

Academy Awards winner breakdown

Jaime Foxx won best actor for his work in "Ray" at the 77th annual Oscars on Feb. 27.

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Govs sweep their own invitational, 3-0

Powdy Hardy struck out 10 batters in Friday's 9-1 victory against University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

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Twenty-nine APSU seniors get prestigious award

By ROBERT BUTLER
Staff Writer

Last month the 2005 Who's Who awards were announced. Students from colleges and universities around the country were honored with the award. Austin Peay State University seniors from different ages and backgrounds were named the award.

In order for a student to be chosen for the Who's Who award, the student must be a senior, have at least a 3.0 grade point average and has to contribute something back to the university.

A subcommittee has to evaluate each application. The Who's Who organization accepts only a certain number of

students from each university depending on the enrollment. A faculty member must also refer the student. The program recognizes outstanding students from 2,000 colleges and universities nationally and internationally.

The student names are printed in a directory that is published annually, and has been since 1934.

"I think that this is a wonderful opportunity to recognize a small group students for their accomplishments before they graduate," said Barbara Phillip's assistant vice president of student affairs.

Some of the students that were chosen for the reward come from different backgrounds and range from various ages.

Alan Sivley is a senior computer science major who took

developmental math studies for his freshman and sophomore years. Alan is a non-traditional student who was in the army for 20 years before he started college. Alan retired April 1, 2001, and began college. He is now a student tutor for math and computer science, and has a scholarship for his services.

"I was really intimidated by the math classes that I signed up for my first year and did not think that I would be cut out for college. I continued to work hard and after the first year I started to catch on," said Sivley. Alan says that he is doing something he enjoys, and will eventually be paid to do so. He plans to work for an internet security company for the federal government. Alan has not been hired yet but has callbacks. "I feel good about this award, because of the

work I have put in over the last three years is already paying off," said Sivley.

Other students chosen were academically talented from high school until their senior year in college. Benessa Defend is also a senior computer science major, and has had a 3.8 G.P.A. from her early days in high school until her senior year in college. "I knew about the Who's Who book since my high school years, because I was selected to it my senior year," said Defend.

Benessa tutors in the computer science field. She is president of association computing machinery, which is a computer science program. Defend has recently been accepted to the University of Massachusetts where she will start graduate school.

National Trio Day returns

program assists students with continuing education

By JENNIFER TYSON
Staff Writer

Austin Peay State University held National Trio Day on Thursday to celebrate the nationally funded grant programs known as trio programs.

The event took place in the Morgan University Center Ballroom from 2 to 3:30 p.m. and was designed to highlight the programs that help students get into college. "For many of our students these programs are important," said Marsha Lyle-Gonga, a professor of high school Upward Bound. "For us, our program is their way out." The trio program is important to our quality of life.

The Programs which make up Trio are High School Upward Bound, Veterans Upward Bound, Student Support Services, the National Opportunity Center and Tri-County Upward Bound.

Lyle-Gonga said the trio programs provide access to low income, first generation students and veterans.

She said the event was designed to highlight students from each program that trio program directors and participants consider achievers.

Selected students from each trio program are given the opportunity to state how a trio program helped them to achieve their education goals. Bruce Speck, vice president of academic affairs presented the selected students with a certificate of achievement.

The students who gave a speech and received a certificate of achievement are as follows: Jasmine Davis-Miller, High School Upward Bound; Anatha K. Sims, Veterans Upward Bound; Kim Garcia-Bennett, National Opportunity Center and Anatha Turner, Tri-County Upward Bound.

"(The Tri-County Upward Bound program) means a lot to me," said Turner. "The program put me on track of where I needed to go career wise and socially."

"The Education Opportunity Center has given me the courage to keep going," said Garcia-Bennett. She said even though she is a non-traditional student, a mom and a full-time employee, the program offered grants and tutoring which encouraged her to get through.

Jasmine-Miller said the constant mentorship from advisors, the program's family atmosphere and the guidance she received helped her academically and got her where she needed to be.

"The program motivated me to go to college and continue with school," Davis-Miller said. "High School Upward Bound has given me so many opportunities she would not have had otherwise," said Sharon Miller, a professor of Davis-Miller. "I am extremely proud with the program. I hold the program in high esteem and promise to advocate continued service toward the program."

"(The Veterans Upward Bound) has allowed me to overcome the fear of enrollment in college," said Sims.

Sims is a freshman at APSU majoring in business finance. She said people in the program taught her things she knew would help her achieve her goal. She also said she didn't think she could get through the English classes, however, advisors in the program gave her the opportunity to write and then showed her how to improve.

The Trio Programs have served the Montgomery-Montgomery County area since 1965 and have a federally funded budget of 1.5 million a year. Each trio program is designed to assist a specific group. The Educational Opportunity Center is designed for adults returning in going back to school. Trio Student Support Services helps students with financial support and cultural exposure. Veterans Upward Bound offers refresher courses for veterans desiring a college education. High School Upward Bound and Tri-County Upward Bound offer services for high school students in Montgomery County and the Middle Tennessee area. They provide these students with academic support and exposure to cultural events.

Future leaders invade campus



Dressed in fatigue and ready for battle, Grissom High school came from Huntsville, Ala. to participate in The ROTC Raider Challenge 2005. Grissom competing in the low-crawl portion of the 'mystery event' Grissom High school had two teams finish first and third overall in the competition, winning four of the seven events. Other awardees included Northeast and Northwest High schools both from area schools in Clarksville.

THOMAS VAN HOOSER/STAFF



Senator Deanna Hensley, public relations chair and author of the legislation, gives a report during an SGA meeting.

Student senators pass legislation

By AMANADA COCHRANE
Assistant News Editor

The Student Government Association passed a piece of legislation on Feb. 9 that could change the lives of scholarship students.

According to Tennessee Board of Regents Policy 3504:01:00, an Academic Service Scholarship shall involve a service obligation to the institution that a student is enrolled in for 75 hours per semester. The service requirement for part-time and summer session students is prorated based on the number of hours for which the student is enrolled.

Austin Peay State University's requirement has been 96 hours per semester for many years now. The legislation proposes to reduce those 96 hours to 75 hours per semester, which is the minimum requirement for student workers in TBR schools.

"The legislative process was begun by Senator Deanna Hensley around mid December. After careful research and diligent work, the piece was finally brought before senate in February," said Zach Pelham, SGA President.

Houston Davis, associate vice president of academic affairs said, "This is an excellent example of where SGA absolutely has the opportunity to really put their finger on an issue that is affecting a large number of students and use their policy mechanisms and their various avenues of authority to bring some attention to those issues."

In regards to SGA legislation, Davis said, "Anytime that we can re-evaluate or figure out are we being (two things) - as fair as we need to be with our students and as competitive as we need to be. We need to be aware if something we are doing is not in line with what other institutions are doing we need to evaluate that and step back and be mindful of the accumulation of these things."

The new schedule was implemented for the fall 2004 semester; the number of required scholarship hours had not changed to work with the new schedule. If this legislation passes, scholarship recipients will not have to worry about the dollar amounts of their scholarships changing.

"Scholarships stay the same, I will guarantee that," said Davis. SGA has high hopes for this legislation and hope to see it in its final stages before the end of this term in office.

"We hope the required hours will change for the upcoming fall semester. We are excited about the possibilities of this piece because of its ability to dramatically change policy. Before our terms end, we would like to see this legislation inform students that SGA can voice their concerns and initiate policy changing procedures. Hopefully, we will become aware of more issues on campus SGA can positively impact," Pelham said.

The legislation is currently being reviewed by the vice presidents and will be introduced at the next President's Cabinet meeting on March 1.

Students show knowledge in diversity

By SARAH BULLOCK
Guest Writer

Kathleen Evans, a NAACP collegiate advisor, challenged the student body last Tuesday about how much they knew about Black History.

Three teams battled head to head in a jeopardy-style Black History quiz for the grand prize of \$200.

Questions about the Underground Railroad, Rosa Parks and sit-ins in the South zoomed across the Clement Auditorium; before the proctor

could finish, buzzers resonated and judges calculated all through the event.

At the conclusion of the event, Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity placed third, a group of student volunteers placed second and first place was awarded to six brothers of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity.

After the bowl, the audience was invited to the African American Cultural Center for pizza and refreshments.

Evans has been planning this event with Dorothy Nelson, president of Austin Peay State

University's NAACP college chapter, for a couple years in order to bring together students of all ethnicities.

According to Evans, the struggle to unify the student body is often overlooked by students of all colors.

During Black History Month, the NAACP makes an extra effort to branch out and involve everyone.

Evans also hopes more activities and events will be hosted that she can bring more people together for this important union.

The first-prize winners realized the need to understand their past in studying for the bowl.

This quiz was not only an entertaining way to bring students together, but was also an eye-opener.

The NAACP questions whether Black History should only personify African Americans (because the defining quality of America is that your neighbor's history is your history).

They only ask, how much do Americans know about their own history?

ISO forum greets foreign interest

By MICHAEL TAYLOR
Assistant Sports Editor

Austin Peay State University is offering a new way for students to learn about study abroad programs.

A question and answer seminar was offered last Thursday to give further information about the programs.

Students have the opportunity to study languages and culture in a variety of locations, including Greece, Quebec, Spain, Mexico and Germany and student exchange program in France.

Terry Hardaway, freshman, said the seminar provided a better perspective of the options. "It gave me a greater outlook on deciding to study abroad," Hardaway said.

The seminar consisted of a discussion about each individual program and then fielding any questions on the programs. The most commonly asked question was, "are you able to study even if one doesn't know how to speak the language in the country."

"I am definitely interested in going on one of the abroad programs," said freshman, Kacie Hutson.

"I didn't know there are so many

opportunities here at APSU."

A sample itinerary for one of the studying abroad programs could consist of classes from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. and then visit various museums and excursions. On some days students would not attend class but would take a field trip to visit a site relating to the coursework.

Depending on the program, a student has the opportunity to earn up to eight undergraduate credit hours. Some programs offer graduate credit hours.

The cost for a program can vary from \$2,000 to \$5,000 dollars, but financial aid is available for those who qualify.

The cost of the trip will cover tuition, living with a local family, field trips, laundry services, health insurance, textbooks and materials used in course, as well as providing a stipend.

In some cases, scholarships through the university can be applied toward the costs.

If you are interested or have any questions contact, Ramon Magrans (Mexico) 221-7847, Miguel Ruiz-Aviles (Spain) 221-7855, Dewey Browder (Germany and France) 221-7919, Timothy Winters (Greece) 221-7118 or Karen Sorenson (Quebec) 221-6246.



Joe Fillipo speaks to a packed room about CCSA Britain on Wednesday, Feb. 23 during the International Student Organization forum.

THOMAS VAN HOOSER/STAFF

Briefs

Kraus to participate at Oxford University Roundtable

William H. Kraus, associate professor of public management, will attend the Roundtable March 12-18. The March 2005 Roundtable, will focus on Human Resource Management Issues in the 21st Century. Kraus will present a paper, titled "How Contemporary Human Resources will impact and be impacted by the Aging of the Workforce," highlighting people in their 60s, 70s, 80s and 90s in the labor force. The roundtable participants include ministers of education, legislators, governors, corporate business leaders, university presidents, lawyers and physicians.

Former playwright-in-residence makes the news

"Paradise," which opens March 12 at New York City's Kirk Theatre on 42nd Street, is one in a trilogy of war plays written and directed by O'Malley. "A Heartbeat to Baghdad," which

O'Malley wrote while at the University and which had its premiere at APSU last fall, starred Gloria Rueben in its November run in New York City. Originally written for Cincinnati's Playhouse in the Park, "Paradise" was halted there amid a firestorm of protests. Subsequently, the controversial play had readings in five cities before making its way to New York.

College officials announce Student Memorial Endowment

Hopkinsville Community is honoring students whose lives and educational pursuits were cut short by untimely death. A total of \$15,000 pledged by two local organizations (\$10,000 by Fort Campbell Federal Credit Union and \$5,000 by Gayce Mill Supply) was used to establish the fund. An additional \$1,565 received in memorial contributions honoring Crystal A. Keenan and Chaquela L. Komegay, HCC students lost in separate traffic accidents in 2004, will be invested in the endowment.

Austin Peay leads state in Hispanic enrollment

Associated Press

Hispanic enrollment at Austin Peay State University jumped more than 21 percent over the past five years, giving the school more Hispanic students than any public college or university in Tennessee.

The increase between 2003 and 2004 was nearly 21 percent, according to Houston Davis, associate vice president for academic affairs at APSU.

The university's fall 2004 enrollment figures show 438 Hispanic students out of 8,650 total. Middle Tennessee State University had the state's second-largest Hispanic enrollment at 415, out of a total 22,322.

Ramon Magrans, APSU professor of languages and literature and an expert in

Latin American and Cuban culture, attributes much of the increase to the university's small class sizes, an active Hispanic student body and growth at the Fort Campbell army base.

"We, for a small place, do quite a bit," Magrans said. Many of the new Hispanic students at APSU attend class at the university's Fort Campbell campus, he said.

Both Magrans and Spanish Honor Society member Enrica Albaro, a sophomore at APSU, said the planned opening of a Hispanic Cultural Center this spring in the University Center should make the university even more attractive to Hispanic students.

"This would be not just helping students who need tutoring in Spanish, but also

where Hispanic students who need to feel comfortable could go," said Albaro, a member of the Spanish Honor Society, Pi Nu Chapter of Sigma Delta Pi.

Growth in Tennessee's Hispanic population overall has increased about 350 percent from 1990 to 2002 ... more than quadruple the nation's Hispanic growth rate and almost 19 times faster than overall population gains in Tennessee, according to an October 2004 report by the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Magrans said he would like to see APSU do more to retain Hispanic students by offering more English as a Second Language courses.

"It's hard for the teacher to be able to get everybody together with one common thought," he said. ♦



Ramon Magrans speaks to an audience about Hispanic enrollment increases.

Income tax legislation backers challenge Bredesen revenue

By BILL POOVEY
Associated Press writer

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. - A group pushing a state income tax in legislation they contend would raise \$650 million while reducing taxes overall for four out of five Tennesseans challenged Gov. Phil Bredesen to show his long-term revenue plan Monday.

Chris Daly, chairman of Tennesseans for Fair Taxation, said Bredesen has proposed a preschool program, new emphasis on higher education and restoring money shared with local governments but has no funding plan.

Speaking at the first of a series of news conferences across the state, Daly said that while his group

supports Bredesen's goals, the governor's only funding would come from proposed TennCare cuts and those "will only get us through the current year."

"Where is the money going to come from next year? And the year after that?" Daly said. "If we are serious about those long-term investments, we need to be serious about how we are going to pay for them." Bredesen spokeswoman Lydia Lenker said Bredesen's "stance has not changed. He does not plan to raise taxes. He is not for an income tax."

Lenker said Bredesen intends to have the state "live within its means." She said if the Democratic governor planned to change that

position in a possible second term he would let voters know during the campaign.

Daly said the income tax measure, developed from a study of the state's tax structure after contentious debate led to a higher sales tax rate, would increase taxes only for Tennessee households with annual incomes "over \$70,000 or \$80,000."

He said the bill, the Tennessee Investment and Economic Development Act, would reduce the state sales tax rate from 7 percent to 4 percent and eliminate all sales tax on food. Those cuts, combined with a proposed income tax that would exempt families making below \$30,000 annually, would generate an

additional \$650 million, Daly said. He said the tax changes would pay for the governor's initiatives while lowering taxes for 4 out of 5 Tennesseans.

Daly and Brian Miller, director of the Knoxville-based group, declined to say why they think Bredesen, who took office as the \$1 billion sales tax increase took effect and is raising money to seek re-election in 2006, has not said how he plans to fund state government after this year.

Daly said politicians are "afraid of the issue."

"Nobody wants to take the lead, so we are taking the lead," he said. The legislation sponsor, Rep. Michael Kernell, D-Memphis, said the change would "help the state." ♦

Governor's meth legislation 'very similar' to Oklahoma law

Associated Press

Gov. Phil Bredesen's legislation aimed at controlling methamphetamine would put many cold and allergy products behind pharmacy counters, restrict amounts sold and require showing an ID to buy them.

