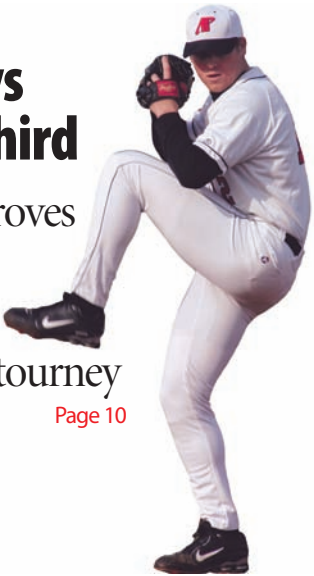


Bat Govs finish third

Bullpen proves to be downfall in annual tourney

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The All State

The ups and downs of Joe

Java Junkies explain addiction

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Hazing hits the fan for organizations

By STEPHANIE COWARD
Online Editor

Put down your paddles and pick up your Austin Peay State University handbooks; hazing in any form is not tolerated anywhere on campus.

APSU defines hazing in the student handbook as, “any intentional or reckless act in Tennessee on or off property of any higher education institution...that endangers the mental, or physical health or safety of that student, or which induces or coerces a student to endanger such student’s mental or physical health or safety.”

“There have been student groups both

last fall and this semester who have had charges of hazing brought against them by the university and have been responsible for breaking that code,” Patrick Meldrim, interim director of Judicial Affairs said.

For years, Greek organizations have had a hazing stigma attached to them; many of those stigmas have almost turned into local urban myths at various universities nationwide.

“Hazing is not just a Greek issue,” Meldrim said.

According to Meldrim, a handful of student organizations have been charged by the university with violating the no hazing policy.

Once charged, the organization can decide which type or hearing it prefers to go through.

They can have an administration hearing, which is when Meldrim speaks with all involved and decides whether punishment is necessary.

The other option is a university board hearing, where the case is heard before a faculty board.

Meldrim said that the second board hearing of the semester is currently in progress.

The third option a charged organization has is only an option if those involved face suspension or expulsion.

According to Meldrim, The Tennessee Uniform Administrators Procedure Act hearing is very formal, and much like a traditional court room setting.

If guilt is determined, an organization faces a variety of disciplinary sanctions as outlined in the student handbook.

These sanctions go into effect once the decision is handed down to those charged.

The organization has three days to appeal the decision to Diane Berty, who has the final say on the appeal.

The procedure a charged organization goes through is the same for just one student; some charges of hazing are

brought upon one or only a few individuals instead of the entire student organization.

The punishment an organization receives after guilt is determined in the university judicial process and is meant to be educational so those involved “can learn from their mistakes,” Meldrim said.

University hazing charges make headlines every semester.

Most recently, the Associated Press wrote about a Western Kentucky University fraternity that was charged with a hazing violation after police found a goat in the basement of the fraternity’s house with no food or water. ♦

Crisis strikes student identity



Freshman Marlee Atkinson parodies the actions of alleged card thieves with a mask, showing sophomore, Joshua Brown’s face. She stands at the counter of the Peay Pod at the original site of the Jan. 23 incident.

JAROD LEONARD/STAFF

Ongoing investigation constricts further info

By PATRICK HORTON
Guest Writer

On Jan. 23 three male Austin Peay State University Students were caught using another student’s ID card for groceries in the Peay Pod and getting lunch at the cafeteria.

The student whose ID card was used had noticed card balance discrepancies when items were purchased on that weekend after he lost it that Thursday.

Joe Bowen Jr., Lewis Smith and Derrick Taylor are the three students charged with the crime. Their charges include criminal impersonation, using false identification, identity theft and fraudulent use of credit/debit card.

All charges were misdemeanors except for the identity theft charge, which is a felony. It was considered identity theft because the APSU student’s face was on the card. The amount taken out of the account was less than \$500, so every count is considered a misdemeanor.

Lance Mills, the arresting officer, brought the alleged criminals to the Montgomery County Sheriffs Office where they were placed in jail. The arrestees posted bail a short time later; each used local bond agencies to post the necessary \$5,000 for their release.

Each will be tried separately and past criminal records, if any, will be taken into account.

They all pled not guilty at their hearings the first week of February. Trials are set for all three throughout the last two weeks of March.

Additional information cannot be disclosed to the public at this time because it is an ongoing investigation. One of the accused has already complained to campus police for the release of his name to the public. However, police reports are public knowledge.

Identity theft, though not prominent on the APSU campus, is the fastest growing crime in America. Some campuses had several instances in the last two years of students being charged with identity theft.

College campuses are already an easy target because of the large concentration of transactions. Students are usually nonchalant in the management of their bank accounts, and outsiders see this as an easy way to make money.

One of the easiest ways to help prevent identity theft is to not put your name on the back of your credit/debit card; some even write “please check ID” instead of signing the back. Students should be wary when making purchases with their credit/debit cards, as not every merchant will check the back.

Students should always check on charges to their account that seem suspicious. ♦

APSU hosts state competition 15 years running

Academic Decathlon rounds up ‘eager young minds of tomorrow’

By HOLLY MARTIN
Guest Writer

Tennessee’s State Academic Decathlon is to be held on Austin Peay State University’s campus for the 15th consecutive year.

The Academic Decathlon is a competition of high school students competing individually for a combined team score. The 10 to 15 teams that will meet at APSU on March 17 are the regional winners from all over the state and will be competing for a chance at the national competition.

The students will compete in three categories including speech, interview and essay. They will deliver one prepared speech and one impromptu speech. They will

complete a professional interview, in which they will be asked about their involvement in school, home, church, community and other activities. And, they will write an essay over a topic given the day of competition.

“We are expecting some of the brightest students in the state to be competing on campus,” said Diane McDonald of Academic Affairs.

The judges for the competition will be APSU faculty and staff. Of the 48 needed for the event, only 15 judges have been recruited so far.

For information on being a judge, please contact Makeba Webb in the Admissions office. ♦

Mardi Gras lives on

By HOLBROOK MOHR
Associated Press

There were no college students hanging from balconies, no jazz drifting out of world-famous bars and no long lines of brightly decorated floats.

The feature attraction at this Mardi Gras event for displaced New Orleans residents was be a coffin, a place where hurricane victims could “bury Katrina.”

“God brought us here for a reason,” said 33-year-old Anita Pace, who attended Tuesday’s event with her seven children. “It’s a tragedy, but it’s a blessing as well. It’s a fresh start in life. You can ease yourself out of a bad situation and start over.”

The organizers of “Let the Good Times Roll” hoped to bring evacuees a little taste of the Big Easy along with a side dish of healing.

The Rev. Molly Wade said the event at Hal & Mal’s Restaurant featured a casket on which evacuees could write down their fears and painful memories of the Aug. 29 hurricane and “symbolically bury the past.”

Hal & Mal’s is no stranger to big parties, and is the host of Jackson’s annual St. Paddy’s Day parade, which draws thousands of revelers each year.

“There will be mask-making for the kids and door prizes, and obviously red beans and rice and some gumbo,” said Michael Stanton, a case worker for Lutheran Episcopal.

“Burying Katrina is the theme, getting some closure, just putting it to rest for a minute. It’ll be a semblance of home, but it’s not going to be New Orleans by any stretch of the imagination.” ♦

TBR policy demands books be disposed, Woodward adapts

By APRIL McDONALD
Staff Writer

Someday, Austin Peay State University students may have a new place to study with new books and computers that Woodward Library is trying to obtain. Currently the library is going through a deselection process.

Deborah Fetch, director of library services, said, “Deselection is removing books that are not longer of value to this library’s shelves. This library has not gone through a deselection process for over a couple of decades, and it really is the best practice of standards for a library of this size and type.”

The library is starting with the nursing collection, using the Tennessee Board of Regents policy on disposal of surplus personal property, which does not allow the giving away of any state property. They can be offered to other TBR libraries, school libraries, public libraries and departments on campus. Others will have to be thrown away. Working with the faculty in nursing,

psychology and health and human performance departments, the library is deselection the appropriate books from the collection. Other departments will follow, except in art, history, literature or any humanities where information is timeless.

“We have not received additional funding to purchase new updated books. We’re always adding new books to the collection on an ongoing basis, but we’re looking at our budget to see if we can find some additional money that we can put into each department in order to buy new books,” Fetch said.

The Student Government Association has proposed a resolution for 30 computers to be added to the library. If the new computers are received they will be placed around the main floor and will be accessible anytime the library is open, even when the computer room is closed for instruction.

A mid-semester study showed that the library’s computers were used 74 percent of the time, whereas other computer labs on

campus were only utilized about 50 percent of the time.

The technology committee, which oversees student technology fees, did not approve the purchase of these new computers, thus Fetch and the rest of the library staff are hoping that perhaps the administration may approve that purchase with year-end money.

Mitch Robinson, vice president of finance and administration, explained that TBR has a points system it used to assign the priority number to each project that funding is being asked for by each school in the TBR system. Currently the building of a new library has not been assigned a number. Robinson is hopeful that once the library project makes it toward the top of the list APSU can also ask for the money to turn the current library into a student services building. The student services building would house things such as financial aid, the registrar and the cashier, in the hopes that students would need to visit only one building for all their needs. ♦



JAROD LEONARD/STAFF

Deborah Fetch, Director of Library Services, stands with books that will be discarded. Fetch states that SGA has the power to initiate a change to the policy of discarding books if they so decide.

Raiders rise to the challenge



DAVE CAMPBELL/STAFF

High Schools from Tennessee, Kentucky, Alabama and Indiana brought around 350 students out to compete in the JROTC Raider Challenge, Saturday, Feb. 25. Pictured above: The Rock Wall Climb and Rucksack Relay.

Campus Crime Log Jan. 30 - Feb. 20

Jan. 30, 10:40p.m., Hand Village, theft of property

Feb. 1, 12:41 p.m., Killebrew lot, theft of property

Feb. 6, 7:44p.m., Book store, Fraudulent use of credit cards, arrested: Cassandra Y. Esaw, of 1834 Knowles Street, Nashville

Feb. 8, 12:25p.m., Hand Village, simple assault

Feb. 9, 10:16p.m., Austin's Café, public intoxication, arrested: Bradley B. Gauchat, of 620 Poplar Creek Trace Court, Nashville

Feb. 14, 8:46a.m., Dunn Center, theft of property

Feb. 20, 11:31p.m., Killebrew hall, robbery

Good Morning APSU

Campus Community Calendar

National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE)

Invitations to participate in the National Survey of Student Engagement are going out to APSU Freshmen and Seniors on Tuesday, March 14. Students' answers to this survey will help us improve our curriculum and general campus life. The survey is sponsored by the Institutional Research and Effectiveness can be used to understand and improve students' experiences at APSU. Contact Don Ferguson by e-mail: fergusond@apsu.edu. Or call him at 221-7331.

SGA elections

SGA Elections will be held April 6-9. For information about candidacy contact SGA Chief Justice, Feras Sadik. E-mail: sgacj@apsu.edu Phone: 931-221-7262 For complete details: <http://www.apsu.edu/sga/>

Tutors needed

High School Upward Bound needs tutors in Math, English, Science, Social Studies and Spanish. Please contact 221-6226 or come by Dunn 259 if interested. For more information contact John Howard at barfields@apsu or 221-6226.

