

Speck seeks presidency in Missouri

By JARED COMBS
Staff Writer

Bruce Speck, provost and vice president of academic affairs at APSU, is a finalist in the search for a new president at Missouri Southern State University.

Speck is no stranger to the process of a university selecting its president.

He has applied for multiple college presidencies since Timothy Hall filled APSU's presidential position in the 2007 fall semester.

"I had applied for the position here," Speck said. "I did that because I had consulted with people and I had feedback that said I was ready for a presidency, and I am. The next step for me is

presidency."

Before coming to APSU in the fall of 2001, Speck spent nine years at the University of Memphis where he worked his way from an assistant professor position to head of the Faculty Development Center.

Speck explained that he has no regrets about the time he has spent at APSU.

"There is nothing about leaving here that's negative, that's not the issue," Speck said.

Since APSU's presidential position was filled, Speck has been a finalist in presidential hunts at Dickinson State University in North Dakota, Missouri Western State University and Missouri Southern State University.

While the positions at DSU and MWSU have been filled, Speck is currently one of two remaining candidates for the presidency at MSSU.

"We could not be in a better situation to have two highly qualified candidates from which to choose," said Dwight Douglas, chair of the board of governors at MSSU in a press release Jan. 9.

"We spent hours with each of them and they both provided outstanding interviews," Douglas said.

The former vice president of MSSU, where Speck is still a viable candidate, won the position at DSU.

The position at MWSU has been filled, but according to Robert Bergland, associate professor

of English and journalism at MWSU, the decision not to hire Speck did not come easily.

"We were very high on Dr. Speck throughout the entire process," Bergland said.

Speck will answer questions in a public forum at MSSU Jan. 16.

His contender, Joe A. Wiley, president of Rogers State University in Claremore, Okla., will answer questions Jan. 17 and the MSSU board of governors will make a decision between the two candidates in the weeks to follow.

According to Speck, he will remain at APSU until he finds a new position.

"I will continue applying if I'm not hired at MSSU," Speck said. ♦

Clarksville comes together for King



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In Jan. 2007, Faith Outreach Church in Clarksville celebrated Martin Luther King, Jr.'s life and legacy. His legacy and life was that of resisting violence with non-violence in the fight for equal rights. This fight culminated in the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 which eliminated Jim Crow laws and made it illegal to prohibit people from voting due to race.

Events planned for campus, Clarksville remembers

By DAVE CAMPBELL
Managing Editor

Activism is one reason that Jimmie Garland, president of the Clarksville branch of the NAACP believes that Martin Luther King Jr. Day is important at the collegiate level.

He shared some of the possibilities for students to be active in the celebration.

Garland said that he encourages college students to be a part of the events surrounding MLK Day. "I challenge them to be involved," Garland said.

One such event is the annual MLK

Commemorative March. This year the march will begin at 9 a.m. Mon., Jan. 21, outside Burt School located across from the Music/Mass Comm building.

Participants will march downtown to City Hall around the jail, ending the march back at Burt School around noon.

On campus there will be one event coinciding with MLK Day.

Director of the African American Cultural Center, Carol Bennett, said that they limit the events to one because there are so many other events going on in the community.

"So much goes on in the community, but we need to do something," Bennett said.

Bennett said that there will be a "read-in" that is geared toward children from noon



ASSOCIATED PRESS

King's famous "March on Washington" speech

to 3 p.m. on MLK Day in the Woodward Library.

Participants will come to the library, pick a book that is relevant to the holiday and read an excerpt.

Bennett said King exemplifies what our nation is supposed to be, "a kinder, gentler nation."

Off campus, there will be a service to honor King at 5 p.m. Sun., Jan. 20, at Greater Missionary Baptist Mission. The church is located at 450 Ringgold Road.

"It's important that not just African-Americans, but America as a whole honor King's legacy because of what he stood for

See **King**, Page 2

Desire2Learn erases Blackboard

By DANIEL GREGG
Staff Writer

The new university standard for online classes in Tennessee is now Desire2Learn (D2L), which replaces Blackboard.

"As part of a Tennessee Colleges and Universities initiative, we have moved away from Blackboard and standardized state-wide on a new online course delivery system called Desire2Learn (D2L)," said Kathrine Bailey, APSU's extended and distance education multimedia specialist.

The new program offers both the students and professors more control by allowing a person to setup viewable discussion boards, as well as customizing personal preferences.

The Discussion, Help and FAQ links were added for extra information or to help students struggling with reading.

"For instructors, the visual outline helps organize their content for students," Bailey said.

Students have a checklist and an improved calendar to help keep on track with reading and assignments.

The discussion board allows reading and replying to e-mail.

"Students will love the e-book feel to reading content with the ability to actually bookmark what they are reading," Bailey said.

The bookmark tab on the homepage takes a person directly back to where they stopped reading.

The content is designed to resemble the outline of a book that allows students to flow through the course and find the information they need.

There is also a glossary in which words can be added and linked to content that is relevant to the term.

Folders that hold assignments can also hold notes in the drop box that make the submission and resubmission of documents more effective as a teaching tool.

"No longer a land of text, students can add images and audio to their contributions," Bailey said.

Attachments and HTML functions can also be used to communicate ideas.

If anyone has problems with the D2L program there will be a workshop toward the end of January.

There will be an announcement sent out prior to the workshop with the date of the workshop. ♦

Foy equipped to handle more; doors open for alumni, family

By NICOLE JUNE
Guest Writer

Liberty and exercise for all. As of Jan. 2, the Foy Fitness and Recreation Center will be open not only to students and faculty, but to alumni of the university as well.

According to David Davenport, director of university recreation, the decision to permit alumni to use the facilities was prompted for three reasons. The first reason involves generating revenue. The Rec. Center is an auxiliary facility, and therefore can gain exponentially from any added revenue.

According to Davenport, alumni will be required to pay a \$10 application fee, as well as a \$120 per-semester fee for those who are 18 and older.

The spouses and dependants of alumni, when accompanied by the alumni patron are permitted access as well, and must also pay the fees. Dependants ages 16 to 18 are required to pay an \$80 fee per semester.

Davenport estimates that these numbers are approximately 75 percent higher than the recreation fees students are required to pay through their tuition.

The second reason for the change concerns the

rights and privileges of the alumni. For many, the facility was constructed after their graduation, and these people did not have the chance to use the Rec. Center's facilities. Many of these alumni have even invested in the center's construction and progress.

The final reason is to give back to the alumni, according to Davenport.

Alumni will now be given the chance to make use of the facilities that they had a hand in creating, and their generosity will be rewarded.

"It is always a positive thing to give back to the alumni," Davenport said. Davenport feels that students and faculty have reacted positively to this change so far.

"Many faculty members have spouses who are

alumni and students have parents who are also alumni. They will now be able to enjoy the center together," Davenport said. He does not believe there will be any over-crowding issues, and said the Rec. Center is "well-equipped to accommodate the increase in new patrons."

