johnny Depp-inspired Halloween pirate costume year-round, the antics of the reverend and his shop-till-you-drop (dead) followers are certainly a bit over the top and may just get you arrested. However, does he, despite being a real shopping buzz kill, have a point?

Morgan Spurlock, the director of "Super Size Me" has taken some time to digest the reverend's message and appears to find it agreeable. To ensure that the large, soulless corporate retailers get their just desserts, Spurlock has just wrapped up yet another docu-comedy called "What Would Jesus Buy?" Sandals would be the too obvious and blasphemous choice so I'll simply say that this time the intrepid Spurlock chews on the issue of just why we are such a nation of shopaholics and what this may mean for our eternal collective capitalist soul.

Meanwhile, in a sure sign that the real retail apocalypse is upon us, Wal-Mart (epitome of all retail evil) has formed a lobbying partnership (the devil, you say) with Conservation International, a small yet earnest environmental activist group.

Google opens up to social network scene

With the huge success of social networks like MySpace and Facebook, the Internet is clearly becoming more social. And right now we're on the upward climb of a spike in innovation. I say this because whenever Google does something nowadays, we know it's a big deal. In regard to this, I'm referring to Google's OpenSocial standard. And while it's not the best thing since indoor plumbing, it does have the potential to change the Web.

Google announced its plans for

OpenSocial Nov. 1. According to the press release it is "a set of common APIs for building social applications across the Web," which essentially means that making applications for social networks will be standardized and compatible with multiple social network sites. For example, if someone makes an application with OpenSocial to show my top friends on Friendster, not only could I put this top friends application on that site, I could put it on any other OpenSocial compatible site as well, which includes MySpace, Ning, hi5 and many others

OpenSocial will reportedly make the Internet more social and more fun for everyone, users and developers alike. This is all peachy, but my personal opinion is that Google is just doing this to screw with Facebook and not for innovation for its own sake. Back in October, Google lost out to Microsoft on a deal with Facebook. After months of negotiations between the three companies, Microsoft got the multi-million dollar deal to sell ads on Facebook that appear outside the U.S.

Why would Google want to screw with Facebook? Because it's a huge success that is drawing in lots of money, lots of users and lots of developers. Ever since Facebook allowed users to develop applications for the site, over 5,000 applications have been made. Facebook has become very successful very quickly, and all of a sudden developers are flocking to it, which is helping to attract more users. More users means more money from ads, and advertising on social networks

is currently the baron of all gravy trains.

Google already knows it can't compete with Facebook since their own social network, orkut, never really took off except maybe in Brazil. And since losing out to Microsoft on the ad deal, they can't buy into it. OpenSocial is Google's plan C which is intended to divide the market they can't compete with or buy into. The OpenSocial standard effectively makes the concept of exclusive content out to be a bad thing. Coincidentally, it actually is. With OpenSocial, developers can make an application only one time instead of making it repeatedly according each site's specific programming scheme. Users will be more mobile and can take their data with them instead of being isolated to one network.

Yes, I know, I'm crapping my pants too — not really.

Based on the circumstances under which OpenSocial has been announced, I think it all shows how Google is losing its appeal as a small company. A lot of the success

Google made was because it wasn't a big business. Microsoft has stigmatized big tech businesses and made it synonymous with evil intentions and monopolies. So in the midst of all the huge corporations was Google with its innocent charm. But Google is now a big business and means business. And in the wake of its own success, Google has made enemies, many of them competing search engines and even newspapers.

So what does all of this mean? I think it means that the new wave of innovation will be spearheaded by big business out to keep its share of the Internet. These big companies are coming to a head as the Web becomes more social. Social networks aren't going anywhere—unfortunately—and in fact are probably going to spread to every other part of the Web.

Instead of Google changing the trend, Google is for once forced to change with the trend. And most importantly, it is now starting to become difficult to tell which Google is making the priority: itself or the users.

But I guess all you really need to know is that pretty soon everyone will be able to see what music you're listening to regardless of what social network or miscellaneous Web site you're on. ♦

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Holy Land covets nuclear arms

Back in the '60s and early '70s, like many young men, I was astounded by the devastation of nuclear blasts. I studied everything I could about nuclear energy and nuclear war. Some of us had it drummed into our heads to "duck and cover." It was a strategy taught to us school-aged children on how to survive a nuclear blast. If you heard a nuclear warhead explode, you were supposed to duck

under your desk and cover your head with your hands. Then someone added the term "and kiss your a** goodbye." I think that term made the most sense of all. Then we were taught to find the Civil Defense Shelters. They were usually courthouses or other public buildings like libraries that had a basement in them and were always labeled by a big, yellow triangle above the door. Of course they never really talked about how the sun would be blotted out for 10 or more years, that the ground you

walked on would only grow poisonous food and the water would be so contaminated with radiation that you would die of untold amounts of cancer if you drank it. In other words, nuclear war is the most destructive, evil thing humankind has ever invented. So why does everyone in the Holy Land want nuclear weapons?

Israel, of course, was given nuclear warheads by the U.S. government — as a deterrent — and nuclear technology to go with it. In a land where the sun shines and the wind blows constantly, I guess free renewable energy just doesn't have that same kick to it.

Egypt decided it wanted to obtain nuclear energy in the early '60s. Israeli warplanes took out all the nuclear facilities in Egypt, with American-made bombs. They claimed it was a preemptive strike in self-defense, yet even the term is an oxymoron. How can anyone commit premeditated murder in self-defense? Now that Egypt and the Israeli government are on much better terms (they are no longer killing each other over the land in the Sinai Desert), Israel has decided not to bomb the new Egyptian nuclear facilities being built today, but they are complaining.

Along the same timeline, the Israeli warplanes bombed the planned nuclear facilities of Lebanon. It seems that the Israeli government has a crystal ball that allows them to see the future and they believe themselves to know best. This ideology was recently played out again in the air strike against a Syrian target. The Israeli government, again, decided it knew best about how to stop the violence in the Middle East so it made another preemptive strike against a perceived threat.

