

# VOLLEYBALL TO UCLA FOR NCAA TOURNAMENT



# THE ALL STATE

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## Phi Alpha Theta wins 9th award

**STEVEN PRESCOTT**  
STAFF WRITER

Phi Alpha Theta National Honors Society or PAT has won the Nels A. Cleven Chapter of the Year award for the ninth year in a row.

APSU has hosted the honor society since its existence on campus in 1961.

The award received annually to member chapters by size, with the school being in the fourth classification and having more than 10,000 students on campus.

"I cannot express just how important PAT is to our students and the University," Cameron Sutt, professor and Chair of the History and Philosophy Department, said.

Sutt said in a press release issued by APSU that the society allowed students to showcase their abilities and explore history in greater detail.

*"I cannot express just how important PAT is to our students and the University."*

**CAMERON SUTT**  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AND CHAIR OF THE HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT

The award was presented to the chapter because it was able to "excel in promoting [its] mission on campus and in the community." The statement from APSU also attributed the award to the fund raising, field trips and national conventions the chapter actively

See PAT on page 2



Members of Phi Alpha Theta stand with the APSU spirit rock after winning ninth Chapter of the Year Award. APSU PUBLIC RELATIONS AND MARKETING

## Hispanic Cultural Center assists with Hurricane Maria relief in Puerto Rico

**MAHALIA SMITH**  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

It has been two months since Hurricane Maria devastated the island of Puerto Rico, and it is still in need of help and relief. Half of the island remains without power, and Puerto Ricans are facing a long road to recovery.

Celebrities and politicians have spoken out about Puerto Rico's need for aid and assistance, and many have visited the island.

A fundraiser for Puerto Rico has been running, at APSU since late September, when the hurricane made landfall. APSU is selling T-shirts for \$10 each. The goal is to send \$2500 to Puerto Rico by the end of the semester.

Kelly Carpenter, Coordinator for Leadership and Student Organizations, helped plan the fundraiser.

"It is a campus wide initiative; there is a committee that created the idea that included students, faculty and staff," Carpenter said.

There are 500 T-shirts, and \$5 from each shirt will go to Puerto Rico. Currently, only half of the shirts have been sold, but the goal is to sell all the shirts by the end of the semester.

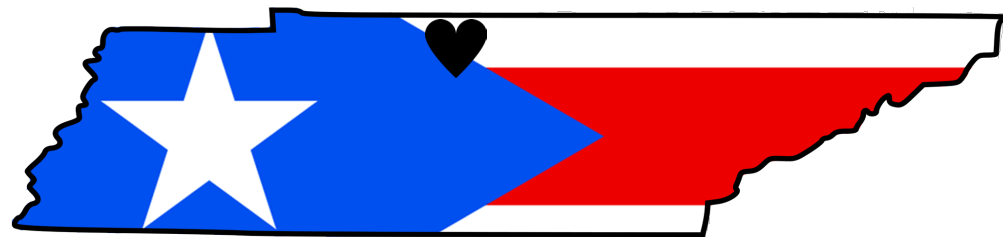
"We have to sell them all to get there," Carpenter said.

People can give the shirts as gifts this holiday season.

"We have now created holiday tags on them because we are hoping that people realize that this will be a good holiday gift," Carpenter said. "When you buy a T-shirt it will include a tag so that the

*"I think it is good that APSU has put in these efforts to support Puerto Rico, because around Clarksville I personally have not seen many efforts."*

**AMIR ELRAHEB**  
SENIOR FOREIGN LANGUAGE MAJOR



TOP: CELESTE MALONE | THE ALL STATE

BOTTOM: Pamela Rodriguez and Angie Torres stand in the Hispanic Cultural Center showcasing the T-shirts design. The shirts are \$10 and can be purchased through the HCC. MAHALIA SMITH | THE ALL STATE

person receiving it knows that they are receiving something that helped another person."

Students, faculty, staff and the Clarksville community can raise awareness by buying and wearing the T-shirt and raise money for Puerto Rico.

"I think it is important that the campus responds when there is need in the world. We have many students that are from Puerto Rico or have family in Puerto Rico and anytime there is disaster on this level it is important that we all do what we can to help," Carpenter said.

T-shirts can also be delivered on

campus to departments.

"People can buy them through HCC with cash, faculty and staff can call and we will deliver on campus to their offices. If a department wants to make one big order for everyone in their department, we can deliver them to their department if they would like," Carpenter said.

Alissa Puente, a freshman Spanish major, said the cause is personally important to her.

"My boyfriend's family is in Puerto Rico, and his grandparents are having a hard time leaving to get things for power, they are having a hard time finding

See PUERTO RICO on page 2

## SGA gears up for its final sessions of the semester

**STEVEN PRESCOTT**  
STAFF WRITER

Student government at APSU has made encouraging progress but still faces a setback it may not be able to control.

SGA Secretary Colin Crist agreed to an interview in which he answered questions about the legislative process and APSU's action towards implementing his organization's legislation. As SGA Secretary, Crist is responsible for much of the behind the scenes work that keeps SGA running smoothly.

The members produce, vote and pass acts and resolutions every year in favor of pepper spray, additional surveillance and other popular policy changes. These actions have much less change of being implemented than moving trashcans

*"The administration really does care about student input. If we have a reasonable request, most of the time it will be granted."*

**COLIN CRIST**  
SGA EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

or cutting grass. Every year, similar letters signed by SGA officials are sent to committees that does not implement them swiftly or in their entirety.

Crist acknowledges that these issues may take time.

"The administration really does care about student input," he said. "If we have a reasonable request, most of the time it will be granted."

Last year, a controversial fee increase was implemented promptly after senators of the 2016-17 assemblies passed it.

Requests for additional surveillance in high crime freshman dorms (Resolution 31, 2016) or that the Provost stop appointing interim deans to fill a high retention position in the College of Business (Resolution 32, 2015) were not so lucky.