"Vagina Monologues"

Eve Ensler's "Vagina Monologues" will be produced at 7 p.m., March 1 in Clement Auditorium. Admission is \$5 or \$3 and a toiletry item for Safehouse. Proceeds benefit United Methodist Urban Ministries Safehouse and the Women's Rape and Sexual Abuse Center in Clarksville.

Student Organization & Leader Awards

The 2006 Student Organization and Leader Awards sponsored by the division of Student Affairs, will be held 6 p.m., Friday, April 21 in the UC Ballroom. Awards nomination and application packets are available in UC 206. The nomination/application deadline is Monday, March 6 at 4 p.m. For more information contact Vanessya Fountain at 221-7341.

Research opportunity

Volunteers to participate in a research study on self-efficacy and its relation to specific modeling, and receive a certificate of participation that may be used for extra credit in one of your classes (at professor's discretion). Please contact Corinna Schmidt or go to the Psychology Department Office located in CL205 to sign up.

Business students conduct free tax preparation sessions

In partnership with the IRS-VITA Program, accounting students in the school of Business will have free tax preparation sessions. APSU's site will provide basic tax returns utilizing the IRS e-file program. All sessions are on Saturdays 10 a.m. - 2p.m., March 4 and 18. Documentation is required and taxpayer must earn less than \$35,000.

Sign language classes

Learn basics of American Sign Language, manual alphabet and finger spelling in this 6-week course for beginners. For information contact M. A. Burkhart at 221-7816 or visit https://www.apsu.edu/post/releases/show_news.asp?id=297

Private Mandarin lessons

Are you interested in learning Mandarin Chinese? Maybe you simply want to brush up on your conversational Mandarin? Private lessons are available. Contact 270-640-1766 .

Junior cheer clinic

The APSU Cheerleaders will host a junior cheer clinic for elementary and middle school children (6-13 years old). The clinic will last from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Registration is limited to the first 75 applicants. For information, visit www.apsu.edu/letsgopeay or e-mail apcheersquad@aol.com.

Spring break soccer shool

APSU soccer is offering a soccer clinic during the Montgomery County spring break. The clinic is for boys and girls ages 5-14 and will take place from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily. No experience is needed. The fee is \$90 for the week. Early dropoff and late supervision will be available for an additional fee. Call 931-221-7972 for information, or visit www.sureshotsoccer.com.

The Senate Minute...

Compiled by April McDonald



HOPPE

Change in Tenure

- Sherry Hoppe and Bruce Speck spoke on looking at making tenure requirements equal in all departments.
- Current standards are likely to end July 1, 2006.

Editor's Note: These notes were taken at the faculty senate meeting Thursday, February 23 and will be featured once a month in The All State. Location of meetings may vary but check the APSU website for details.

Developmental Studies

- Harriett McQueen gave an update on the 70 percent of D's, F's and W's in classes with developmental studies requirements.
- McQueen says biggest problem is in student attendance.
- The number of DSP students are increasing.
- The DSP program will comply with the TBR five-year plan.

Poll On Testing Center

- John Foote showed results of a faculty poll for a testing center on campus.
- All responding faculty were in favor.

August Commencement

- Margaret Deitrich spoke on the proposal of having August commencement to help reduce space issues.
- No decisions have been made at this time.

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OUR TAKE

Natural disasters point towards God, pollution or planetary evolution

With all of the natural disasters that occur in the world from hurricanes to earthquakes to tornadoes to forest fires, it might cause one to wonder why this kind of thing occurs. Some would say it is God's doing, bringing us closer to judgment day. Others say it is the fault of humans due to pollution and the desecration of our planet. And still others think this kind of thing just happens. Which is true?

In accordance to the idea of the divine, Deuteronomy 11:16-17 states: "Be careful, or you will be enticed to turn away and worship other gods and bow down to them. Then the Lord's anger will burn against you, and he will shut the heavens so that it will not rain and the ground will yield no produce, and you will soon perish from the good land the Lord is giving you." The book of Revelation tells of disasters caused by God and his angels bringing deserved suffering to humans for their many sins.

Humans desire to make sense out of chaos. Natural disasters cause many to turn to their faith and believe that God made this happen in order to cleanse the earth and call his followers to pray for sinners.

Other Christians disagree, stating that God does not cause such things; humans bring it on themselves and it is during this time that they should turn to God in prayer for healing to begin. They quote verses from Jesus' life such as Matthew 8:26-27. This story tells of Jesus and his disciples caught in a boat during a storm. The disciples woke Jesus, afraid they would drown. "He replied, 'You of little faith, why are you so afraid?' Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm. The men were amazed and asked, 'What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!'" By stories like these, some Christians believe that God no longer causes disasters because Jesus saves humans from them.

Many environmentalists believe it is not God, but the destruction of our planet caused by wastefulness and pollution. Some blame it on global warming due to emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. (The United States is responsible for 25 percent of these emissions.)

An article on Grist magazine's website

stated: [G]lobal warming — along with over-development and other such deleterious human activity — is raising sea levels and reducing or eliminating the natural barriers (mangroves, coral reefs, etc.) that protect coastlines...It is easy to see how people might come to this conclusion.

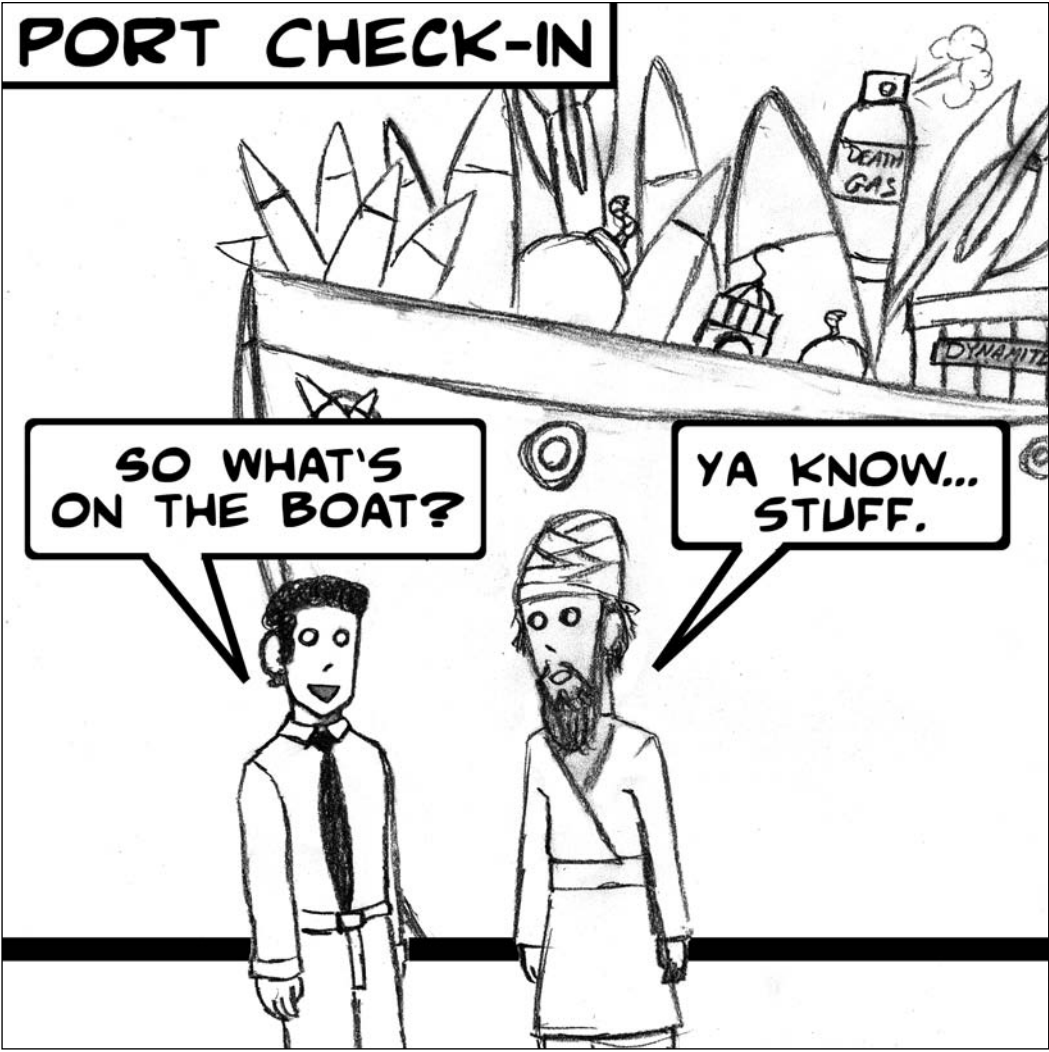
Stephen Tindale, the executive director of Greenpeace UK, has been quoted as saying: "No one can ignore the relentless increase in extreme weather events and so-called natural disasters, which in reality are no more natural than a plastic Christmas tree." Even our winter this year might make one ask questions. We have had relatively mild temperatures with occasional snow. It stands to reason that this summer will be extremely hot and humid considering this information. Is this from global warming or just natural changes of our planet?

The earth has constantly changed. Over millions of years there has been an ice age, the extinction of species, floods, earthquakes, evolution, volcanic eruptions—the list goes on and on. The argument has been made that humans are very arrogant to think that we are responsible for what is actually the natural evolution of our planet. Most planets and their moons change over time. Why would the earth be any different?

Serbian astronomer Milutin Milankovitch's theory links earth's climatic changes with periodic changes in the Earth's orbit around the sun. He believed that the earth wobbled on its axis between 22 to 25 degrees on cycles of 41,000 years. This tilt cycle affects the severity or mildness of seasons. He calculated this by measuring the position of the stars and by calculating the gravitational pull of other planets and stars. This theory predicts there won't be another ice age for 50,000 to 100,000 years.

No one really knows why natural disasters happen. Each of us can only come up with our own theories. But it wouldn't hurt to take better care of our environment. Prayer might help as well.

Scientists are working on early detection systems for natural disasters. Hopefully this will help to save more people. Until then we will have to observe what happens to Earth and all of its inhabitants while doing what we can to make it better. ♦



BY DUSTIN KRAMER

YOUR TAKE

I told myself that under no circumstances would I write my next political thoughts on the growing Iranian threat. Unfortunately, I cannot keep that promise. Today, officials in both Iran and Russia came forward to announce a "basic" deal on the terms of Iran's choice to develop nuclear technology. I would like to say that the deal says Iran will stop researching nuclear technology, but it does not.

I would like to say then that the deal says that Russia can enrich the uranium required for Iran's development. However, in the past, Iran has always stated that it has the basic right to develop the technology within its own borders and with regulations from any

other states or even the UN. So, what does the agreement state? The honest truth - nobody knows that answer except for Iran and Russia. It is a secret deal in that everyone has been informed of its existence, and yet nobody knows what it says for sure. If this reminds you of another era in history, you're on the same thought wave as me.

Prior to the Great War (World War I), the world was in a state of rapid imperialism and often forged secret alliances with each other in order to secure borders. This naturally led to Europe being split, literally in two. Finally, the straw that broke the camel's back happened and the War erupted into a fury lasting (arguably) from August 1914 until September 1945.

I wonder what the "last straw" is in today's terms. The worst possible case scenario is that Iran and Russia have reached a defensive treaty in order to guarantee the state's ability to develop nuclear technology.

I've been through the devastating scenario in past commentaries about the possible nuclear World War III that could come about. Let us hope it does not come to that. At this point in the game, however, I don't see it being avoided unless the world as a whole becomes one and works together to stamp out governments that threaten the world itself.