The governor released the legislation Thursday and was scheduled later in the day to designate March as "Meth-Free Tennessee Month" to

promote awareness of the addictive drug problem as debate begins in the General Assembly.

In 2003, Tennessee led the nation in government spending to clean up labs where the addictive stimulant is typically made by cooking common chemicals, matchbook striker plates and cold tablets that contain pseudoephedrine.

Making meth creates toxic, sickening vapors, and the state has taken hundreds of children away

from parents who were caught cooking the drug.

Will Pinkston, a Bredesen aide who works as liaison to the governor's Methamphetamine Task Force, described the legislation as "very similar" to an Oklahoma law that has reduced meth labs as much as 80 percent.

Pinkston said the legislation would be routed to judiciary and environmental committees in both the House and Senate. ♦

Good Morning APSU
Campus Community**Plant the Campus Red Volunteers needed**

Saturday, April 16. Registration begins at 9 a.m. in the McCord Parking lot followed by a cookout behind the Dunn Center 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Faculty, staff and students are invited to pre-register a tree as an individual. For more information, call 221-7024 or email harrisonb@apsu.edu.

Learn, Live and Love Spanish in Mexico

Monthly meetings will begin on March 4 at 3 p.m. in Harned Hall for those interested in learning how to satisfy a foreign language deficiency or to almost complete a minor in Spanish in the summer. Meetings will be held on the first Friday of each month until departure. For more information contact, Ramon Magrans by phone at 7847 or email at magrans@apsu.edu.

Volunteers Needed for Rivers and Spires

Volunteers are needed for the Rivers and Spires Festival from April 14-16. Students and student organizations are encouraged to come out and support the event. For more information please contact Amanda Talley by phone (931) 551-9834 or by e-mail at amandatally@apsu.edu.

Enter the Miss River Queen Pageant

If you are a single female, U.S. citizen, a resident of Tennessee and ages 18-26, apply to be a delegate for the Miss River Queen! The pageant will be held April 9 at the Customs House Museum, Clarksville. The winner will represent Clarksville in the Miss Tennessee USA Pageant. For more information or an application, call the number or e-mail the address below. For more information please contact Mrs. Bryant by phone (931) 920-9367 or by e-mail at dbarber@clarksville.tn.us.

The Liberal Arts and First Year Experience

Come join the honor society of the Kappa Phi Chapter 191 on March 26, apply to be a delegate for the liberal arts and first-year experience conference. The event will be from 9 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. in the Morgan University Center. For more information about room numbers or if you have any questions please contact Academic Support Services at 6540.

APSU Education Forum 2005

Get Informed and Ask Questions About:

- District Initiatives in Assessment
- Value-Added Assessment
- The Importance of Reading Aloud In a Balanced Literary Model
- Hiring
- Curriculum Planning
- The First Years of Teaching
- Licensure (forms to be filled out at the program)

UC Ballroom • Friday, March 4th • 8:00a.m.-4:00p.m.

Hosted by the School of Education

OUR TAKE

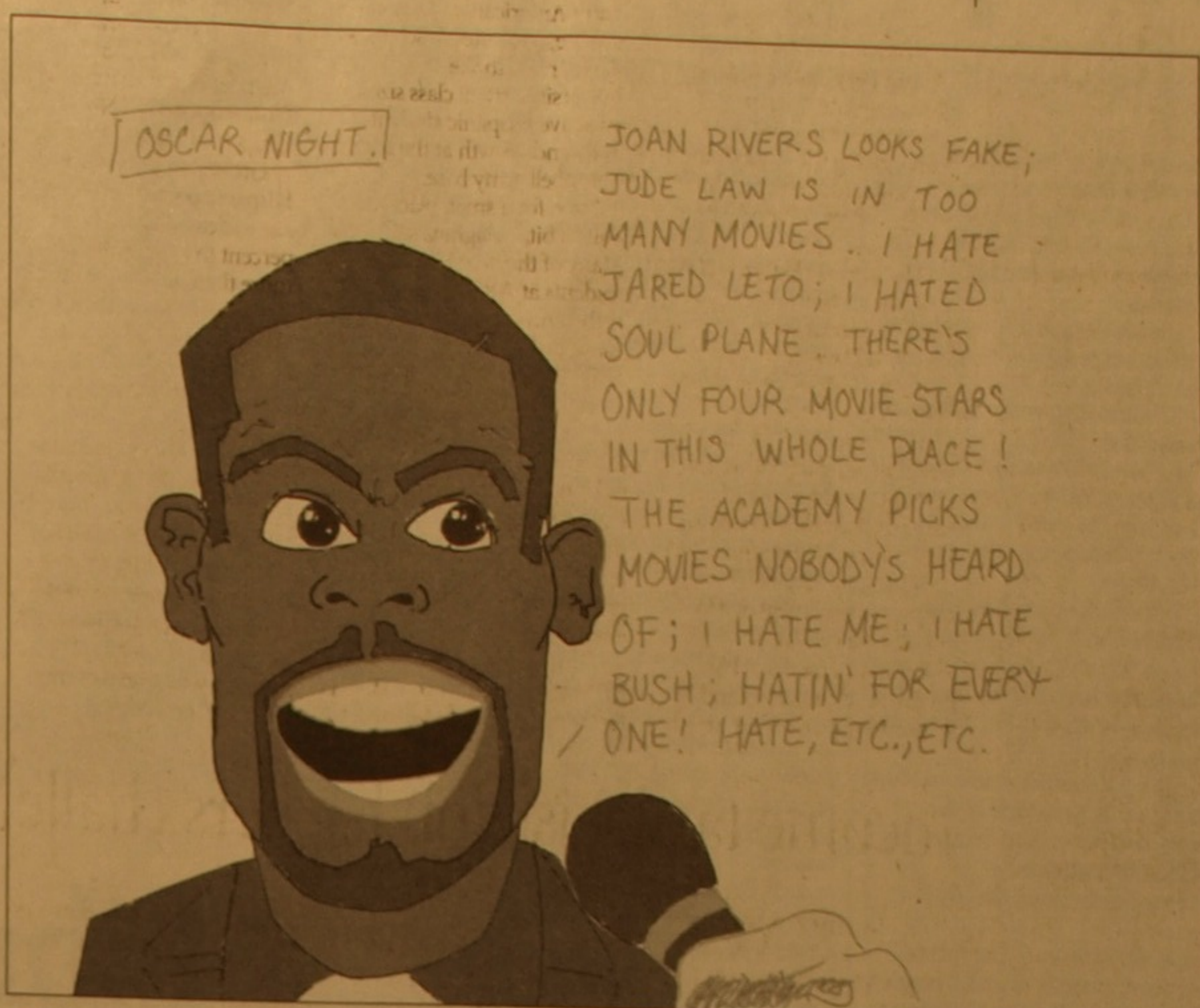
Classes dismissed

Over the past year, Austin Peay State University, following the lead of the Tennessee Board of Regents, has worked to streamline its increasingly convoluted requirements for bachelor's degrees. The TBR is working to reduce the amount of time it takes to earn a degree, currently in the neighborhood of five years, back to the traditional and widely accepted concept of a four-year degree.

In an effort to do this, APSU has reduced its core requirements to TBR standards that raise the academic bar to community college standards in regard to core classes. APSU is working hard to come up with ways to allow students to earn their degrees in a more expeditious manner, but all of the new policies seem to focus on the early stages of students' college careers when there is work to be done. A current problem many students have involves the availability of upper-division classes. As students near graduation, there are usually a number of classes required on

bulletins that are offered sparingly, with no clear indication to the frequency in which they are offered. Nothing makes a college student more nervous than the possibility of four years of hard work failing to yield a timely graduation because of scheduling issues.

Most department chairs seem to be aware of this problem, allowing students to substitute the unavailable classes on a case-by-case basis. It is nice that students are not completely out of luck, but it's a temporary solution to an increasingly prominent problem. There is a potential solution in the usage of adjunct professors. If APSU is going to use adjunct professors to meet demands, then why not use them to teach all of the lower division classes, allowing our exceptional full-time professors to impart their knowledge to receptive upper-classmen. The university is making an effort to improve the situation, but there's more to do and little time to do it. Students work hard for their education and should not be punished for trying to graduate in a timely fashion. ♦



By MARTIN FOX

YOUR TAKE

BILL KEEPS PROFS IN CHECK

If the bill referred to in the Associated Press article in last week's issue of becomes law, universities will be in danger of becoming mere obedience schools that turn out conditioned conformists unwilling to tolerate disagreement and complexity.

The proposed bill stipulates that professors are not to demean students who hold opposing views, are not to stray from specific subject matter and are to base grades on students' knowledge, not students' opinions (this is a coarse paraphrase, for full text see studentsforacademicfreedom.org). I do not disagree with these tenets.

Obviously, the classroom should not be used as a bully pulpit and clearly, a professor should not allow bias to determine grades.

But these stipulations are redundant. There are already avenues of recourse for students with valid complaints. Any legitimate complaint should be handled by the student, the professor and the institution involved not by the state.

In addition to being redundant, the bill is vulnerable to manipulative interpretation. It seeks to curtail professors "who introduce controversial matter into the classroom or course work that is substantially unrelated to the subject of study."

Who determines what is controversial and unrelated? One of the chief values of a liberal arts education is the fact that it fosters the ability to see that everything is related.

A skilled professor can use knowledge of other disciplines to enhance student understanding of the subject being taught.

But this bill would prevent such cross-pollination and would possibly allow a vindictive student to penalize a professor for simply playing the devil's advocate or engaging in Socratic questioning.

Do students promoting this bill really believe that their academic freedom is threatened or are they just miffed at having their opinions challenged?

I suspect they think that they are doing the right thing, but they do not realize the probable consequences of their actions.

Their campaign for "academic freedom" has become a

political movement fueled by ideology.

If this bill becomes law, it will of course only apply to schools that receive state funding.

So while students at private schools will still be able to practice independent thought and critical analysis, students at state schools will be stuck in a climate of sterile -- but safe -- fact-spewing. Eventually, hog-tied professors may opt to give up on state schools altogether.

This bill implies that students' rights are somehow in danger.

I do not believe that they are. I've never had a groundbreaking professor. If I ever do I'll figure out a way to handle it myself.

I don't want some dadgum law that stifles the good professors. In my experience, the vast majority of Austin Peay professors are very conscientious.

They want students to exhibit independent thought. They value scholarship over personal-opinion peddling. If anything, professors around here try to keep their personal views out of discussions.

It's obvious they already have to spend way too much energy minding their p's and q's.

You can almost see their faces blanch when a student says something that might provoke an unequivocal response.

As the university's customers, we students already have more than sufficient power. We don't need the state to "protect" us. If professors are silenced, they become mere government automatons and we become compliant consumers.

Even though the organization behind this bill would have you believe that professors are out to indoctrinate you, I believe we are in far more danger of being indoctrinated by a media and market-driven world where sponsors have veto-power. This makes free thought all the more vital.

I don't come to school to have my biases confirmed and I don't think many of you do either.

I want to be useful, not comfortable. As long as I am free to learn from professors who are free to teach, I have a realistic shot at finding a way to be useful. Thanks for reading.

Julie Mathis
Junior
Philosophy major

Frist: second coming

The time for reckoning has arrived; you should know that Tennessee Senator Bill Frist is probably running for president in 2008. Honestly, I don't know how much of a chance he would have, but beware, he will try. The

first *All State* this semester contained an article about Sen. Bill Frist. To conclude the argument against the Senator, consider the following: several weeks ago on Meet the Press, the senator talked about our stance on the war in Iraq, took the chance to mention elections and other matters of foreign affairs. It would

appear that someone who is truly sculpted for the position of senate majority leader would

have been overly confident about our stance on the war in Iraq. The former security adviser for Bush Sr., General Scowcroft, was quoted as being in favor of letting the UN or NATO take control of operations in Iraq. This, I believe, (some hostility imminent in any case), would lessen hostile feelings of the Iraqi people toward the U.S. Well, good ole Frist. He took this an implication of "cutting and running." Yet what is the purpose of bringing a liberal institution if not to help with the

mess we made. How is that running away, and how is it not a delegation of responsibility?

This could be a window of opportunity to diminish the established arrogance that exists in many places we have entered in Iraq. Our troops are running scared; they need to come back. Then, from here we should decide who needs to return for further damage control. Why are we so stubborn? Frist calls the proposed assistance of an international organization, "grasping at thin air."

Frist may be right to ask, "is the UN still a vitally important function of world politics?" However, he is wrong in his answer. The answer is, yes, scandal or not. Reform is needed in both the UN and the U.S. Do not discount the validity of this group because of individual mistakes. It's the same politics that former president Woodrow Wilson employed in his fourteen points.

It is an attempt at cooperation however futile this attempt may be perceived. This is why the UN was created in the first place. Although, recently, it has appeared as though we have created it simply to comply with our own demands. This is not cooperation. This is unilateralism. It is a one-sided approach to policy making that ensures the Bush administration, and the president, have final say in decisions. Resolutions coming from the UN to us have failed to impact trajectory and decision-making. It is time that we heed the warning of other countries and former officials and begin to improve our position in the world. The headstrong senator has no place, in my opinion, helping us achieve this place if all he wants to do is hinder our foreign policy. ♦

Understanding is needed for the debate over school prayer

I remember the first time I witnessed an Atheist protest religion in schools. He held up a sign that said our sixth grade social studies teacher was preaching religion to us. We were learning about world religions; it was social studies after all. The particular one we were discussing that day was Buddhism. He wasn't really bold in his

actions; he only held the sign up behind his teacher's back, trying to make us laugh. He eventually caught him in the act and told us about his concerns with her the next time. He succeeded; we had a

laugh. Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

Do you recognize this quote? I didn't. This is the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. I've read it a million times in my school, but usually it was summed up as "the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. I can see how you could get lost in the text, but there is so much more to this statement. This is the amendment that has been interpreted as an attempt to separate church and state. It is a part of the education of every American. The Ten Atheist Commandments, as they are known as the Bill of Rights. It is also used as the main point of argument against organized prayer in public schools. Several Atheists have written the amendment written centuries ago for our forefathers. The first part of the amendment says that Congress cannot pass laws respecting any religion. They see organized religion as just that, a state institution putting a deity on a pedestal as America's official religion.

Some Christians, like myself, don't see a problem with removing organized prayer from schools. Others see it as a direct threat to Christianity, a sign that America is trying to

remove God from the government and life in general. I prayed to myself and with fellow students all throughout middle and high school. I fondly remember going to See You At The Pole every September. We prayed around the flag pole before classes started; it was a good way to start the day. Teachers weren't allowed to join in because then it wouldn't be regarded as organized prayer by the state.

Teachers are state employees; this means that they represent the government and cannot show favor to any religion while on campus grounds. It was a shame that teachers couldn't participate, but that never stopped us from talking about our beliefs to them during class hours. Like-minded people will always discuss things in private, whether groups disagreeing with us like it or not.

In an age where more people are embracing beliefs besides Christianity, it is necessary that the majority religion should show some sensitivity and compassion towards others. After all, over 25 million Americans are Atheists alone; this doesn't even include larger groups such as Muslims and Buddhists who are rapidly closing in number wise on Christianity. It wouldn't work out well if America established an official religion. The days of churches ruling our lives are over; we won't see another theocracy until the Messiah returns.

That having been said, I believe that a lot of Atheists are too sensitive about this issue. A lot of them feel personally threatened by seeing the name of God written everywhere. There's more to it than just the First Amendment. People who don't believe in Jesus have been persecuted by those who do in this country. They are labeled as pagans, outcasts, communists and even devil worshippers. An Atheist friend of mine had the hardest time coming out of the closet to his family about his religious beliefs. They eventually patched things up, but it still a painful memory for him. Some Atheists find it difficult to hear about God in state institutions. To the Christians participating in the activities, it isn't really persecuting those who don't believe in Jesus. It is merely self-expression; God is a part of their lives so they wish to celebrate it. What they don't realize is it is offending people who don't agree with those teachings. Or some of them just aren't concerned about the issue. Until Christians and Atheists come together to talk peacefully and patiently about the situation, the unhealthy and harmful debates of the present will continue. ♦

Lawmakers attempt to take homosexual adoption rights

According to *The Tennessean*, proposals made by Tennessee lawmakers Sen. Doug Jackson (D-Dickson) and Sen. Diane Black (R-Sumner) "would forbid gays and lesbians from adopting or becoming foster parents to the thousands of children in state custody..."