Davenport feels that this is a good opportunity for growth for the Rec. Center. The more people that use it, the better the networking opportunities for the facility will be, increasing programming options.

"I think it is a positive thing. It helps keep the community involved in the university," said Elizabeth Bradshaw, freshman.

"Overall, it is important to keep the alumni actively involved in the university. I believe that the university should have specific guidelines and regulations pertaining to the family members of the alumni, and the students should remain the primary focus of the [Foy] center, I don't foresee any problems resulting from the change," Bradshaw said.

Currently, the Rec. Center is working on the construction of a new outdoor swimming pool.



ASHLEY WRIGHT/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Chris Falkinburg, a junior political science major, does pull-ups in the Rec. Center Jan. 10.

See **Alumni**, Page 1

Perspectives

Get real and repeal
Real I.D. nationally

Features

Local band
rocks
downtown
Nashville



Sports

Lady Gavs
lose six
straight
during the
holidays



Online

Get the
paper before
you see it in
print, sign up
online.



FYI

♦ Classes are cancelled for Jan. 21 for Martin Luther King, Jr. day.



By KYLE NELSON
News Editor

During this election season, *The All State* will endeavor to deliver the issues and the positions of each candidate. Tennessee’s primary will be held Feb. 5.

The issue for this edition of *TAS* is foreign policy.

John McCain, R-Ariz.

McCain is for the war in Iraq and has been an outspoken supporter of the troop surge.

According to McCain’s Web site (www.johnmccain.com), he believes that the training of Iraqi security forces should be accelerated, and that there should be a greater emphasis promoting economic development and “representative, accountable governance.”

Barack Obama, D-Ill.

According to Barack Obama’s Web site (www.barackobama.com), he believes in ending the war in Iraq and having U.S. troops home in 16 months.

During this time he would urge the leaders of Iraq to “seek a new accord on Iraq’s constitution and governance.”

Also according to Obama’s Web site, he will, “set a goal of a world without nuclear weapons,” by strengthening the Nuclear Non-Proliferation

Treaty with Russia.

Mitt Romney, R-Mass.

Romney, according to the FOX News presidential debate Jan. 10, believes that in order to fight terrorism, the U.S. needs to come together with other industrialized nations and give the moderate voices of Islam more strength.

This is so that Muslims, Romney said, can reject extremism themselves.

Hillary Clinton, D-N.Y.

Clinton is against the war in Iraq and according to her campaign Web site (www.hillaryclinton.com), she will begin to bring the troops home within her first 60 days as president. According to her Web site, she would, “direct aid to the entities—whether governmental or non-governmental—most likely to get into the hands of the Iraqi people.”

Mike Huckabee, R-Ark.

According to Huckabee’s Web site (www.mikehuckabee.com), he believes that the Iraq war is a part of the war on terror because the U.S. are currently fighting al-Qaida insurgents there.

Also, during the FOX News debate, Huckabee said that it would be recklessly irresponsible to

end aid to Israel.

John Edwards, D-S.C.

Edwards, according to his campaign Web site, (www.johnedwards.com), is against the war in Iraq and would begin to pull troops out over the first 12-18 months of his presidency.

Rudy Giuliani, R-N.Y.

According to the FOX News debate Jan, 10, Guliani is a pro-war, pro-surge candidate.

He also said that the U.S. needs to place more pressure on President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan to help fight al-Qaida along the Pakistan, Afghanistan border.

Fred Thompson, R-Tenn.

Thompson is a pro-war candidate. In the FOX News debate Jan. 10, Thompson said the U.S. needs to support President Musharraf while encouraging him to move Pakistan toward democracy.

Ron Paul, R-Texas

Paul is against the war in Iraq. He said in the FOX News debate that the U.S. needs to withdraw support from Israel. Paul believes it would add greater incentive for Israel to get along with its neighbors. ♦

King: Events hosted

From Page 1

in terms of equality, justice and economic values,” said Pastor Willie Freeman.

“This is the purpose of celebrating, equality for all men,” Freeman said. “We’ve made a lot of progress, but we’ve still got a long way to go.”

Freeman explains that this will be a community service.

“It’s very informative and enlightening. We’re expecting 1,500 to 2,000 people to attend,” Freeman said.

Freeman believes a nation that forgets its past tends to repeat its past.

Garland agrees, explaining that what black Americans went through in the ’60s may not be occurring today, but added, “they could be again if we forget.”

This year will mark the 23rd nationally recognized MLK Day, which was signed into law by President Ronald Reagan in 1983, but only went into effect in 1986.

Congressman John Conyers initially proposed the legislation that would take stalling of the bill and a subsequent 6 million names petitioned to Congress to get the holiday passed into federal law. ♦

Alumni: Pool

From Page 1

“The pool is on track,” Davenport said. “We anticipate the completion of the project by the middle of the semester, or by spring break.”

When this happens, alumni and their dependants will be allowed access to the pool area as well.

The 16 and older age restriction will most likely be lifted at that time, according to Davenport, for the pool only, and all ages will be allowed entrance,

provided that a university alumni patron accompanies them.

As far as any other future changes to the Rec. Center, it appears that no major plans are currently in progress.

However, according to Davenport, “We are always improving and expanding programming. Progress is always being made.”

For more information about the Rec. Center and alumni use, visit the Alumni Web site or contact the David Davenport. ♦

Good Morning APSU

Your Community

Early voting for primary

Early voting for the Presidential Primary begins Wed., Jan. 16. Voting will also be done Jan. 17 through Jan. 31 except on Jan. 20 and Jan. 27. The times for voting are 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekdays and 9 a.m. to 12 a.m. For more information contact the Montgomery county Election Commission at 648-5705. The address is 350 Pageant lane, suite 404, P.O. Box 422, Clarksville, Tenn. 37041-0422.

MLK, Jr. Day Read-in

At Woodward library on Jan. 21 there will be a “Read-in.” Everyone is invited to read stories about civil rights activities and about the Civil Rights Movement. The event will be from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Little Shop of Horrors

Auditions for “Little Shop of Horrors” will be Jan. 22 and Jan. 23 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Trahern Theatre. People who audition must be present both days, 16 bars of music are required, and possible callbacks are Jan 24. For more information contact Darren Michael at 221-6297.

MLK Commemorative March

A march will be held on Martin luthor king, Jr. Day, Jan. 21. The march will begin at 9 a.m. and will star t at the Burt School lot, across from the Music/Mass Comm. building. The march will go downtown to City hall, around the jail, and end back at Burt School by noon.

Black History Bowl

The Black History Knowlegde Bowl will be held Feb. 1 in the Clement Auditorium at 5 p.m. the Bowl will test contestants knowledge of Black history. Prizes will be handed out.

The Norman magic Experiance

This magic show will be Jan. 15, at 6 p.m. in the Clement Auditorium. This even is free to students. there be a preview of this show in the UC at lunchtime Jan. 15.