The Iranian puppet head, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad represents a diverse field of ideologies and theologies. I find myself wondering whether to laugh at him or just say "What the French toast?" His bizarre statements about the holocaust against the Jewish people being a perpetrated hoax are, well, just bizarre. While there is plenty of room to argue who actually started the Holocaust, Hitler or the Polish people, there can be no doubt that it happened. There is also his country's sworn

Their joint goal? To educate the world about Brazil's indigenous Kayapo Indians of the Amazon and how their way of life is being threatened by rampant deforestation. Kayapo Indian action figures sold separately (just kidding, though would any of us be shocked?).

Wal-Mart — whose previous corporate strategy in response to criticism that it was nothing but a capitalist machine bent on world domination was to ignore such static and well, continue to plot at its headquarters in Bentonville, Ark. — now says it wants to partner with a number of organizations to be more environmentally friendly. I think Linda Blair forewarned of such a sign just before the world ended, but I could be getting my doomsday movies mixed up.

So, what do we make of all this? Last year's "Black Friday" netted the retail industry nearly \$20 billion in sales or about 5 percent of all their holiday profits and this year the predictions point to a slight increase. Are we all such bad people by showing our friendly retailers such holiday "love"? Can we be holy, Christian, soulful and blithely acquisitive? If Wal-Mart can gain a soul and try to save the Kayapo Indians, doesn't this mean there is hope for all of us? Maybe, even for the woman who told her five kids to cry and have tantrums (true story) at various locations of a retail store so she could get to certain toys first, before the supply ran out.

Despite some shoppers describing the season's specials as "Blah-Humbug," I know I always feel especially alive this time of year. I hope I'm not just being blinded by the bright lights and sultry sirens of my local K-Mart, but that I can still see the spirit of the holiday beneath the Sam's Club signature wrapping paper. Is it so wrong to want that iPod upgrade? It's just I wish I could get Reverend Billy out of my mind. Darn him and his call for a return to the holy part of well, you know, the "holy-days." Happy Holidays, y'all. Now get your hands off the last, retro-crying Elmo doll. ♦

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Assistant Perspectives Editor
John Ludwig



Perspectives
Jack W. Butler

ideology that Israel should be wiped off the face of the Earth and then there is the not so secret proxy war they are waging through Hezbollah. But then, how much face can you give to someone who says that there are no homosexuals in Iran? Since homosexuality is mainly in the genes, maybe he meant the ones that have come out of the closet and lived to tell about it.

Iran's government is playing all the nuclear games to the letter: Claiming their nuclear ambition is for the peaceful development of energy for its people. They are of course letting International Atomic Energy Agency inspectors in to inspect in order to prove that the Iranian government is telling the truth. Israel does not now, nor has it ever to my knowledge let the IAEA inspect its facilities. I believe the Iranians will eventually build nuclear weapons though, with some of the enriched uranium P238.

I think this because it is the way of the human mind. If there is a bigger bullet out there then everyone will want one. So my question is this, how long will it be before the Israeli government decides to bomb Iran in self-defense too?

With Israel being an ally of the U.S., if there is an all-out regional war or the Israeli government decides to bomb Iran, then we are supposed to back the Israeli government. Notice I didn't say the Israeli citizen because like most real people in the world, the citizens of Israel just want to live in peace. So do most of the Palestinian people. Yet when terrorist organizations like Hamas provide food, shelter, social reform and public assistance, how do you defeat them? And should you?

The government of Israel drops cluster bombs that just keep on killing the innocent long after the battle is over and Palestinian militants keep firing rockets into civilian centers. Which one is more righteous than the other? They are both fighting over land that no human will ever own. The Earth was here billions of years before humankind existed and will be here billions of years after we kill ourselves off.

India and Pakistan both have nuclear warheads and neither one of them is any where close to what I would call being stable. It seems the more the religious oriented peoples of the world gain access to nuclear technology the more unstable the world gets, especially in the Middle East. The Middle East has always been a hotbed of religious wars and centuries old hatred. The British government did not do the world (or the Jewish people) any favors when they illegally gave confiscated land over to a religious group whose fundamental theologies differ greatly from the people of the land they would be occupying.

It seems to me, that if the governments of the nations of the Middle East actually believed there was a god who was so powerful that he or she could create the heavens and the earth, then why don't they understand that that god wouldn't need nor want their help? And why would any god leave such a powerful tool as nuclear weapons in the hands of his or her children? No god would. That is why the holiest thing sought after in the Holy Land is the most heinous evil mankind has ever made: the nuclear warhead. ♦

Jack Butler is a regular columnist and specializes in Middle Eastern affairs. He can be reached at jwbrider@comcast.net

‘Into the Wild’

Movie and book take fans into the wilderness

By **DAVE CAMPBELL**
Managing Editor

Sean Penn’s interpretation of Jon Krakauer’s book, “Into the Wild,” makes it easy to get swept away by the overwhelming power of raw cinematography, the romantic notions of braving the wilderness in the elements and the epic journey of finding oneself. But it goes way beyond expectations.

It is easy to lose yourself in the sentiment of the film, which is never less than sincere. The story chronicles (Alexander Supertramp — as McCandless renames himself) from the time that he leaves his dysfunctional family after graduating with honors from Emory University and takes off for Alaska to discover who he is apart from the world that he has grown to know.

The journey begins with McCandless cutting up all identifying cards, burning or donating his money in an attempt to sever all ties he had to his life as he had known it to that point.

This scene in particular is very effective at telling that McCandless was trying to redefine himself and in doing so, he intended to make a connection to the natural world.

Jena Malone narrates as his sister and tells his story, though the character is played wisely, never assuming too much when trying to explain her brother’s motives. She tells what McCandless was like in brief intervals, explaining that he idolized writers like Thoreau and Jack London and tells about how disillusioned he became with their home life and how much he was at odds with their parents.

This all paints a nice background for the rest of the film, as the audience is forced to make some sense of this character that calls himself Supertramp, or as his family knew him — Chris.

The journey of McCandless is peppered with scenes of his parents in anguish, wondering what could have happened to

make their son do something so drastic, projecting the confusion they were feeling.

These scenes provided some of the most moving of the entire film, leaving the viewer longing for that sense of connection to one’s family despite the need that McCandless obviously felt to break away from his turbulent home life.