In their opinions, the only good home is a home with a mother and a father-the "traditional" family.

"We need to put children in a stable, wholesome home environment with traditional values that reflects the values of Tennessee," Jackson said.

I don't understand why some people are so full of fear and hate for gays and lesbians. Why should someone's sexual orientation affect the way we feel about him or her?

This information certainly doesn't need to be used in evaluating whether or not one is

qualified to raise a child. As it is right now, sexual orientation does not determine if someone is eligible to adopt. According to K. Danielle Edwards, spokesperson for the Department of Children's Services, "Singles, married couples and divorced people all are eligible."

This shouldn't change. If anyone wants to provide a loving home and safe environment to a child in need, they should be given the opportunity to do so.

There are 9,853 children in state custody, including 6,477 who live in foster homes.

Last year, 1,115 children were adopted. It stands to reason that if gays and lesbians are refused the right to adopt, the number of adoptions could decrease.

Jackson also stated that he might have the bill include unwed couples.

My favorite quote was from Black: "It's timely to look at other family issues."



OPINION
Amanda
Wadley

WE WANT YOUR OPINION

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

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THE BASICS

On Campus Location:
University Center 115
Clarksville, TN 37044

Campus Mailing
Address:
P.O. Box 4364
Clarksville, TN 37044

E-Mail:
theallstate@apsu.edu
allstateads@apsu.edu

Main Office:
phone: 931-221-7376
fax: 931-221-7377

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Capital punishment

Two sides on death penalty: origins and arguments examined

The death penalty has been a topic of debate for years. It has been found to be costly and ineffective at times, yet still it persists in 38 states. It has been unfair in regards to women versus men on death row, the mentally retarded, the mentally ill and innocent people who were mistakenly executed.



OPINION
Erin Cruys

With all these flaws, shouldn't the death penalty have been abolished by now?

Imagine that your entire family was killed. The killer is found and he is mentally retarded. Similar to a four year old who steals a candy bar from the grocery store, he doesn't understand what he did was wrong.

Should this person be killed? This person is put on death row and is executed. Also, what if after being executed, it is discovered that the person accused did not murder the family?

What if another man is to blame and during the course of the interrogation the mentally retarded person had changed his story due to the pressure of the circumstances?

How many of you are still so sure the death penalty is a great idea?

It may seem like a very unlikely occurrence, but mental health experts have said that many mentally retarded people have an eagerness to please that could lead them to confess to crimes that they may or may not have committed.

What about the mentally ill? What if someone proclaiming that he was chosen by god killed your family because "God told him they were evil"? Should this person be executed? If he had not been "told by God" would he have killed anyone?

His uncontrollable mental illness led him to kill. His mental illness is a mental handicap in this situation. The voice speaking to him clouds his conceptions of right and wrong, just like a mentally retarded person may not be able to tell right from wrong.

Just like a young child stealing a candy bar from the grocery store doesn't understand that what he did was wrong. Should this person be killed?

Mentally ill people are executed quite often. In 2000, Thomas Provenzano was executed in Florida. He thought he was Jesus Christ and suffered from delusional episodes.

Race and sex also play a factor in decisions to execute using the death penalty. The race of the victim(s) often determines the sentence.

The number of Caucasians and African Americans who are victims are nearly equal, yet 80 percent of the death row executions since the Federal Government reinstated the death penalty have involved white victims.

Women account for 10 percent of murder arrests, yet since 1608, the percentage of women executed on death row has been less than 3 percent.

Almost 80 percent of death row executions in the United States occur in the south. The South also has the highest murder rate.

Texas executes more than three times as many people as any other state and their crime rate raised nearly five times above the national average in 2001.

Meanwhile, the northeast has the lowest murder rate and had no executions in the same year. After Canada abolished the death penalty, they saw a decrease in homicide rates. The homicide rate in Canada is about three times lower than it is in the United States (which uses the death penalty).

This makes a pretty strong case against the death penalty. So, once again, with all this evidence against the death penalty, should it still be allowed? ♦

Most people who oppose the death penalty do so because they are confused about an abstract word that is often taken for granted: justice. There is no doubt that death is the ultimate punishment, but final as it is, a just society has every right to exercise capital punishment against criminals who have committed horrendous acts of violence. In making my argument in favor of capital punishment, one would do well to remember that such convictions are the result of only the most hideous crimes, such as the brutal rape and murder of women or children, serial killings and so forth.

A common argument against capital punishment is that it's hypocritical for a state to punish a murderer by killing him or her. In other words, violence has only led to more violence; killing is punished by killing, etc. This argument confuses justice and revenge. If someone kills someone of their own accord, then that is a murder; however, the government is the authority of the land, and as such, the state may put someone to death as an act of justice, not revenge. Execution and murder are completely different because the former is just (because someone who is guilty is put to death by the state), and the latter is unjust (because someone who is innocent is killed by a criminal).

Another argument is that capital punishment has never been proven as a deterrent. How exactly would one go about counting murders that have not been committed because the death sentence is a possibility? The fact is, it is impossible to know exactly how many crimes have been prevented because of the deterrent effect that capital punishment has. Criminals are not punished to keep other people from committing a crime; they are punished (occasionally with death) because they are guilty of a crime themselves.

It has also been argued that the implementation of the death penalty has somehow been racially motivated, in that minorities are unfairly targeted for the death sentence (wow, who would have thought that everyone in the governments and criminal justice system of every state with the death penalty is racist!). Here are the facts: according to the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics, whites commit well under half of all murders in the U.S., yet whites have been a majority of those sentenced to death since capital punishment was re-instituted by the Supreme Court in 1976. If there is any racism, it is against whites, not minorities.

A final argument, one not against capital punishment alone, but against conservative social values in general, is that conservatives are being inconsistent if they are against abortion yet in favor of the death penalty. This argument is so silly it's embarrassing, because babies are innocent and murderers are not. I respect life; that is why I am against the killing of innocent infants, and that is why I believe that murdering an innocent is such a grievous crime that justice is served when the government punishes such a terrible offense by executing the criminal. I believe it is liberals who are being woefully inconsistent when they propose that guilty criminals should live and innocent babies should die.

Ultimately, capital punishment is a moral issue. I could easily write another article on the Biblical justification for capital punishment, but suffice it to say that the government "does not bear the sword in vain" and has the right to "execute wrath on him who practices evil" (Romans 13:4). Thus, the state has the right to dispense justice, including execution. ♦



OPINION
Daniel Plunkett



By MARTIN

Library fails to retain faculty retention stats

By CATHERINE FRAZEE
Staff writer

Several months ago, when Austin Peay State University made national news, a question about the retention of African American faculty members was raised. Today, the question has still not been answered. This troubles me for two reasons.

First, why wasn't the question answered? Nothing was said in response to this question; it was simply dismissed. In fact, I had to request faculty data and compile a study myself to produce the information. Initially, the administration was exceedingly helpful in allowing me time for interviews and in answering all my questions.

Then, this question came up. I was told several times that APSU was not required to supply me with a report they did not already produce. In searching for information, I was directed to the third floor of the library—the archives room. That room has all the information anyone could possibly want about APSU in a ring-bound book called "The Fact Book."

It was compiled each year by APSU's Office of Institutional Research and held information such as trends in enrollment, ratio of men to women, geographic origin of students, overall grade point average of students by semester and student to faculty ratios.

With this information, I could tell that most APSU students were from Tennessee and that those from Tennessee were from Montgomery County. If I wanted to attract men to APSU, I could point out the male to female ratio.

If I wanted to determine whether teaching styles favored women over men, I might point out that girls outdid the boys in every category from freshman to graduate status (don't be discouraged guys; the compiled difference was considerably less than one percentage point).

If I wanted to make the claim about small class sizes, as APSU does, (though we know all classes are small except the "Introduction To" classes) I would use the data from the student to faculty ratio.

If I wanted to know faculty retention rates, I could probably find that there as well. This information and more is in the archives room, compiled every year until the year 2000.

Since the year 2000, there are no more reports filed in the

archive room. There is no data neatly packaged to compare against previous years.

In the archive room the statistical history of the university ends in the year 2000. Producing and keeping statistical information is important as a record of the history of the university, as an example to student and faculty researchers at the university and for public access.

As Greg Schutz, APSU's Director of Institutional Research and Effectiveness, said, "Collecting information is always helpful for making decisions and for accountability to the public."

The reporter's job is to use the public records acts and report on the status of state and government institutions. If reports are not produced, the public does not have access to the information.

Where do students, faculty, reporters or any of the other public go to find the answers to their questions? If they had the place to go, do they know the right questions to ask to get the right report? Why isn't the information freely given? Has APSU found a loop hole?

The unanswered question of faculty retention troubles me not only because of the loss of access to public records, but also because I am a student of APSU. I need assurance that I am not attending an institution whose practices are questionable.

I am offended by discrimination of any kind. If asked by my potential employer about the college I attended, I want to proudly say, "Austin Peay State University."

I will not ignore this lack of information and hope the problem goes away. I will not vouch for APSU, say "yes" or "no" without proof that the problem is either being solved or ignored. I will not be guilty by association of discrimination.

The public is allowed access to information, but that information is stalled on the desk of APSU's attorney, Richard Jackson. Although the administration was extremely cooperative in granting interviews, as I dug deeper, certain information necessary in reaching conclusions about faculty retention was either missing or withheld.

This withholding of information, and lack of available information (whether in neatly printed packages or not) raises suspicions even if there has been no wrongdoing.

The solution is simple. Answer the question. ♦

Hunter S. Thompson: A tribute and remembrance to a journalistic icon

It's 1:04 on a Friday morning; do you know where your favorite author is? Perhaps he is sitting in a swivel chair spinning in circles while dropping some mescaline and chirping at his peacocks as they scamper about his enormous, ultra-secure ranch.

Oh no, not President Bush's private ranch in Texas; the ranch in Woody Creek, Colo., which was home to my most beloved author, Hunter Stockton Thompson. Thompson was the creator of "Gonzo Journalism," an ultra-subjective, unedited and ultimately experiential style of writing. He wrote numerous novels, essays and articles.

For those still clueless as to whom I am referring to, his most famous novel, *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*, was made into a movie in 1998 starring Johnny Depp and Benicio Del Toro. Thompson also frequently wrote for *Rolling Stone*, where he gained most of his popularity in the 1970s

and started his series of "Campaign Trail" articles, which he later developed into the novel "Fear and Loathing on the Campaign Trail '72" about President Nixon's rise to power. "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas" is a superb example of "Gonzo Journalism" (except for the "unedited" aspect, due to his five revisions of the book prior to publishing).

Thompson describes explicitly and in the first person his trip to an anti-drug law enforcement conference held in Las Vegas in the 1970s while accompanied by his Samoan

attorney.

Throughout the entire ordeal, Thompson and his attorney indulge in a plethora of illicit drugs from amphetamines to "adrenalcomb" (a hallucinogen that makes PCP and mescaline combined seem like child's play).

One could probably imagine, writing from an "influenced" first person perspective, that the book is chaotic and interesting. While not for the faint of heart, Thompson's works are a must read for the open-minded individual seeking a unique read. Sadly, Thompson died this year of an alleged, self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head on Sunday, Feb. 20. He valued his privacy above all else, and his family and friends are respecting his wishes by not releasing any other information relating to the suicide. I can only speculate as to why (excluding any conspiracy theories) he would have taken his own life.

Perhaps he was under the influence of a hallucinogen that produced some type of horrifying illusion that made suicide seem appealing, or maybe he was simply having some serious personal problems. Whatever the case may be, there is never a "good" reason. Shortly before Thompson's suicide, his newest book, yet another political satire of the cold-hearted, greedy, war-mongering, Bush administration, "Hey Rube," was published. Although I haven't had the chance to indulge myself with his (most likely marvelous) latest work, I'm sure he continued his legacy of superior journalism.

For those who have not yet read Thompson, and are open to reading drug-laden material, I highly encourage you to begin with "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas." To established fans of Thompson, remember him with the end of his quote lamenting the conclusion of the 60s, (modified to fit the situation) "...the wave [has] finally broke and rolled back." ♦

Beer and loafing in the world of Gonzo

I was pulling into the Sundquist Science Center parking lot when the drugs took hold.

I had already knocked back a twelve-cup pot of coffee before pulling into a seedy-looking gas station on Riverside Drive where I made the mistake of draining the last of a burnt-tasting batch of coffee syrup that looked like it had been cooking off since the night before.

The sickly slime actually had a rainbow-colored crust on the surface of it that reminded me of an oil slick and my stomach rolled over twice as I downed the putrid, congealed brew like a wino polishing off a warm half-pint of Muscatel.

Ten minutes later the rush hit me, crawling up my spine like nine tarantulas going up an exposed power line.

From the rancid taste that enveloped my tongue like slug-slime and from the chorus line of dancing lights that seemed to be kicking my eyeballs out from behind, I knew I was seconds away from full-blown caffeine psychosis.

By the time I lurched into astronomy class I was babbling like Ted Kennedy, trying to apologize for knocking some girl out of her chair with my combat-load book-bag while half the class looked at me as if I had just morphed up out of the floor. I had to do something fast before the vortex that had opened in the ceiling sucked me into the void. Bad business.

God knows I'd been there before in Hell's waiting room, sandwiched between Tom Green and Donald Rumsfeld while "Come Sail Away" by Styx played over and over on an eternal tape-loop, driving its idiot symphony of mediocrity through my head like a red-hot railroad spike, cooking my cerebral cortex into a mass of steaming gray oatmeal.



OPINION
Phil Grey

I snapped back to find myself sitting in my beat-up KIA which some idiot had inadvertently parked in the water fountain. Orange-red Martini Kool-Aid had seeped inside, foaming up around the tops of my shoes while McDonald's wrappers and empty cigarette packs floated by.

It was at that moment — as the campus police approached the vehicle with nightsticks and stun-guns — that I heard somebody on the radio saying that the good doctor, Hunter S. Thompson, had decided to permanently check out of the Terrestrial Hotel.

With tears welling up in my eyes, I hardly felt a thing as I was yanked from the car and dubbed like a baby seal caught in the open by sadistic Canadians. Even the repeated Taser jolts barely registered beyond reminding me of Ashlee Simpson's Orange Bowl performance, the only difference being that this was less painful.

Just when I thought I was going out for good, my conscious mind swam up from the black and surfaced into the gray light of morning. No cops, no clubs, just a blaring alarm clock radio and my wife punching me in the head to get me to shut it off. The announcer was repeating the news; Hunter S. Thompson dead and gone, no forwarding address, no famous last words, at least none that were being reported.

I shut the radio off with a claw-hammer that I kept on the nightstand next to my copy of "Fear and Loathing on the Campaign Trail" and deposited the shards in the kitchen sink on my way to the coffeemaker.

It was going to be another one of those gray and ugly February days, the kind that seemed to match the mood of the country of late.

Driving to school with the traffic on Riverside funneled into one lane each way, moving as slow and as somberly as a funeral procession, I mentally wished the good doctor Goodbye and Godspeed.

You might think that this bad old world is what killed him, but I don't. He was the kind of guy who lived for the adrenaline rush of anger and outrage, who loved being on the outside looking in. Kind of like a lot of people I know.

If the world had ever conformed to him, it would have killed him long before this. ♦

Violent video games under fire

By PAUL K. McMASTERS

First Amendment Center

Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich devoted a portion of his Feb. 3 State of the State speech to the state of youth entertainment, specifically violent video games. The governor is not amused, and he is committed to making his state the first to criminalize the distribution of such videos to minors. It is quite clear that politicians and some community groups do not like these games. But millions of kids — and their parents — do like them. Sales of video games last year totaled \$7.3 billion, just \$2 billion less than movie box-office receipts.

Those who want to regulate the distribution of video games face some major hurdles, aside from the popularity and appeal of the games.

First is the Constitution. Courts have made it clear that video games are forms of expression deserving the same First Amendment protection as television, movies or books.