President Burns told students last meeting that the actions of one assembly

See SGA on page 2



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PUERTO RICO

Continued from page 1  
healthcare and everything,” Puente said.

Healthcare is an issue for the island, which has had problems with electricity, communications and water for two months.

“Healthcare is really going to be in need, especially in hospitals, so we need as much money as we can raise to help them get things together,” Puente said.

Amir Elraheb, a senior majoring in foreign language, supports APSU’s fundraiser.

“I think it is good that APSU has put in these efforts to support Puerto Rico, because around Clarksville I personally have not seen many efforts,” Elraheb said. “APSU has been selling T-shirts for months now, and I really appreciate the efforts the college has put towards that cause.”

Angie Torres, senior biology major, said service and change are important.

“I think it is always better to serve than to be served,” Torres said. “If you can make a change by adding a little bit, then that is just enough for you to feel like there can be a big change.”

Torres said people can reach out whether or not they have personal attachments to Puerto Rico.

“Right now, these people are in need. Just because you do not have Puerto Rican family or friends, you can still help so you can add to that change,” Torres said. “This is not a matter of just the U.S., this is a worldwide thing. We can show how powerful we are by just helping.”

Pamela Rodriguez, senior foreign language major, has family in Puerto Rico.

“It is very important that students help with the fundraising to sell the T-shirts for Puerto Rico. I personally have family over there, and it is very chaotic, the situation. Just a little bitty grain of sand can help,” Rodriguez said.

Students can purchase T-shirts in Carpenter’s office in MUC 211 for \$10 each.

New liaison to assist APSU with local based Japanese companies

CELESTE MALONE  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

A retired businessman from Japan named Yoshio Koyama has created a new home in APSU’s Harned Hall in August of this year. He has taught language and cultural courses, however, he is not here to be a professor. Koyama has been sent to APSU from The Japan Foundation to serve as a liaison for the next two years to create relationships with APSU and local Japanese businesses.

Japan is Tennessee’s largest foreign investor, with 184 Japanese companies employing nearly 50,000 people in the state according to the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development.

President Alisa White said in an email that during the university’s strategic planning process in 2015, APSU identified “innovation” and “community” as two of our core values.

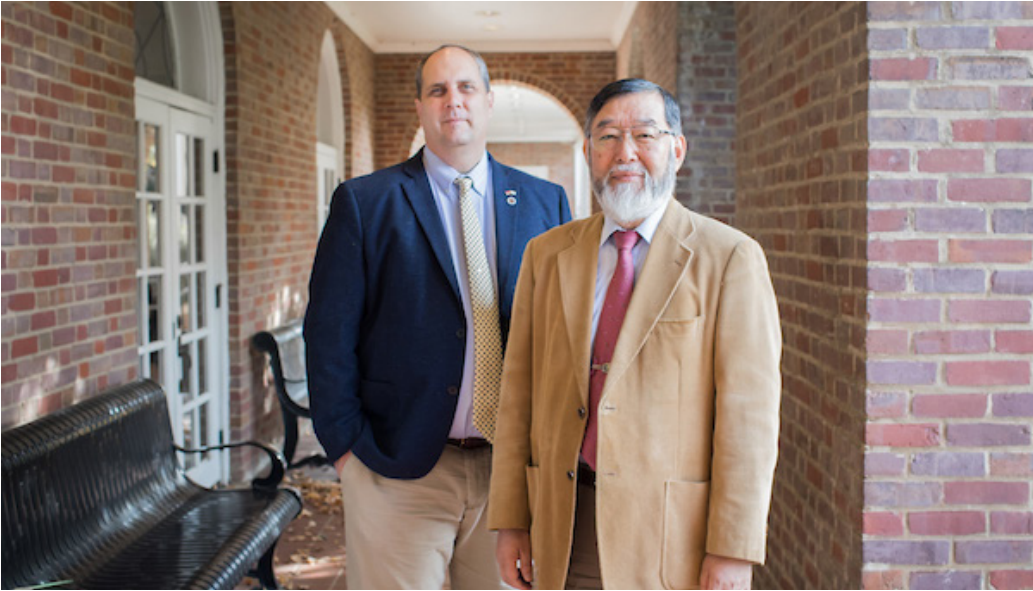
The university began this journey and partnership when associate professor of history and Director of APSU’s Asian studies program, David Rands, saw the growth of Japanese owned businesses in the area. He wanted to find a way for APSU to partner with them.

“The mission of APSU is to provide for the needs of the people of Tennessee and Japanese companies compose a large employment base,” Rands said.

“It makes sense for the university to work with the largest direct foreign investors in the state.”

In an email sent by President White, Rands talks about the cooperation Koyama and the Japanese culture on campus.

“Most of these coordinators do outreach to high schools and the community, and he is doing that too with Japanese culture classes on campus, but we are trying to get one step beyond that and



Associate Professor of History and Director of the Asian Studies David Rands stands with Yoshio Koyama outside of Harned Hall. APSU PUBLIC RELATIONS AND MARKETING

have Mr. Koyama work with bridging Japanese industry with APSU.”

Last year, APSU presented a proposal to The Japan Foundation and once accepted, paired the university with Koyama.

Koyama worked for 25 years with the Japan International Cooperation Agency or JICA, traveling across the world on different business assignments before joining the foundation according to the email.

Koyama spent time helping Rands develop a list of all the Japanese-owned businesses in the area and met with a few executives to find out their needs.

They found over 190 companies in Tennessee and over 200 in Kentucky.

Many organizations were not familiar with Tennessee initiatives like Tennessee Reconnect. It is a grant-funded program which covers tuition and fees in associate degree programs for non traditional learners.

“In the labor pool for a lot of these companies, a lot is shift labor and they do not have degrees,” Rands said.

“How can we as a university reach out to those companies, partner with those companies to help their employees get back in school? Maybe that means we go to them and offer a class a week in their facility, helping those employees progress toward a degree.”