As well, nothing sets off a moving film or story like good music and the songs that Eddie Vedder provided exclusively for the occasion, hit the bullseye, at once setting the mood and underscoring the film’s deeper implications.

McCandless picks up bits of wisdom along the way from strangers that befriend him; and the film points to a discovery that McCandless makes in his avoidance of love: He discovers the futility of life without someone to share it with.

The progression of his disbelief in love to the ultimate realization of our need for it as human beings, may be the greatest message of the film.

These and other elements of the story weave together to make many scenes leaving us wanting more. The journey is broken into chapters, and it shows how being out in the wild quickly forced McCandless to face those things of which he was afraid.

And yes, the film’s scenery was visually stunning, as Penn demanded that most of the film be shot on location in the same places that McCandless set foot.

The only part that could not be filmed in the same location was the bus where McCandless actually spent his last days, dying of starvation, some 20 miles from even the nearest road. The “magic bus,” as he called it, had to be recreated to meet the technical demands of shooting a film in such a difficult location.

The audience might never know it though, as Penn’s final telling indeed thrusts you tumbling, heart first, into the world of Christopher “Alexander Supertramp” McCandless and his final days. ♦

By **DANIEL MAURER**
Guest Writer

“Rather than love, than money, than fame, give me truth.” This passage, written by Henry David Thoreau, was highlighted in one of the many books found with the frozen remains of Chris “Alexander Supertramp” McCandless.

The true story of Chris McCandless, who lost his life alone in the Alaskan wilderness, is woven together artfully by author and outdoorsman Jon Krakauer in his book “Into the Wild.”

Now the basis of a major motion picture, the book tells how a twenty-something-year old-kid, after graduating from college, gives a small fortune in savings to the charity OXFAM, and burns the remaining money in his pocket. He then hitchhikes across the country for over two years.

The story is compelling to anyone who has ever felt that existential pinch, or a need to test oneself against the world. Chris, or Alex as he called himself on the road, tested himself fully.

He traversed the deserts of the southwest, canoed the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon all the way to the California Ocean, where he lived for months off of berries and seafood he caught. He wandered through the villages of tramps, the modern gypsies who live on the road, while forging numerous friendships along the way.

It was the accounts of these friends and the letters that Alex had sent that allowed Krakauer to piece together the story of the boy who left a life of privilege to live life on the road for two and a half years. After writing a story for Outdoor magazine about the boy’s death in Alaska, letter after letter began to pour into Krakauer’s office from people who said that they had met Chris.

Krakauer decided to pursue the story and spent years tracing these leads, interviewing everyone he could and investigating the circumstances of McCandless’ death. Krakauer admits his fascination with his life

and the motivations that led him into that stark wilderness. He too had once felt a strange ambition to put himself in the jaws of danger, which led him to become a world class mountain climber.

Alex, however, was what you might call a greenhorn. He didn’t have the requisite experience to go roughing it. That being said, he did manage to survive for sixteen weeks on his stamina and wits alone. He was inspired by the writings of Thoreau, Leo Tolstoy and Jack London.

Incorporating this aesthetic philosophy, his trip became not simply an attempt to see what he was made of, but to strip experience down the fundamental elements and to sit face to face with life in all its raw beauty. His was a sojourn of spiritual import and self-discovery. In a cheerful letter to his friend Wayne Westerberg, he proclaims “I’ve decided that I’m going to live this life for some time to come. The freedom and simple beauty of it is just too good to pass up.”

Krakauer’s telling of Chris McCandless’ adventure and martyrdom to idealism is moving and insightful. It doesn’t romanticize the lunacy of walking into the wilderness unprepared, but it does guide the reader through the understanding which may have led Chris to make his fatal mistakes. Krakauer takes it further as well.

He shows that the story of Chris McCandless is about much more than just Chris. It’s about an urge that surfaces in so many young men. He compares the tale of Chris to other legendary tales of men and boys who have traipsed off into the woods only to die a painful and frightful death.

He compares him even to himself, having nearly lost his life on a few occasions as well while clinging desperately to crumbling ice sheets at the tops of forbidden mountains.

If you fancy yourself a man’s man, in the tradition of Davy Crockett or Jeremiah Johnson, then this book is ideal for you and will challenge your understanding of what it takes to survive. ♦

Smart shopping ensures gifts that assist

By **MARSEL GRAY**
Staff Writer

“O, the weather outside is frightful ...,” and look it’s time for holiday shopping again, and earlier than ever. Department stores across the nation have been gearing up for a time when many of them earn about half of their annual sales.

Both a stressful time for customers and sales associates, it may become near impossible to purchase “the ideal gift.”



MARSEL GRAY/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Finding the ideal gift starts with knowing which stores offer the best merchandise with the easiest accessibility.

Online shopping offers many advantages with few disadvantages. Online store Web sites offer the widest variety of items and can be done at anytime from your computer, yet there will be a shipping and handling fee charged when you purchase that gift.

For shoppers who feel more advantageous and wish to tackle the lines and non-stop ringing of cash registers, local malls and other stores continue to provide the needed services.

According to an online CNN article, entitled “Major Retailers Lure Holiday Shoppers with Big Discounts” (<http://www.cnn.com/2007/LIVING/11/01/holiday.discounts.ap/retail>), stores around the nation have prepared numerous sale dates and discounts for more than just Black Friday.

The article also reported that due to the ever-



ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Nintendo Wii and other electronics are sure to be the top gifts received this year.

increasing food and energy prices, merchants have recognized the need for more sales, hoping to provide that extra incentive to spend.

Shopping for Men

While the traditional tools for dad and grandpa are always good, younger men may find this season’s newest apparel both stylish and something they’d want to wear. You can keep

your man warm this winter by buying him colorful pajamas—a big hit this season. The newest and most stylish thing this season, however, is a winterland trapper, which looks more like the next evolution in winter caps, then an actual piece of clothing.

However, if your man does prefer his traditional tool-themed gift, you can enhance it by getting him a more technologically advanced toolbox. Some toolboxes nowadays can give the temperature and time, as well as play the radio.