Further, they have rejected the argument that there is a causal relationship between video violence and real violence. In addition to the constitutional barrier to these kinds of laws, there are some inconvenient realities. The video-game industry voluntarily set up a rating system to guide parents and young consumers. Some of the largest retailers don't even carry adult-only games. And, according to an industry survey, the average age of a video-game player is 30 and the average age of a buyer is 36. When the buyer is a minor, parents are involved in the purchase 83% of the time.

When dealing with expression that some of us don't like, it is all too easy to propose laws to ban it. It is not easy, however, to decide who has the maturity to distinguish fantasy violence from that appearing on the nightly news or in any number of professional sports. Those decisions shouldn't be left to a legislator, a jury, a merchant or a police officer; it should be left to a parent. ♦

diversity

When asked what diversity means to me, I first feel the need to define it. Diversity means a variety or assortment of different types of things. In today's society diversity is commonly applied to people who are from different countries or people from different races and religions. With political correctness, we are told to respect and embrace diversity. This is what I try to do on a daily basis. Never judge a person by the color of their skin, their style of dressing or how they present themselves on a first impression. I always try to get to know the person underneath, the person longing to have a friend. We have to accept the fact, however, that no matter how we try to treat other people they possibly might have some form of prejudice toward us. They may have been raised to hate us because of the color of our skin or lack of color, our religion or socioeconomic status. Although this is not fair it is a fact of life and as college students we are here to learn about the facts which will help us succeed in life. Having respect for individuals is extremely important. A person can **respect** an individual although they may not agree with life choices and actions made by that individual. I respect an individual until that person does something to lose my respect. Just because that person does something to me to make me lose my respect for them does not give me the right to lose my respect for other people who may be from the same race, religion or socioeconomic background. The past is past, we cannot deny that it happened but hopefully we can learn from those mistakes and make tomorrow better for future generations. Do not hate the present generation because of things that were done in the past no matter what race, religion or ethnic group you may belong to.

At my house, we have a winter tradition—homemade stew. This concoction that we make every year is not what one would call homogenous. This stew has meat, beans, corn, mushrooms and various other vegetables. Broth of some sort ties the whole mix together. It is very good—no one sits there picking out the meat or any of the vegetables. It is comforting to know that when you come inside from playing, there is a bowl of homemade goodness sitting there. This stew reminds me a great deal of the human race. The human race, like the stew, is good on the whole. Of course, people (or stews) can have their bad moments. However, this is not a reason to quit enjoying stew. The stew is better off taken all together—the human race is the same way. Of course, you could pick out the corn, but your 'stew experience' would be missing that sweetness that corn brings to the table. If one separated certain people from participating in society (for any reason) the race would be missing an ingredient, and like the stew, would not be as good. The broth is what holds this stew together, much the same way as the human spirit holds us all together. Deep down, we all want to be happy. This need for happiness is what brings us all together. If it was not for the broth, then the members of the stew would not be able to come into contact with each other. The human spirit brings us all together to make a better 'human stew' ———— **phillip.holland**

Diversity is the soul of this nation. It is the red, white, and blue of our flag. It is the foundation on which we stand united. It is in the aged eyes of Lady Liberty who for decades greeted weary immigrants. It is the understanding that God answers to many names. It is the row of national flags along Riverside Drive. It is the culture fairs that I attended as a middle school student. It is the people themselves: Hispanic, Asian, African, German, Irish, Arabic, and millions of others who live together in one country. It is not an ideal or belief but a way of life; one that I would give my very breath, my blood to protect. ———— **jessica.bandel**

Diversity is a good thing in society if that society lets it be good.



As a part of society I am part of Diversity. Now many people will be asking what diversity is. In my opinion there are two definitions for diversity, mine and the dictionaries. According to Webster's Dictionary diversity is: 'distinct in kind, unlike.' My definition is a little bit longer than this.

I think diversity is a group of individuals, every one is unique. Individually means being unique and diverse. Now how did I know I was part of diversity? I asked myself a simple question: 'Am I unique and diverse?' Now that I have established me being unique, I can say that I am a part of Diversity. To me diversity also is the acceptance of differences. Everyone in this world is unique, and individual. We are all part of this society no matter what race, sex, or sexual orientation. We are diverse and uniquely a diverse society. Now where do we find Diversity?

It is everywhere we just need to look closer.

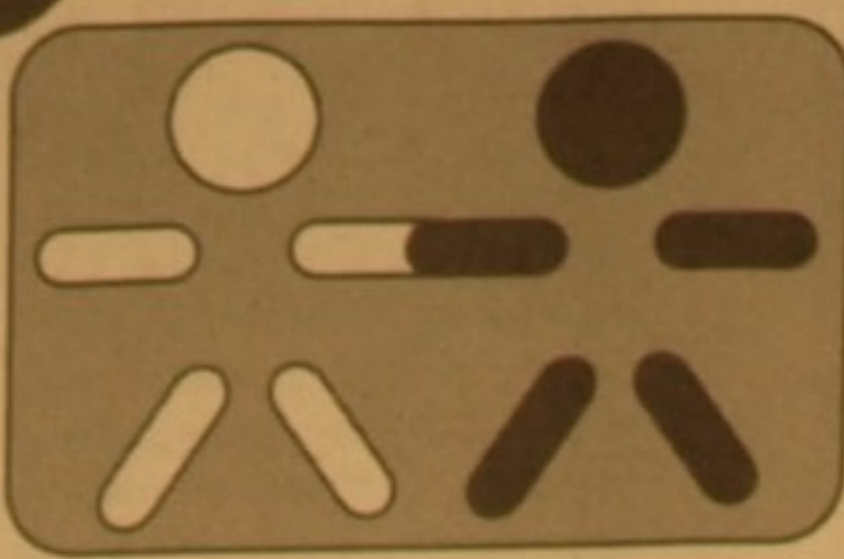
The reason we do not see it is because we run blindly through the world. We need to just open our eyes and we can see. Diversity is in schools, businesses, airports, train stations, marinas, and boats and at many more different places. One huge example of the display of diversity in classes and organizations. People of all ages and shapes can be found in classes, organizations, just in general on campus.

Diversity is the individuality everyone has. Uniqueness and being diverse is a part of diversity. Diversity is being part of society in ones own way. One does not accept peer pressure but one is individual, unique and diverse.

rebecca.brochman

"DIVERSITY IS... IS SPONSORED BY THE OFFICE OF STUDENT LIFE AND LEADERSHIP. THE INFORMATION IN THESE SHORT ESSAYS DOES NOT NECESSARILY DEPICT THE OPINIONS OF OUR OFFICE OR THE UNIVERSITY."

When I think of diversity, I am often drawn to thinking of the Charles Schultz comic 'Peanuts.' Schultz created such a diverse world in which children play and learn from each other that is often reflective of our own society. We all know that Lucy is going to pull that football away just as Charlie Brown is about to kick it yet we have hope that maybe she will change and let him kick it one time. It is that heart of America that is always clinging for the best in a person that often lets us look past a person's skin color, their gender, or in the case of Snoopy, their species. Schultz taught us that often when we are children we don't tend to look at whether a child has a dust cloud hanging over them. Children aren't worried about someone still tugging on their blanket or a dog and a bird being best friends. Schultz taught us that when we look down deep into the heart of a person, we are often alike: we all are just searching for that little red-haired girl, or chasing the Red Baron. Maybe we just want to make everyone happy with a little tree that we think brightens up everyone's life a little. Whatever the case, don't let the teachers of hate, racism and anger with their WHAA WHAA WHAAAA WHAAAA talk that no one understands bring you down. Keep trying and one day you will kick that football. ———— **Paul Brady**



Diversity is defined as the fact or quality of being diverse; different. When you think about it, isn't everyone different? Not one person is like any other person in the world. Even identical twins, which have to wear different colors for people to tell them apart, are different. America is full of diversity. I believe diversity is a good thing. Without diversity our world would be a pretty dull and lame place to live. Most people view diversity as a difference in age, gender, physical qualities, race, and sexual orientation. However, diversity goes deeper than that. It is the difference in **education, background, income, marital status, religious beliefs.** Diversity is all about understanding each other and moving beyond tolerance and embracing the difference contained in everyone.

:christy.shipers

cheryl.lynn.reid.binion

What is diversity? This question was posed on the first day of my Education 4160 class, a class created to edify the fundamentals of teaching diverse students. We came up with a wide-ranging list of what diversity can be, such as differences from the norms of society, different cultures, religion, disabilities, socioeconomic status, gender, age, sexuality, giftedness and physical appearance. What do I think diversity is? Beauty. Life. Nature. Love. It can also be a tool of hate. While some people embrace diversity, others use it as a way to categorize people into base groups. As Dr. Heraldo Richards once said, "Conflicts can arise from diversity when they are between two groups based on differential status and value in society. The alienation and marginalization that many powerless groups experience can lead to groups accentuating their differences." This, of course, can lead to other stereotypes, prejudice, discrimination, ethnocentrism and/or racism. We must remember, however, that diversity can also be a tool of love because it, makes our existence full of life, color, sounds, words, music, creativity and the written word. Diversity is expression. Diversity is love. Diversity is life.

When you hear someone mention the word 'diversity' the first thing that comes to mind is a person's race or gender, but to me diversity is so much more. Diversity is the quality of being different. Without diversity we would not be America, we would still be just a colony or a clone of whichever country settled us. I would hate to think that I would not be able to set myself apart from all of the other billions of people that populate the earth. By being diverse we are a piece of a puzzle, that when put together correctly, becomes a whole. Together we are strong no matter what age, color or race someone is; alone we are still the same age, color or race, but instead of being strong, we are weak. As a nation we are still struggling with our attitudes of what is considered acceptable by society. Society is slowly making progress and adapting our views to acknowledge and appreciate our differences by identifying strategies that combine different cultures and religions without compromising beliefs. After all, diversity is what has made us what we are today: an independent nation. As long as we embrace diversity we will continue to grow. Without diversity we will have been a flower, waving our petals of different colors proudly for a brief time, only to wither and fade as the seasons change. ———— **joy.pigot**

In the mission statement here at APSU, "Austin Peay State University remains committed to the education of a non-racially identifiable student body and promotes diversity and access without regard to race, gender, religion, natural origin, age, disability, or veteran status." Diversity is a key part of this mission, if not obtained, it could destroy an institution. Diversity is more than having a campus, or an office building filled with people of different races, ages, backgrounds, religions, etc... Diversity exists when you can accept each individual for who they are and in return allow them to accept you. It is appreciating our differences and opening our eyes to new possibilities instead of closing them in fear of rejection or personal prejudices. It is not limiting yourself to what you know but having the courage to venture into the unknown whether it is a different culture, religion, or race and seek the knowledge to know. Diversity does not mean you have to accept everyone into your life or embrace their ideas but respect each individual's right to be here. It is realizing that in order to exist we must coexist, a lesson often taught, but is it ever really learned? Diversity is more than a goal, an agenda, or even a mention in a mission statement; it's a way of life. It is attainable and well within our reach. Promoting diversity is a way to bridge the gap and bring us all together, despite our differences. ———— **B.Tucker**

bridge the gap

Lifestyles at a Glance

Psi Chi Nacho Fiesta
Wed., Mar. 2,
9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Clement Main Floor
Lobby

SGA PEAYlympics
sign up
Wed., Mar. 2,
10:30 a.m. to 12:30
p.m.
UC Lobby

Student
Government
Senate Meeting
Wed., Mar. 2,
Noon to 2 p.m.
UC 308

IABC
Thurs., Mar. 3,
10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
UC Lobby
International
Association of
Business
Communicator

dancexplosion
Sat., Mar. 12,
11 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Clement
Auditorium

Comedy night
Mon., Mar. 14,
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
UC Coffeehouse

OCRecruiting -
WDW Internship
Tues., Mar. 15,
11 a.m. to 9 p.m.
UC 306

Feeding the Body
Feeding the Mind
Mon., Mar. 14,
1 to 2 p.m.
UC 312
Kappa Alpha Psi
Women's
Appreciation
Tues., March 15,
6 p.m. to Midnight
UC Ballroom

Jamie Foxx wins big at Oscars



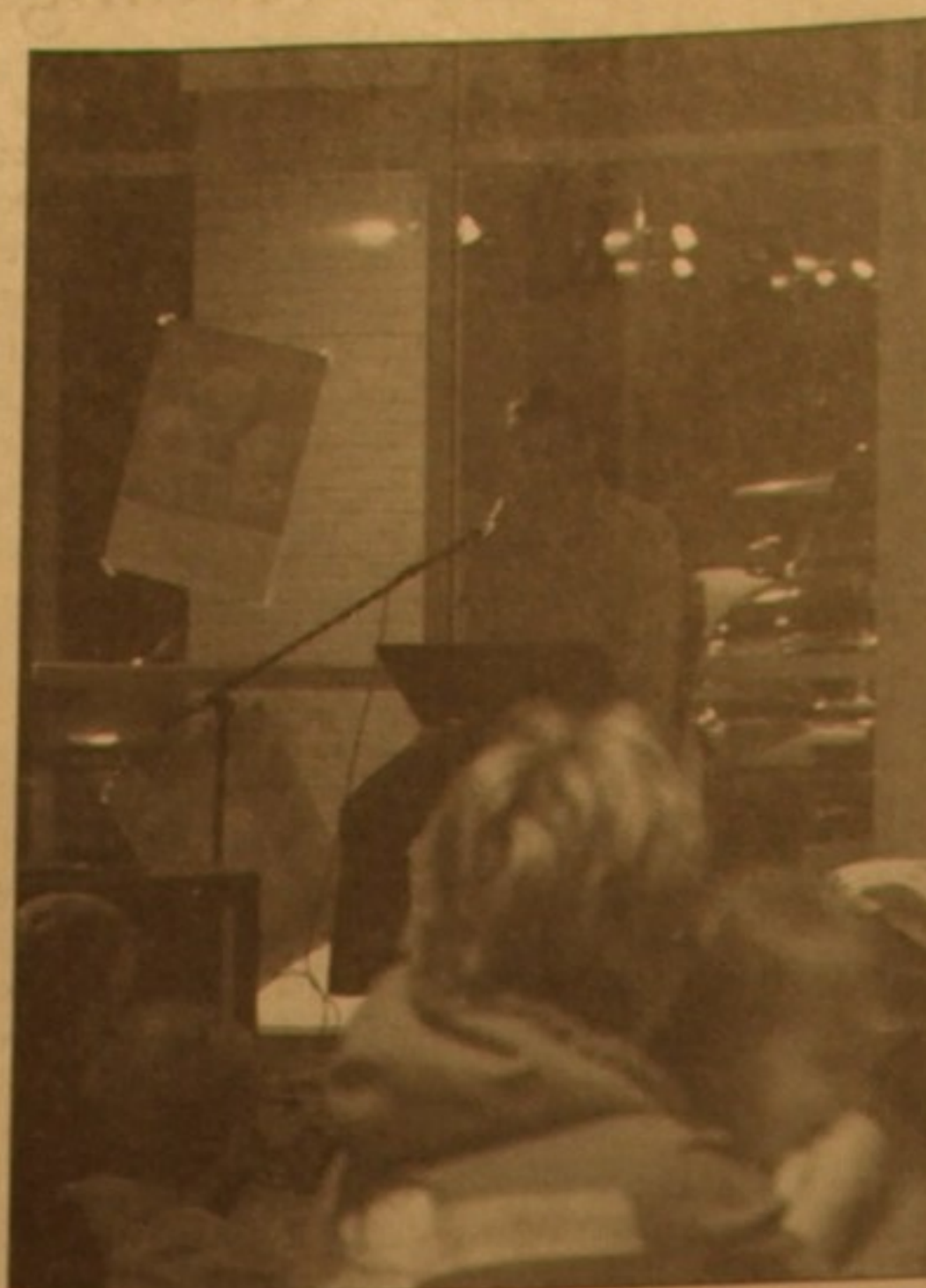
Jamie Foxx poses with the Oscar he won for best actor for his work in "Ray" at the 77th Academy Awards Sunday, Feb. 27, 2005, in Los Angeles.