Unity Celebration

The Dinner and Celebration will feature special guest Nikki Giovanni — poet, writer, distiguished professor at Virginia Tech. The event will be Feb. 7 at 6 p.m. Advance tickets are required for entrance, but free to students and faculty and staff with Govs ID. Tickets will be available Jan. 22 in the office of student affairs, UC 206.



Student Affairs

presents a

UNITY CELEBRATION and DINNER

with special guest



Nikki GIOVANNI

6 p.m. • Feb. 7, 2008

Nikki Giovanni is a world-renowned poet, writer, activist and educator and a University Distinguished Professor at Virginia Tech University in Blacksburg, Va. She has been named woman of the year by several magazines, including *Mademoiselle*, *Ladies’ Home Journal*, *Ebony* and *Essence*, and was recently proclaimed one of Oprah Winfrey’s 25 Living Legends.

A Knoxville native, she is one of the most widely read American poets and the author of some 30 books for both adults and children. Giovanni touched the world with her empowering and moving poem to the Virginia Tech community the day after the April 2007 tragedy.

Ticket Information

Advance tickets required • Limited seating
One ticket per student • Free with valid student Govs ID
One ticket per faculty/staff • Free with APSU ID

Tickets available in the Office of Student Affairs,
Morgan University Center 206, beginning Jan. 22

OUR TAKE

New year calls for resolutions

Editorial Round-up

THE ISSUE:
The new year brings with it a set of new year's resolutions. Here's our wish list of some resolutions we'd like to see for 2008.

OUR TAKE:
We recommend several areas for improvement, the most prominent of which is no more mold. Here's to wishing.

Now that the 2007 year is concluded, we want to pose some improvements for APSU this semester as well as highlight some accomplishments from the last.

First and foremost, *no more mold*. Though we doubt it will ever be accomplished, we'd like to see mold completely irradiated from campus.

While online classes become more prevalent among the collegiate curriculum, the growing trend is susceptible to exclusively offering classes online. Some classes required for graduation in certain majors are offered online only, yet online classes remain unpopular to many students. We'd like to see more lecture options coincide with those online classes.

Furthermore, we urge that effort be taken to ensure that all required courses for majors are offered each semester in the departments that

need it. It's not uncommon for students to get derailed from their four-year-plan due to personal situations or conflicting schedules. This common situation can hinder seniors from graduating on time when courses they need are not offered.

We'd like to see more students taking initiative in helping to keep this campus clean, especially around the dormitories. Last semester was looking rather trashy.

Disabilities Services ought to find a way to make paperwork less finicky if possible. More than not, slight errors in paperwork cause students to run back and forth between Disability Services and doctors or Shasteen. Additionally, a few extra handicap parking spaces would be a great improvement, although more parking in general

would be great.

There's always room for improvement, and we're not saying that all these things have been ignored. This is just a wish list of things we'd like to see accomplished by the end of the semester.

But let's not forget some of the accomplishments from last semester. One of the things we'd like to see maintained is the improvement in registration. Registration this spring was much smoother than registration for last fall. There weren't as many problems with AP Self-Service except the students' difficulty finding their adviser. With the "help desk" signs everywhere and the lessons learned from last semester, everyone was better prepared. The improved registration is something students don't want to disappear.

President Timothy Hall's

interaction with the students last semester helped make him quite visible among the community. By holding meetings for students who wanted to address their concerns, Hall showed that he was willing to listen to students. Also, throughout the semester you couldn't turn a corner without seeing Hall mingling somewhere among the student body. Whether it was a random event on campus, the cafeteria or a dormitory lobby, he was there.

Waldo, from "Where's Waldo," is considering legal action for trademark infringement. The president's interaction and outreach with and to the students is something we want to see continued this semester.

So there is *The All State's* wish list for '08. Let's hope for some change here at APSU this year. ♦

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Learning from a distance

Use distance learning to help you while studying abroad



Bill Harding

There's no place like home unless you really have to be somewhere else besides home. With the many ways to get an education, it is possible to almost never visit your college campus. I'm talking about distance learning. The APSU distance learning programs provide students who wish to travel abroad the opportunity to continue their studies.

Let me tell you of my personal experience. My fourth semester at APSU presented a challenge. My goal is to travel as a missionary to Santa Cruz, Bolivia for six months. Of course, this conflicts with my school schedule. My advisor's conclusion was that today's technology would allow me to continue my studies even from 4,000 miles away. Study abroad program? Yeah right. If only it were that easy.

The longest part of the process was defining exactly how my studies would be classified. At first, someone suggested a study-abroad program. The school did not offer one. Then I thought I would be able to take an independent study, and basically determine my own coursework. However, since my trip will be more of an observation than a study, it would not be as useful.

In the end, I was advised in the end to take three internship study programs. Student internships requires 15 work-hours. By going to Bolivia, I will be working way more than full time.

The Internet will allow me to e-mail reports, observations, and journal entries to my adviser. My digital camera will help me construct graphic presentations. And I will even be able to incorporate some sound recording to send audio presentations on MP3 format through my e-mail.

Of course, the other problem is that being former military, I rely on my G.I. bill income to support me in college and on this trip. In order to receive my full amount, I need to be enrolled full time. With only three courses in the internship program worth three credit hours each, I come up short.

How can distance studies work for me? Luckily there are several online courses to choose from. I chose "News Reporting" and "Introduction to the Internet," worth three hours each.

Another opportunity is that I am still able to do work for *The All State* from South America. By signing up for three one-credit hour communication labs, I will get credit for something I love to do anyway, contribute to *The All State's* weekly edition.

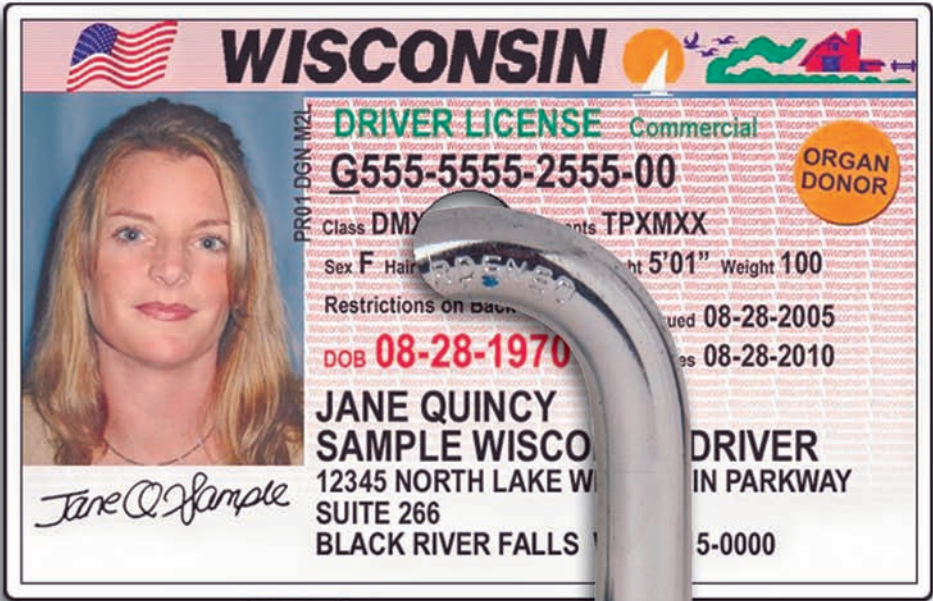
I am excited about it because I will be able to fill my readers in on the exciting adventures that occur on my trip.