Shopping for Women

The traditional jewelry and make-up are always reliable stand-bys for the ladies since they are easy and great presents to give, but only if you know what the woman in question likes. Don’t be afraid to ask, and then find a crafty way to conceal that gift.

A day at the spa is an excellent and appreciated gift; a day of relaxation and pampering is always a welcome gift. And while the thrill of opening Christmas presents may be exciting, the option of taking her out and letting her pick anything (and exactly) she wants can be just as rewarding.

If all else fails, then many clothing stores are featuring fashionable fur jackets as well as boots, which have been highly popular this year.

One of the worst things to do any holiday season is to give a gift no one likes. A gift card may be the perfect gift for teenagers and for anyone whose gift tastes are questionable. Gift cards allow you to set a limit on their spending as well as giving them a good opportunity to purchase exactly what they want.

Whatever gift you give this holiday season, just always remember to include gift receipts should your friend or family member wish to exchange their gift and make sure to check out next week’s article on what’s hot and what’s not for this upcoming holiday season. ♦



MARSEL GRAY/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Postmodern version of ‘Wizard of Oz’ hits Sci Fi

Associated Press

No dancing down the yellow brick road for Zooey Deschanel, star of Sci Fi Channel’s new Emerald City adaptation, “Tin Man.” And no warbling “Over the Rainbow” a la Judy Garland, either.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

The “Tin Man” airs Dec. 2 through Dec. 4.

“It’s postmodern, more like Indiana Jones than a fairy tale,” said Deschanel, whose Dorothy, Äi the role immortalized by Garland in “The Wizard of Oz”, Äi is a disabled, motorcycle-riding waitress called DG.

Based on L. Frank Baum’s novel “The Wonderful Wizard of Oz,” which inspired the 1939 film classic, Sci Fi’s six-hour “Tin Man” is not a musical but a brooding, special effects-driven fantasy. “It’s a coming-of-age story,” Deschanel said of the miniseries airing Dec. 2 through Dec. 4.

“Here’s DG acting out in a teenage way before she gets swept up by the storm,” the actress said of her character’s ride to the alternate universe of the O.Z., or Outer Zone, on the tail of a Kansas tornado. “Then she’s forced to grow up a little bit and find out how brave she is and how smart she is. On this journey, she becomes an adult.”

Along the way DG meets creatures and crises that never crossed Garland’s path. Still, fans of the 1939 film will recognize the classic scarecrow in zipper-headed Glitch (Alan Cumming), the cowardly lion in the wolverine-human psychic, Raw (Raoul Trujillo) and Dorothy’s little dog in

the shape-shifter, Toto (Blu Mankuma).

There’s a wizard of sorts in Richard Dreyfuss’ vapor-sniffing Mystic Man. There’s also a yellow brick road, although, Äi in keeping with the O.Z.’s shadowy, retro-futuristic look, Äi it barely glimmers. And the title character, ex-cop Wyatt Cain (Neal McDonough), called a tin man for his tin badge, is a far more embittered type than Jack Haley’s metal man was in the movie musical.

Yes, Halmi said, “Tin Man” is a “bit darker. To make a classic understood by young people today you have to talk an entirely different language.”

That language includes a wickedly witchy twist on family ties that “Oz” creator Baum never conjured. And the evil sorceress Azkadellia (Kathleen Robertson) gets far more screen time than her predecessor, Margaret Hamilton’s cackling Wicked Witch of the West, did in the Garland film.

“It’s a very daunting prospect when you’re asked to play one of the most iconic film villainesses in history,” Robertson said. “As opposed to playing Azkadellia archetypal and loud, I played her internal and psychological. She’s narcissistic. She

has every personality disorder that you can figure.” “I didn’t do a lot of green screen,” she said of acting in front of plain backgrounds that are digitally completed in post-production. “I didn’t have to imagine what her world was like.”

Robertson also snagged the most glamorous wardrobe in “Tin Man,” a clutch of sharply cut gowns with sinuous curves. Her necklines plunge to reveal chest tattoos that morph into flying Mobats, or monkey bats, which do Azkadellia’s bidding.

“You can’t be in those costumes and speak casually,” Robertson said. “Something our director, Nick Willing, told us was that in the massive, epic world of ‘Tin Man,’ you can’t be quiet and small. There has to be ferocity or you’ll disappear.

“So I deepened my voice a little. My performance was slightly stylized and elevated. Whereas Zooey’s character is the opposite. She’s the one character in the piece where you think, ‘Oh, that could be me.’” “That was such an incredible performance that there’s no need to repeat it,” she said. “I wanted to make this role my own.” ♦

Classic kids television shows remembered

By **PATRICK ARMSTRONG**
Assistant Features Editor

A kid growing up in the late '80s, and early '90s had the best television shows one could want, though some would argue.

Think about it: Batman continuously defeating the Joker and other villains with his plethora of high-tech gadgets and vehicles, "The Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" jumping out from their sewer battles with Shredder and eating pizza at the same time, the books becoming more terrifying in real life in the TV version of R.L. Stine's "Goosebumps," "Rugrats" crawled into the hearts of viewers young and old alike, making it one of the most successful cartoon shows in television history.

Today, not many children's television shows can stand up to this reputation. One noteworthy television channel that stood out as having some of the best kid's entertainment was Nickelodeon. The late '80s and early '90s, was arguably Nickelodeon at its prime with hit cartoons and live action shows.

Along with the help of Stick Stickly, "Guts," "What Would You Do?," "Hey Dude," "Adventures of Pete and Pete" and "Aaahh!!! Real Monsters" all became shows that one could not miss.

Over the years, the programming went down until no more classics could be found on Nickelodeon. All of these television shows are what we dwell upon in remembering probably the best times of our lives.

Remember this memorable quote: "Submitted for the approval of the midnight society, I call this story ...," then with bursts of flames from the campfire the name of the story is revealed in "Are You Afraid of the Dark?"

Students gathered around a campfire on



DUSTIN KRAMER/ART DIRECTOR
"Mighty Morphin' Power Rangers" and others were television shows that were big in the late '80s and early '90s.

Saturday nights forming a group called The Midnight Society. This toned down "Twilight Zone" style of show featured eerie and famous revamped tails. "Are You Afraid of the Dark?" ran from 1992 to 1996.