Complete list of 77th annual Academy Award winners

Associated Press

Picture: "Million Dollar Baby."
Actor: Jamie Foxx, "Ray."
Actress: Hilary Swank, "Million Dollar Baby."
Supporting Actor: Morgan Freeman, "Million Dollar Baby."
Supporting Actress: Cate Blanchett, "The Aviator."
Director: Clint Eastwood, "Million Dollar Baby."
Adapted Screenplay: Alexander Payne and Jim Taylor, "Sideways."
Original Screenplay: Charlie Kaufman, Michel Gondry and Pierre Bismuth, "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind."
Art Direction: "The Aviator."
Cinematography: "The Aviator."
Film Editing: "The Aviator."
Visual Effects: "Spider-Man 2."
Sound Mixing: "Ray."
Sound Editing: "The Incredibles."
Original Score: "Finding Neverland."
Original Song: "Al Otro Lado Del Rio," "The Motorcycle Diaries."
Costume: "The Aviator."
Makeup: Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events.
Foreign Film: "The Sea Inside" (Spain).
Animated Feature: "The Incredibles."
Animated Short: "Ryan."
Documentary Feature: "Born Into Brothels."
Documentary Short: "Mighty Times: The Children's March."
Live Action Short: "Wasp."

Creative writing graces Grinders



Chris Hayes, senior English major, recites his poetry.



Scholarship recipient, Aaron Coleman, performs at Grinders & Co.

Coffee shop welcomes students for a night of poetry

By MELISSA TYNDALL
Copy Editor

The creative writing scholars entered Grinders & Co. with thoughts of Nashville street life, parentally oppressed lovers, England's moors and first memories. Aaron A. Coleman, Lorian Fordham, Chris Hayes, Christopher Johnson, Kory M. Shrum, Nikolai Ehtemacht, Thomas Purdom, Jennifer Queen, Jody A. Rector and Cheryl Sullivan, recipients of Austin Peay State University's Creative Writing Scholarship, read their works on Tuesday Feb. 22, at the Grinders & Co. coffee shop on Wilma Rudolph Boulevard.

Each writer brought a new presence to the microphone. While some reflected the eccentricities of the group by donning a prep-school tie, pink flip flops or two-toned shoelaces, other students showed versatility through the introduction of their works. Writers discussed their inspiration to write, observing those around them, witnessing another person's undoing and finally reading that 'nice' poem their mother has been

begging them to write for years. Other scholarship recipients displayed facets of their personalities by the forms with which they brought their works: typed pages, leather-bound notebooks and folded pages from their back pockets.

A reoccurring theme throughout the night, however, was confessional poetry, modeled after famous poets such as Robert Lowell. "The common misconception about poetry is that it is stuffy, academic and inaccessible to the masses," said scholarship recipient Aaron Coleman. From start to finish, the scholarship reading proved intriguing and reflected the work students have put into furthering their talents.

APSU's creative writers drew such a large crowd to Grinders & Co. that many of the audience members had to stand or sit on the floor of the coffee shop during the course of the performance. "Sharing poetry with other students exposes them to something creative they don't see on an everyday basis," said senior English major Chris Hayes.

Five to 13 scholarships are awarded to APSU's creative writers each year and scholarship recipients are selected based upon portfolio submissions. Annually, the creative writers give readings of their work on multiple occasions, such as Tuesday's event and Bread and Words. The students also formulate a student-made publication (comprised of student work) called "The Red Mud Review." Generally, readings are given on campus, but this year Grinders & Co. was selected to make the performance fun as well as to celebrate the opening of the business' new location. "We are trying to take poetry to the people," Barry Kitterman, a professor of English at APSU.

For further information on applying for the Creative Writing Scholarship or submitting work to the student literary publication, "The Red Mud Review," contact the office of Languages and Literature at 221-7890. If interested in more information about Grinders & Co., call 920-8625 or visit www.grindersandcompany.com.

Don't miss the chance
to recognize the most outstanding
individuals and organizations
at APSU this year!

Nominations are being accepted for
Outstanding Student Leaders of the Year,
Programs of the year,
Exemplary Faculty Member of the Year,
Exemplary Staff Member of the Year,
and many more!

There are new awards this year as well!

Nominees and recipients of these awards

will be recognized at the annual

Student Organization and Leader Awards

on April 15, 2005

Criteria and nomination forms available in UC 211 and UC 206
or at http://www.apsu.edu/student_affairs/awards.htm

Deadline is 4 p.m., Thursday, March 3, in UC 206

Remember, it's all in the nomination!!

sponsored by the

Division of Student Affairs

Doc Watson "Takes Over" with hot LP

By BRIDGETT BUCKLES
Staff Writer

Jacob Watson, a 29-year-old native of east San Diego, recognizes that producing is a much more creative way of forming the style of music that people want and look for.

He is an Austin Peay State University student at Ft. Campbell, a junior and majoring in liberal arts.

"I used to rap, I have been producing for five years now," said Jacob Watson.

"The TakeOver 3" is a CD with a mixture of hard-core, east coast flavor tracks. T

he CD sold over 625 copies within one month of its release. CD Warehouse was a great help in promoting Watson's CD, giving him sponsorship of \$1,000, listening stations and the great exposure.

DJ D Nellow of Nashville produced the hot, new, 20 explosive track CD that audiences can bump to.

Pistol (of Nashville), Lil Jon and the Eastside Boyz, Kanye West, Gloria Velez, DJ Chief Rocka, John Legend, Lotti, Tazz Daddy and many more artists are included on the album.

"With me having connections in places like Jackson, Nashville, and even Memphis will enable me to better promote my music," said Watson. "Because once it gets to Jackson, it will then get to Memphis, and work its way around," he said.

He wants to give Clarksville a chance to shine.

"I'm taking my producing very seriously, because the fourth album will be dropping soon and a lot of the production on that album will be done by the Royal Family out of



Watson's new CD features tracks from top artists such as Kanye West, Lil' Jon and the Eastside Boyz and John Legend.

Clarksville," said Watson.

Gloria Velez, a model whose forte is displaying sexiness, (and is in Jay-Z's "Big Pimpin'" video) is on the cover of "The TakeOver 3" album.

Was Watson trying to be sexist by using Velez's figure? "A lot of people saw Gloria on the cover and had their complaints. I didn't want her on the cover as a model, but the reason why we used her is because she is rapping on the CD as well," said Watson.

As a former DJ and military man, Watson feels that marketing and politics are a huge part of handling

business and grabbing a hold of the ins and outs of the music industry. Watson is a strong believer in building up the community in whatever way possible.

"I want to support the local community of Clarksville and the surrounding areas by forming a youth basketball tournament camp," said Watson.

"I want to have something, especially for the young men in the community to help them stay out of trouble."

As a youngster, Watson would listen to Dr. Dre, NWA, Nas, Tupac and OutKast for inspiration, which built the foundation for his musical success.

"I know how it feels to be a kid with the hopes of becoming somebody," said Watson.

"I remember when I had nothing and I bought a keyboard and some more equipment to make my beats. I was making about 7 beats every night and I was determined," he said.

"All of my money was slim, so I had to use what I already had, but it was worth it in the end," said Watson.

Watson is climbing the ladder in the hip hop industry and continues to strive for future accomplishments.

Stay on the lookout for the drop of Watson's fourth album because "The TakeOver 3" is spreading drastically throughout cities in the south.

For information on "The TakeOver 3" and upcoming events, check out info at thaTakeOver.com, thefutureofhiphop.com or contact Time Machine Studios and Knuckleheads/KnuckleUp Productions at (931) 906-7774.

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Poetry circle highlights Hughes

Active Harlem Renaissance poet is commemorated through school tribute by select celebratory readings

By CANDISE S. MCCAIG
Staff Writer

Langston Hughes, the great American poet, was born in Joplin, Mo., however, he lived most of his life in Kansas, Ohio (where he attended high school) and New York (where he bought the home of his dreams). Hughes began to write seriously in high school and developed the voice (style of writing) that made him famous. In fact, his first published poem appeared in the Central High School yearbook, a school magazine. In high school an English teacher introduced Hughes to the works of Edgar Allan Poe, Walt Whitman, and Langston Hughes, who became his early influences.

The summer before his senior year, Hughes was reunited with his father and asked him to spend the summer with him in Mexico, to which he agreed, however, he and his father did

not get along very well. It is believed that this painful conflict helped Hughes to mature personally as well as a writer. During his senior year, it is said that he began writing poetry of distinction. Once he graduated high school, Hughes visited his father again and asked him to fund Hughes' tuition at Columbia University in New York City. As he sat on the train to Mexico, he wrote the famous poem, "The Negro Speaks of Rivers." Once in Mexico, the conflict between him and his father still existed. His father wanted him to be an engineer despite Hughes' dreams of being a writer. It was only after his poetry was accepted to the "Brownies Book" and "Crisis" magazine that his father agreed to pay for one year of college. Hughes stayed at the university for one year before he discovered Harlem, where through his literary work, he played a critical role in the era.

The first volume of his autobiography, "The Big Sea," provides a vital first person account of this time. Much of what is known

about the Harlem Renaissance is known from Hughes' point of view.

Later in his life, he was deemed the "Poet Laureate of the Negro Race" and he encouraged this title. Hughes desired to represent his race, and many believe he is one of the most original American poets. Langston Hughes died May 22, 1967. There was very little said at his funeral; instead blues and jazz music was played. A suitable good-bye to an artist so influenced and inspired by these styles of music.

Austin Peay State University paid tribute to Hughes on Feb. 24. A Langston Hughes poetry circle was hosted by Dwonna Goldstone, professor at APSU, and the African American Culture Center. The event was held in cooperation with the Langston Hughes Project at the University of Kansas-Lawrence and the Academy of American Poets. Students read selected Hughes works. While things seemed somewhat disorganized and bare, the simplicity was beautiful, charming and intriguing. ♦

Bubl  album reminiscent of Sinatra



By REBECCA YEATTS
Staff Writer

In the vein of Rod Stewart's "The Great American Songbook" series comes Michael Bubl 's new album "It's Time." Bubl , a 28-year-old Canadian born singer has a voice made for the classics, sounding like a mix of Frank Sinatra and Bobby Darin, with a little Gene Kelly thrown in for fun.

"It's Time" is chock full of old standards like "I've Got You Under

My Skin," "You Don't Know Me," and "A Foggy Day (In London Town)." But it's the more eclectic mix of contemporary classics like "How Sweet It Is (to be Loved by You)" and "Save The Last Dance for Me." Repeat: Track 5, "Home." In an album of covers, this original track sticks out.

Bubl 's first attempt at songwriting is an earnest one, and he superbly evokes the era of torch singers and gin and tonics. There is heartbreaking quality to the lyrics that express an honest desire and yearning for the simplicity of a place to call home.

Skip: Track 6, "Can't Buy Me Love." Though most of Bubl 's choices of contemporary material are good, this one didn't hit the mark.

The lounged-out cover of the Lennon/McCartney classic feels disjointed and thrown together. This is the one track on the album that is completely kitsch-laden, all ring-a-ding-ding and no feeling.

Overall, it is obvious why Michael Bubl  has been dubbed the 21st Century Crooner by fans and critics. He has a distinct talent and will have us throwing cocktail parties and mixing martinis for years to come. ♦

Theatre's one-act plays provoke thought

By REBECCA YEATTS
Staff Writer

Many people have sat through a movie or a play and, at the end, sat there sort of dumbfounded and unsure exactly what to think of what he or she just witnessed. That is how some audience members felt after viewing the two one-acts at the Trahern Theatre on Friday, Feb. 25.

It's not that the productions were bad, in fact, they were quite good, but the plays seemed disjointed when viewed together.

In the first play, "Next," a 48-year-

old man (Dan Scott) receives a draft card and goes into his physical exam with the full intention of convincing the examining officer (Brittany Carlton) that he is a poor candidate for the Army, only to be offended when he is told that he isn't good enough to get in. The play seems to be a good study of human nature, and Scott gave a convincing performance as the desperate and secretly wounded Marion Cheever. The second one-act, "Words, Words, Words," is a humorous jaunt through the theory that apes, if caged and forced to type

continuously, would eventually produce a "Hamlet" scenario. For those who remember reading Shakespeare in various lit classes, the theory seems to make sense. Misty Ayres, Elijah Dies and Joseph Robinson were convincing as monkeys, and the tire swing on the stage was a nice touch.

Though the evening was a bit confusing, the experience was enjoyable, and it made the audience think a bit about the prospect of the draft being reinstated; it also some that they hate Shakespeare. ♦

Spring break worst case scenarios

By JESSICA HAWK
Staff Writer

At Lauderdale, Cancun and Panama City Beach are the top three spring break destinations. These areas are full of sun, "hotties" and built specifically on the beach for party animals to be placed around bars.

Students are all anxious to rush and slip their toes into the warm sands and party every night at these bars and "poppin' "

There are numerous cautionary tales on the Internet and in magazines about spring breakers forewarning possible robberies and arrest. But it seems to contain things that are very common sense.

Most could agree that the worse scenario on spring break is getting arrested and spending time in

jail. Avoiding the police during spring break is the number one goal.

But, it is never easy to avoid confrontation with the police when you are partying and consuming alcohol.

Clearly, the magic number is 21. No consumption or purchase without it.

However, on vacation in the big cities, this is obviously a hard law to enforce.

Underage drinking can lead to severe consequences, no matter how available the alcohol, 21 or not, the biggest issue is alcohol poisoning. According to a University of Wisconsin study, 75 percent of college males and 43 percent of females reported being intoxicated on a daily basis during spring break.

Nearly half of these males and females admit to vomiting or passing

out at least once over the break. Being precarious with alcohol consumption increases the risk of car accidents and arrest for violations such as drunk driving, public intoxication and property destruction.

The truth is, regardless of your age, you must be conscientious of possible alcohol poisoning.

Even though you are on "vacation" drunk driving is a serious matter.

Besides trying to avoid alcohol poisoning and police officers, spring breakers have a few more obstacles to dodge. Hotels may seem safe, but it is important to always avoid leaving valuables in clear view at the hotel. Also, looking through the peephole before answering the door can prevent strangers from intruding into the room.

Panama City is known for its wild

parties, especially in hotels, and although it may seem bothersome, always remember to be careful around balconies and railings.

In the year 2002, there were six accidental deaths reported from the ages 16-24 in the state of Florida, according to the National Center for Health's statistical studies.

Spring break, most likely, is some of the most fun students will have throughout their college years.

It is expected that students will party hard, soak up some sun and have lots of fun with their friends.

APSU will be looking forward to welcoming every student back on campus, safely and with renewed spirits to finish the rest of the semester. For more safety and travel information on spring break visit www.studentcity.com or www.springbreakcancun.com. ♦



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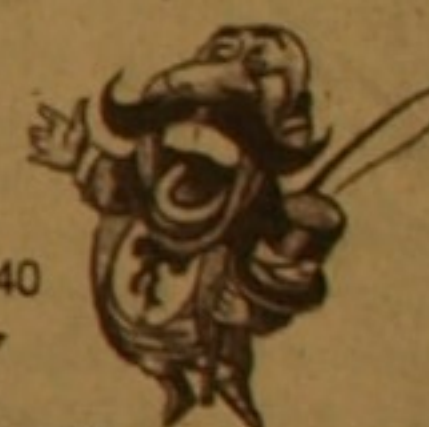
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Goodbye U.S., Hola Spain

By DAN MAURER
Staff Writer

Do you need something fun and interesting to do this summer? Are you thinking about taking summer courses? If you need to fulfill a language deficiency, a major or minor requirement or you are just interested in learning the Spanish language, then a Study Abroad program in Spain is the ideal trip for you.

The trip begins on May 19 and lasts until June 17. During this time, students will hone their Spanish-speaking abilities in the beautiful city of Madrid. There, you will be interacting with students from different parts of the globe, but all in the language of contact. As one student stated, "It is a very metropolitan place. You have

students not only from the United States, but literally from all over the world." This includes students from Europe, Russia, China, Japan, Africa and the Middle East.

There is never a boring moment in this capital city is renowned for its intense cultural and artistic scene, not to mention its very lively



Aqueduct in Salamanca, Spain

nightlife. There are no pre-requisites for this trip and the classes range from beginning through graduate level studies. Classes are taught by all native speakers who are trained to teach foreign students.