Richard Longstreth
Political Science/History
Freshman

Students question hazards due to events and location

I usually begin my articles with "as I was having my cup of java this morning..." but for the desire of mixing things up a little, I will begin differently. This morning as I was having my cup of coffee that was stolen, beaten, raped and then harassed, I realized that this campus is not as safe as it should be, and I questioned what is being done to deal with these issues.

On one side of our campus is public housing or generically labeled "the projects" and on the other side of our campus is an area known for drug busts and the production and distribution of crack cocaine. We have a busy highway in the front of us which makes it quite convenient for anyone to get on and off of campus.

It seems that our campus is in the middle of potential hazard, but with all respect for the university officials, they have done a great job ensuring our safety and enabling us to be one of the safest campuses, until recently.

So what is going on now? We are having reports of burglaries, alcohol-related injuries, attacks on people and property and the loss of our beloved ATM machine.

We now get this alert system that feeds us information when a situation occurs on campus. Maybe we should follow the

footsteps of the Homeland Security and create a colored alert system that warns us if activity on campus has the possibility of being green-ok, orange-medium alert or red-high alert.

There are also rumors of rapes and sexual assaults on campus, but I can neither confirm nor deny these claims. It is just talk around campus and can unfortunately only be considered valuable if the information is released, and with all respect to the victims, that should only be privileged information.

But what are we doing to keep this campus safer and ensuring that a rape case that happened recently at the Middle Tennessee State University campus does not happen here?

I say use the fines. The parking authority here has absolutely no problem placing a nice \$25-35 penalty on you car if you park in a white zone if you have a green decal or park in a green zone if you have a red decal, so I suggest using this money wisely.

I would not mind paying those ridiculous fines if I knew that they were going to a good cause. Make these fines our "college safety fund," and use it for our protection by staffing more security at more places on campus and creating other means of making this campus safer.

We supposedly have a system that gives students the option of calling someone on campus to walk them to the car. That information is not readily available or advertised. Make this a public relations campaign that shows what this campus is doing to make us safer and do not assume that e-mail reminders are adequate. ♦

Regarding the reaction to plans to turn over terminal operations at several United States ports to a company owned by the United Arab Emirates, the headline that comes to mind reads something like this: "Bush Administration Gives Henhouse Contract to Foxes;

Expresses Surprise at Uproar." If they really are surprised over there on 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, that is not a good sign.

No matter what the particulars of the deal are, for God's sake, what is the possible

explanation for the Bush administration's astounding lack of understanding in regard to the political ramifications, unless it is simply that they have become utterly disconnected from the electorate? This is obtuseness and imperial hubris taken to dizzying heights on the rocket fuel of sheer arrogance, or possibly high-octane stupidity.

So far, the explanations given by the White House are, if anything, nearly as disquieting as the initial reports. If indeed neither the President nor the chief of

Homeland Security knew anything about this, considering the implications for national security, is that supposed to make me feel better?

Even if the reality is that security operations remain in the hands of the Coast Guard and the Bureau of Customs, even if the company hires primarily Americans to handle actual port operations, this still requires a suspension of disbelief that most Americans are not capable of. Even if, and I mean "IF" in big, bold, underlined, size-72 font red capital letters here, even if the Homeland Security bureaucrats dot all the I's and cross all the T's on everything, the message it sends is one of stunning disregard for the legitimate concerns of the American people.

Even worse, the manner in which this was handled will do nothing but bolster the various conspiracy-theory narratives that have circulated in the wake of 9-11. At a point when those flames had just begun to die down, what did this secretive deal accomplish except for pouring gasoline on the coals?

Suddenly, the Michael Moores of the world have regained credibility, due to a decision that is seemingly at odds with the incessant Homeland Security rhetoric regarding the danger of our ports being "soft targets" for terrorist infiltration.

Perception is not always reality, but the way in which Americans

perceive this deal will undoubtedly severely undermine this administration's already damaged reputation. It certainly can't help the image of an administration that is seen as being in the pocket of corporate interests, even among many of their supporters.

The Republicans have ridden the coattails of national security concerns through two elections. More than anything else, that single issue goes a long way toward explaining the fact that there is a second Bush term at all. Suddenly, for many, the face of national security is not President George Bush, but rather Democratic Senators Chuck Schumer, Hillary Clinton and Barbara Boxer.

Maybe the intervening nine months between now and the 2006 Congressional mid-terms will see a shift back in the other direction, but for now it appears that the Republican leadership has taken for granted all but their most die-hard supporters. That has not been, and never will be, a majority for them.

Even if this current deal with DPW is not what it appears to be, the fact that the administration tried to get this done without debate or oversight may be enough to return a Democratic majority to one or both houses in November. At that point, George Bush becomes the lamest of lame ducks and the frenzied lead-up to 2008 may surpass anything we've seen in quite a long time. ♦

Campus dinner emphasized etiquette as essential part of business world

BY KEITH BUCHANAN
Guest Writer

In our fast-paced world of whopper burgers, biggie fries and Styrofoam containers, the word "etiquette" just doesn't seem to fit into the vernacular of the times. On Wednesday, Feb. 22, however, this word of French origin had its true international meaning brought to the forefront with an interactive presentation by Lori Austin, of the Clarksville Better Business Bureau. The workshop, presented in the U.C. Cumberland room, courtesy of Student Life and Leadership, was titled

Business Dining Etiquette and included questions, discussion and a four course meal (a small price to pay to learn business etiquette).

The purpose of this "dining experience" was to bring much needed perspective to that person who is perhaps pursuing a professional or executive job opening that includes a business meal.

The workshop not only addressed the issue of public dining etiquette, but how to dress, behave and conduct oneself for an impending interview.

Indeed, when queried concerning some of the

biggest mistakes made by potential employees during or away from a business meal, Austin offered the following top four blunders: (1) dining etiquette, (2)

personal appearance, (3) tardiness (a definite no-no), and (4) rudeness. Add to this the fact that potential employers use eye contact and firm handshakes as two of the major indicators of employability and one can see how crucial this thing called etiquette becomes.

While most probably understand the meaning of the word, the use of proper etiquette is sadly lacking in everyday practice.

I'm sure that each person reading this article, at some point in his or her life has had the proverbial parental tongue lashing for bad manners, forgetfulness in addressing your elders as "yes sir" or "no ma'am" or the one thing you never, ever do in public (at least intentionally), belching.

So we must admit, for today's graduating student pursuing job opportunities, Mom and Pop were pretty much correct about the use of proper etiquette, no matter where you are or in whose company you choose to be. It tells people more about you than you

sometimes realize.

Kudos to Lindsay Mazer and Shaun Ketterman for organizing this insightful event and other workshops they have sponsored and are planning to sponsor. After interviewing some of the students present, it quickly became evident that they were not as informed as they had initially thought concerning how to conduct oneself in the proper manner.

This is, after all, your life (the only one you will have), so why not use what you can learn. The benefits are great and the opportunities limitless. ♦

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Send your letters to the editor in a Word document to theallstate@apsu.edu by 4 p.m. on Friday. Please include your name, classification and major or job title.

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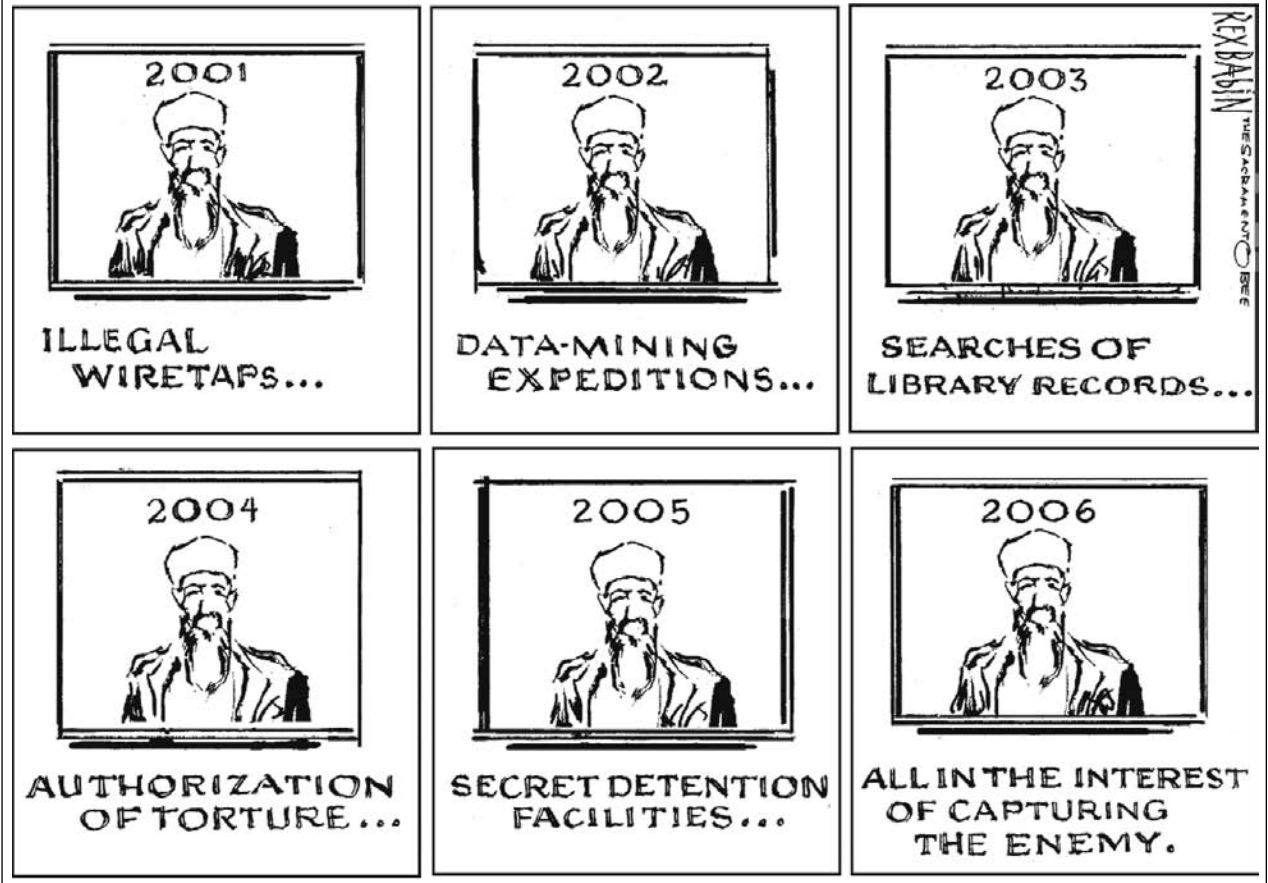
Letters to the editor should be emailed as a text only document or as a Word document including the author's full name, address and telephone number (plus major and class if applicable). All letters will be checked for authenticity. Letters should be received no later than 4 p.m. on Friday of each week for it to be considered for publication. Letters may be edited for clarity and grammar.