Remember the opening scene of "Salute Your Shorts" with a flag pole and someone's shorts being hoisted up the flag pole? "Salute Your Shorts" had water balloon fights, practical jokes, fights between friends and many other things that go on at summer camp.

Though, this show was short lived with only 26 episodes, some still consider the stories from the summer camp, Camp Anawanna, to be one of Nickelodeon's best shows of all time.

Nickelodeon was also notorious for having

many kid game shows. "Double Dare" was one of the longest running game shows in Nickelodeon's history.

From this game show, slime became a well-known thing since it was all over the place. Kids and their families faced against each other in a series of questions and obstacle courses.

Marc Summers hosted "Double Dare" from its beginning on Nickelodeon until its final mess.

As one ventures through a jungle, a temple comes into view and then a giant stone head reads, "Legends of the Hidden Temple!" This classic Nickelodeon game show had kids battling out against each other in order to make a run through Olmec's temple.

During their quest to retrieve a sacred item,

Mayan temple guards would randomly pop out and cause havoc on the players.

Not many won but for those who lost, host Kirk Fogg would say, "Don't worry guys ... you're not going to Space Camp but at least you've got those remote control trucks and your confidence."

On the competing channel, Fox, one group of teenagers fighting against the forces of evil inspired numerous kids' toys with their mantra of, "It's Morphin' Time."

The "Mighty Morphin' Power Rangers" featured five "teenagers with attitude" possessing power coins and morphing them into the "Power Rangers." Each member controlled a dinozord and when brought together they created the megazord.

According to the International Movies Database Web site the "Mighty Morphin' Power Rangers" originally came from a Japanese series called "Kyôryû sentai Juurenjâ," meaning Dinosaur Team Beast Ranger, (www.imdb.com).

In the fighting scenes, this is most noticeable with all of the Japanese letters everywhere. Each new "Power Ranger" series is just an Americanized version of the Japanese series with there now being a total of 16 "Power Ranger" series.

"Legends of the Hidden Temple" and all of the "Power Ranger" series can still be watched on the television channels Nick GaS and Toon Disney.

Most of these and other television series can be bought on box setDVD's.

Rumors have been buzzing about Nickelodeon creating a classic television show channel featuring an abundance of its classic shows to air.

If this happens, many viewers will be able to reminisce about those summer days of being a kid who was able to watch television without a care or worry in the world. ♦

Don't let holiday shopping bring out the 'Scrooge'

By **AIMEE THOMPSON**
Staff Writer

Nearly everyone is familiar with Charles Dickens' story, "A Christmas Carol" and the main character Ebenezer Scrooge. The miserly, ungrateful, uncaring attitude Scrooge expressed has made him a by word for anything or anyone that expresses an un-holiday-like demeanor.

Absolutely no one would ever want to be called a Scrooge during the holiday season. And so to decrease the likelihood of that happening, here are a few suggestions for maintaining a positive, anti-Scrooge holiday spirit.

The day after Thanksgiving is one of the most stressful, insane times of the year. People get up at 3 a.m. to hit the 4 a.m. sale at Kohl's, then rush around all day from store to store grabbing, elbowing and even shoving in order to get that last item on the rack.

The shopping frenzy won't let up until after Christmas, and in the melee that ensues, service people are often overlooked and even abused.

How many times has a sales clerk been verbally bashed by an irate customer because the gaming system the customer wanted is no longer available? What about cashiers? They have to stand in one place for hours, dealing with customer after customer, all the while wondering when they're going to have enough time to buy presents for their family.

Remember that public servants are people with feelings, too. So show them a little mercy during this time of craziness, you might just make their day a little better.

Every year, people are being led like consumer sheep to the financial slaughter as advertisements tell them to buy, buy, buy in the name of Christmas gift giving.

The best thing to do during the holiday season is to set a budget, and stick by it as much as possible. It's easy to spend more than you intended, so pay attention to what you're buying.

Nothing can ruin a positive holiday spirit like the idea of going into debt, so control the compulsion to expend exorbitant amounts of money. If it means not getting that iPod for your second cousin twice removed, then so be it.

Try not to feel pressured into buying everyone you know a gift. When it comes to co-workers, bosses and other people you see a lot but aren't close to, small bags of candy and/or cards work just as well.

This also keeps them from feeling pressured to

buy you a gift. Also, don't expect a gift in return for everyone you give. If you expect nothing back, you'll always be thankful for what you get.

On Christmas day, don't be upset if you get a bum gift. Remember that people don't have to get you presents anyway, so be thankful they thought enough to buy you one.

Of course there are those certain gifts that drive people crazy, i.e. underwear, socks, fruitcake. While re-gifting can be a touchy subject, don't let a perfectly good present go to waste in the back of your closet. If you receive a gift you know you will never use, give it to someone you know will really appreciate it. ♦



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Agreement reached in Broadway strike

Associated Press

Striking Broadway stagehands and theater producers agreed early Nov. 26 to a 12-hour break in negotiations aimed at reopening darkened theaters.

Bruce Cohen, a spokesman for Local 1 of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, announced the adjournment about 6:30 a.m.

He offered no details on the talks that began the evening of Nov. 25 and lasted through the night except to say that progress had been made.

The two sides are trying to resolve a thorny labor dispute that threatens a third week of mounting box-office losses.

More than two dozen plays and musicals have been closed since Nov. 10, when the stagehands walked off the job.

Earlier, Cohen had said that the fact that both sides were together was itself progress. "You can't make a deal if you are not negotiating. We're still negotiating," he said.

The walkout was particularly felt during last week when most shows and theater-district restaurants do strong business during the Thanksgiving holiday.

Not so this year, when only nine productions, including the newly reopened "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas," were playing, and 26 others were shut.

A settlement was believed to have been in the works Nov. 18 after a marathon weekend of negotiating, but the talks ended abruptly with producers walking out.

The complicated contract dispute has focused on how many stagehands are required to open a Broadway show and keep it running.

That means moving scenery, lights, sound systems and props into the theater; installing the set and making sure it works; and keeping everything functioning well for the life of the production.

The producers want a flexible number; the union wants a set number and ample compensation for any concessions made.