This four-week program counts for six credit hours. The total cost of the trip is \$3,500. This price is the only all-inclusive Study Abroad package offered at Austin Peay State University. It includes the students' airfare, textbooks, health insurance and lodging with individual families and, of course, three meals a day. Also

included in this total are four excursions within Madrid and four one-day excursions outside of Madrid. Activities within the capital involve numerous cultural events, such as trips to art museums, theatres and the opera. You can even go shopping if you want; you can literally do something different everyday. The excursions outside of the city are trips to nearby cities and sites of interest such as Toledo, Segovia, Avila and Salamanca. Before each excursion, students are briefed on the cultural and historical significance of the site to be visited and they are escorted by Ruiz-Aviles and a tour guide.

If you are interested, please speak with Ruiz-Aviles, in Harned Hall, room 230. You may also reach him by email at ruizaviles@apsu.edu or by phone at (931) 221-7855. For more information you can check online at <http://www.apsu.edu/ruizm>. You will need to act quickly if you plan to go. The deadline for application is March 1; and the time to apply for financial aid is now. It is possible to apply late, but the original price is not guaranteed for late applicants, so don't procrastinate. ♦

Student Allocations Committee-Funds still available

Meeting schedule for the remainder of Spring 2005 is:

March 14

March 21

April 4

April 18

*May 2- the last day to apply for funds for summer semester

All requests must be submitted to UC 206 by noon on the Friday prior to the scheduled Monday meeting.

The committee encourages registered student organizations and students to request funding for their events at least three weeks prior to the event date. In general, SAC funds are available for activities and programs sponsored by student organizations that have potential to benefit the entire APSU student body and that also meet the additional criteria for funding under the SAC guidelines. Prior to submitting a request, the SAC Guidelines for Funding should be reviewed to determine eligibility for funds.

For a copy of the SAC Guidelines for Funding and DAC Funding Request Packet, please visit <http://www.apsu.edu/sac/>

for more information, please contact Jamie McCandless, SAC business manager at JMCCANDLESS14@APMAIL.APSU.EDU

*Note: meeting dates, location and time may be subject to change.

You are cordially invited to attend an afternoon of music presented by

THE AP BRASS QUINTET

featuring APSU Music Department Faculty Members

Keith Ellis, Bernard Flythe, Francis Massinon,

Susan K. Smith and Rick Steffen

Sunday, March 6, 2005 at 4pm

Grace Lutheran Church, 2041 Madison St. Clarksville, TN

This is a benefit concert on behalf of our local chapter of the American Red Cross. We ask that you show your support by making a donation. Free tickets are available at Grace Lutheran Church and from the Music Department of APSU

Comics

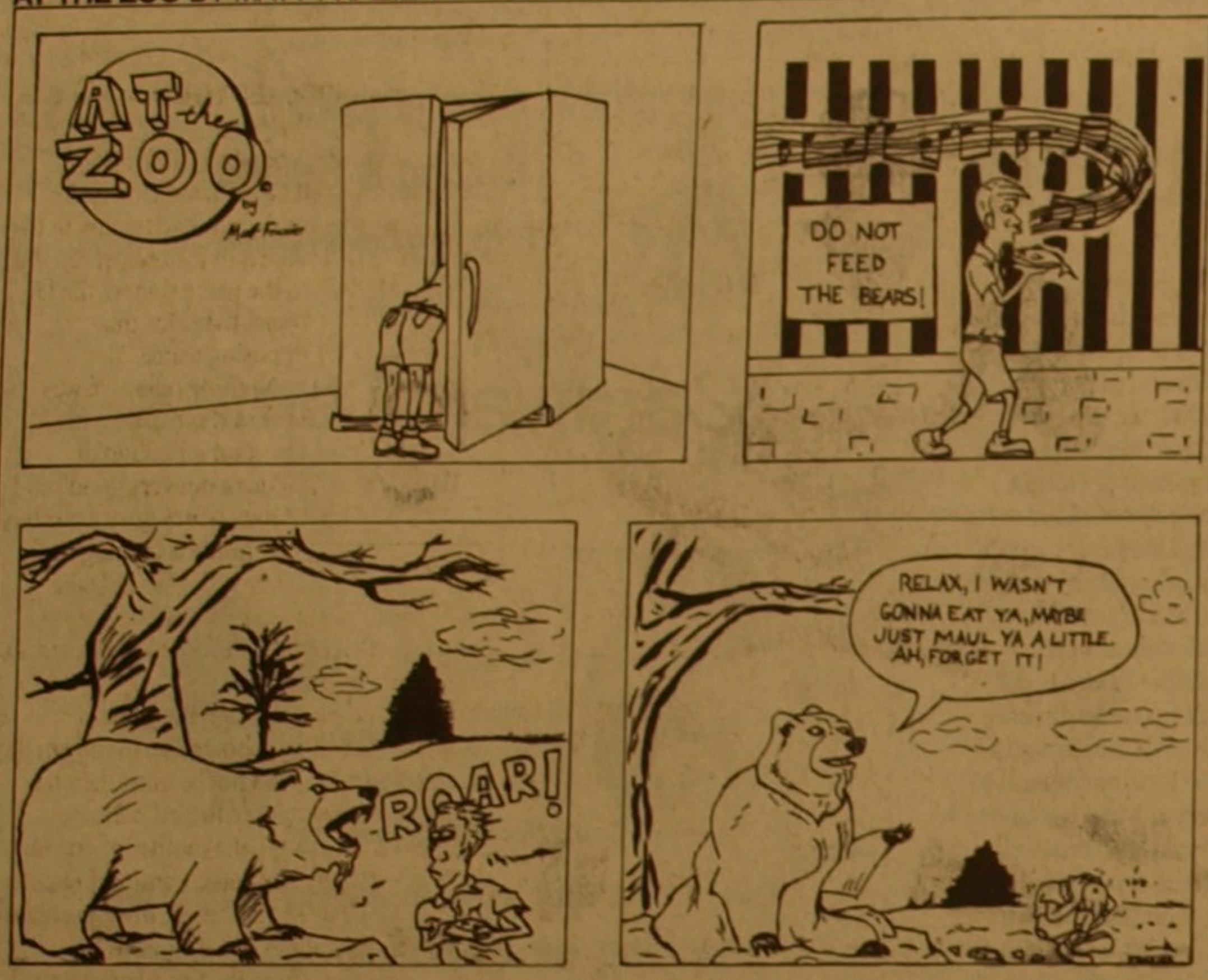
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2005, PAGE 8

THE ALL STATE

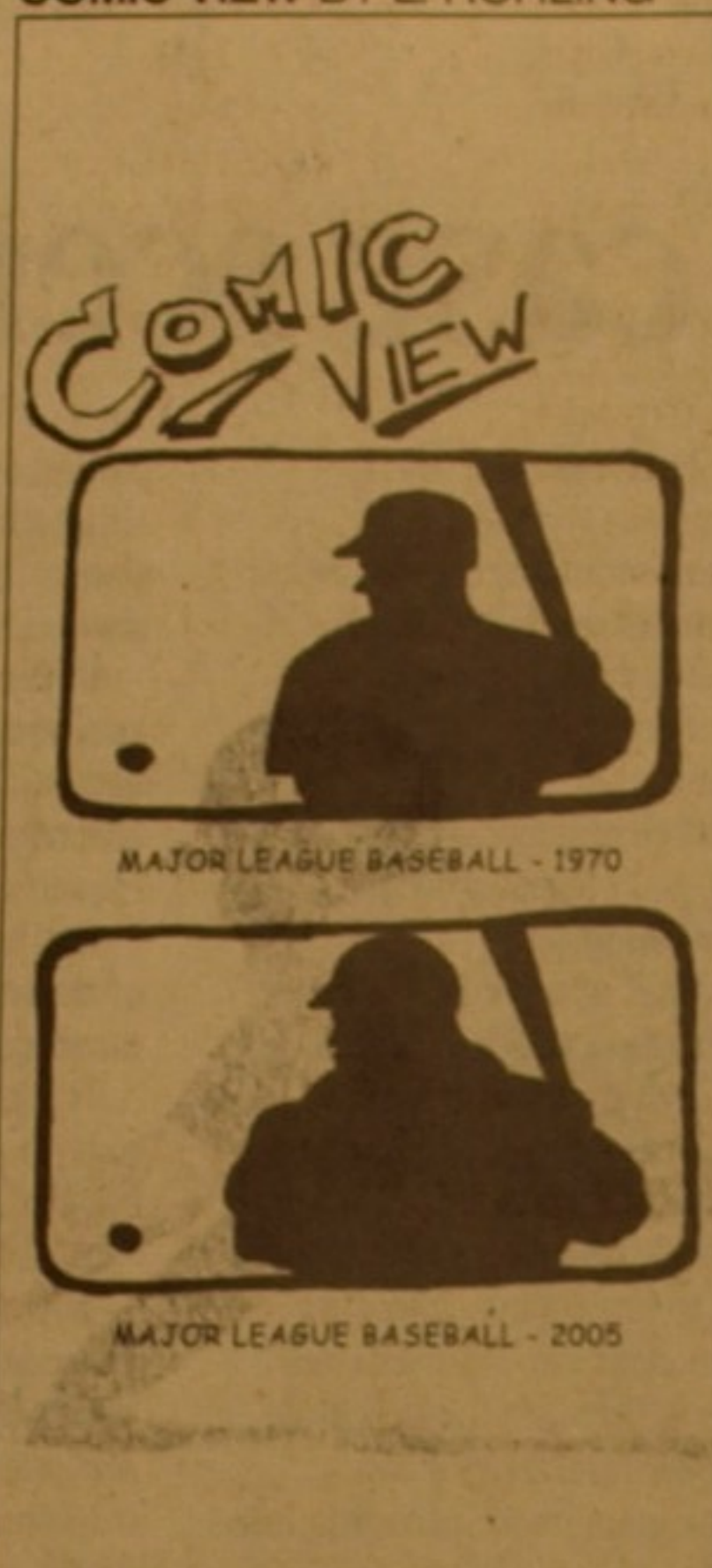
M.E.P. BY HEATHER LEE



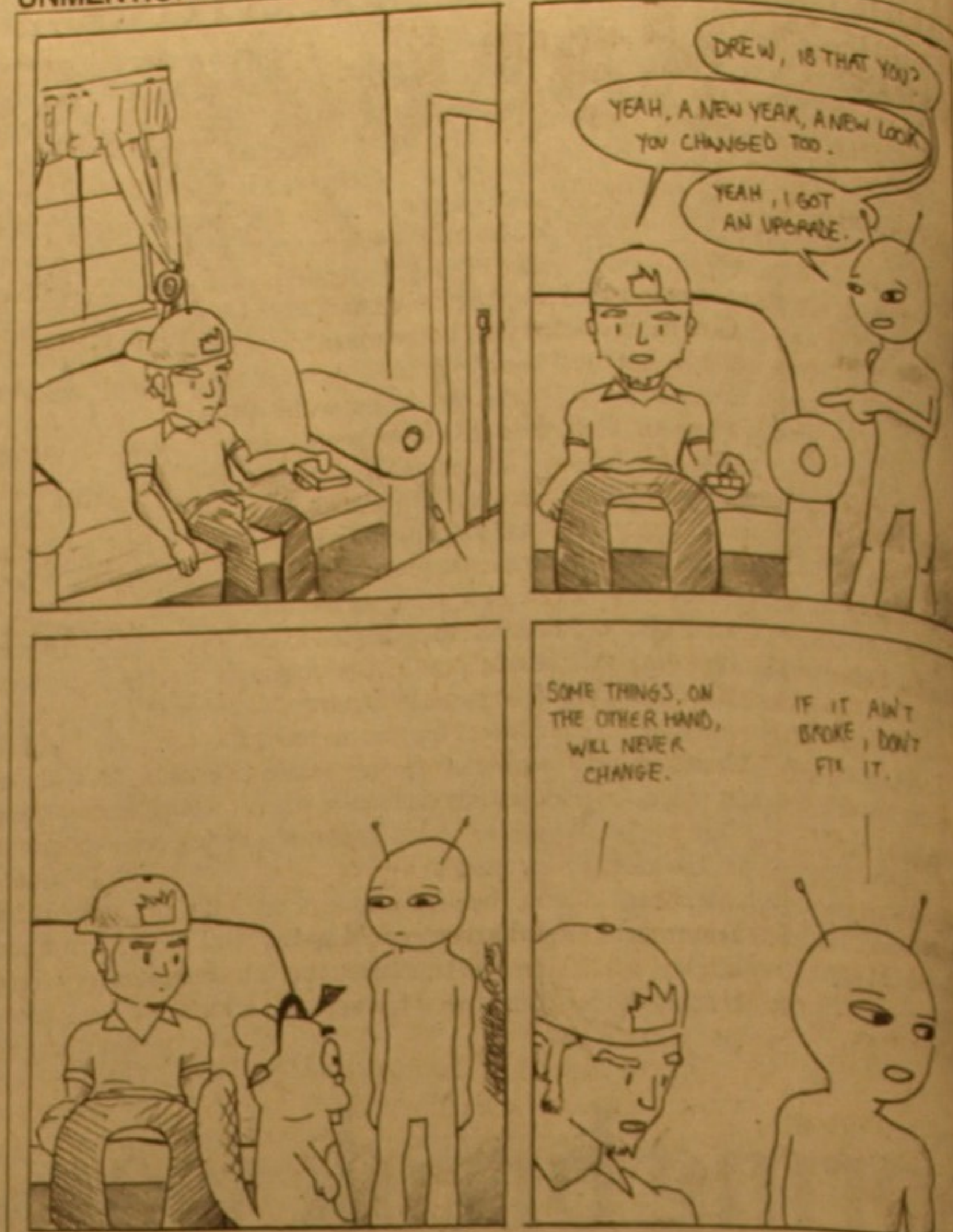
AT THE ZOO BY MATT FRAZIER



COMIC VIEW BY L. ROHLING



UNMENTIONABLES BY MARTIN FOX



THE ADVENTURES OF GRACE BY GRACE DORIS



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If you answered "yes" to all of these questions, the National Youth Sports Program is looking for you.

The program will operate June 9th to July 16th, Monday through Friday, from 9a.m. to 3p.m. If you are interested, please apply at the Austin Peay State University website, click on the link to Human Resource, and the job announcements will be under "clerical support".