This partnership could assist the state in efforts to increase the Drive to 55 Initiative while also driving APSU enrollment to 15,000 students by the year 2025.

“With such a strong presence in the region, it is important to understand not only the technical skills necessary for work in Japanese-owned companies, but the social and cultural aspects as well,” Rands said.

“The more students understand the global environment, the better they will be able to thrive in it.”

SGA

Continued from page 1  
did not necessarily reflect the desires of another.

A large number of senators this year are new to SGA. Crist says that he is “very satisfied with the progress of this semester because everyone has been constructive.” The continued focus on strong legislation is a big step for SGA, which has received past criticism for vindictive and weak proposals.

None of this matters though if APSU does not seem to be acting swiftly on the legislation that does get passed.

“When you get to legislative ideas that have a lot of parameters, for example the pepper spray, it goes to the policy committee.

With committees in a lot of universities it takes time.” Crist says that some times could equate to years before the right solution is found.

“I am not surprised that within a semester we do not see the TVs, or the

*“I am not surprised that within a semester we do not see the TVs or the pepper spray, or the cameras.”*

COLIN CRIST  
SGA EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

pepper spray, or the cameras.”

Ideas like these are great he admits, but “a committee of subject matter experts may not agree.”

SGA has assets in excess of \$300,000 and expenses a fraction of that amount towards its yearly budget.

The budget does not pay for suggested resolutions, which instead are sent off to one of dozens of committees where “budgetary constraints” may render it unimplemented in a cycle.

Explaining the recent lack of legislation from some of the school’s brightest, freshest members may not be that difficult to figure out after all.

from the University this semester. APSU’s administration named it “Student Organization of the Year” at the school’s local “Student Life and Engagement Award Ceremony.

Dean of the College of Arts and Letters, Dixie Webb said, “Phi Alpha Theta continues as a shining star in the College of Arts and Letters.” Webb said that while professors teach and mentor, it is ultimately “the students’ work revealing the fruits of those educational experiences.”

4 Tennessee gubernatorial candidates will not release tax returns to public

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Four of the seven major candidates for Tennessee governor are declining to release details of their federal income tax returns.

The Tennessean newspaper asked five Republicans and two Democrats in the race for copies of their federal tax filings. U.S. Rep. Diane Black and fellow Republican state House Speaker Beth Harwell provided some financial details, as did Democratic House Minority Leader Craig Fitzhugh.

Among the remaining Republicans, former state Sen. Mae Beavers and businessmen Randy Boyd and Bill Lee declined the request, as did Democratic former Nashville Mayor Karl Dean.

Dean and Boyd said they may consider releasing details in the future. Lee, who runs his family-owned construction company, said he would not release his income.

“In the interest of protecting my business and the over 1,200 employees there, I will not be releasing my tax returns in this campaign,” Lee said in a statement.

According to his gubernatorial announcement in April, the Lee Co. has \$225 million in annual revenues.

Boyd is the founder of Radio Systems Corp, a privately held company that makes invisible fences and other pet products and has annual revenues

of about \$400 million. He also owns two minor league baseball teams, a vineyard in Argentina and a Scottish-themed bar in Knoxville.

He did not take a state salary when he served as an education adviser to Gov. Bill Haslam and later as commissioner of economic and community development.

His campaign left the door open to a future disclosure. Spokeswoman Laine Arnold said it is “something we will certainly consider in due time once the final field of candidates is set and as we see what the other candidates intend to do.”

Haslam was heavily criticized by rivals in the 2010 governor’s race for being the only major candidate to refuse to release his tax returns.

He argued at the time that releasing his earnings from Pilot Flying J, the country’s largest retailer, would reveal personal information about family members not running for office as well as information about the privately held company.

Tax documents released by the Black campaign showed that she and her husband, David, earned \$7.2 million in 2016, about half of which came from the sale of property or investments and \$2.5 million from rental real estate, royalties, partnerships or trusts.

The couple’s taxable income was \$5.6 million, and they owed \$1.5 million in federal taxes.

PAT

Continued from page 1  
participates in.

Alumni of the organization have also ventured off to a number of prestigious universities locally and abroad in pursuit of master’s or doctoral degrees. Those students pursue careers in law, social work, and other professions according to the statement.

Phi Alpha Theta also saw recognition



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# PERSPECTIVES

*“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”*  
— First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

## Give back more this Christmas

Holiday celebration gets in the way of generosity to those who need it



**JILLIAN FEREBEE**

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Red and green glitter leaks from every pore in your body when the Christmas season starts.

The lights, trees and presents make you excited about things that do not truly matter in the overall scheme of life.

It is that wonderful time of year again. The bright lights and the hot cocoa you drink while sitting next to a fireplace burn bright while you watch “A Charlie Brown Christmas.” The tree your family set up for the season illuminates your shadow.

You spend hours decorating the cookies that you plan to leave for Santa Claus and make sure you do not forget the carrots for his trusty reindeer.

You and your siblings make letters to mail off, and you take them to sit on Santa’s lap in the mall.

This joyous time of year has gotten bigger and more advertised over time, and the real question is when will it be too much?

Christmas is supposed to be the celebration of Christ’s birth, and the praise of the savior in which millions of followers have faith in.

Christmas began in European

and Middle Eastern Christendom in the third century. In that time, it was a holiday which was not widely celebrated. In today’s age you can see lights on the roofs of houses online, meant to represent Santa traveling on Christmas night.

Christmas has turned from the birth of God’s son into a day in which you can get gifts and eat Christmas dinner. It should be a day to be with family to count your blessings and instead it is filled with greed and misplaced excitement.

You should spend this holiday thinking about what you can do for others and how you bring Christ into the lives of other people, yet you are spending hours cooking too much food for people who eat every day of the year.

There are so many things that the community can focus on, such as feeding the homeless or putting care packages together for troops.

Send care packages overseas or go to soup kitchens.