The negotiations have been protracted. They began last summer, with each side preparing for the worst.

The producers set up a \$20 million strike emergency fund, taking a couple of cents out of each ticket sold over the past several years to pay for it. The money was to help struck shows struggling with the costs of a shutdown.

The union, too, has its own fund, A benefits of more than \$4.1 million for its members, as well as another \$1 million allotted for members of other unions affected by the walkout.

"Grinch" came back to life Friday after its reopening was ordered by state Supreme Court Justice Helen Freedman.

The judge said she believed the show's production company would be irreparably harmed if the \$6 million holiday musical wasn't permitted to resume its limited-time run, which ends Jan. 6.

Seven other shows, whose theaters have separate contracts with the league, remain unaffected by the walkout: "Pygmalion," "The Ritz," "Cymbeline," "Young Frankenstein," "Mary Poppins," "Xanadu" and "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee." An eighth, "Mauritius," finished its regularly scheduled limited engagement Sunday. ♦

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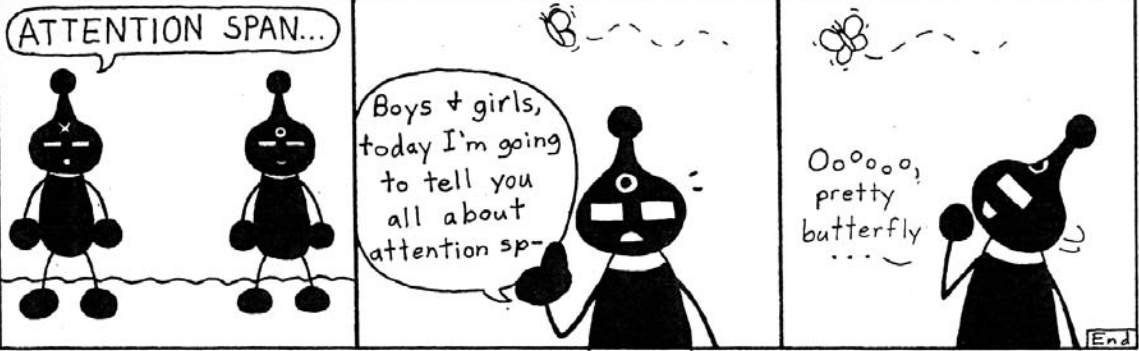
For details, contact the Military Science Department at 931-221-6149 or email Major Kurt Hales at halesk@apsu.edu

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3rd Eye



Girls & Sports



Weekly SUDOKU
by Linda Thistle

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DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: **

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ HOO BOY!

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ASAP	ORLON	DIANA	RICA
JEMT	WAPUDD	EDUCK	STAT
ARENA	RECE	RAE	PYNE
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MISTY	OWE	MILIA	DOTFIT
ADA	ELIAN	ELLAH	
PIIXEL	ARTIST	BEAL	GRO
LOP	NED	BADE	KAT
CUS	TOP	BOON	SIRE
NAME	WELDL	ANKETS	TRIS
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MELTEN	ANGEL	ILLY	LUG
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Super Crossword

SOUNDS TOUGH!

- ACROSS**
- 1 Big —
 - 4 "Stop, sailor!"
 - 9 James of "Misery"
 - 13 Swash-buckling novelist
 - 18 Grand —
 - 19 Actress Berger
 - 20 Mournful music
 - 21 "F Troop" corporal
 - 22 Start of a remark by Milton Berle
 - 24 Mid-size band
 - 25 "Andrea —"
 - 26 Costa —
 - 27 "Family Feud" host
 - 29 Division word
 - 31 Aachen article
 - 32 Basilica feature
 - 34 Part 2 of remark
 - 38 TV's "General —"
 - 42 Like some sheep
 - 43 Part of HOMES
 - 44 Inclined
 - 45 Senator Thurmond
- DOWN**
- 1 Physicist Niels
 - 2 "The Time Machine" people
 - 3 English port
 - 4 Smile center
 - 5 Feud
 - 6 Novelist Seton
 - 7 Pack
 - 8 Homeric characters
 - 9 Pres. Clinton, e.g.
 - 10 Performer
 - 11 Actor's actor?
 - 12 Irritate
 - 13 Rigoletto, to Gilda
 - 14 Actor Tognazzi
 - 15 — Gras
 - 16 Sharon of Israel
 - 17 Trap
 - 20 "Tiny Bubbles" singer
 - 23 Comics "Andy —"
 - 28 He gives a hoot
 - 30 "— the fields we go . . ."
 - 33 Slangy sib
- ACROSS**
- 47 "Waking — Devine" ('98 film)
 - 49 Wee serving
 - 52 Composer Schifrin
 - 54 Circus performer
 - 57 Put on a pedestal
 - 61 Soft tissue
 - 63 Tangle
 - 64 Damage
 - 65 Actress Ward
 - 66 Baseball's Boudreau
 - 68 Enchilada alternative
 - 70 "Trinity" author
 - 72 Neighbor of Wyo.
 - 73 Obeys the dentist
 - 77 Part 3 of remark
 - 78 '80s Joe Penny series
 - 80 Crank's comment
 - 81 Skater Lipinski
 - 82 Noun suffix
 - 84 Sundown, to Shelley
 - 85 Actor Arkin
 - 87 See
 - 106 Across
 - 88 "Love Train" group
 - 91 Thick of things
 - 95 Denizen
- DOWN**
- 97 Geological phenomenon
 - 99 The Chipmunks, e.g.
 - 100 Comic Carvey
 - 101 Galena, for one
 - 103 —ski party
 - 105 Priest's robe
 - 106 With 87
 - Across, type of liqueur
 - 109 Merit
 - 112 — blanket
 - 114 Part 4 of remark
 - 118 Well-informed
 - 119 "So that's your game!"
 - 120 Nonflowering plant
 - 121 "The Addams Family" uncle
 - 125 Does Little work
 - 128 Croc's kin
 - 131 Chateau valley
 - 133 End of remark
 - 135 Wear away
 - 136 Computer key
 - 137 "The Lady —" ('79 film)
 - 138 Child welfare org.
 - 139 Rock's Meisner
- ACROSS**
- 140 Stocking stuffers?
 - 141 Dispositions
 - 142 "The Bells" monogram
- DOWN**
- 35 Ain't right?
 - 36 Extensive
 - 37 Toast start
 - 38 Grapefruit serving
 - 39 October birthstone
 - 40 Curved lines
 - 41 Forsaken a draw-bridge
 - 48 Object
 - 50 Change for the better
 - 51 Brawl
 - 53 Sonja Henie's birthplace
 - 55 Acts like an ass?
 - 56 Spirits
 - 58 Amritsar attire
 - 59 Nonsense
 - 60 Smidgen
 - 62 Throw a party
 - 67 Custom
 - 69 Message board?
 - 71 Goblet part
 - 73 Lost luster
 - 74 — apso
 - 75 Gray or Moran
 - 76 — Domingo
 - 79 "What's — for me?"
 - 80 Candy quantity
 - 83 Spotted rodent
 - 86 Belarusian city
- DOWN**
- 89 Puppy protests
 - 90 Withered
 - 92 Downspout
 - 93 Bank deposit?
 - 94 "Twelfth Night" role
 - 96 Spanish surrealist
 - 97 Equipment
 - 98 Happened again
 - 102 Heal a rift
 - 104 Eat in the evening
 - 107 Right — the bat
 - 108 A hole near the sole
 - 110 Allude (to)
 - 111 Dundee denial
 - 113 Loud laugh
 - 114 Bet
 - 115 "Pal Joey" author
 - 116 Boca —, FL
 - 117 Maine town
 - 122 Willow
 - 123 Baseball's Martinez
 - 124 Spanish river
 - 126 "I could — horse!"
 - 127 Break suddenly
 - 129 Eccentric
 - 130 Curious George's creator
 - 132 Musical syllables
 - 134 Pitches