When I get a microphone for my laptop, I will be able to contribute to our up and coming podcast department from a far-away land.

When I started planning this trip, I thought I would have to just take four online classes. But after talking to the professionals here at APSU, I came to the conclusion that distance learning can be tailored to each individual if he or she perseveres to see that situation fully developed.

This would definitely be beneficial to all the students that study abroad, live far from campus, or get deployed to far-away places. I strongly encourage students to leave Clarksville behind for a semester, find a far-away land to experience, and take advantage of the distance learning programs available to them. ♦

Bill Harding is the Audio & Video Director. He is a sophomore communications major and can be reached at csk201@gmail.com



GRAPHIC BY DUSTIN KRAMER/ART DIRECTOR

Real ID looks more like real pain

Although many people have never heard of REAL ID, the federal government passed legislation mandating that each state would have to reissue their own identification cards conforming to Federal standards and containing machine-readable technology. The cards also have the option of



Kevin Scahill

containing radio-frequency identification chips. These would allow the cards to be tracked and identified using radio waves without necessarily the consent or even knowledge of the person being tracked and identified. REAL ID goes into effect May 11, 2008, and there's a Web site counting down.

The REAL ID Act claims that its purposes are to bring State ID cards to a more secure standard, prevent terrorists from abusing asylum laws, to aid in both keeping terrorists out of the U.S.

and in removing them, and to help build the San Diego border fence faster. According to the Department of Homeland Security's Web site, REAL ID will protect vulnerable areas like airplanes and nuclear power plants. It denies that REAL ID will be a national ID and that a national database will be created.

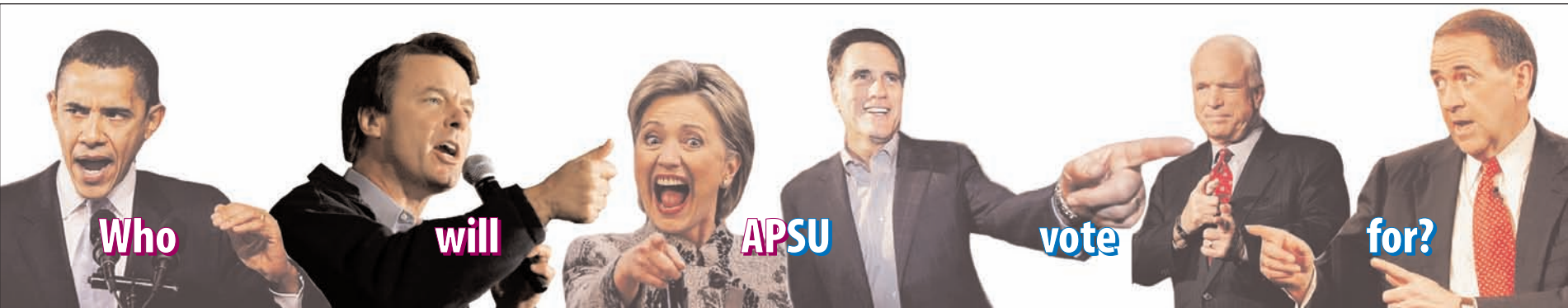
Section 203 of the act itself, however, says that no state will be eligible for any financial aid for REAL ID without participating "in the interstate compact regarding sharing of driver license data, known as the 'Driver License Agreement,' in order to provide electronic access by a state to information contained in the motor vehicle databases of all other States." That sounds suspiciously similar to how a national database would work. Of course, states must only agree to participate if they want financial aid, but that brings up the first of many complaints against REAL ID. In Tennessee alone, it would cost \$100 million that our state government would have to come up with. Our state cannot afford it.

There are other complaints as well. For some of the Christian community, this seems like a sign of the apocalypse and end of the world. It has been argued that REAL ID is a step towards implanting chips in all of our bodies, so that the government can track us at all times. Anyone who watched the '70's movie "A Thief in the Night" can see the similarities between implanted chips and what the book of Revelations calls the "mark of the beast." The American Civil Liberties Union and several state legislatures have also opposed REAL ID. They maintain that REAL ID is a violation of states' rights and an invasion of privacy.

Whether one believes that REAL ID is a good idea, a ticket to bankruptcy or the end of the world, perhaps the most disturbing part of the whole issue is its relative obscurity. The act shows that the federal government is trying to gather more information on everyone. Non-funded federal mandates could lead to more legislation requiring more Tennessee money, but who is paying attention? One might believe that God is going to come like a thief in the night, but that doesn't mean that we have to let the federal government do the same thing.

On June 11, 2007, Tennessee was the 16th state to pass legislation defying REAL ID. Although it's a relief, it might complicate life for all Tennesseans. Because the federal government will no longer accept our driver's licenses, for example, we may need a passport to board even domestic flights because passports will still be acceptable forms of identification to the federal government. We have already denied the act on a state level, so the next step is to write our Congressmen and have it repealed on a national one. I'm not saying that the government is out to get us, but it certainly wouldn't hurt to pay attention and speak up when things seem threatening. ♦

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Which presidential candidate will you vote for?

Rock the Vote by going online to
www.theallstate.com

GUEST COLUMN

In defense of the Iowa caucuses

Anyone with access to a PC, TV or radio will have by now heard about the striking results of the Iowa caucuses: surprising victory on the democratic side for Barack Obama, the first African-American with a reasonable chance of being selected as his party's nominee, and the equally surprising win of a relatively obscure Ark.



Dr. Gregory R. Zieren

governor and former Baptist preacher, Mike Huckabee, in the Republican race. Even if one of the better-known or better-funded candidates in the race out-paces Obama and Huckabee, the Iowa caucus results marked a shift in the races on both sides and narrowed a crowded field to a manageable four or five serious contenders.

Critics of the caucuses have often asked why Iowa should hold the distinction of hosting the very first selection of every presidential election and thus shape the agenda for the rest of America. After all, they point out, Iowa is a small state with about three million inhabitants, just one percent of the nation as a whole. Iowa is more rural than the rest of the country and a greater percentage of its residents live in small towns. Its largest city and capital, Des Moines, is only modestly larger than Clarksville. More seriously, critics point to the absence of any substantial minority population in the state. Like that other first primary state, New Hampshire, Iowa is overwhelmingly white. African-Americans make up perhaps two percent of the population with about an equal number of Hispanics. The farm economy and farmers as voters are far more important than in the majority of states; indeed, visiting candidates quickly learn that hogs outnumber people in Iowa by five to one. Voters seem fixated on the question of price supports for corn and subsidies for ethanol, hardly issues that excite most Americans. So, is Iowa a "representative" or "typical" American state? Most political observers, I believe, would say certainly not.