Use this day to give back to those who cannot leave sugar cookies overnight or who could not afford a huge tree for every room in their house.

It is a beautiful time of year, and it is even better when you make the season beautiful for someone else as well.

Giving back adds genuine holiday spirit where some has been lost in the glamour of presents and feasting.



The Christmas tree set up in the Quad by housing as a sign of holiday spirit. The tree is decorated with lights that are turned off in the day. CONTRIBUTING PHOTO | STEPHANIE KLAPPERICH

## Opinions can still be wrong

A right to one’s own viewpoint does not mean thoughts cannot be harmful



**AALIYAH MITCHELL**

MANAGING EDITOR  
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As an opinionated person, I like to debate others often. Friends, coworkers and classmates are great partners in a good argument.

It does not bother me if someone says “can we please not talk about this anymore?” It does not bother me if the argument reaches a stalemate because we both lack the information to continue. The one ending statement that is always irritating, however, is “Well, it is just my opinion.”

People seem to operate under the fallacy that all opinions matter, yet no opinion can be can be criticized.

Similarly, an idea seems to exist that facts are always right, and there is no point in arguing with them.

This seems to be how most people define the difference in a fact and opinion: a fact is something that is true, and an opinion is something no one can prove true. Therefore, a fact cannot be argued against, and an opinion can be argued against forever because it will never be proven right.

This is an issue because when most people divide fact and opinion in statements, they do not discriminate on these terms. If I say there is a cat on my head and rape is unethical, most will correctly decide that the cat statement is not an opinion though it is false, and that rape is truly unethical, despite it counting as an opinion.

Most would say the existence of a god

is an opinion, but to those who believe in one, it is true, so is god’s existence a fact for believers and opinion for nonbelievers?

The best definition I could find is provided by John Corvino on philosophersmag.com, where a fact is described as “[having] objective content and [being] well-supported by the available evidence,” while an opinion is “one whose content is either subjective or else not well supported by the available evidence.”

If your statement is subjective it can be classified as an opinion, but it can still be supported by incorrect facts. If your statement is objective but does not have enough evidence to support it, it is still an opinion, and it still has a chance of being incorrect. Even if a statement is objective and has all the evidence it needs to be a fact, it can be disproven later when more evidence arises.

Believing a fact or an opinion does not make the fact true or the opinion too good for criticism. If your favorite color is blue, I will not argue with it.

However, it is not “just” your opinion if you think lesser of people outside of your race. It was previously considered a fact that gender is what you were labeled when you were born based on your physiology. This ignores various facts yet to be known by the general public.

What was previously a fact cannot be considered indisputable, just like when people believed water, earth, fire and air were the only elements before the periodic table was created and new elements were discovered.

As people become comfortable with new identities, people find their experience is similar but too different for them to feel comfortable with the previous label. In a lot of these instances, people coin new definitions to be more precise. It does not mean their words are more or less valid than previous identities, or that they were made up because a millennial wanted to be a “special snowflake. Neither does more information being available to people about their conditions now then they were in the past, mean that current day adolescents believe they deserve special treatment.

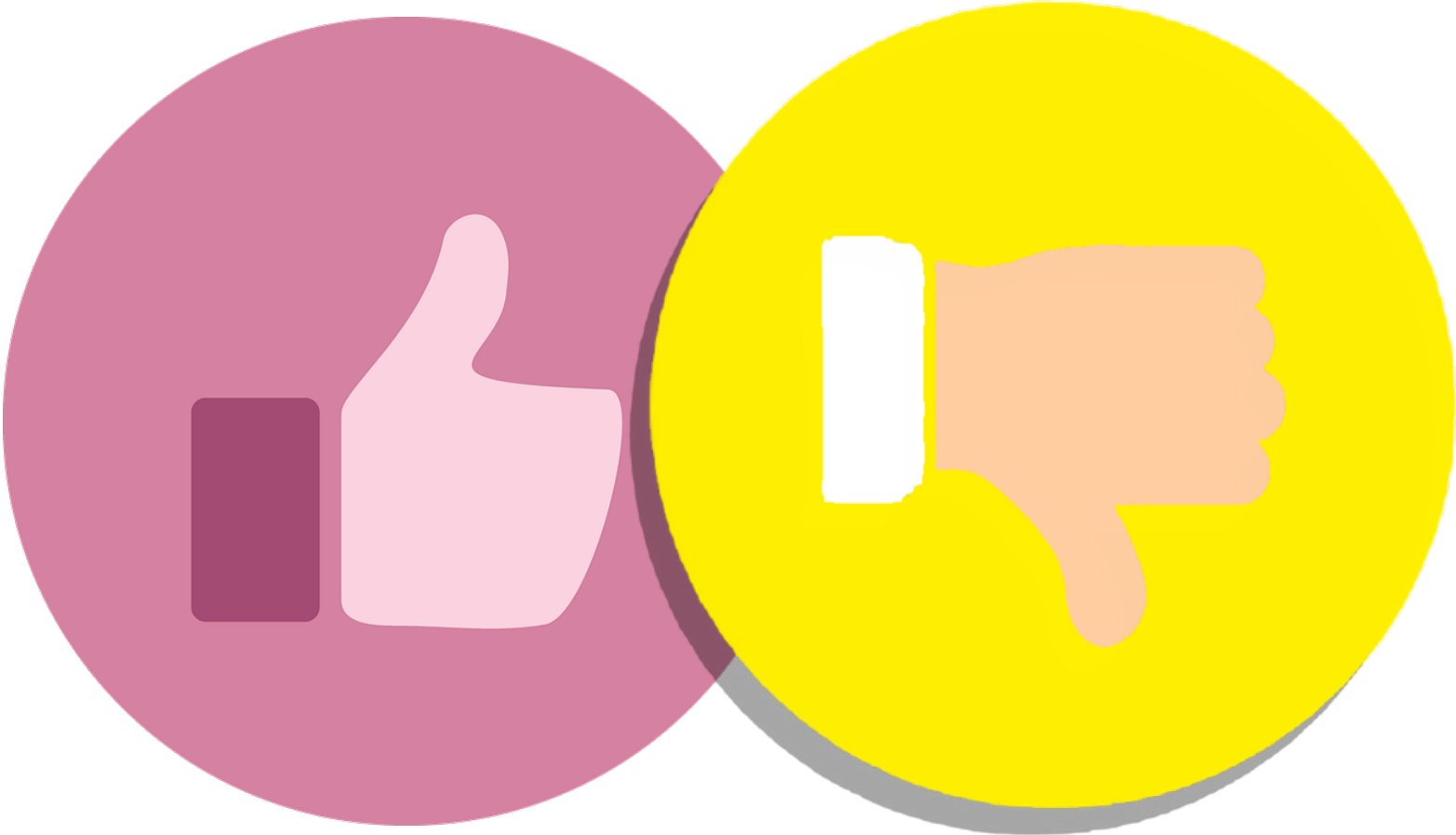
When opinions are shared that tackle either practical matters or values, they will be argued, and the result will be important.