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February 7, 2008

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Govs go 1-1 in Texas tournament

By MARLON SCOTT
Assistant Sports Editor

The APSU Govs basketball team had to enjoy their turkey and dressing on the road this weekend as they headed to South Padre Island, Texas to compete in the South Padre Island Invitational tournament.

As part of their holiday meal, the Govs feasted on the Florida Gulf Coast Eagles (67-57) in the first round. However, they did not get to enjoy leftovers the following day, losing to the Valparaiso Crusaders (61-47).

According to APSU Sports Information, head coach Dave Loos had a mixed reaction to the Govs' performance this weekend.

"We played very good and very bad in a 48-hour period," Loos said. "Defensively, we got after it pretty well and forced a lot of turnovers. We have got to take advantage of those and put some points on the board."

Junior Drake Reed was named to the South Padre Island Invitational All-Tournament Team. In the first game, Reed led the Govs with 21 points and eight rebounds. He had significant help from teammates Kyle Duncan, Wes Channels and Fernandez Lockett, who all finished the game with more than 10 points.

The Govs shot 57.7 percent in the first half (15-of-26 field goals) including making 6-of-13 from three point range. Reed was in the zone, making 6-of-6 from the field. He hit the first three-pointer of the game with an assist from freshman Caleb Brown at 12:38 in the first half to give the Govs a 16-12 lead.

After making a free throw, Eagles player Casey Wohlleb led a fastbreak two minutes later to close the gap 16-15, but Reed, followed up with another three-pointer. The shot sparked a Gov 14-4 point run that ended with the Eagles behind 33-19 with 3:51 left in the half.

Wohlleb had 16 points in the first half and led the Eagles with 21 points in the game. He beat the halftime buzzer with a long-range three-pointer to keep his team close, 38-33.

Reed continued to light up the scoreboard in the second half. He hit a short jumper at the 17:42 mark to give the Govs a lead they would not relinquish for the rest of the game.

Senior Derek Wright led the Govs defense in the second half to win the game. He had five steals and deflected several passes to help the Eagles produce 13 turnovers in the second half. Wright had six points and six assists in the game.

The second half was not as kind to the Govs in their second game of the tournament against the Crusaders. Battling to a 29-27 halftime lead, the Govs shot a pitiful 20.7 percent in the second half for just 18 points. They finished with their lowest point total of the season, 47. Lockett earned his 13th career double-double with 14 points and 10 rebounds. Channels had another double-digit finish with 12 points.

"We could not make a shot in the second half," Loos added. "We relied too much on the jump shot and didn't penetrate against the zone. Somebody has to make a shot to loosen the zone. Until we can make a shot to make teams guard us, they're going to pack the zone in and we'll have a tough time."

Samuel Haanpaa led the Crusaders with 21 points in the game



LOIS JONES/SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Senior Derek Wright dribbles around a Belmont defender at the Dunn Center Nov. 23. Wright's defense produced the turnovers necessary to beat the Florida Gulf Coast Eagles

including six, three-pointers. The Crusaders made 6-of-8 three-pointers in the second half and made 50 percent in the game (11-of-22).

The Govs played hard to catch up with the Crusaders. After several defensive stops, with 2:45 left in the game, Duncan nailed a three-pointer to bring the Govs within two points, 49-47. It was as close as the Govs would get.

The Govs seemed to hit the wall, turning over the ball and missing shots. Missed free throws squandered the few opportunities the Govs had to score. They made just 62.5 percent of their free throws in the second half (5-of-8). When fouled, the Crusaders shot a little better from the free throw line, making 6-of-9 (66.7 percent). The Crusaders finished the game with a 12-0 run.

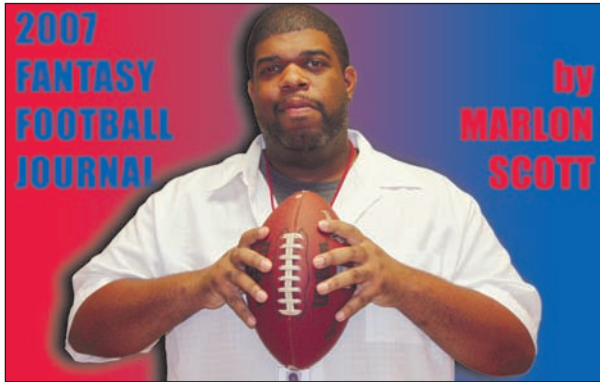
The Govs will continue to travel for their next two games before returning home Dec. 6 for their first Ohio Valley Conference Game of the season against Morehead State. ♦



LOIS JONES/SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Senior Drake Reed shoots over a Rhodes defender in an exhibition game at the Dunn Center. Reed was named to the South Padre Invitational Island All-Tournament team.