Still there is a strong case for Iowa's role to host the "first-in-the-nation" selection for a new president. At this point, I should admit to my bias, or perhaps experience if you prefer, as a former Iowa resident who took part in three caucuses during the 10 years I lived there. Iowa voters are not among the wealthiest in the nation, but they rank among the most literate and best educated. Both parties have well-organized structures that reach into neighborhoods and rely on tens of thousands of volunteers who take unpaid jobs as precinct captains, manning phone banks, walking

the precincts on election day to ensure turnout and stuffing envelopes. When reporters and media representatives descend on the state every four years, they call these volunteer party "activists" and question how representative they are of the population at large. But the term activist is misleading. It's true that they often have a particular interest or issue, but it's also true that they are first and foremost engaged citizens. The volunteers are neither professional politicians nor paid staff. Rather, they are politically committed and well-informed citizens who believe that the success of democracy depends on their efforts.

A tour of the caucus

The process begins in the summer before the January caucuses. Individuals with a history of political involvement receive phone calls from potential candidates or their representatives and will be asked if they would be willing to host an event, usually a coffee gathering. In 1988, for instance, with no obvious front-runner on the Democratic side, I received telephone calls from hosts in my precinct asking me to attend meetings with then Congressman Richard Gephardt or Mass. Governor Michael Dukakis. The gatherings consist of 10 to 15 people usually held in living and dining rooms, patios or garages filled with folding chairs. What's appealing, of course, about these events, is that just possibly you might be meeting the next president of the U.S. in a neighbor's living room. The candidate, introduced by the host, delivers a brief and informal speech

on key issues of the day, and then opens the floor for questions. This is retail politics at its most basic long before the first television commercial airs, even long before most people express much interest in an election 18 months in the future. Another striking feature of these events is the level of interest and knowledge the participants possess. Iowa voters have their quirks like all others, but no one can say they're ill informed or lazy. From the candidate's perspective these gatherings offer the opportunity to sharpen the message and identify potential supporters who would be willing to volunteer their time on the candidate's behalf.

By the following January on caucus day in each of the 1,800 precincts in the state, all voters are free to gather in designated locations, often schools, union halls or church basements. Participants must show up by 7 p.m., often in frigid and snowy weather, to register a preference in either the Republican or Democratic caucus. The Republican caucus meeting requires a commitment of perhaps an hour or two. The main business is, of course, voting for your preferred presidential candidate. The democratic caucus is more time consuming because local ballot initiatives and party platforms must be decided before the presidential preference vote. Democratic party participants can expect to spend two to three hours caucusing. According to the rules, in order for a candidate to have a delegate at the county convention, he or she must have 15 percent of the available votes. So, assuming 15 people in a gathering of 100 voters

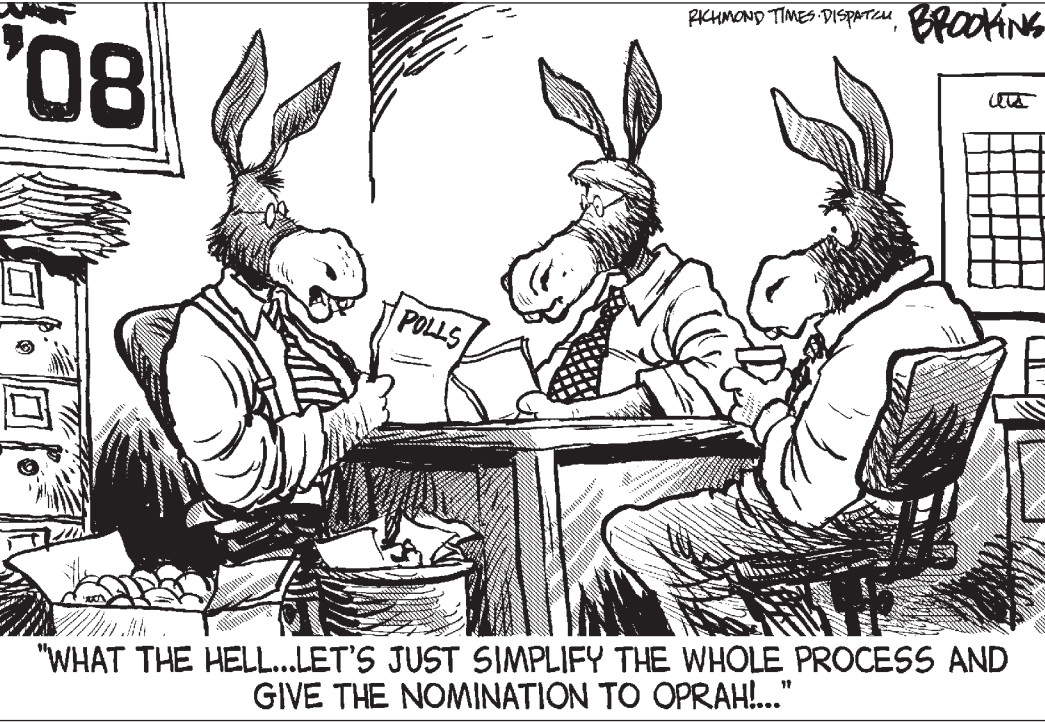
support one candidate, that candidate wins one delegate to the county convention, the next level of the selection process. If fewer than 15 support a candidate, they fail to win a delegate and must find a second one to support until the necessary 15 percent hurdle is reached. Typically two or three votes must occur before all the participants find a candidate to support and each of the seven delegates for those 100 voters in the precinct are chosen. The 15 percent hurdle, in other words, works to weed out weaker or less popular candidates and thus effectively eliminates them from the larger race.

Iowa's accomplishments with its caucuses

The Iowa caucuses are an exercise in direct democracy reminiscent of New England town meetings when citizens gathered to decide their own fates. The caucuses have proven themselves impossible to manipulate or control. Gov. Mitt Romney's expenditure of \$20 million on organization and TV ads netted him only a second place finish to the bare-bones campaign of Huckabee, Sen. Hillary Clinton outspent former Sen. John Edwards by five-to-one and came in third place to his second. After the initial vote in the caucus advocates of candidates must cajole and persuade their neighbors and friends whose candidates failed to reach 15 percent to support the more viable ones. The process is marked by a civility and reluctance to offend that observers have labeled "Iowa Nice." Harshly negative campaigning yields few results and may, in fact, backfire. There is no history since 1972 of the kind of nasty and negative campaigning that helped George W. Bush beat John McCain in the 2000 South Carolina primary. The Iowa caucus-goers are hardly infallible. By a narrow margin on the Republican side in 1988, for instance, televangelist Pat Robertson beat George H.W. Bush. Thereafter Robertson's campaign sank like a stone in states like New Hampshire. For better or worse, Jimmy Carter's second place showing in Iowa in 1976 propelled him to the nomination and the presidency.