If I love “Star Trek” and you do not, my arguing all the reasons I love it will not make you enjoy it, but there is nothing riding on the outcome of that argument. No one has to live with the results of the “Star Trek” argument each day, unless the two of us decide to make it a silly personal issue.

However, the way you judge someone’s way of life or state of being is not “just an opinion” because people are insulted, ridiculed, discriminated against, disrespected and abused on the basis of these “opinions” every day. A course of action taken based on opinion can lose people millions of dollars, relationships, security and health.

There will come a day where you stand by an opinion that outright makes someone else angry. These situations come about every day, and the people offended are not always silly or sensitive.

When the outcome or affect of that opinion is important, the issue is something harmful and opinions do have consequences.



IMAGES FROM PIXABAY



EXTRAS

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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King Crossword

ACROSS

1 PC alternative

4 Like omelet-tes or quiche

8 Secondhand

12 Have bills

13 Color quality

14 "The Thin Man" heroine

15 Hotel person-nel

17 Cole Porter's "Let's —"

18 Willingly

19 From then on

20 Jousting garb

22 Hunk of soap

24 Slender

25 Starving

29 Encountered

30 Bullwinkle's foe

31 Greek vowel

32 Ran through, in a sense

34 Unclear image

35 Black

36 Exhausted

37 Fragment

40 Mediocre

41 Actress Gilpin

42 Noble

46 "— go brag!"

47 Sandwich treat

48 Science room

49 Rugged rock

50 Salamander

51 List-condens-ing abbr.

11 Social engagement

16 Friend of Dorothy

19 Vail gear

20 Charitable donations

21 Stench

22 Mariah or Drew

23 In the thick of

25 Place setting component

26 Squalid site

27 Needle holder

28 "Phooey"

30 Flex

33 Electrician's job

34 Spill the beans

36 Apportion

37 Blueprint detail

38 Frau's mate

39 Met melody

40 Huffed and puffed

42 Triumphed

43 Before

44 Scoundrel

45 Leno's employer

DOWN

1 Horde

2 Shock and —

3 Pen pal?

4 Old number?

5 Blunder

6 Economist's stat

7 "Of course"

8 Victoria's Secret wares

9 Any time now

10 Idle or



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# FEATURES



## Egyptian biology student experiences American holiday like any other day

**DOMINIC GONZALEZ**  
STAFF WRITER



**RAHIL SALIB** On the edge of winter is November, re-introducing early evenings, brisk weather and leafless trees but, before winter settles in for most of us, the annual celebration of Thanksgiving brings our families, friends and loved ones together to share, laugh and eat until the mere intake of the slightest bit of air is impossible. The same, however, cannot be said for

Freshman biology and pre-medicine major Rahil Salib who, unlike the majority of APSU students, will not be celebrating the American holiday. The idea behind the holiday is something they celebrate every day. Thanksgiving is the celebration of the first harvest where Americans give thanks for the food they receive. The holiday, however, did not originate in the states. Many countries celebrate the harvest on different days and have their own version of “Thanksgiving.” Some individuals overlook the holiday entirely. “It was never something we would celebrate in Egypt,” Salib said. “I’m just

waiting for Christmas, to be honest.” While Thanksgiving began with Christians searching for a home in the New World, today it has become a more secular holiday that banks all things “American,” from parades, to big meals to competitive shopping. For many, their ethnic and religious ties are so indistinguishably linked into everything they do, that turkey day is just another Thursday. For the Salib household, the fourth Thursday of every November is just that, with no significance behind it. One Thanksgiving, however, Salib’s aunt decided to entertain the American tradition, and the event quickly went awry. “Once my aunt wanted to have a

*“Once, my aunt wanted to have a family gathering on this day. She ended up burning the turkey and dropping the dressing on the floor. It was a sign.”*

**RAHIL SALIB**  
FRESHMAN BIOLOGY AND PRE-MEDICINE MAJOR

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## ‘Pokemon’ falling behind the curve



‘Pokemon Ultra Sun and Ultra Moon’ are “remixes” of the original ‘Pokemon Sun and Moon,’ which launched last Nov. The games feature the same story with minor changes. IMAGE FROM NINTENDO