OPINION



After losses, I need to 'Kill Bill'

For the first time this season, I have lost twice in a row. My hand is still sore from punching a hole in the wall. The game was close (87-81), which was fun until I lost. Renaming my opponents "Turning Point" last week may have been a prophecy of my own demise.

I thought I had a chance when Clinton Portis was held to just 36 rushing yards. But Jay Cutler started throwing long range touchdown bombs like John Elway. I could accept Cutler having a good game, but who fired up the Jets' defense? They had seven sacks, a fumble recovery and an interception. Cutler, the Jets' defense and Joseph Addai combined for 53 points.

Conversely, Derek Anderson, the Packers' defense and Steven Jackson combined for 43 points. Matt Stover and Marques Colston helped me catch up. Unfortunately, Marion Barber and Tony Gonzalez decided to take the week off. The guy that let me down the most was Jerricho Cotchery. He had only five receiving yards. Officially, I am now a Giants fan.

The sting of the loss did not feel so bad when I saw that the team who had taken my spot at the top of the division also lost. With us both at 7-4, I won the tiebreaker because I have accumulated more points this season (980-945). The king is back. To keep the throne, I have to kill Bill.

Bill is the name I gave the team that beat me in week one 107-65. Bill is also the team I am tied with at 7-4 in my division. Bill and I have some unfinished business.

Too much is at stake to make mistakes this week. I am not ready to throw Barber completely under the bus yet. Who is my best No. 2 running back? Steven Jackson appears to have remembered how to play football and Ron Dayne had a solid game as a starter.

I picked up Andre Davis. Cotchery is about to get benched. Bill appears to have potential injury problems with Donovan McNabb and Brandon Jacobs. However, he also has Willie Parker and Steve Smith.

I have to remember to check the waiver wire for defenses before Thursday. I would hate to have choked on some turkey on Thanksgiving because the Packers let the Lions score 35 points.

I plan to enjoy an incredible turkey sandwich made from leftovers on Sunday while watching New Orleans destroy Carolina on television. The sandwich will go down smoothly as long as Smith does not catch a touchdown and Colston catches two.

There are only three games left before the playoffs. One game separates the top four teams. I still have a chance to reach my goal of 10-4. My ego cannot take three losses in a row. Like Uma Thurman in a skin-tight, yellow track-suit, I am ready for some revenge.

To see if I kill Bill log on to www.theallstate.com ♦

Lady Govs get first win of season



LOIS JONES/SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

The new faces on the Lady Govs basketball team have made an immediate impact this season. From left to right: junior transfer April Thomas, freshman Salem Richardson, freshman Darcie Warner, freshman Alex Bivens and freshman Ashley Herring. The Lady Govs got their first win of the season on the road Nov. 23.

By PATRICK HORTON
Staff Writer

The Lady Govs basketball team split their two games this weekend at the Lady Eagle Classic in Hattiesburg, Miss. Their first game was a 66-57 victory over the Texas A&M Corpus Christi Lady Islanders. Afterward, they lost to tournament host, the Southern Miss Lady Eagles, in the tournament championship game 76-65.

In the first game, the Lady Govs relied heavily on the play of their freshmen. Ashley Herring posted her first career double-double against the Lady Islanders with 25 points and 11 rebounds. Fellow Lady Gov freshman, Alex Bivens, led all scoring with 29 points. It was not an easy win for the Lady Govs.

In the first half, the Lady Govs biggest lead was 12 points. They went into halftime with a seven point advantage.

The Lady Islanders switched defenses to slow down the hot hand of the freshmen tandem, Herring and Bivens.

"When A&M changed defenses on us we didn't recognize it fast enough," said APSU head coach Carrie Daniels. "They took us out of our flow offensively, but in turn we picked up our defensive intensity which ultimately won the game for us."

The Lady Govs switched into a full court press after relinquishing the lead to the Lady Islanders. The switch led to five turnovers in the next four minutes and an 11-point run to regain the lead.

"We went into our full court trapping defense and we converted easy baskets," Daniels said. "We have to find a way to score from transition more often."

The Lady Govs would sit on the lead, riding the clock to the last seconds for a nine point victory. The victory over the Lady Islanders

sent the Lady Govs into the tournament championship game against Southern Miss. The Lady Eagles came into the game having won the Lady Eagle Classic 15 years in a row. The streak increased to 16 years in a row after the Lady Eagles defeated the Lady Govs.

"Coming in to this game I thought SMU was one the better teams we've played this season," Daniels added. "They're a solid team all around. I felt like they were quicker and more athletic, but I knew our girls could keep up with them and they did."

The Lady Govs battled back from a 20 point deficit. With less than five minutes left in the game, the Lady Govs had cut the Lady Eagles lead to six. But their momentum faltered and the Lady Eagles scored seven of the last nine points in the game.

"I really felt like they learned something after our first two losses against UTC and Arkansas," Daniels said. "We were down by 20 at one point late in the second half and we cut it to four. I have never been more proud of this team."

The big downfall for the Lady Govs was thier turnovers in the first half. Coach Daniels talked to her team before the game and set a goal of 15 turnovers.

Unfortunately, the Lady Govs had 14 turnovers by halftime, all of which led to Lady Eagle points.

The Lady Govs seniors led the charge against the Lady Eagles. Ashley McGee had 15 points, six assists, three steals and two rebounds. Her teammate Kellea Reeves controlled the paint with 14 points. Lady Eagle Pauline Love led all scoring with 20 points and nine rebounds.

Wed. Nov. 28th at 7 p.m. the Lady Govs return home to the Dunn Center hoping to get to .500 with a win over Southern Illinois. ♦



LOIS JONES/SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Freshman Alex Bivens led the Lady Govs with 29 points in the game against the Texas A&M Corpus Christi Lady Islanders.