Critics of the Iowa caucuses offer valid reasons why the entire system of choosing a president should be reformed. But the focus of reforms, in my opinion, should be on flaws in states like Florida in 2000, which seemed incapable of managing a free and fair presidential election or Ohio in 2004, which failed to cope with a large turnout, not Iowa. Had the problems in Florida or Ohio been resolved, recent history might have turned out very differently. ♦

Dr. Gregory R. Zieren is a professor of APSU's history department and specializes in the Gilded Age, U.S. Economics and foreign relations. He can be contacted at ziereng@apsu.edu



The political touchiness

Political correctness threatens our usage of broad vocabulary

It's a baffling part of human nature to take things too far, and our uncanny ability to test limits knows no boundaries.

Unfortunately, good ideas can become the victims of extremity, like political correctness, for example. I don't have to tell you what it is. If you live in the 21st century, you know. And gosh darn, it sounds nice: A worldwide movement where everyone strives to respect one another in spite of



Devin Walls

our differences. Not bad. It's probably our best idea since the separation of church and state. Inevitably, however, we had to start crossing the line, and some of the results are purely ridiculous. While political correctness is not so popular in the mainstream, but it is still rampant on college

campuses. It is threatening not only freedom of speech and press but also of personal development and even individual thoughts in some cases.

The Global Language Monitor, a Web site that is cited by major publications like *CNN* and *USA Today*, is rife with "top 10" lists of the most politically incorrect words, phrases or events according to year. In the past three years alone, some rather odd issues have occurred:

1. The BBC's attempt to remain neutral and unbiased has resulted in re-labeling terrorists as "misguided criminals" after the bombing of the London Tubes in 2005.
2. In a grade school in Scotland, a teacher divided her class equally (alphabetically) into two groups which she dubbed 1a and 1b. Parents objected because some students in 1b felt they would be seen as inferior to 1a.
3. To remove any gender bias, the word "history" is sometimes rewritten as "herstory." The word "history," when first written, simply meant "inquiry."
4. When a man entered a coffee shop in Glasgow and ordered black coffee the staff refused him service because they believed his comments to be racist. He wasn't served until he placed his order again, only this time as "coffee without milk."
5. In the U.K., the Professional Association of Teachers proposed removing the notion of "failure" and instead calling it "deferred success,"

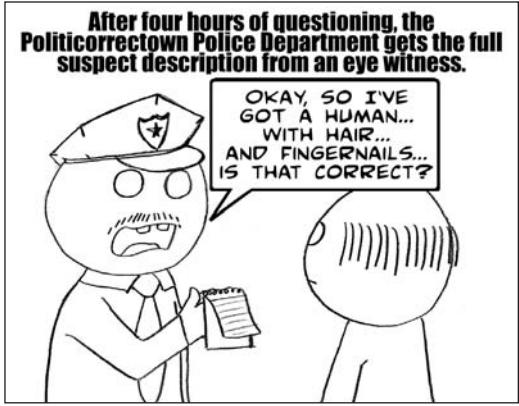


Illustration by Dustin Kramer/Art Director

so that students would have higher self-esteem.

It seems that the rest of the world has gotten a bit too touchy. However, some of the most radical examples of taking political correctness to the extreme aren't happening in Europe but right here on American college campuses. In 2004, Oklahoma State University approved a racial and sexual harassment policy that is so vague that it probably has everyone there walking on their tip-toes. The policy describes harassment as "a

hostile environment that unreasonably interferes with the work or academic performance of those of a particular race, color, ethnicity or national origin" even if it is "unintentional."

In 2005, Lawrence Summers, the President of Harvard University, suggested that intrinsic aptitude is a primary reason why women are under represented in some fields like science and engineering. He was nearly fined for this opinion. I suppose only nearly because those who tried to impose the fine realized how dystopian of them it would have been to police a man's thoughts.

The fact that these cases have even been brought to light is almost unreal. So what if an academic is of the opinion that men and women learn differently? That does not hurt anything except his reputation, it seems. Imagine a time when you can be penalized for your thoughts, or when your grandchildren are unable to recognize failure and accept "deferred success" as a legitimate reason to stop trying. The times are obviously changing and we're doing better to get along with one another, but this movement has overstepped its boundaries and is creating more problems when its first objective was to stop them. ♦

Devin Walls is a junior English major and can be contacted at d.w.walls@gmail.com

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Mario blasts into space

By PATRICK ARMSTRONG
Features Editor

After fighting against Donkey Kong, teaming up with his brother Luigi, exploring the Mushroom Kingdom and traveling through Dinosaur Land, Mario makes his debut in space with "Super Mario Galaxy."

The new Mario adventure is the sequel to "Super Mario 64," which is arguably the best Mario game ever made. "Super Mario 64" was one of the first Mario games to be in 3-D.

This gave a new view into the world of Mario. "Super Mario Galaxy" has a lot to live up to. The Nintendo Wii, however, takes the game play up a notch.

The story line starts out like all of the other Mario games; Princess Peach is kidnapped yet again by that gigantic spiky-shelled lizard, Bowser.

Likewise, in this storyline, his plan is to rule the universe by creating his own galaxy.

Mario teams up with the mysterious Rosalina and ventures around her comet observatory traveling to distant galaxies collecting power stars.

Players get to move Mario through unusual themed galaxies but not by just walking on a 180 degree

plane, but by walking around on 360 degree planes.

It is almost impossible to fall off planets, except for when Mario is on a flat surface.

If Mario does happen to fall off he gets sucked into a black hole, emphasizing the spacy feel.

With "Super Mario Galaxy" being available only on the Wii, the remote adds a new dimension to game play.

Mario gets a new spin move that is activated by a player shaking the remote. Likewise, Mario can throw objects when a player aims and shakes the remote.

Also, when rolling on top of balls, players tilt the remote in the direction they want to go. While increasing the tilt of the remote, the faster and more out of control Mario goes.

These actions are only a few of the many uses of the remote during game play.

There are now more mushrooms and two flowers that unlock Mario's special moves.

He can buzz around and crawl on honeycomb walls with a bee mushroom, become invincible by grabbing a rainbow mushroom, float and turn transparent while holding a boo mushroom, freeze water with an ice flower, throw fire balls by shaking the remote thanks to the fire flower and

turn into a bouncy spring with a spring mushroom.

Along the way, players collect star bits that are picked up by moving the remote over them.

In co-star mode, a second player can pick them up and help stop enemies.

Mario's brother Luigi comes into play by trying to help him collect power stars. Most of the time he gets stuck and sends Mario a letter asking for his help.