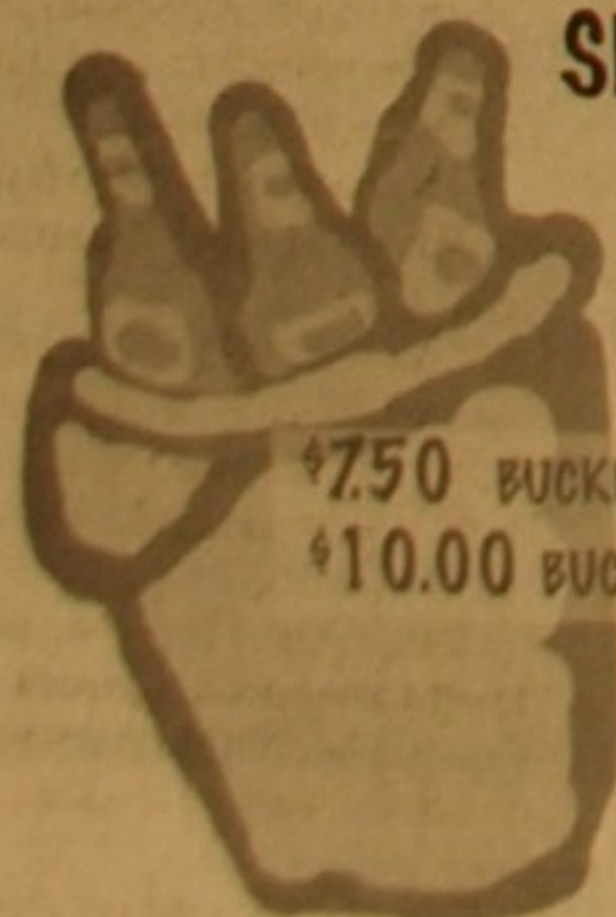
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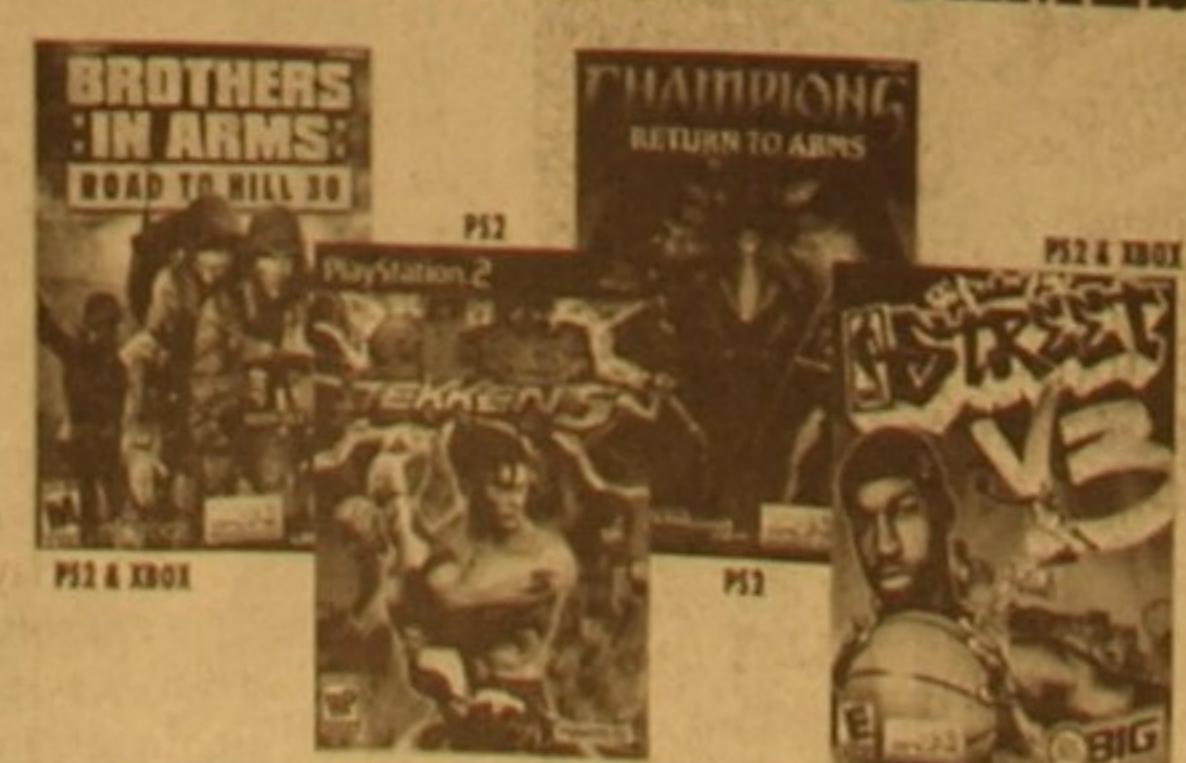
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Bat Gobs sweep Invitational

By MICHAEL YOUNG
Staff Writer

The Austin Peay State University Governors opened their home season as they swept the first-ever Gobs Invitational, 3-0, this past weekend with an almost flawless defense and a solid display of hitting. The Akron Zips (2-4) came in second place with Wisconsin-Milwaukee (1-2) and Valparaiso (0-3) finishing third and fourth, respectively.

The Gobs began the tournament with a 9-1 win over the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Panthers, Friday. The Gobs opened the game by scoring one run in the bottom of the second off shortstop Jared Walker's triple followed by a double to left field by catcher Tommy Smith.

The Gobs struck again in the bottom of the third as center fielder Cody Youngblood singled to center field and a single to left field by first baseman Chris Hyde later sent Youngblood home to give the Gobs a 2-0 lead.

The Gobs continued their offensive strike in the fourth and fifth innings as they went on to score six runs on five hits. The Gobs' final run came in the eighth inning as two singles and a walk loaded the bases and a Panther fielding error allowed Chris Hyde to score.

Gobs pitcher Dane Miller, who relieved Rowdy Hardy in the ninth, gave up the only run of the game for the Panthers, capping off a 9-1 victory for the Gobs. Hardy (2-0) pitched eight shutout innings and gave up five hits with 10 strikeouts, which improved his ERA for the season to 0.60.

"I thought it was one of the best starts Rowdy has had," head

"Since I have been here, this is probably one of the best all-around teams we've had. We've got so much depth...it's unbelievable."

—Jared Walker, Gobs' shortstop

coach Gary McClure said. "He was locating his fastball inside which really set up his changeup. He was really in total command of the whole game."

"I felt a lot better Friday that I did at Birmingham-Southern," the ace pitcher said. "I had my curveball working well and I was spotting my pitches a lot better."

The Gobs continued their hitting success in their second game of the Invitational against the Valparaiso Crusaders. Both teams remained scoreless until the fourth inning when Gobs left-fielder Will Hogue reached base on an error and eventually stole home on a passed ball by Crusader catcher Tyler Lowell to give the Gobs a 1-0 lead.

The Gobs came back in the fifth as a trio of singles loaded the bases and a combination of a passed ball on the catcher and a two-run home run by first baseman Chris Hyde ended the inning with the

Gobs up, 5-0.

The final run of the game came in the eighth, as shortstop Jared Walker tripled to center field and scored off catcher Tommy Smith's single down the right field line to make the final score 6-0.

Gobs starting pitcher Shawn Kelley pitched 7 2/3 shutout innings allowing seven hits with eight strikeouts, which improved his record to 1-1. Gobs' relievers Corey Gunter and Jamie Ganz finished out the game only allowing two hits with one strikeout.

"Shawn made a lot of improvement from his first start," McClure said. "He was really down in the zone with his fastball and this time he came out, stayed under control, let his body work for him and really used his ability."

The Gobs' final game of the tournament was against the Akron Zips, who were also 2-0 in the tournament as they defeated Wisconsin-Milwaukee, 5-3 and Valpo, 5-4.

The Zips were the first to score, as a pair of walks by Gobs' starting pitcher Devin Thomas put two on with one out. A single by designated hitter Bob Dubovec, a Gobs' fielding error and a three-run homer by catcher Jim Bonnette gave the Zips a 5-0 lead.

A double by Gobs' left fielder Will Hogue and a single by shortstop Jared Walker got the Gobs on the board in the first.

The Gobs scored three more runs in the second and sixth innings off five hits and two Akron errors. The Gobs also scored two runs in the fourth inning off two hits and catcher Tommy Smith's leadoff home

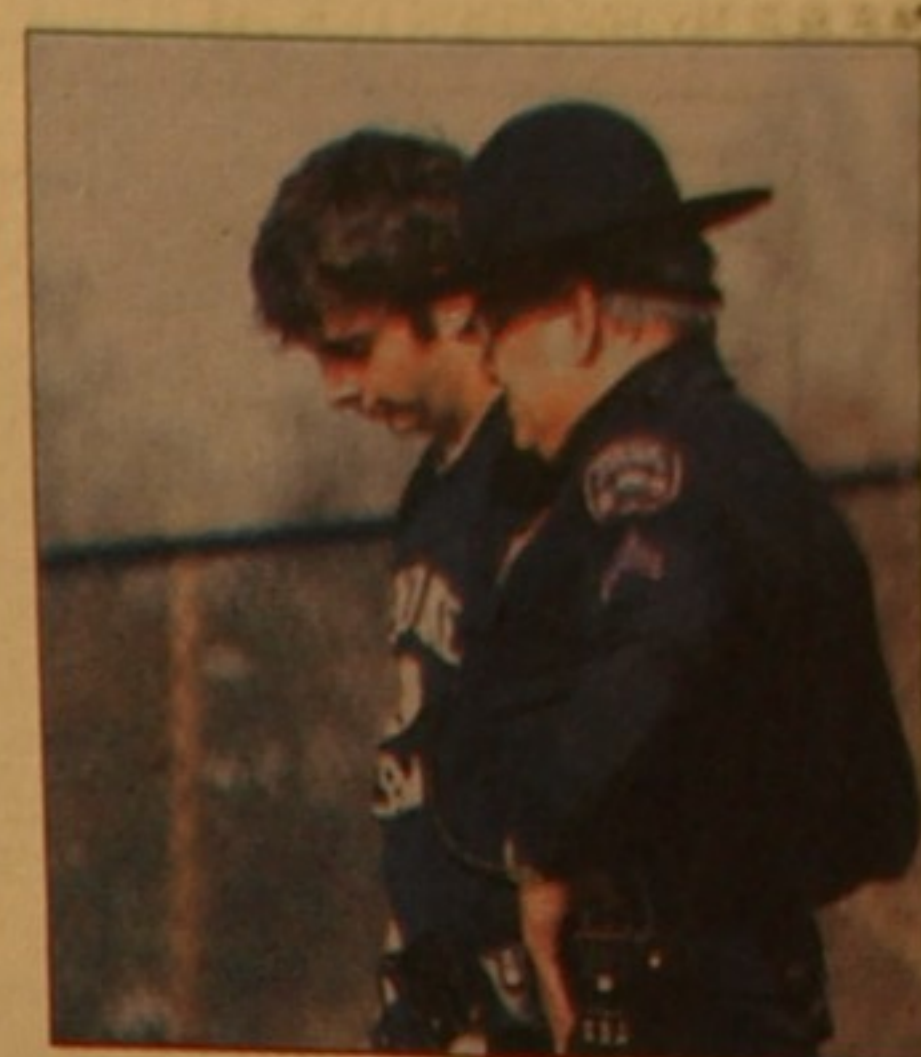
run to left field, making the final score 9-5.

"Devin was basically one hitter away from being pulled in the first," McClure said.

"But I wanted to get as much as we could out of our starting pitcher so I sent him back out there and he just got it going. He really got tougher and tougher as the game went on. I was really proud of the way he pitched. He really showed me a lot today."

"Since I have been here, this is probably one of the best all-around teams we've had," shortstop Jared Walker said. "We've got so much depth in the team this year that it is unbelievable."

The Gobs had seven members named to the All-Tournament team. They included pitcher Rowdy Hardy, catcher Tommy Smith, first baseman Chris Hyde, shortstop Jared Walker, and outfielders Cody Youngblood and Brett Luther. The Gobs have this week off but will play next Friday and Saturday in the Mississippi State NBC Classic in Starkville, Miss. ♦



THOMAS VAN HOOSER/STAFF
Scott Steinbrenner, former APSU pitcher, was approached by campus police after complaints of his heckling the opposing team.

To heckle or not to heckle?

Commentary from the sidelines

By MICHAEL YOUNG
Staff Writer

During Saturday's baseball game against Valparaiso, an Austin Peay State University baseball fan brought his own lawn chairs to the game so he could sit next to the bullpen on the first base side. When the game started, the fan began to heckle the opposing team.

Nothing offensive was ever said other than his constant repetition of "You're not very good" and "Don't worry guys, your bus ride home is coming up."

However, the fan did take advantage of his handy roster sheet that was given out at the front gate to make his insults a little more personal.

About mid-way through the game, a campus police officer showed up to inform the "heckler" that if he did not be quiet then he would be escorted out of the ballpark.

Later I found out that a mother of one of the Valpo players had called campus police to complain that a fan was being "disrespectful to the opposing team."

Yes, you read correctly. Saturday's baseball game was degraded from a collegiate-level tournament to a little league game where team moms run the park.

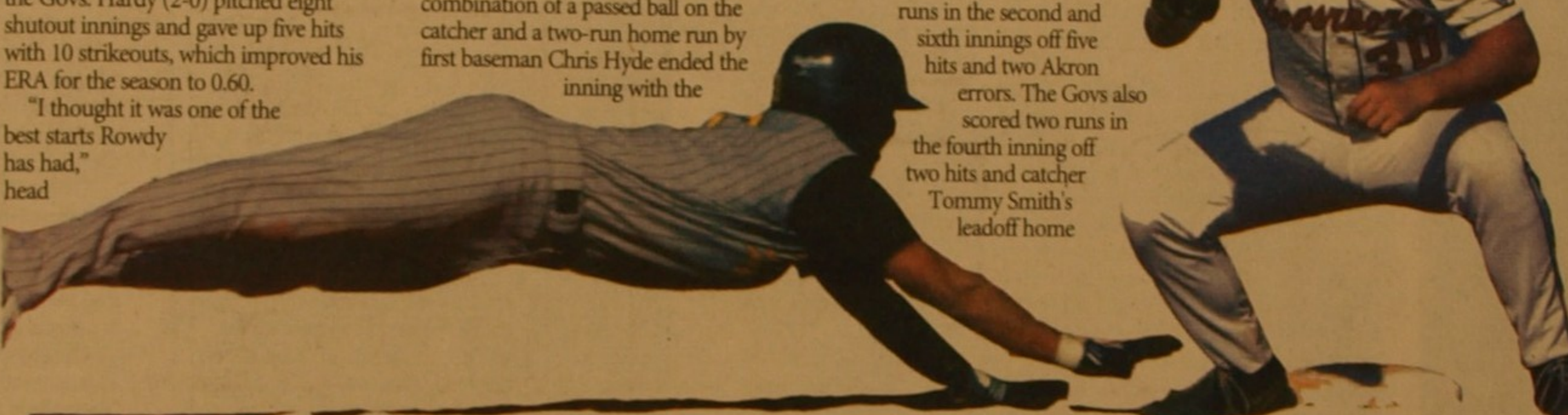
Now let's be a little generous and say that the Valpo mama's boy gets drafted and later makes it to the major leagues. Is mom going to travel to every ballpark with him, give him earmuffs to wear during the game, and call the police on every "disrespectful" fan?

Give me a break! Isn't this America? Don't obnoxious sports fans have rights, too? There is nothing in the baseball rulebook that prohibits fans from heckling the opposing team. It is also a violation of the First Amendment, particularly the part about freedom of speech, to tell someone that he or she cannot tell a 20-year-old college baseball player that he is not very good.

Isn't that what home field advantage is all about? There would be no such thing as home field advantage without a large crowd of disgruntled fans cheering on their home team and insulting the opposing team in almost any way possible.

Heckling is an art that has been perfected since the beginning of all sports. It is the right of all sports fans to support their favorite teams and to create a disadvantage for the opposing team. By no means should a fan do this in a violent manner, but a fan should not be reprimanded for insulting players of an opposing team according to their performance on the field.

I give props to the "heckling fan" in Saturday's game and to any other fan who decides to exercise his or her right to be obnoxious and insulting to the opposing team in a sporting event. It shows that you are dedicated and loyal to your home team. ♦



THOMAS VAN HOOSER/STAFF
Senior Chris Hyde attempts to pick off a Valpo player in Saturday's match-up with the Crusaders. Hyde was selected to the All-Tournament team, along with six other APSU players.

Outdoor season kicks off

By ASHLEY SCHILLING
Staff Writer

This past Friday and Saturday at Eastern Illinois, the Austin Peay State University track and field team competed in the O'Reilly Auto Parts/Ohio Valley Conference Indoor Track and Field Championship. Although the Lady Gobs finished the indoor season in seventh place, they are looking ahead for the upcoming outdoor season, which kicks off Saturday at Lipscomb University.

"We had a solid meet the first day, with 16 performances and 14 personal bests for the day. To do that is impressive, and I'm quite happy about that," head coach Doug Molnar said. "I'm disappointed though in the ninth-place finishes we had. The top eight go to finals, and we were very close. We had several girls finish ninth in the preliminaries so I wish we were just a little bit better."

During this indoor season, the Lady Gobs track and field team has become known for pushing their personal bests at individual events even farther than they had in a previous competition. The OVC championship was no exception.

On the first day of events, athletes improved their personal jumps, times and scores, which helped the team pull off their 23 points scored in the tournament. Junior Sherlonda Johnson, senior Cicely Sullivan and freshmen Keana

McCall and Keshia Richardson finished in the top three of each of their respective events.

"We had a lot of good performances," Molnar said. "But it was Sherlonda Johnson's performance in the long jump that really stood out. She jumped 19 feet 7 inches which is really good for that event."

Although the Austin Peay track and field team has not won an outdoor championship in the past 25 years, the season looks hopeful, as the Lady Gobs pick up some of their strongest events.