## ‘Ultra Sun and Ultra Moon’ change too much and too little at the same time



**ANDREW WADOVICK**  
FEATURES EDITOR  
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This review contains spoilers. As someone who thoroughly enjoyed “Pokemon Sun and Moon” when they launched last year, I was eagerly anticipating the release of “Pokemon Ultra Sun and Ultra Moon.” Though I was not totally sure what to expect

from a “remix,” of sorts, I was confident I would still enjoy my time traversing through the Alola region once more. Sadly, my confidence seems to have been misplaced. “Ultra Sun and Ultra Moon” are essentially the “Platinum” or “Emerald” of generation seven. The games feature a similar story to their original counterparts, with a differing story spliced into the original world. Unlike Emerald and Platinum, however, “Ultra Sun and Ultra Moon” do not execute this strategy as effectively as we have

seen in the past. I started the game as I did in the original “Sun and Moon.” The local Professor Kukui gave me one of three starter Pokémon, Rowlet, Litten or Popplio, and after befriendng my beloved Popplio, I set out on my island challenge for the second time. Throughout my journey, hints of an impending calamity kept appearing throughout the region. Humans from another dimension entirely, the Ultra Recon Squad, keep dropping references to a being called Necrozma. Once relegated to a post-game enigma in “Sun and Moon,” the Psychic-type legendary Pokémon is now an antagonist: enraged after it lost its light at the hands of Ultra Space’s inhabitants, it is now on a psychotic rampage. It yearns to consume

all of Alola’s light instead. During the game’s former climax atop a sacred mountain, in which the tiny Pokémon Cosmog evolves into a powerful legendary Pokémon (either Solgaleo or Lunala), Necrozma interrupts the scene, beating up and consuming the legendary before fleeing back to Ultra Space. The player must then pursue it and stop it from consuming Alola’s light once and for all. To begin with, it felt like I, the player, was always one step ahead of the characters. I knew Necrozma was going to be a sort of villain. Even the characters’ use of “The Blinding One” in an attempt to mask its identity

See **POKEMON** on page 6



# Marvel succeeds with ‘Ragnarok’



‘Thor: Ragnarok’ brings a wide cast of well-written characters, who each dominate the screen whenever they appear. The film manages to engross viewers, leaving them wanting more. IMAGES FROM MARVEL

‘Thor: Ragnarok’ presents superior characters, humor in newest addition



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“Thor: Ragnarok” is the third installment in the Thor series and the seventeenth film overall in the Marvel Cinematic Universe. After reuniting, Thor and Loki learn that their sister and the Goddess of Death, Hela (played by Cate Blanchett), has returned to reclaim Asgard, all in the wake of an impending apocalypse called Ragnarök. In the wake of the chaos, Thor crash-lands on another planet, Sakaar, and is forced to compete in the Contest of Champions, where he encounters more than one familiar face who may help him on his adventure.

To say any particular actor stole the show would mean everyone was playing tug of war. Chris Hemsworth and Tom Hiddleston reprise their roles as Thor and Loki, and they are as charismatic as ever. It was especially refreshing to see Loki in a more balanced role after the previous Thor film exercised his fan service status to blatant extents. Cate Blanchett is enjoying every moment being on screen, and her performance is so fun that you enjoy it with her. Mark Ruffalo’s reprise of the Hulk was apparent, but so is the return of other familiar faces, such as Heimdall and Valkyrie. Jeff Goldblum felt both out of place and perfect amongst the rest of the cast, as though he was playing to what most people’s perception of him as a person is awkward, but enjoyably so.

Other excellent traits of the film are the cinematography and the special effects. It is all shot so beautifully, whether it be to emphasize the environments or the way two characters

interact. The special effects are also expertly utilized; the majority of the CGI is realistic, and the few instances where it is not still look good enough to keep it from being noticeable.

A divisive aspect of the film is its comedy. There have been criticisms about how the film is too humorous, which I can concede to on some level. This film exhibits a severe tonal shift from dark fantasy to sci-fi adventure. Personally, though, the humor did not take away anything from the overall experience. The jokes range from subtle and awkward to more obvious. For every joke that failed, there were at least three more that hit their mark.

What cements “Thor: Ragnarok” as an excellent film is the meaning behind Ragnarök and Asgard. In the previous films, Asgard is known as little more than an idyllic paradise, sheltered from outside forces. However, Hela reveals some shocking truths about the history of Asgard and Odin’s real reason behind banishing her. When the main characters confront this, they realize that Ragnarök may hold a deeper meaning beyond just being another apocalyptic force that will destroy their world. It serves as a compelling allegory for imperialism and where the line between revision and revolution lies.

The only main fault I can find with this movie is that there were some plot points I wish could have been explored further, such as Bruce Banner’s history on Sakaar and Thor and Loki’s interactions with Hela.

However, it also reflects that this film is so engrossing, it leaves you wanting to know more. Hopefully, future films will delve further into these issues, but until then, “Thor: Ragnarok” is a fun superhero film that is easily one of Marvel’s best.

## POKEMON

Continued from page 5

ultimately falls flat, as the reveal is expected; this even impacts the severity of the game’s climax.

A more pressing story concern, however, is the magnitude of changes to the original story because of this. In “Sun and Moon,” Lusamine, in perhaps one of the most impactful plot twists I have experienced in Pokemon, turns out to be the bad guy, having turned her son and daughter into objects in her attempts to find the Ultra Beasts once more. She deems them to be beautiful creatures, and she nearly destroyed the world by trying to summon said beasts. It was riveting, emotional and well-executed, with superb foreshadowing that is easily missable the first time around.

This time, it is revealed Lusamine did all the above because she wanted to protect the world from creatures like Necrozma. She was doing all these horrible things out of a sense of duty. This change would be fine if all the references to the original story were removed. This is not the case. Instead, all the foreshadowing surrounding her ulterior motives remain throughout the story, such as the character arc surrounding her daughter, Lillie, who escaped her mother in order to protect Cosmog. As a result, all the emotional impact of the story is shot, leaving Lusamine to almost be a good person, albeit misguided. This is not the character I enjoyed. I reveled in the first female villainous team leader, who emotionally abused her children and kept Pokemon in cryogenic stasis all in the name of grief-driven anguish. What I received is a watered-down version of this story that ultimately boiled down to a completely different and less satisfying outcome. I did not want Lusamine awake and redeeming herself in the postgame. I wanted the Lusamine who ended the game in a coma, denied a redemption arc by virtue of her own

failures as a parent. The complexity of the story had been ruined.