In space, Mario encounters different kinds of comets that hover over certain galaxies. These prankster comets change the way the galaxy works. Speedy comet sets a time limit of how long Mario can stay there. A daredevil comet reduces his life and a cosmic comet makes Mario race against a mirror image of himself. With a fast foe comet overhead, enemy speed increases and a purple comet makes Mario collect 100 purple coins.

In certain boss battles, the gravity changes direction making it harder to move around. The bosses throughout the game are totally random with the universe's largest mole, a dinosaur flower, a fire breathing octopus and a mechanical three-legged creature.

The only bad thing during game play is the difficult camera angles.

This same problem occurred in "Super Mario 64," and it would seem as though the developers would have tried to correct it.



GRAPHIC BY NINTENDO

However, there is a glitch in the game. Around the comet observatory are 1UP mushrooms giving Mario an extra life. No matter how many times Mario comes in and out of game play, the 1UP mushrooms will always be there.

Also if players time it right, just before Mario falls off something players can pause it and return to the comet observatory.

After saving the game and then quitting, players return to find out that the life count goes back down to five making the "unlimited" supply of 1UP mushrooms a handy trick to know about.

Overall, "Super Mario Galaxy" surpasses "Super Mario 64" and should hold the title of the best Mario game ever made.

This was the first time the entire game was set in space and with the many uses of the Wii's remote, the game play intensified providing more puzzles to solve and more ways to kick Bowser's dino butt. ♦

D2L, Olympics, elections and other second chances in '08

By AIMEE THOMPSON
Assistant Features Editor

January has always been a month of hope. People look back on all the resolutions they made last year and while many are disappointed, some are proud at having kept them.

The whole idea behind making a New Year's resolution is to have a second chance at something, to right a wrong or just to become a better person.

It's easy for people to get caught up in what they "shoulda, coulda, didn't" do last year, but this year why not focus, instead, on all the second chances being offered both on campus and around the world?

Every choice has the potential of being a bad one, but with a little optimism and perseverance, it doesn't have to stay that way.

APSU:

It's safe to say one of the biggest events to affect the APSU student body is the switch from Blackboard to Desire2Learn. The change is to occur this spring semester and will have an impact on every student who takes online or hybrid classes. Whether this is has positive or negative effects has yet to be determined; D2L has a lot of helpful new features that Blackboard doesn't. However, considering how the transfer from APWeb to Banner went, it's safe to say the next few months are not going to be fun.

Something that is going to be a lot of fun is the new campus pool. Located between the tennis courts by the Foy Fitness and Recreation Center, the new pool will offer students a chance to beat the heat and get in shape during the warmer months. Completion of the pool is scheduled for

spring break of this year. Students taking summer classes will be able to enjoy themselves should there be a repeat of last summer's record temperatures.

This year, APSU will once again get the chance to play longtime rival Tennessee State University. Last year's game against TSU ended with APSU losing 33-32. There is a belief this year that since the Govs have made it to the Ohio Valley Conference, they will rise victorious against TSU.

Entertainment:

Jack Johnson's new CD, "Sleep Through the Static" is set to be released Feb. 5. He's trying something new with this CD by adding more electric, voice and acoustic elements to his songs. Most reviewers have given "Sleep Through the Static" high ratings, so hopefully it will live up to high expectations.

For some, the February release of Dolly Parton's new CD, "Backwoods Barbie" is an event to be celebrated. Her "Backwoods Barbie" tour is set to last the entire year with stops in cities across America and Europe. If Dolly's tour sounds like a fun time, buy tickets for one of her upcoming concerts.

May 22, after nearly 20 years, Indiana Jones will command the silver screen once more. "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull" is the fourth installment, and although the title is pretty long, and Harrison Ford is getting pretty old, the movie will no doubt bring back fond memories of old-school action and adventure.

Also on the list of blasts from 20 years ago is the movie "Rambo," which is set to come out in theatres Jan. 25. Like Harrison Ford, Sylvester Stallone seems to be attempting to capitalize on past successes. Hopefully his movie will be able to pull it off.

National:

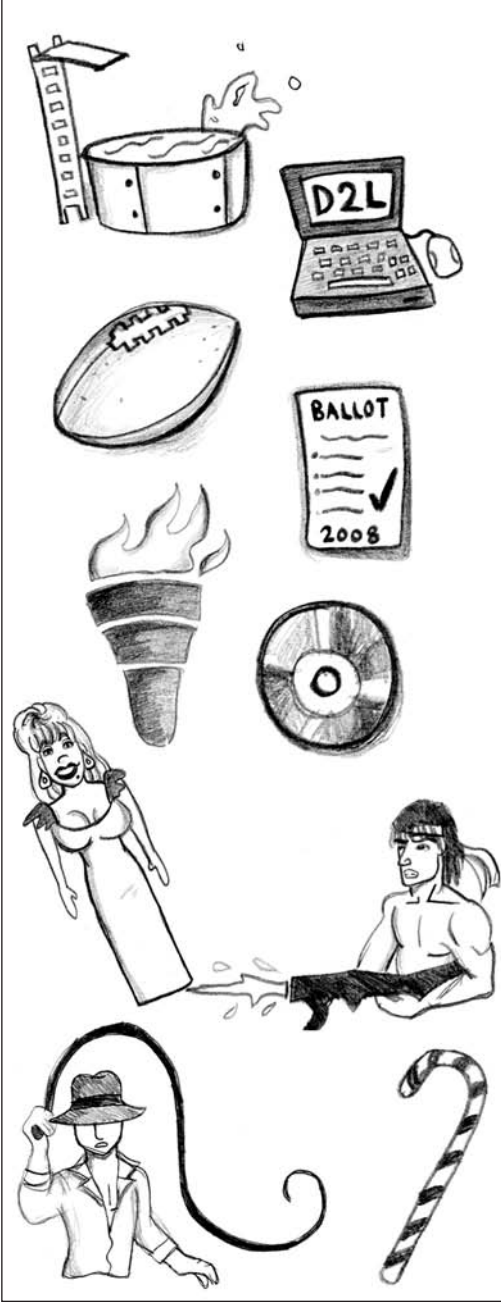
Everyone's anticipating the outcome of the 2008 presidential election. Considering the close race in 2004, it's not hard to imagine what it's going to look like this year, especially with such an equal playing field. With the presidential primary falling on Feb. 5, there isn't a lot of time left for deciding. If the outcome of last year's election was a disappointment, then get informed and vote.

Global:

For all the Olympic fans of the world, this is the year of the summer Olympic Games in Beijing, China. The games will run from Aug. 8-24 and will encompass 28 sports. There will be an

estimated 10,500 athletes competing in the games, so the competition for gold will be intense. Even though America dominated the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens, Greece, there's no reason why it shouldn't happen again.