Religion plus science equals renewal of self-discovery and growth

Do the boundaries of science and religion ever meet? Many disputes (homosexual orientation, origin of species, stem cell research, etc.) exist in this active conflict, and many Americans are faced with an internal conflict of the ethical debate. We must acknowledge that there is a place for both science and religion and not be so guarded; the two topics do work in harmony. Scientific breakthroughs occur

when a theory is proven through tested observations. These new discoveries are only new epiphanies to what has already and always existed. The purpose of science is to better understand the surroundings around us, to better know the natural world. Confidence in science shouldn't create any disbelief in God. Science is not an opposing force working to discredit Allah. Faith will defend itself, and no shame should be taken to furthering your own understanding. We were given this beautiful gift of study and exploration; let's use it. When we achieve an advancement of knowledge we should rejoice because another piece of our omnipotent Creator has just been revealed. "Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see" (Hebrews 11:1). Faith has been put forth as an explanation of the supernatural. If something were not supernatural, then no faith would be required. I understand biblical text does state that the origin of the earth is approximately

10,000 years, and scientific evidence says otherwise. We must understand though, the biblical texts were written by imperfect men. These men were not exposed to the technology and historical discoveries we know of today. Bottom line: We shouldn't expect ancient biblical text to embody a depiction of the complete physical world. Religion puts forth its theories as "truth," but is it wrong to approach your spirituality through questioning? Our reasoning is subject to error, but the theories put forth by the Church are fallible too. Our questioning may lead us astray, but wouldn't the foundation of your fundamental beliefs be tested and strengthened? Problems occur when one aspect of knowledge with exclusion to the other is insisted upon. The dilemma with solely upholding faith is that it can be a prison of your ideas. Your mind is trapped. Faith can attempt to seclude your mind and eliminate questioning. This approach can leave you lacking diversity and not really knowing your own self. The only way to discover inaccurate ideas is through questioning. Questioning can go to an extreme though. If every idea is approached through reason, a person will have no basis for anything they believe; they will have no foundation. Freethinkers can sometimes contradict themselves by being able to justify conflicting approaches to an idea. If all someone has are questions, then a person will never know. Science and religion must be looked upon as components to a holistic idea. The distinctions between the purpose of science and religion must be understood in order to allow self-discovery and world progression. The two can work to affirm each other in harmony. ♦



Black History Month honors remarkability

BY LOIS JONES
Staff Writer

Many times you hear people say, "Why do we have a black history month? We don't have a _____ history month!" (You fill in the blank.) The majority of you were born in the 1980s. You were not born into a world with segregation enforced by the government and local police departments. Most of your parents weren't even born when schools were segregated. Segregation in schools ended in 1963 in Montgomery, Ala. with two black elementary schools, and three black high school students being escorted to school by the very same police force that kept them from setting foot on that school property only days before. This fact is relevant because we are discussing black history. Think about who was writing the history books. If the world was segregated, would white historians feel compelled to include all of the black history makers? The answer to that question is a definite NO! If you would take the time to go to the library and check out a black history book, I do believe you would say over and over again "I didn't know that," in regards to inventors, explorers, scientists, doctors, scholars, artists and everyday people that did or said things that changed our world. Rosa Parks was one of those everyday people. She was credited as the "mother of the civil rights movement." Before she refused to give up her seat and move to the back of the bus, she was just another black woman living in Alabama. Because Parks decided one day that she was going to sit where she wanted, and not follow the bus driver's orders to move to the back, she changed history. Maybe you don't know much about the people in the past who changed our world. Names that you recognize now like Oprah Winfrey, Magic Johnson, Shaquille

O'Neal, Mary J. Blige and Colin Powell, would not have attained the degree of success and fame if it were not for the people that went before them and affected change. Black history is rich in culture. The influence of many countries contributed to the rich culture we know today. Black history month is a long overdue acknowledgement and recognition of all the people in history that were left out of the books due to the color of their skin. None of us can choose what race we are. We are so fortunate to live during a time when we can choose our future and not have it dictated by the color of our skin. Yes, racism is not gone, but the cure for racism is education because racism is born out of ignorance. Maybe you'll accept this challenge. See if you can name 10 people in history, and what they did to change this world, that should be celebrated during black history month. If this seems like a daunting task to you, then the point for having Black History Month has been made. Use this celebration period to educate yourself. Go to our library and check out a book about black history or get on the web and get access a plethora of information. There is a wealth of knowledge out there that will help educate you. Remember when you educate yourself, you take away your ignorance on a subject. Open your minds and embrace diversity. We are lucky to have many cultures to learn from. Maybe when you have grandchildren there will be no black history month. If there were to be no black history month it would only be because the history books would have been re-written to include a more accurate representation of events that changed the future for us all – incorporating black history, not as "black" history but as history that was made by remarkable people who also were born with a skin color other than white. ♦

Generation X and Generation Y have capabilities for better representation

Last week a couple of friends and I got into a discussion concerning our generations' lack of political activity. Generation X includes those born between 1965 and 1978; Generation Y includes those born between 1980 and 2000. It seems that these generations are more concerned with their own lives than what's going on in our country. I'm not saying that they don't care about things, but I hear a lot of people say that they don't vote because their vote doesn't count. They believe they can't make a difference. Wake up people! We have an obligation to ourselves to choose who we put into power. The president becomes the face of America. This person represents us in other countries and makes many decisions that will affect our lives. He/she chooses the cabinet that stands beside him/her. (Granted there has not been a female president, but times are changing and anything is possible.) This is our country! It's time to take control and give power to someone who deserves it. The same parties have been making decisions for us for years. Every election puts a president into office who is either a Republican or a Democrat. What about the candidates from the Independent or Green Parties along with many others? We must not forget there are other choices out there. We must research our options to ensure that we are



OPINION EDITOR
Amanda Wadley

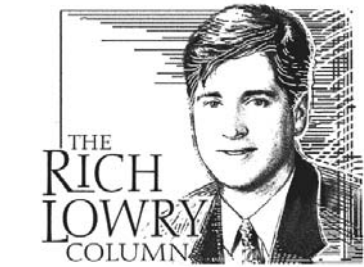
“More and more of our generations do not favor the current-two party system and are more likely to favor independent candidates.”

represented. Democrats and Republicans have been in power for so long they have forgotten that they represent us. They follow their own agendas. They cater to older generations (Baby Boomers) in order to gain power and votes. They get caught up in the money and "what this country can do for [them]." This cannot go on. We are the new face of our country. We must get involved in what is going on in our government. It doesn't do a bit of good to ignore politics and what goes on behind the scenes; they will not go away. We must educate ourselves in what candidates stand for on issues such as abortion, gay marriage, homeland security, education, health care, etc. I do not want to see a debate only between the Democratic and Republican candidates. I want to see them all and hear what they have to say. I want to know first hand what they stand for. My friend made a suggestion. He said that shows like American Idol and Dancing with the Stars play during peek hours. Why can't we have a huge national debate during prime time on several channels? We should be able to call in with questions and/or have representatives of our generation in the audience to force each candidate to talk about important

issues. We could call them out on the bull they try to feed voters while educating ourselves on all candidates. We could actually put someone in power that deserves to be there. The problem is marketing this kind of program to Generation X and Y. Will we sit up and show interest? Or will we think "Oh, that's boring. I don't want to watch that." Sad to say, this type of show would have to be flashy and loud to catch the eye of our generations. It would need sponsors from products that we use. It could not be the usual bland and boring debate that usually goes on. Basically, it would have to have pizzazz to hold our attention. However, it might actually work, especially because it contains more than the usual parties. More and more of our generations do not favor the current-two party system and are more likely to favor independent candidates. It has been unfortunate that these other parties do not receive the coverage they deserve—through media especially. And even though we have the means today (the internet) to research other candidates, their names are hardly mentioned at all (if any.) The bottom line is that we have to take initiative to learn all we can about those running for office. Our generations must take the initiative to become educated on each candidate. During this last election, I didn't really like either of the Democratic or Republican candidates. I didn't know anything about the other candidates so I voted for what I thought was the lesser of two evils. This was shameful on my part. If Generation X and Generation Y would take initiative to not only educate ourselves but to also vote intelligently, we could change the way our country is run. We could take control and put a new face in power that truly represents us to the world. ♦

Tribal casinos become scandalous through crude political agendas

Political contributions from Indian tribes soaked in gambling revenues have increased exponentially in recent years, from a mere \$2,000 in 1999 to more than \$7 million in 2004. But the trend has suddenly reversed. Now it's the politicians giving money to tribes, as dozens of pols who happily took dollars from Jack Abramoff-associated tribes hurriedly return the cash or hand it over to charity. Giving back money is nice. But one wonders: What did these members of Congress think these contributions were for if not advancing the cause of an Indian gambling industry that has always had a strong whiff of the scam about it? Congress is going to rush to nominally clean itself up in exercises of symbolic self-flagellation, like reducing the lobbyist gift



THE RICH LOWRY COLUMN

ban from \$50 to \$20 but it won't address the root of the scandal unless it reforms the absurd, inherently corruptible law and practices surrounding the creation of new money-minting Indian casinos. Congress passed the Indian Gambling Regulatory Act in 1988 basically with the intention of letting tribes run bingo games. Armed with the opening presented by

the act and with the fiction of tribal sovereignty, tribes opened casinos that allowed them to undertake the old-fashioned business of buying politicians. The growth of tribal casinos exploded. There are now 400 of them in more than half the states in the country. "What state governments and Congress don't think about is that if you open the door a crack, because of the tremendous amount of money that legal gambling brings in there will be entrepreneurs who will push it wide open," I. Nelson Rose of Whittier Law School in Southern California told congressional Quarterly Weekly. The word "entrepreneurs" is overly generous, since gambling doesn't always attract the most high-minded businessmen.

The Indian casino business is flagrantly detached from its original justification of letting supposedly sovereign nations govern themselves on their own land. Since reservations tend to be in low population areas, there has been a push called "reservation shopping" to open casinos closer to urban areas. In an extreme example, Wisconsin-based tribes want to build casinos in the Catskills in New York. There are at least 30 proposals for off-reservation casinos around the country and roughly 200 petitions for new "tribes" to be recognized by the federal government so they can go into the casino business too. With every new tribe and casino, there is more loot to be poured into politics if not through Jack Abramoff, through more discreet lobbyists.

Rep. Frank Wolf, R-Va. sent a letter last month to President Bush urging him to order a moratorium on the opening of more tribal casinos. In the meantime, Congress can take up legislation reforming the much-abused 1988 Indian gambling law. This effort, obviously called for on public-policy grounds, has the disadvantage of not having any obscenely moneyed interests behind it. Members of Congress will probably cluck over the Abramoff scandal, wait for things to cool off and enjoy it when the contribution stream keeps running the way it usually does: from Indian casinos to them. ♦

Rich Lowry is editor of theNational Review.

Word of the Week:
obstreperous *adj.*
1: marked by unruly or aggressive noisiness.
2: stubbornly resistant to control.

Etymology:
Latin *obstreperus*, from *obstreperere* to clamor against, from *ob-* "against" + *strepere* "to make a noise"

www.m-w.com

Today in the Past: 1950
"Ripley's Believe It or Not" debuts

The TV series Ripley's Believe It or Not, featuring strange and unusual phenomena, begins broadcasting. Inspired by a successful radio series, the show ran until September 1950. It enjoyed a revival in 1982, with film star Jack Palance as host. The new show aired on ABC for three and a half years.