Last year, Johnson pulled out a win in the long jump at the OVC outdoor tournament with a jump of 19-4 3/4. Throughout the indoor season, Johnson's personal bests kept improving, so it will be interesting to see if the streak continues into the outdoor season as well, giving her the OVC win for the second year in a row.

"Our team is a little more suited for outdoors," Molnar said. "We pick up three events, including the javelin throw, the 4-by-100 meter relay and the steeple chase, and when we pick up these events, we will pick up points."

As final strings of the indoor season get tied up, Molnar had one final thing to say about the upcoming outdoor season.

"We'll get ready, and we'll get out there to compete," he said. ♦

The All State weekly Sports Trivia Question:

"What professional tennis player was nicknamed 'Little Miss Poker Face,' winning seven U.S. titles and eight Wimbledon?"

No one answered last week's question correctly, so this week the first five people to e-mail theallstatesports@yahoo.com with the correct answer will each win TWO free games of bowling at Skyline Lanes!

Last week's answer:

Wilma Rudolph's shoes were stolen by souvenir-seekers at the 1960 Olympics.

Gobs tennis posts OVC win, Lady Gobs served loss

By BRIANNA VENABLE
Staff Writer

The Gobs and Lady Gobs tennis teams fought hard over the weekend against Ohio Valley Conference opponents Eastern Illinois and the Tennessee-Martin.

The Gobs won against EIU on Friday, posting a final score of 6-1. The No. 1 doubles team of juniors Andrew Naidu/Ankur Singla, and the No. 3 doubles team of Wesley Pancho/Patrick Puertolas both defeated their opponents 8-3, giving the Gobs momentum going into the singles matches.

Singla, at No. 1 singles, was the only loss in the singles matches for the Gobs on the day. The loss was a close match, going the distance of three sets, plus a tiebreaker in the second set, which Singla won to take the match into a third set. The final score was 6-3, 6-7 (10-8), 6-4.

At No. 2 singles, Naidu also took his match to three sets, but came out on top winning 6-4, 3-6, 6-3.

The Gobs' win against EIU gave them added confidence, especially after they defeated Lipscomb a few days earlier, 6-1.

"We're all so confident right now," Nabil Lababedi said. "It's the fact that our singles lineup is so solid and consistently strong, even against tough teams."

The win was the Gobs' first against EIU in the past few years, which will hopefully help them get into the OVC tournament at the end of the season.

The Lady Gobs played a hard-fought match against EIU, yet fell short, losing 5-2. The No. 3 doubles team of Jenica Proctor/Mackenzie Kurth sealed their first win of the season as they defeated their opponent 8-5. The No. 2 doubles team of Alana Carere/Isabel Rzezniczek played a close match, but lost 8-6.

In singles play, the Lady Gobs posted two wins. At No. 2 singles, junior Jessica Hawk won the first set 6-2, then took the second set in to a tie-break and won it 7-4. At No. 5 singles, Carere won decisively, 6-2, 6-1.

On Saturday against UTM, the Gobs came out fighting hard, but couldn't hold on, losing 4-3.

The match started off well with another win from the No. 1 doubles team of Naidu/Singla, who won 8-6. But then the Gobs' No. 2 and No. 3 doubles teams

"Our singles lineup is so solid and consistently strong, even against tough teams."

—Nabil Lababedi, junior tennis player

both lost to their opponents, giving the Skyhawks a one-point advantage going into singles play.

The Gobs were able to get three wins in singles, but it wasn't enough. Naidu won at No. 2 singles (6-4, 7-6), while senior co-captains Jonathan Brown and Wesley Pancho followed with wins at No. 3 and No. 5 singles, respectively. Pancho played a tight match, going three sets, 7-5, 5-7, 6-4.

The match all came down to the No. 6 singles contest of freshman Patrick Puertolas. Tied at 3-3, all the Gobs needed was a win to add another "W" to their record. Puertolas played a tough opponent, taking him to three sets, making for an exciting

match. But Puertolas eventually lost the battle, 6-4, 5-7, 6-4.

"After we lost the doubles point, everyone fought hard to tie the match up at 3-3," Pancho said. "Puertolas' match was a good battle and was only lost by a couple points. We knew it was going to be a close match. It's always tough after losing a doubles point, but we did well to come back like we did."

The Lady Gobs also played a tough UTM team on Saturday, and lost 6-1.

"We were all in the match," junior Elizabeth Whelpley said. "Overall, everyone played really well, but we just couldn't pull out the big points."

Senior Jenica Proctor gave the team some encouragement when she won her No. 6 singles match, 6-4, 6-1, but it was too little, too late.

"We faced a really good team," Whelpley said.

Both the Gobs and Lady Gobs take a break from conference play for a few weeks. The Gobs' next match is Friday at Western Kentucky University, and the Lady Gobs travel to Thibodaux, La., to take on Nichols State next Tuesday. ♦



THOMAS VAN HOOSER/STAFF
Jenica Proctor goes for a ball during the Lady Gobs' 6-1 loss to OVC rival UT-Martin. Proctor won the No. 6 singles match against the Skyhawks' Mary Beth Gunn by a score of 6-4, 6-1.

Softball prepares for season's first home contests

After a disappointing 1-8 start for the season, APSU hopes to rally back with back-to-back double-headers.

By ASHLEY SCHILLING
Staff Writer

The Austin Peay State University softball season is in full swing as the Lady Gobs already have a 1-8 record. But the Lady Gobs hope to change those numbers in their double-headers against Belmont, Wednesday, and Cumberland University, Thursday.

"We are working on hitting the ball over the fence," Cumberland head Coach Junior Hawkins said about

preparations for the week's game.

"Our main goal is just scoring runs," he added.

So far this season, the Lady Gobs have scored only 12 runs and have given up a combined run score of 57. Belmont is 1-2 on the season. They have scored four runs in three games and have given up 14.

Cumberland, on the other hand, is 2-1 on the season and has given up only nine runs, while scoring 15 in three games.

"We are working on improving our defense and working on our errors," head Coach Jim Perrin said.

"There are too many errors haunting us," he added. "Pitching is something, too; we have had too many walks. So we are working on hitting, but a quick fix would be to have a controlling defense."

The Lady Gobs will be competing in their first home games of the season against the Bruins and the Lady Dawgs. The contests will be the

only home games for two more weeks, as they pick up and travel to Bowling Green to compete in the Western Kentucky Invitational this weekend.

This home field advantage plays a significant role in the outcome of any sporting event.

"We'd love to have more fans to come out and support us," Perrin said. "It's something that we're working on. We have made many improvements on the field to bring in

fans. People support more teams that are successful though, so we need to improve our play."

During the season so far, junior Brianna Venerable is the only Lady Gov who has had a multiple-RBI game, and she also holds the season record for the longest hitting streak, five hits.

Also helping the Lady Gobs this season are sophomores Michelle Edmunds, who has had a multiple hitting game, and Ashley Porter who

holds the Lady Gobs season record in strikeouts (4).

"We are just using this game to get us ready for conference games," said Cumberland's Julia Stafford, a sophomore. Stafford will not be playing in Thursday's game due to an injury, but was eager to comment on the upcoming contest.

"Cumberland is a competitive ball club, even though it is smaller than us," Perrin said. "It should be a good battle." ♦

Austin Peay Player Profile

By MICHAEL KELLUM
Staff Writer

The days are getting longer and the weather is getting warmer, which can only mean one thing: It's time for the Austin Peay State University baseball season to start. This season, the team has a Preseason All-American by the name of Rowdy Hardy. Hardy says he appreciates the recognition.

"It's nice to get recognition for my efforts and my team's efforts," he said.

It will be exciting to see how Hardy can improve after having such a good season last year in his first season at APSU. He led the Gobs to a 12-3 overall mark and 2.90 ERA. He was ranked 10th nationally in victories and 77th among all Division I pitchers in ERA. He also was named OVC Rookie of the Year and was a first-team All-OVC selection. Hardy said he worked hard in the off-season to improve. "I worked harder than the year before," he said. I got a lot stronger, and also learned 2 new pitches. When I get on the mound, I don't think about last year, I think about the game at hand. I know there are eight or nine guys that can do the same thing. I want to have a good season, and I hope everybody will come to the games." Hardy said he wants to help the team win the regional and be the last team to win. So far this season Hardy has done a good job of doing just that. Hardy is undefeated at 2-0. His ERA is 0.60 and he has only given up one walk. He also has 18 strikeouts. ♦

Question and Answer

Name: Rowdy Hardy
Class: Junior

Hometown: Bethel Springs, Tenn.

Sport: Gobs Baseball

Major: Mathematics

After College: Play professional baseball and coach

Favorite Place to Eat: Johnny's

Role Model: Whoever pushes me at the moment

Favorite part about being an APSU student-athlete: The atmosphere, traveling and playing games

Governors basketball boasts high hopes for Ohio Valley Conference tournament



Dedicated APSU fans are looking for a top-notch performance from the Gobs in the OVC tournament.

By MICHAEL YOUNG
Staff Writer

The Austin Peay State University men's basketball team's regular season has finally come to an end, as the Gobs earned a 9-7 record in the OVC. However, the Gobs set out this week to accomplish one thing - to get back to the OVC championship and earn a birth into the NCAA tournament.

"It's going to be difficult," APSU head coach Dave Loos said. "It was difficult for us last year to make it to the championship. We had two tough games. TSU almost beat us here, and then we had a close game with Eastern Kentucky. It will be equally as tough this year. We are starting on the road, and no team has ever started on

the road and won the tournament championship. We've got our hands full."

After the Gobs' 70-66 loss in last Saturday's match-up with the No. 2 seed Eastern Kentucky Colonels, the Gobs enter the OVC tournament as the No. 7 seed and went on the road for the first round.

"It's been difficult for us, especially on the road," Loos said. "We just haven't been able to get over the hump completely on the road. We've been in games, and we've had games won, but we just can't seem to finish games on the road."

Tennessee Tech will enter the tournament as the No. 1 seed, as they finished the regular season with a 12-4

record.

TTU is followed by last year's tournament champions the Murray State Racers in the No. 3 spot with Samford (10-6), Southeast Missouri (9-7), Tennessee State (9-7) and Eastern Illinois (7-9) finishing out the tournament roster in fourth, fifth, sixth and eighth, respectively.

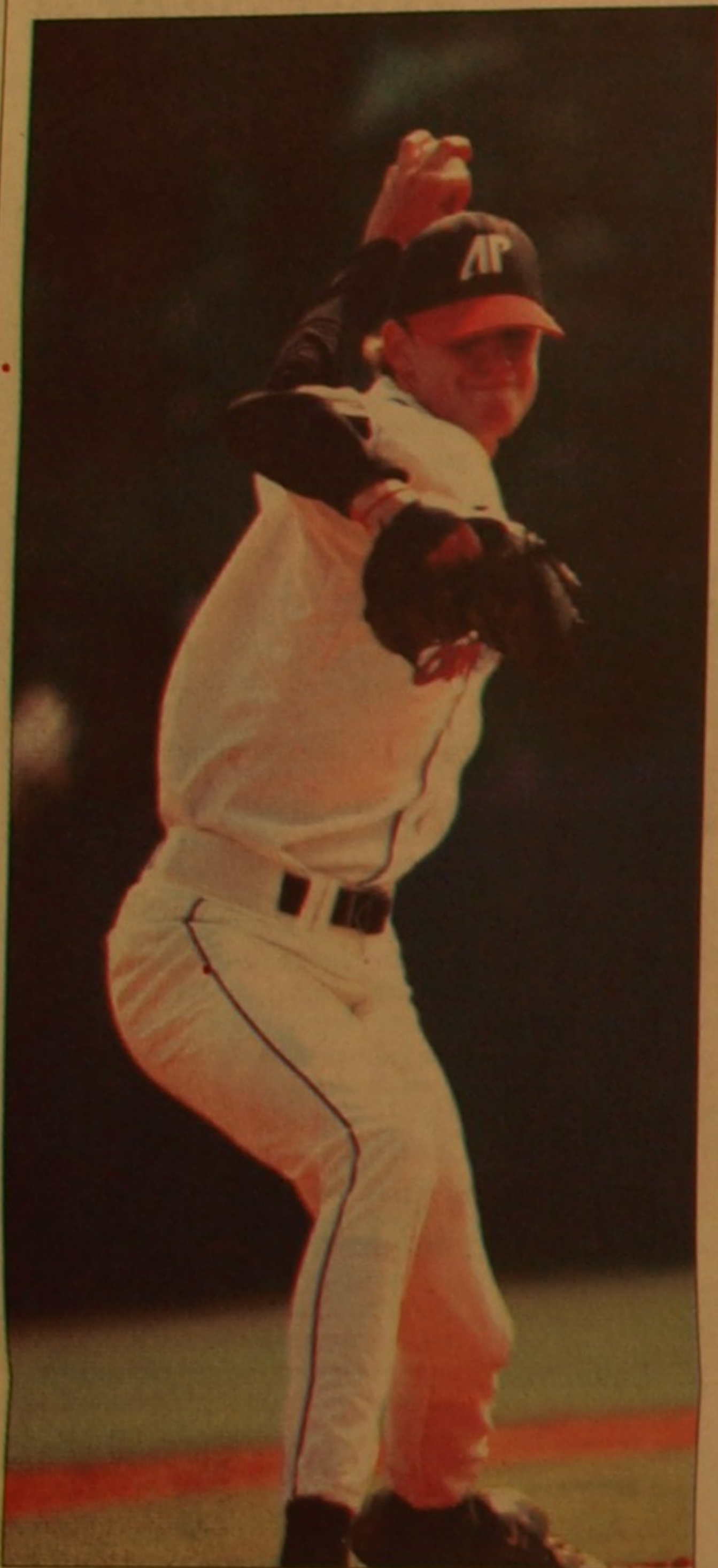
"All of the teams from top to bottom this year have beaten everyone and you can't really put a target on one particular team," junior center Zac Schlader said.

"We just have to stick to our own personal strategy. We have to stick to what we do and don't waiver from that. If we do that and execute pretty well, then I think we have a pretty good shot."

"I think that Tennessee Tech, EKU, Murray, SMO and pretty much everybody are teams that can threaten at any night," senior guard Williams Durden said.

"They all have been playing pretty well down the stretch. In the tournament, you just got to play hard, play good defense, execute on offense and rebound to be able to be successful."

The second round of the OVC tournament will be played Friday in Nashville at the Gaylord Entertainment Center at 6 and 8 p.m. The OVC Championship game will be played Saturday at 3 p.m. ♦



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rowdy Hardy throws a change-up pitch. The junior left-hander struck out 10 players in last weekend's Invitational.

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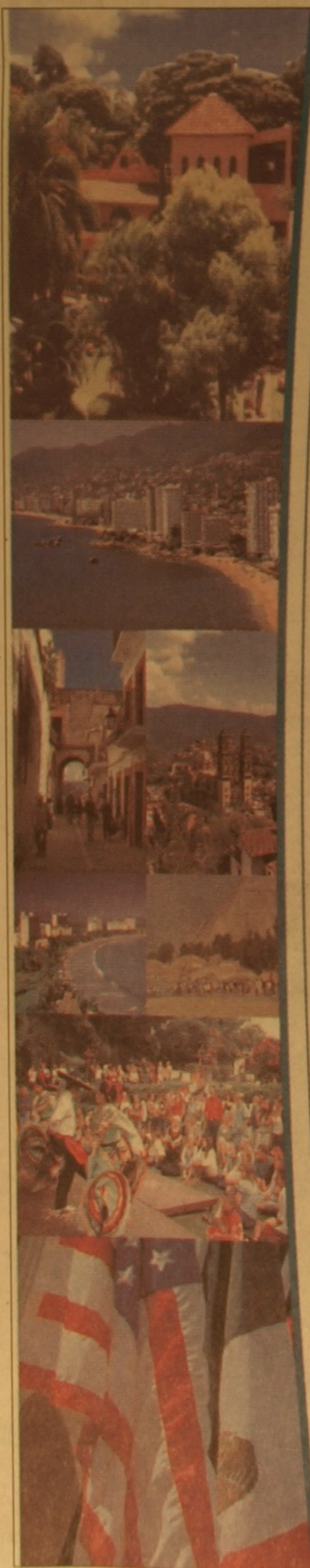
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