All is not lost for “Ultra Sun and Ultra Moon,” however. Team Rainbow Rocket’s inclusion into the story was a superb nod to the series’s origins, looking back at previous evil teams such as Hoenn’s Magma and Sinnoh’s Galactic, all run by the infamous Giovanni of Team Rocket. The humor was great. The battles against the team leaders were challenging thanks to the inclusion of legendary Pokemon, forcing my momentum to grind to a screeching halt as I suddenly had to stop a rain-boosted Kyogre from decimating my entire team with Hydro Pump. It was massive fun.

Unfortunately, the entire Rocket arc was relegated to the postgame. Further, the arc felt hollow and meaningless. Giovanni’s mysterious commentary before disappearing seems like a hint at a continuation of this cool new story, but since the confirmation of “Ultra Sun and Ultra Moon” as the last main series Pokemon games on the 3DS, I am left yearning for what I know I cannot have.

I have explored other parts of the postgame, mainly venturing into the randomly-generated Ultra Space in search of Ultra Beasts to add to my collection, but my eventual thoughts, what I will use to summarize this review with, is “Why bother?”

I did all this a year ago. I obtained all the Ultra Beasts in “Sun and Moon,” and the new additions to the roster are mere gifts in “Ultra Sun and Ultra Moon.” The return of every legendary Pokemon from previous games feels pointless thanks to Pokemon Bank. Why would I spend hours trying to obtain them all in “Ultra Moon” when I own them all back in my copy of “Pokemon Y?” I already obtained all 18 Z-crystals in “Pokemon Sun.” I already played this game before.

The parts of “Ultra Sun and Ultra Moon” that remain unchanged were still as good as they were a year ago, but if I wanted to play “Sun and Moon,” I would. I did not pay \$40 to play “Sun and Moon” again. I paid to play a reimagined Alola, akin to Sinnoh’s Platinum and

experience for immigrants. Raised in Kuwait, Salib said she enjoyed the transition to the U.S., witnessing their traditions and holidays. She said it is simply more of an admiration from afar for the family.

Since her aunt’s first and last attempt years ago, Salib instead vicariously enjoys the holiday through the bright



While the game’s marketing claimed “this is not the Alola you know,” it still very much is, and the story elements Nintendo did change do not mesh well with what they left behind. IMAGE FORM NINTENDO

Hoenn’s Emerald. Not enough of Alola truly changed to justify the cost for me.

Sadly, the last main series entries to the 3DS family was a disappointing

farewell to the console that lasted four years of Pokemon. It is disheartening how a region with my favorite Pokemon game now also has my least favorite.

## EGYPT

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family gathering on this day,” Salib said. “She ended up burning the turkey and dropping the dessert on the floor. It was a sign.”

Coming to America can be a daunting

lights and delicious food her American friends brag about.

“I am very happy being different and not having to deal with the family get-together drama,” Salib said. “We are a family of immigrants, but it is a tradition we just have yet to latch on to, and we are O.K. with that.”

Though not celebrated in every

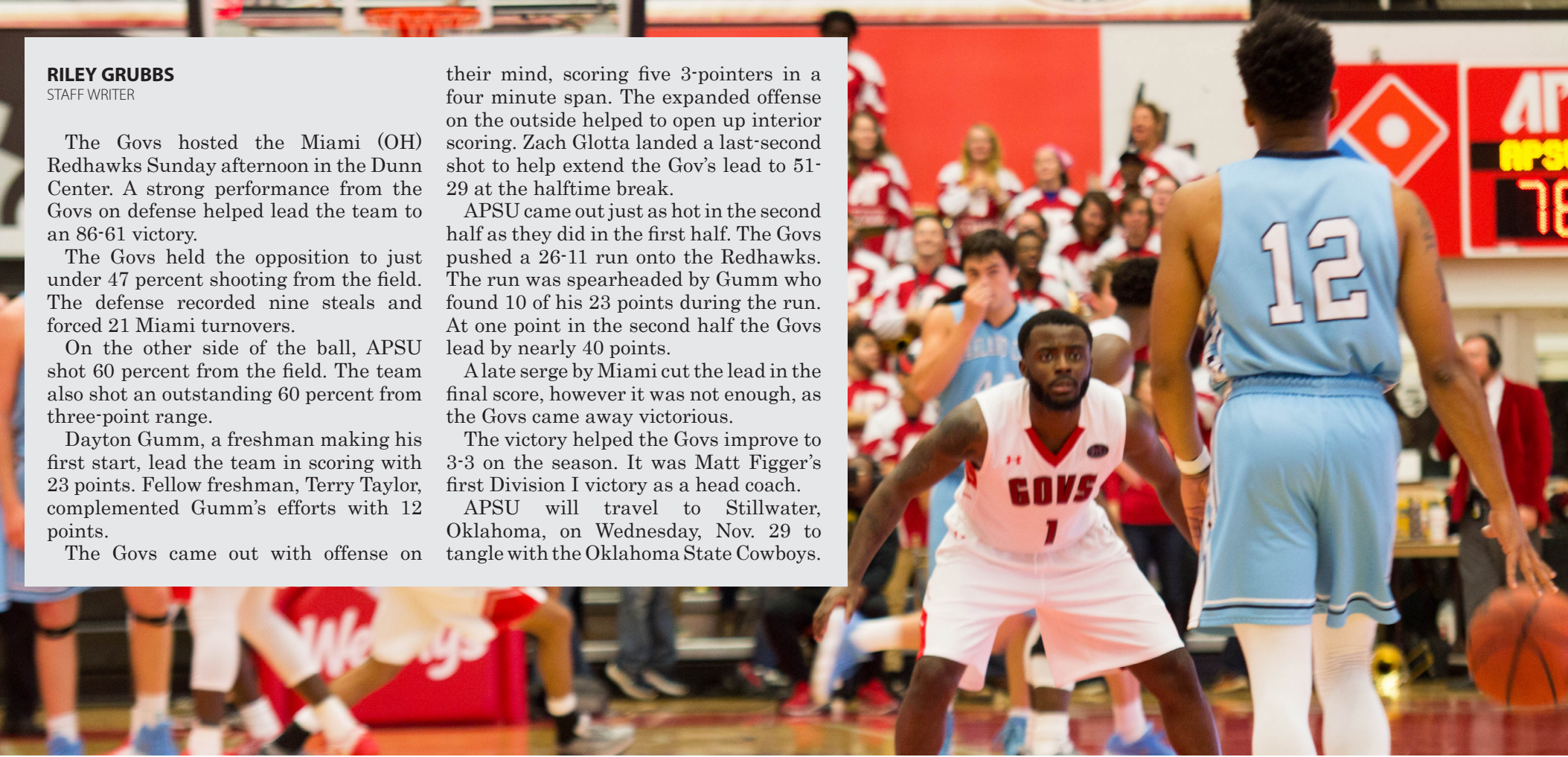
household, many immigrant families uphold the message that Thanksgiving as a holiday is built around family and gratitude for life’s blessings, no matter where you are in life.