1949
First commercially licensed FM station

Nashville radio station W47NV begins transmitting. The station was the first in the country to receive a license for FM radio transmission: All previous commercial stations transmitted via AM, which was more prone to static and interference. The station started its FM broadcast with a commercial for Nashville's Standard Candy Company.

www.historychannel.com

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:
"character"
"Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, ambition inspired, and success achieved." - Helen Keller (1880-1968) www.quotationspage.com

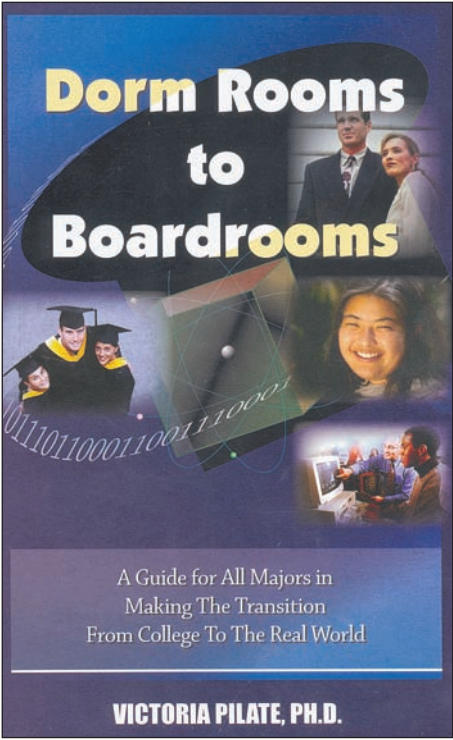
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Are you a Java Junkie?



PHOTO BY LOIS JONES/STAFF
GRAPHIC BY DUSTIN KRAMER/ART DIRECTOR

Lasaters Coffee & Tea 589 South Riverside Dr. 931-552-7722 Signature cup: Dark Roast	Cafe Paradiso 821 N 2nd St. 931-647-2231 Signature cup: Hot caramel coffee	Mugsy's Coffee Co. 3291 Ft. Cambell Blvd. 931-431-0400 Signature cup: Cumberland Brew	St. Louis Coffee Roasters 2840 Bastogne Ave. Ft. Cambell, KY 37042 270-697-1001
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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
This book, by Victoria Pilate, is full of helpful information every college student could use.

Book offers students real world advice

By TOM BONE
Staff Writer

Eventually we all will leave college. When you finally do, things about your lifestyle will change substantially. As an aid to easing this transition, Victoria Pilate has written a book titled "Dorm Rooms to Boardrooms." The book was obviously written by someone who has obtained some success in the corporate world. As a result, the main points presented tend to be most applicable to those interested in corporate America. This is fine, but it means that things like "cubical living" (in chapter 1) might be slightly less applicable to those seeking employment in, the arts or military. Like all books, this one has its target audience. This is not to say the book is irrelevant. There are many useful tips and suggestions contained within it. Even those of us still in college and not immediately searching for a job can find topics of merit. Chapter 8, "Living the Good Life," is absolutely full of information on general health and how it

relates to your performance mentally and physically. In another chapter are some sage tips for dealing with roommates. There is a lot of good information in the book. There are, however, some negative aspects of the book as well. Page layout was a running concern all the way through the text. It became wearisome to try to read the main body at times because of little sub-topic boxes that are littered fairly randomly throughout the pages. Some of these boxes contain amusing anecdotes. Others repeat verbatim something said in the main body and as such are completely unnecessary. These cumbersome intrusions added little to the book that could not have been integrated into the text or placed more simply as footnotes. Additionally, the writing was for the most part decent, but not spectacular. Though the topic might be a little dry, the linguistics used by Pilate need not be. Sometimes the way an idea is presented is just not very polished. This lack of clear writing occasionally obscures the information she wished to convey. This was rare, but it did occur more

than it should have. One example was in the chapter on office politics. Late in the chapter Pilate gives a number of examples of typical people you might encounter in an office. This section did not sit well with me. First, people will categorically defy classification. Frequently, no sooner will you have labeled someone a jerk than they will go out of their way to help you. I realize that Pilate is generalizing, but it is still rather irksome. Some of the information is vital and useful to the corporate world, but some of it is also simply common sense. I'm not sure it needed to be addressed to the majority of college grads (e.g. dress nicely, get enough sleep, watch your spending, etc.). I might be placing too much faith in my colleagues, but it seems to me if you had your life together enough to actually graduate, you probably are enough on the ball to know to bathe yourself before an important interview. If you are looking to enter the job market, pick this book up if you run across it, but don't make an extra effort to find it. ♦

Bessie Smith play enjoyed at the Roxy Regional Theatre

By A.J. Dugger
Staff Writer

Bessie Smith would be extremely proud if she saw the play on her life that has been presented by the Roxy Regional Theatre here in Clarksville. The play, titled, "BESSIE: The Life and Music of Bessie Smith," was shown every Friday, Saturday and Sunday night in February to honor Black History Month. The play was humorous and entertaining, and it offered a very informative glimpse into the life of the legendary blues singer with the unforgettable voice. Born on April 15, 1894 in Chattanooga, Tenn., Smith lost both of her parents at an early age. When she was nine years old, she and her younger brother, Andrew, gained attention by performing on the streets. Smith displayed her vocal talents, while her brother accompanied her on guitar. In 1923, she was signed to Columbia Records. As the headliner of T.O.B.A (Theater Owner's Booking Association), Smith toured and impressed all audiences with her confident stage presence and soulful singing voice. The 1920s was a good decade for her and she was easily the highest paid African American entertainer of that period. She even

recorded with other greats of her time, most notably Louis Armstrong. Her trademark song and biggest selling single was "Down Hearted Blues," which was written by singer Alberta Hunter. The play was narrated almost in its entirety by the title character herself. One amazing and impressive aspect of the play was that only three people played the majority of all of the characters. Smith was played to perfection by local actress Shirine Babb, who is originally from New York. Along with capturing Smith's energy and charisma, Babb also imitates Smith's singing voice from all angles; from the strong, floating falsetto, to the deep, alto notes. Babb is very believable as the legendary blues singer. Austin Peay State University music major Andrew Dykes Jr. played four different roles in the play, ranging from Smith's ex-husband Jack Gee, to Richard Morgan, who was Smith's manager later on in her career. Likewise, actress Melanie Mitchell played more than two roles, including one male character. The play presented an honest look at Smith's life, showcasing numerous ups and downs. Her relationship troubles are revealed, along with her consistent alcohol drinking. Early in her recording career, she was ripped off by her scheming record producer Clarence Williams (which resulted in a hilarious

chase scene), and Smith also had a stormy marriage to Jack Gee, who was revealed later to be somewhat of a flamboyant ladies' man. The singer also went through a tough time during the Great Depression. Not only was this particular period a lackluster for music in general, but this was the era where blues music was being replaced by the newer, upbeat swing music. The audience also saw her other struggles throughout this time, including segregation, alcoholism and even a confrontation with the Ku Klux Klan. Although her career was in decline, she soon began to turn things around and move into a better direction. She began to date her manger, Richard Morgan, and even recorded a few modest swing hits. However, on September 26, 1937, she died from the injuries she sustained from a car crash. The singer was 43 years old. It must be noted that Smith's influence can be heard in a large handful of singers who came after her. Traces of her voice and sound can be heard in Billie Holiday, Mahalia Jackson, and in most recent years, Norah Jones. "BESSIE" was a wonderful production to watch. It featured top-notch comedy, action and singing. It was educational and entertaining, as well as inspiring and enjoyable. ♦

New artist emerges

By REBECCA YEATTS
Staff Writer

Though it's called Music City, Nashville is not always a friendly city when it comes to musicians. Especially musicians that don't fit the traditional Nashville mold. To be a pop/rock artist and make it in the country music capitol of the world is a big deal. The competition can get pretty vicious. But in a music scene that has the potential to be brutally cutthroat, singer/songwriter Sam Brooker is all about the love.

Initially lured by an RCA development deal that went sour, Brooker came to Nashville by way of New York a few years ago. Despite the bump in the road, he's been on fire ever since. Twice voted Nashville's Best Local Songwriter in Nashville Scene's annual reader poll, Brooker's unique blend of funk, pop and jazz is captivating — but for him, it's just natural.

"I just do what feels right — love grooves, singable melodies and warm sounds," said Brooker.

But musicians create music for people to hear. Since his major label deal didn't pan out, Brooker got tired of waiting around and took matters into his own hands.

He has since created a media machine that is throwing almost every traditional method of music distribution out the window. Brooker's baby is aptly called ArtistRevolution and it's taking over the Nashville 'indie' scene one band at a time. From production to recording to live performances, ArtistRevolution is a complex, multi-layered concept that has a finger in every pot of the musical process.

"It's a big concept, but I've broken it down into smaller areas and goals," said Brooker. "The heart of the concept came about when I set up my home studio and realized I didn't need to pursue any labels for recording budgets. I could create at my own pace whenever I felt like it."

With technology on his side, Brooker was able to completely scrap the traditional CD method of distribution and go exclusively to Internet downloads.

Sambrooker.com is the first of the ArtistRevolution web sites. For a one-time fee of \$14.95, visitors have unlimited access to Brooker's entire catalog of work, including videos and live recordings. That's just scratching the surface of the ArtistRevolution phenomenon.

Brooker has about a million coals in the fire. The 'ArtistRevolution Good Music Nights' is at Nashville's 12th and Porter on the third Thursday of every month. Bookers is also been busy with a live DVD featuring 12 local bands that is currently being edited for a June release. A newly filmed TV pilot will soon be pitched to



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Sam Brooker, founder of ArtistRevolution, offers a one-time fee for unlimited downloads of his music. Visit www.sambrooker.com for more information.

a handful of cable networks. Also, Brooker is producing local artists in his home studio. Essentially, he is opening doors for unknown artists who otherwise wouldn't have a chance, and trying to eliminate the harsh competition in the scene.

"ArtistRevolution is all about the best music out there and building trusting relationships with artists who perform," Brooker said.

The best part about the whole ArtistRevolution idea is that Brooker truly believes in what he, and the other artists in the network, are doing.

"When I first came to Nashville in 1996, I kept hearing that there was going to be a pop/rock revolution coming out of Nashville," Brooker said. "I'm finally starting to believe that."

Sometimes you just can't wait around anymore and you have to do it yourself. You have to start the revolution. And that's just what Sam Brooker has done.

For more information about Sam Brooker and ArtistRevolution, visit www.sambrooker.com or www.myspace.com/sambrooker. ♦

Tips to make Spring Break '06 a memorable experience

By JESSICA LAVELY
Staff Writer

spring (n): A time of growth and renewal
break (v): To interrupt or cease an activity

The most favorite and anticipated season throughout this nation is spring. No wonder, with the warm weather, the calm atmosphere and the Spring Breaks.

For eleven more days, it will be hard to study for the upcoming week. By "hard studying" I mean, "hard partying." Isn't that what Spring Break is equivalent to? Long nights, dreaded mornings, smiles, laughter, road trips and making the best memories throughout your college career?

The spring breaks that are experienced now are probably going to be the best times of your entire life, so relax and enjoy.

The top places that people usually go during their break are:

Cancun, Mexico- Where the beaches are white with clear water and plenty of hot sun . The usual activities are scuba diving, fishing and shopping the streets for little knick-knacks.

Dominican Republic- Go scuba diving, surfing, white water rafting and watch the festivities in the warm weather.

Paradise Island, Bahamas- Go to Club Rush and hit the spa the day after. What more could anyone ask for?

Las Vegas, Nev.- Visit Treasure Island, spend some cash at the casinos and enjoy the City of Lights with its endless parties and festivities.

New York City, N.Y.- Where to start? Visit Ellis Island, Coney Island, Times Square, Madison Square Garden, Broadway and Yankee Stadium. Enjoy the diverse atmosphere and the rush of the city.

San Francisco, Calif.- Ride a trolley for the first time, walk the Golden Gate Bridge, visit Chinatown and the beaches.

Daytona Beach, Fla.- go canoeing, jet skiing, snorkeling, scuba diving or just hang out at the beach.

You never know just what you might see there.

Those are the most popular tourist sites during Spring Break, but the only issue might be the affordability of going to those places. We are still college students struggling to pave our way into society.

Here are some close to home (and possibly more affordable) ideas, some in-state and some out-of-state, for those who just need to get out of Clarksville.

Graceland/Memphis, Tenn.- Take a tour of Elvis Presley's mansion right here in Tennessee. While you're in the area, visit the Caesar Museum in Memphis, which is enclosed in a huge pyramid.

Check out the Civil Rights Museum also located in Memphis, which shows the site of Martin Luther King Jr's place of assassination and much more.

Chicago, Ill.- Visit the Navy Pier, stroll down Michigan Avenue, go to the top of the Sears Tower or take a boat ride through Chicago and peer out over the Great Lakes.

Asheville, N.C.- Visit the Biltmore Estate in Asheville, North Carolina. The biggest house ever, with beautiful rooms still intact from the past.

Part of the house was also featured in the movie "Hannibal." Walk through the gardens, eat in the miniature 'town' on the estate and do some shopping.

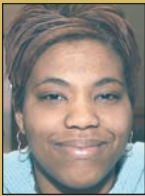
Atlanta, Ga.- "I was thinking about going to Atlanta for a few days," said Joshua Lamb, a junior. "I want to see the new aquarium that opened recently."

Alongside the new aquarium, Atlanta has many other activities being held. Tour through an art gallery, enjoy a mystery murder dinner on a train, listen to Atlanta's symphony orchestra or catch some ball games.

Panama City, Fla.- Enjoy Florida, with its white beaches and water sports. "Last year I went to Panama City and Destin," said Lamb. "I partied a lot with twelve of my friends and just visited old friends from high school."

Whether you are relaxing on the beach, playing water sports or just getting reunited with friends, have fun this Spring Break and be safe. ♦

“How much coffee do you drink a week?”



BOYD

“I drink one a day...everyday”
Chee-tara Boyd
Psychology
Sophomore



CHRISTOPHER

“I drink a cup a day before classes. I even have a coffee cup in my room and don't even use it.”
Collin Christopher
Physics
Freshman



CULPEPPER

“Sometimes I have two in the morning, one in the afternoon and one at night. I'm a coffee junkie.”
Zach Culpepper
Mass Comm
Freshman



CHOATE

“I'd say about five a week.”
Tim Choate
Spanish
Freshman



PULLEY

“Two in the morning, three times a week.”
Bradon Pulley
Political Science
Freshman



ROGERS

“I drink about two. I like to make it like hot cocoa, very sweet.”
Andrea Rogers
Education
Junior



SEXTON

“I go to Java City three or four times a week. And sometimes twice a day”
Hillary Sexton
Speech and Theatre Education
Freshman



WILLIAMS

“I'm a social coffee drinker, I drink coffee at church.”
Rachel Williams
Psychiatry
Freshman



‘Vagina’ makes a comeback at APSU



LOIS JONES/STAFF

Catherine Devila, far left, and Jennifer Whitcomb-Olivia practice the Vagina Monologues , showing March 1 at Clement Auditorium.

By LOIS JONES
Staff Writer

At Austin Peay State University we have the opportunity to experience “The Vagina Monologues,” written by Eve Ensler. Ensler dispels the mystery and explores women's experiences through her monologues.

The language is bold, frank, foul and poignant. You will laugh so hard that you will cry. You will cry when you hear about the female torture and mutilation going on in the world.

The show is in the Clement Auditorium on Tuesday, Feb. 28 and Wednesday, March 1, at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$5 each or \$3 with a toiletry item for Safehouse.

All proceeds will be donated to the United Methodist Urban Ministries and the Women's Rape and Sexual Abuse Center in Clarksville. ♦

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JIM & TIM BY JOHN LUDWIG



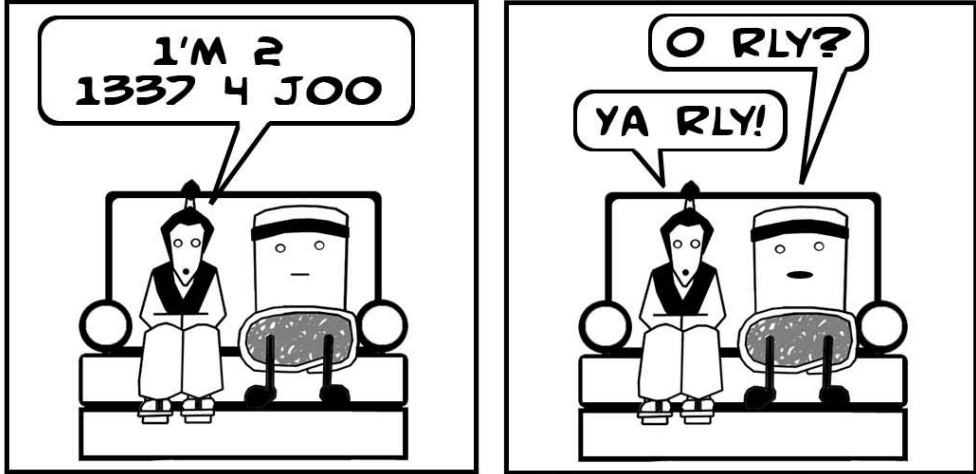
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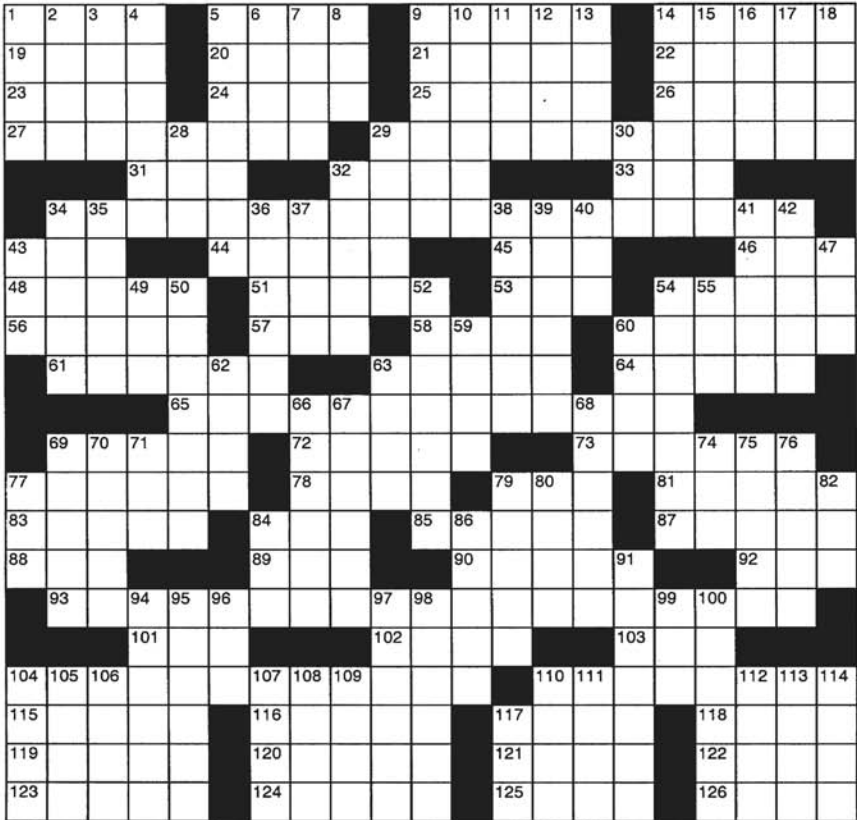
by R. Dustin Kramer

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Super Crossword

GOURMET DISMAY

- ACROSS
- 1 Had kittens?
5 Frolic
9 Elsie's appendage
14 Gather
19 Come unglued
20 Spread in a tub
21 Sib's kid
22 Send the money
23 Tel —
24 Balmy
25 Build a barrier
26 Where Athenians assembled by an
27 Combative
29 Speaker of remark at
34 Across
31 Sloth or anger
32 Bone-dry
33 Lubricate
34 Start of remark
43 Dogpatch's Daisy —
44 Inventor Howe
45 — Grande
46 Chop
48 Bronte's "— Grey"
51 More aloof
- 53 Merino male
54 Emulate
57 Rocker
58 "Gracious me!"
60 Actress Wendy
61 Dignified calm
63 Writer Bret
64 Church instrument
65 Part 2 of remark
69 With 29 Down, "Touched by an Angel" star
72 Leases
73 Gives in to gravity
77 Not as messy
78 Bk. loan
79 53 Across' mate
81 Rock's — Trick
83 Like Yale's walls
84 — degree
85 Day or Duke
87 Yaphet of "Homicide"
88 Saucepan
- 89 Actress MacGraw
90 Get the soap off
92 "Sea Hunt" shocker
93 Part 3 of remark
101 — G.
102 Mrs. Charlie Chaplin
103 Ferris-wheel unit
104 End of remark
110 Texas town
115 Tycoon
116 Time on the throne
117 Word with pad or powder
118 Equipment
119 Disintegrate
120 Football's Herber
121 Frank or Francis
122 Peruvian Indian
123 Gardening tool
124 Elbowed
125 Dandelion, for one
126 Playwright Coward
- DOWN
- 1 Scary
2 Sitarist Shankar
3 Demonic
4 Concoct
5 Bookstore section
6 Ken or Lena
7 Dissolve
8 Seal school
9 Open Old Glory
10 Fuel choice
11 Lions' lairs
12 "Behold!" to Brutus
13 Virginia —
14 Mideastern tongue
15 Word form for "great"
16 Run — (lose control)
17 Father
18 Show-stopper
28 Pewter base
29 See 69 Across
30 Card game
32 "Carmen" setting
34 Bet
35 Ergo
36 Master
37 Isinglass
38 Thiss and thaat
- 39 Highfalutin' headgear
40 "— Dooley" ('58 hit)
41 Actress Maureen
42 Sorbo or Spacey
43 Deface
47 Elfin
49 "The Bells" monogram
50 Bad
52 Showed one's feelings
54 Sorcerer
55 Unit of work
59 Univ. tests
60 Piglet's papa
62 Practice boxing
63 — up (detained)
66 Imitation gold
67 Feature
68 Crusader kingdom
69 St. Andrews clod
70 Writer Wharton
71 Recline
74 "Now I've got you!" trim
75 Lorre or Loly
76 Gorged
- 77 Hint
79 Slezak or Eleniak
80 Jeroboam contents
82 Office seeker, for short
84 Eastern "Way"
86 Primate
91 Flew the coop
94 Refer (to)
95 Bank employee
96 Court
97 — bag
98 Lamented
99 Conflict
100 Starting point
104 Hoskins in "Hook"
105 Puzzle part
106 Like kids at Christmas
107 Certain sandwich
108 Architect Saarinen
109 Hughes' milieu
110 Top-notch
111 Lion's pride
112 Jocular Jay
113 Teddy
114 Evangelist Roberts
117 Observed



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D

Wanda McMoore

"Diversity Is YOU!"