“My family believes it is important to be thankful,” Salib said. “For us it is just an everyday thing not limited to 24 hours.”



# SPORTS

## Govs topple Miami (OH) 86-61



**RILEY GRUBBS**  
STAFF WRITER

The Govs hosted the Miami (OH) Redhawks Sunday afternoon in the Dunn Center. A strong performance from the Govs on defense helped lead the team to an 86-61 victory.

The Govs held the opposition to just under 47 percent shooting from the field. The defense recorded nine steals and forced 21 Miami turnovers.

On the other side of the ball, APSU shot 60 percent from the field. The team also shot an outstanding 60 percent from three-point range.

Dayton Gumm, a freshman making his first start, lead the team in scoring with 23 points. Fellow freshman, Terry Taylor, complemented Gumm’s efforts with 12 points.

The Govs came out with offense on

their mind, scoring five 3-pointers in a four minute span. The expanded offense on the outside helped to open up interior scoring. Zach Glotta landed a last-second shot to help extend the Gov’s lead to 51-29 at the halftime break.

APSU came out just as hot in the second half as they did in the first half. The Govs pushed a 26-11 run onto the Redhawks. The run was spearheaded by Gumm who found 10 of his 23 points during the run. At one point in the second half the Govs lead by nearly 40 points.

A late surge by Miami cut the lead in the final score, however it was not enough, as the Govs came away victorious.

The victory helped the Govs improve to 3-3 on the season. It was Matt Figger’s first Division I victory as a head coach.

APSU will travel to Stillwater, Oklahoma, on Wednesday, Nov. 29 to tangle with the Oklahoma State Cowboys.

Senior guard Tre’ Ivory defends Oakland City’s Christmas Marks in APSU’s 109-50 win over the Mighty Oaks on Wednesday, Nov. 15 from the Dunn Center. Ivory finished with six points and eight assists. BRYAN SMITH | THE ALL STATE

## Gumm, Ugba receive first OVC Honors



Freshman Dayton Gumm reads the court in APSU’s 109-50 win over Oakland City on Wednesday, Nov. 15 at the Dunn Center. BRYAN SMITH | THE ALL STATE

**NOAH HOUCK**  
SPORTS EDITOR

Dayton Gumm and Averyl Ugba combined to earn a pair of Ohio Valley Conference awards this past week following the Govs wins over Bethel and Miami (OH).

Gumm was awarded the OVC Freshman of the Week while Ugba, a senior, earned OVC Newcomer of the Week.

The duo have both earned these award for the first time in their APSU careers.

Gumm knocked down a career high 23 points in his first start on Sunday, Nov. 26 against the RedHawks.

Gumm now holds to 20-point games this season.

The freshman from Bowling Green averaged 14 points this week, and hit 61.1 percent from the floor.

Ugba, a transfer from Louisiana’s Grambling State, led the Govs with 18 points in the first college basketball game from Fort Cambell.

Ugba scored 13 points in the clash with the RedHawks.

Ugba averaged 66.7 percent shooting from the field while being the only Gov to hit double digits in the wins over the Wildcats and RedHawks.

Ugba recorded two blocks against Bethel, who only shot 37.1 percent from the field.

The pair join Nov. 20 Freshman of the Week Terry Taylor as the only Govs to record OVC awards this season.

Gumm and Ugba become the first two Govs to earn OVC awards in the same week since the final week of the Championship 2015-16 season.



### Govs Games

**VOLLEYBALL**

NCAA National Tournament  
Round One  
at UCLA  
Los Angeles, California  
Friday, Dec. 1, 10 p.m.

**MEN’S BASKETBALL**

at Oklahoma State  
Stillwater, Oklahoma  
Wednesday, Nov. 29, 7 p.m.

vs. Alabama A&M  
Clarksville, Tennessee  
Saturday, Dec. 2, 3:30 p.m.

**WOMEN’S BASKETBALL**

vs. Arkansas-Pine Bluff  
Clarksville, Tennessee  
Wednesday, Nov. 29, 7 p.m.

vs. Evansville  
Clarksville, Tennessee  
Saturday, Dec. 2, 1 p.m.

### Football dominates OVC Awards

**OVC COACH OF THE YEAR**  
Will Healy

**OVC FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR**  
Jeremiah Oatsvall

**OVC NEWCOMER TEAM**  
Kyle Anderton  
Jeremiah Oatsvall  
Ahmaad Tanner

**OVC FIRST TEAM DEFENSE**  
Gunnar Scholato  
Jaison Williams

**OVC FIRST TEAM SPECIALIST**  
Kyran Moore

**OVC SECOND TEAM OFFENSE**  
Kyle Anderton  
Jeremiah Oatsvall  
Ryan Rockensuess



### California Bound

Govs to face  
UCLA  
NCAA First Round  
Fri. Dec. 1, 10 p.m.  
watch on Pac-12.com