Diversity has many references and applications, but its core and most basic meaning is simply: variety of options. There are many expressions of diversity evident in our languages, thoughts, vehicles, homes, preferences of foods etc. Yet, the most profound example of diversity is the human being. Within the human race, diversity jumps right at you in the form of a variety of voices, facial expressions, physiques, physical and mental capabilities, skin tones and hair colors. Therefore, what is Diversity, it is all that is within YOU, share it and do not be afraid to see and embrace the Diversity in others

I

Rebecca McCurdy

Diversity to me is not black and white. Diversity is about race, religion, gender, sex, opinions, actions, and beliefs. No one person is exactly the same. Diversity can be changed on campus by getting more students to join any type of organization. When someone joins an organization he/she opens many opportunities for experiencing diversity. Knowing a variety of people allows others to see the differences in all of us and how we are all diverse in our own unique way.

V

Laura Shea Malmsten

To me diversity is the differences between the people we see each and everyday. It is not just the color of your skin or the church you attend; it is the unique personalities and characters that define you as a person. Diversity is the clothes you wear, the way you style your hair, the people you hang out with, and among others the way you order your coffee. In my eyes there is no color that can define me or the way I act; there is no building that can protest every emotion that I feel, I am different.

E

Jessica Massa

Diversity is a very important concept to American culture. It is not human nature for us to act like robots. We were raised in homes that cherish diversity and we should not be put in boxes by our skin color, hair style, or our way of life. When you sit beside someone in the computer lab or in your classroom the main thing you notice is how much they are like you. I wonder if many people here at Austin Peay want to get to know different people with diverse cultures and opinions.

R

CT Griswold

Diversity in itself is a multifaceted term. Most people view diversity as having a representative of many races present. Diversity is the ability to encompass the aspects of many cultures at once. America over the past 100 years has become a melting pot that is representative of the different cultures that populated the seven continents. Being diverse is being able function in different surroundings and being able to accept the fact that we as a people are all different. Diversity just is not having a "black" or a "white" person present in a group, diversity is more of expanding your views and learning about someone else's culture.

S

Joshua Newman

Typically when one thinks of the word diversity the first thing that comes to mind is race, but it is so much more than an ethical conglomeration. More so it is about our freedoms in this wonderful country of ours and the choices it allots us. From the forming of our country, to the unification of the original 13 states with the constitution, diversity has been prevalent throughout. Diversity allows us to experience new cultures, from their religion, cuisine, and the origins of which makes them so unique. In the simplest of terms diversity is the ability to choose.

IS...

Nick Totoro- ESSAY WINNER

Diversity is being able to be unique in a world that's unadorned. It is being able to learn a custom that seemed so distant it felt as though it was an illusion. Diversity is having the ability to take different families and make them one. Most importantly diversity is the ability to see the world for what it really is, different cultures but one at heart.

T

Y

RaShaune Echols

Dear World,

Rarely do I think of the impact a single entity has on an entire way of life. Since I feel the inquiry of diversity was built upon sheer curiosity, I will respond in what I hope to be a thorough and insightful approach.

I am in this world to eliminate ignorance. Just as Dr. King left his home, carrying "I Have a Dream" far beyond the boundaries of his mind, I am compelled to carry truth beyond myself. Like King, I must embrace my calling, displaying the results for the common goal of triumph.

Let us hope clouds of stubbornness will pass and individuality will cause unity that illuminates over the world with brilliant beauty.

Yours for the call of truth,
Diversity

Terwanda McMoore

Diversity is something that cannot be simply placed. It is like a spirit that thrives through the lives of everyday people. Being able to accept one another would increase the understanding of a diverse atmosphere.

Sometimes attending a different group's program or interacting with each other could make you appreciate what others enjoy. It can also prepare you for the life after college. When you sum it all up: age, race, culture, gender, sexuality, fashion, music, etc all add up to equal diversity.

Michael Weakley

Diversity is a concept that is misunderstood and misinterpreted. Some feel that to accept diversity you must indulge yourself into a new or different way of thinking that is not necessarily the case. Diversity is awareness with a little more flare. Diversity embraces that fact that none of us are exactly the same but we each have the ability to respect each other for our differences and appreciate our similarities. The opposite of awareness is stereotyping. The assumption that one group is this way or a certain ethnic group is that way is not understanding diversity it is the force behind creating prejudices.

Diversity is more than just color or creed, gender or sexual identity, religious preference or cultural identity, diversity is everything. Each race can be broken down to a million sub-categories so assuming that a stereotype about a race identifies who they are is completely off the mark. Individuals are unique and can not be labeled or forced into a category. People can identify themselves by race, sexual orientation, gender identity but more than that there are personalities that are matched to the individuals. Diversity is a powerful tool for understanding the human race as an individualistic set of creatures each creating a life that is genuinely there own. The ability to accept people as they are completely with total disregard for stereotypes is when the idea of diversity truly is felt.

Renata Outlaw- ESSAY WINNER

Diversity is a masterpiece awaiting unveiling. Imagine a palette of paints. Individually each color is just that, a color. However, when the colors are united on canvas they are all a part of a brilliant masterpiece. Each color is seen not only for its individual beauty, but also for its contribution to the composition. The world thirsting for the unveiling of this masterpiece. This thirst can only be quenched upon each person identifying the brilliance that lies within in effort to make humanity an authentic art form.

Student Life & Leadership
Austin Peay State University
931-221-7043

Student Life and Leadership would like to extend its congrats to Michael Weakley, Wanda McMoore, Nick Totoro, Rebecca McCurdy, Joshua Newman, Terwanda McMoore, Laura Shea Malmsten, RaShaune Echols, Jessica Massa, and Renata Outlaw. We would like to give a special thanks to this year's winners Renata Outlaw and Nick Totoro!

Lady Govs stifled by Morehead

By MICHAEL KELLUM
Staff Writer

The Austin Peay State University women's basketball team fell 63-52 to Ohio Valley Conference-rival Morehead State in Saturday night's contest. The Lady Eagles, along with Southeast Missouri, were the only two OVC teams to sweep the Lady Govs in the regular season.

Lady Govs head coach Andy Blackston attributed the loss to poor shooting.

"Our shooting percentage was awful against Morehead," he said.

The Lady Govs didn't open the game shooting poorly, starting the game on a 13-1 run, making five of their first seven shots. APSU then went cold missing their next seven shots, letting MSU come within two points with 7:40 left in the first half.

Morehead State continued their hot streak throughout the rest of the first half and took a 24-22 lead going into halftime.

The Lady Eagles started the second half like they ended the first half, scoring nine of the first 11 points in the second half and taking the lead 33-24 with 16:45 remaining in the game.

The Lady Govs eventually knocked down the Lady Eagles' to three with 10 minutes remaining before Morehead went on a 9-3 run, ending any chance of a Lady Govs comeback.

Senior Ashley Haynes led the Lady Govs in scoring with 25 points to go along with her 13 rebounds. Haynes' 13 rebounds pushed her to 352 career rebounds, breaking the 26-year old APSU single season rebounding record. The former record was held by Golena Rucker, who grabbed 349 rebounds during the 1979-80 season.

Haynes moved into third place in the OVC in career rebounds and only needs 18 more to move into second place. Haynes was the only player to score in double figures during the game, as the Lady Govs hit just 19 of their 58 (32.8 percent) field goal attempts.

"Unfortunately, the basket just fell out for us," said Blackston.

Morehead State had three players to reach double figures as senior Lakreisha Brown led the Lady Eagles' offense with 15 points and 12 rebounds.

Morehead won the rebounding battle against APSU, 44-36. ♦

Govs basketball sweeps Eagles

APSU's win comes from young and old players alike

By MICHAEL KELLUM
Staff Writer

The Austin Peay State University men's basketball team got the win Saturday night against rival Morehead State, 80-48. The win placed them in a three-way tie for fifth place in the Ohio Valley Conference.

APSU's young players helped propel the Govs to the win. Sophomore Todd Babington got a career-high 25 points including hitting seven out of 10 three pointers. Babington's seven three-pointers were the most by any Governors player since Joe Sibbitt's nine three-pointers against the University of Tennessee-Martin during the 1996-97 season.

Babington scored 14 points in the first half off the bench after senior guard Maurice "Squeaky" Hampton left the game due to back problems.

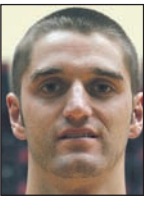
The Govs went into halftime with a 15-point lead, 38-23, and didn't look back.

The Govs came out shooting in the second half, extending their lead to 20 points in the first five minutes of the second half and then taking the lead to 30 points after 10 minutes into the second half.

The Govs out-scored Morehead State by 17 points in the second half, leading to the win. Freshman Drake Reed helped Babington's offensive efforts by scoring 19 points on 8-of-9 shooting from the field.

Freshmen center J.P. Felder also contributed with 10 points and three blocks. Head coach Dave Loos was very happy with the young players stepping up.

"I saw some significant improvement from them in this game," Loos said. "They played very well."



BABINGTON

"I saw some significant improvement in the (young players) in this game. They played very well."

— Dave Loos, head APSU men's basketball coach

Seniors Hampton and Zac Schlader scored four points each, while Hampton also chipped in six assists. The seniors then let the young players take over the game.

APSU shot 50 percent for the game including 43 percent from three-point range.

The Eagles shot 35 percent for the game, and 42 percent from beyond the arc. The Govs' bench outscored Morehead 50-24, out-rebounded them 41-23 and got more assists, 26-12.

The Govs' dominating presence on the inside could be felt throughout the game as APSU out-scored the Eagles 34-10 inside the paint. The Govs also posted 18 second-chance points off their 14 offensive rebounds to Morehead's five.

With the win against Morehead State, coach Loos posted his 250th coaching win since taking the head coaching position at APSU in 1990.

"I don't get caught up in individual awards, but it's nice to get this," Loos said. "This award goes to a lot of players because they were a big part of this. I wouldn't have gotten this 250th win if not for the contribution from current players and players in the past."

The win was also APSU's 999th win as a basketball program. ♦



TIM HOLGOODY/MOREHEAD STATE

Senior center Zac Schlader, far right, and freshman forward Drake Reed, left, attempt to block a shot from Morehead State's Quinton Smith during the Govs' win Saturday night. Schlader posted four points while grabbing four rebounds. Reed, behind sophomore Todd Babington's 25 points, posted 19 points and four rebounds in the contest.

Austin Peay Player Profile



JAROD LEONARD/STAFF

Sophomore Ashlee McGee is one of many players who have contributed to the Lady Govs' success during the regular season. McGee has played a vital role off the bench and as a starter for the Lady Govs.

By MICHAEL KELLUM
Staff Writer

Sophomore point guard Ashlee McGee is from the state of Indiana where basketball is next to breathing.

She said being from Indiana had an influence on her playing basketball.

"Basketball is very big in Indiana," McGee said. "I have been playing since I was seven years old."

After McGee's successful career in high school, which included leading her team to a 20-2 mark her senior year, being named one of the top-40 senior girls' basketball performers and holding the Indiana High School Activities Association records in assists and steals.

Team chemistry is what helped McGee choose Austin Peay State University, she said.

"When I first got here, it just felt like a good place to be because I got along with everybody," she said. "When I scrimmaged with the girls I just felt comfortable with them."

As a freshmen McGee played in all 27 games, and has done even better as a sophomore. Currently she has started 11 games

this year and is third on the team in assists. McGee said the biggest change this year from last years team is the chemistry.

"The chemistry on our team on and off the court is great," McGee said. "We lost a couple of players this year due to medical red-shirts, and our chemistry is still close as ever."

One of McGee's main goals while attending APSU is to obtain her degree and get a job upon graduation.

"I want to reach the highest achievement I can academically," McGee said. "I also want to help my team win the OVC tournament, make it to the NCAA tournament and keep our team chemistry steady and strong each year."

The 5-6 point guard said she lives day-to-day and hopes to find a good job in another state after leaving APSU. McGee said she couldn't imagine not playing basketball.

"I have been playing basketball for a long time," McGee said. "I have no idea what I would be doing if I wasn't able to play."

When she isn't playing basketball, McGee likes to do three things: sleep, eat and play video games. ♦

Vital Stats

Name: Ashlee McGee
Class: Sophomore
Major: Health and Human Performance
Hometown: Fishers, Ind.
Sports Idol: Steve Nash
Favorite Sports Team: Los Angeles Lakers
Favorite Place To Eat? O'Charleys
Favorite Place To Go On A Date: O'Charleys

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Friday

Baseball
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2:30 p.m.,
Clarksville, Tenn.

Softball
vs. East
Tennessee,
11 a.m.,
Marietta, Ga.

Softball
vs. Connecticut,
6 p.m.,
Macon, Ga.

Women's Tennis
vs. Florida A&M,
Noon,
Clarksville, Tenn.

Men/Women's
Basketball
OVC Tournament
Semifinals,
TBA,
Nashville, Tenn.

Men's Golf
at Dick
Witcoff/USF
Invitational,
Tampa, Fla.

Track and Field
at APSU Duals,
Clarksville, Tenn.

Saturday

Baseball
vs. Valparaiso,
1 p.m.,
Clarksville, Tenn.

Softball
vs. Marshall,
11 a.m.,
Marietta, Ga.

Softball
vs. Georgia Tech,
4 p.m.,
Marietta, Ga.

Men/Women's
Basketball
OVC Tournament
Championship,
TBA,
Nashville, Tenn.

Sunday

Baseball
vs. Valparaiso,
1 p.m.,
Clarksville, Tenn.

Softball
at Atlanta
Marriott Buzz
Classic,
Tournament Play
TBA,
Marietta, Ga.

Comeback Govs struggle



JAROD LEONARD/STAFF

Senior outfielder Cody Youngblood takes a swing during the Govs loss to the University of Iowa Hawkeyes. Youngblood went 3-for-9 at the plate over the weekend including a 2-for-4 performance against the Hawkeyes.

Bullpen blows two games, saves final contest

By MICHAEL YOUNG
Sports Editor

The Austin Peay State University baseball team has grown accustomed to comebacks so far this season.

After opening up the 2006 season with a pair of walk-off wins, the Bat Govs suffered come-from-behind losses to Big Ten-member Iowa and Dayton before overcoming Illinois State in a late rally during the Govs' second annual Austin Peay Invitational this past weekend.

The Govs' 1-2 record in the tournament earned them third place behind Iowa and Dayton who finished first and second, respectively.

On Friday, the Governors took on the Iowa Hawkeyes in the first round of the tournament. Going into the ninth inning, the Govs boasted a 10-7 lead on the strength of two-hit performances from four different APSU players. However, the Hawkeyes staged a five-run ninth inning rally to steal a 12-10 win.

"That is a game that we have got to win," APSU baseball coach Gary McClure said. "We are more talented than them. They have Iowa on their jersey but that doesn't mean anything to me or the guys.

We didn't make plays and we gave up a three-run lead three times in that game. You can't do that. You are not going to beat anybody making mistakes like that."

The Govs suffered a similar loss the following night against the Dayton Flyers.

After starting pitcher Brad Daniel posted seven scoreless innings, the Govs' bullpen allowed eight runs on five hits and two errors in the eighth inning. The

Govs were unable to recover as they fell to the Flyers, 9-7.

"We should have won the game against Dayton easily, but we only had four or five hits and seven runs because we stole some bases and made things happen," McClure said. "Unfortunately, we gave the game away at the end. Hopefully it was a good lesson for us."

Fighting for third place in the tournament on Sunday, the Govs once again obtained a strong performance from their starting pitcher as freshman Michael Dunn allowed one run on two hits in 3.2 innings during his first collegiate start.

Despite giving up five runs, the Govs' bullpen was able to take advantage of APSU's four-run eighth inning to seal a 6-5 victory.

"We got a real nice start out of Michael Dunn," McClure said. "He was able to throw strikes and keep their hitters off-balance. He did a good job, and we especially needed a good start after the way we lost the other day. Overall, our bullpen did a really good job today."

Sophomore transfer Jake Lane led APSU offensively over the weekend, rapping out six hits and five RBIs including a two-run blast in the Govs' contest against Iowa. "Lane is a new guy and we didn't know how he would do," McClure said. "We know that he has the potential to be a great offensive player with great power and speed. He had a super weekend offensively."

Senior Cody Youngblood and sophomore Will Hogue also contributed to the Govs offensive effort with three hits each in the tournament.

The Govs (3-2) will return to action this weekend with a three-game series against Valparaiso. ♦



JAROD LEONARD/STAFF

Senior Rowdy Hardy winds up to pitch in the Bat Govs game against Iowa. Hardy gave up five runs (three earned) on eleven hits while striking out four against the Big Ten team. Despite leaving the game with the lead, Hardy received a no decision for the second time this season.

Track and field finishes sixth at OVC indoor finals

By J.R. PREISSLER
Staff Writer

The Austin Peay State University track and field team closed out their indoor track season with a sixth place finish at the O'Reilly Ohio Valley Conference Championships hosted by Tennessee Tech.

Once again, the star athlete was Sherlonda Johnson who was named the Female Athlete of the Meet.

"It just shows how outstanding her meet was that she won this award because the coaches from the other teams vote for the winner, and it's good they could recognize her abilities," APSU track and field coach Doug Molnar said.

Johnson scored 29 of APSU's 49 points, also good for the most by a single athlete at the meet.

Johnson put a couple more wins under her belt as well as a few other good finishes. Johnson picked up wins in the 55-meter dash and the long-jump competitions. Her 7.05 second performance in the 55-meter dash set a new school-record for the event.

Though the meet was the last of the indoor season, Molnar plans to send Johnson and fellow long jumper Leeann White to a qualifier for indoor nationals. They are going to either attend a meet in Iowa State or Notre Dame to see if they can jump a little bit further.

"They are going to need a few more inches for nationals," said Molnar.

White also had another great meet. White finished second in the long jump with a 19-4 performance. White also ran 56.3 seconds in the mile relay.

"She has only jumped 19 feet one other time this year, and she jumped it three times in this meet. It was an outstanding performance," said Molnar. "I think she really surprised some people at this meet."

There were more notable athletes in the competition. APSU competitors posted personal bests in 21 of the 27 events.

"This was a growing and learning year for us," Molnar said. "We moved up one place from last year, and we want to continually progress as a team." ♦

APSU tennis swept by OVC-member Jacksonville State

By J.R. PREISSLER
Staff Writer

The Austin Peay State University men's and women's tennis teams competed last Friday against Jacksonville State.

"Jacksonville is one of the better teams in the conference," APSU tennis coach Ed Dickson said. "This was our first outdoor match against a team that only plays outdoors."

The Gamecocks won the men's match, 6-1, and then the Lady Gamecocks followed in like fashion with a 7-0 sweep of the Lady Govs.

Both teams had tough, but close matches. For the women, senior Jessica Hawk had a strong match, which she lost in a tie-breaker in the second set.

"We have a lot of juniors and seniors on the team," Dickson said. "We need them to continue to improve throughout their careers. Without continued effort and practice, we will have no success."

For the men in No. 3 singles, Lucas DeBrito won and No. 1 doubles DeBrito and Andrew Naidu picked up a point for the Govs.

DeBrito has had the most success this season. He has competed in doubles and in No. 3 singles. ♦

Softball gets pair of wins in Georgia tourney

By MICHAEL YOUNG
Sports Editor

Early into the 2006 season, the Austin Peay State University softball team is showing a lot of promise. After a pitching collapse in the Lady Govs' second game against Lipscomb, the team was left with a few questions about their capabilities.

However, whatever questions that prompted out of the loss were answered in the Lady Govs' performance last weekend at the Comfort Inn Mercer Classic in Macon, Ga. The Lady Govs reeled off wins against Eastern Michigan and Boston University before falling to Ohio Valley Conference-rival Morehead State.

The Lady Govs games against host Mercer and George Mason were canceled due to rain.

"I do think we are making progress," APSU softball coach Jim Perrin said. "We are definitely a lot better at this point than we were last year. We are 3-2 right now but I really feel like we had the chance to start out 5-0. Every team we have played so far we have sort of shot ourselves in the foot somehow. We had mistakes in the Morehead and Lipscomb games that should not have happened and kept us from winning."

The Lady Govs' first win came in the form of a 6-1 win over Eastern Michigan. After getting off to a slow start, the Lady Govs posted five runs in the fifth and sixth innings to seal the victory. Perrin was especially pleased with the win.

"Beating Eastern Michigan was a real big win," he said. "I thought they were probably the best team there. They had already competed against the University of Washington and only lost to them 1-0. Washington is ranked 11th in the nation, so we were playing some pretty quality teams."

The Lady Govs then followed up with a 7-5 win over



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Junior outfielder Nikki Garrett slides head first into home plate during the Lady Govs' 6-1 win over Eastern Michigan. Garrett went 1-for-1 at the plate while posting three runs, three walks and three stolen bases in the contest.

Boston University later that day. The Lady Govs took advantage of three Boston errors in order to stage a five-run seventh inning to extend their lead to five, 7-2.

But Boston wasn't going down without a fight. The Lady Terriers posted three more runs in the bottom of the seventh inning before freshman pitcher Ashley

Elrod hurled the Lady Govs to victory.

"Ashley Elrod came in and pitched the fourth through the seventh innings and she did a good job," Perrin said. "She got into a little bit of a jam in the seventh inning because we were up 7-2 and she sort of let them back in the ballgame because she gave up

three runs but she finished it out."

Due to inclement weather, the Lady Govs' game against Morehead State was moved forward to a 9 p.m. match-up that did not start until just past midnight Friday night.

Despite an early 2-0 lead on the Lady Eagles, the Lady Govs allowed two runs in each of the second and third innings as they eventually fell, 4-2.

Perrin attributed the Lady Govs loss to Morehead State to lack of focus, fatigue and lack of hitting.

"They asked us to come back and play a nine o'clock game against Morehead that night because of the rain that was supposed to come in the next day," he said. "That game did not start until a little after midnight so we didn't get back to the hotel until about 2:30 in the morning. Our kids were pretty tired, and we played like that. Plus, our third, fourth and fifth batters went hitless in the game. You can't have that. Your big hitters have got to contribute if you expect to win."

The Lady Govs got quality performances from ace pitcher Natasha Anderson and Elrod. Anderson (2-0) pitched a complete game against Eastern Michigan and only allowed one run on three hits while striking out eight.

Despite Elrod's seventh inning jam against Boston, the freshman posted four shutout innings against Morehead State to top-off her weekend.

"Overall, I think it has been a good start to the season, and I am looking forward to our games down the road," Perrin said.

The Lady Govs (3-2) will return to action this weekend in the Atlanta Marriott Buzz Classic in Marietta, Ga., where they will take on Division I-opponents Georgia Tech, Connecticut, Marshall, and East Tennessee State. ♦