The last thing to look forward to in 2008 is Christmas. However last year's season went, there is always going to be another one to do differently. Don't stress about last year's holiday mishaps; go into the season thinking of all the new memories that will be made. ♦



GRAPHIC BY MELINA PEAVY

These are some of the events to anticipate this year in entertainment, sports and APSU.

Globe Trotting Govs



07-08 Int'l Student Organization



French Immersion in Quebec



Taiwanese students at APSU



Whitney Strawn, Mid-Sweden Exchange

quote of the week

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— Douglass H. Daft, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, The Coca Cola Company

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FILE PHOTO FROM JAN. 22 1992 ISSUE

Jan. 20, 1992, APSU students along with community members march in honor of Martin Luther King Day. The march began at Burt School and ended at Wilma Rudolph Boulevard. The march was sponsored by the Clarksville branch of the NAACP.



No horror behind “Sunshine,” only fear

By DUSTIN KRAMER
Art Director

Director Danny Boyle’s career has undoubtedly been an eclectic one. His works include diverse films ranging from the cult classic “Trainspotting,” Utopian drama/thriller “The Beach” and the shaky-cam zombiefest “28 Days Later.” As expected, his most recent film “Sunshine” is unlike any he’s done before.

In the year 2057, the spacecraft Icarus II is traveling toward Earth’s dying sun. Their mission: To deliver a thermonuclear bomb into the heart of the star in the hopes of reigniting it and saving humanity.

Although the film’s primary theme is one of human fear, “Sunshine” is not a horror film. The movie deals with fear on several levels (fear of isolation, fear

of the destined, fear of failure, etc.) and succeeds on every one of them.

The performances of an ensemble cast including Cillian Murphy, Michelle Yeoh and Chris Evans are truly inspiring. Making technobabble sound genuine while delivering a layered, emotionally charged performance is extremely difficult, and these actors pull it off in spades.

As usual, Alex Garland’s script is fantastic, and Danny Boyle’s direction compiles for the collaboration of a seasoned team.

“Sunshine” delivers its payload from great performances to beautifully creating shots of, computer generated imaging (CGI) and practical effects theme that keeps you entertained and thinking. It is, without a doubt, a movie you should be watching. ♦

Russian film shows past devastation

By TANYA LUDLOW
Assistant Perspectives Editor

A Russian film set in 1930’s Soviet Union, “Burnt by the Sun,” reveals the devastation of Stalin’s Great Purge through the character of Colonel Kotov. Kotov, a Bolshevik war hero, is enjoying a blissful summer day with his young beautiful wife, her family and their young daughter, when an unexpected guest arrives.

The guest, a man named Mitya, is familiar to the family and is the former lover of his wife.

Although outwardly jovial and witty, it’s soon revealed that he is a member of the Soviet Secret Police and his visit

is motivated by a dark agenda.

The ominous presence of a fireball burning across the idyllic landscape is a creative element of the film, as it is both startling in its destructive connotations yet strangely beautiful.

The dismantling of Colonel Kotov, who believes he is firmly ensconced in his country’s (and Stalin’s) good graces because of his service in the army, reveals not only the paranoia of the Stalinist regime, but the helplessness of every Soviet citizen in its grip.

Although the entire story takes place in one day, the scope of its revelations through the characters cover the immensity of an emotional lifetime. ♦

Broadway’s The Stage sets rising star in place

By RACHEL HERRON
Features Writer

Some people come to Nashville for Predator hockey games and some for Tennessee Titans football. Most of all, people come to Nashville for the country music. Any night of the week a person can roam the streets of Broadway, Printer’s Alley, 2nd Avenue and always find great music.

For the past two years, one of the best kept secrets of downtown Nashville has slowly slipped out and become widely known. Every Thursday and Saturday night at The Stage, a local bar on Broadway, is so packed that people can barely make it through the front door. Music seekers know that these two nights are home for one of the best local bands in downtown Nashville.

Singer/songwriter, Lewis Copeland along with his band put on two of the best shows of the week. Few artists on Broadway have the chemistry, spunk, energy, drive or heart to put on a show like that of Lewis Copeland.

Copeland was born in the small town of Waverly, Ohio. While speaking with him he mentioned, “I have been singing since I was five through the church and school.”

Copeland taught himself to play several instruments that include guitar, piano and the drums. According to Copeland, his gift to entertain others through music made him a huge role model in his community.

In high school, Copeland was a drummer in a metal band. “I love ’80s hair bands,” he said. “I never really got into country music until I was 18.”

It was while Copeland was playing football as a biology student at Morehead State University that he discovered his love for country music. Shortly after the introduction to country, Copeland realized that he had talent not only as a country singer, but as a songwriter as well.

“I was working at the funeral home and going to school and I started writing songs.”

From there a man named John Call, the steel guitarist for Pure Prairie League and fellow resident of Copeland’s hometown, helped him record three songs he had written. He played all the instruments for these three cuts.

Call was also the first person to suggest that Copeland take the next step to pursue a career in country music. Call suggested a move to Nashville.

“I did not even know that Nashville was Music City, USA,” Copeland said. “I could feel my heart tugging that this was really what I wanted to do.”

After convincing his parents, Copeland finally moved to Tennessee and attended Middle Tennessee State University for a year. After a month of being there, Copeland landed a job working the front door at Tootsies Orchid Lounge in downtown Nashville. Copeland was only 20; not even old enough to get into the bar.

After working the door at Tootsies for three months, Lewis was offered gig playing six nights a week.

Not long after this, Copeland was offered his current gig at The Stage. Copeland is well known and holds a large fan base throughout Nashville.

“When you turn somebody’s head, that’s whenever you got them. And when you got them then you got to keep them,”



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Lewis Copeland tunes his guitar before performing at The Stage in downtown Nashville .

he said.

Copeland’s high energy can be felt on the sidewalks outside of the door of The Stage. He tries to keep his shows spontaneous. Whether he is doing an outrageous move on stage or he is singing while walking through the crowd, Copeland keeps his audience on their toes. “That’s what keeps people having a good time,” he said.

Copeland has had the opportunity to perform with several well-known singers at The Stage. They vary from Jake Owen, Kellie Pickler, Dierks Bentley, Big and Rich, country legend Ronnie Dunn from Brooks and Dunn and rock legend Jon Bon Jovi, just to name a few.

Copeland did say that whether he makes it to the top or not, he will be perfectly happy playing at The Stage. “Of course I want more,” he said, “but I love doing what I do.” Copeland also mentioned that playing at The Stage is not work, but his passion and what he loves to do. He claims that the day he tells someone this is going to work is the day he quits.

Mostly Copeland’s drive makes him the great musician he is. “If you honestly try to be the best at what you do then you can’t go wrong,” Copeland said.

Copeland has the talent and heart to make it, and his fan base growing everyday. No one leaves The Stage disappointed after one of his shows. They leave impressed and wondering why he is still on Broadway and not on Country Music Television. ♦

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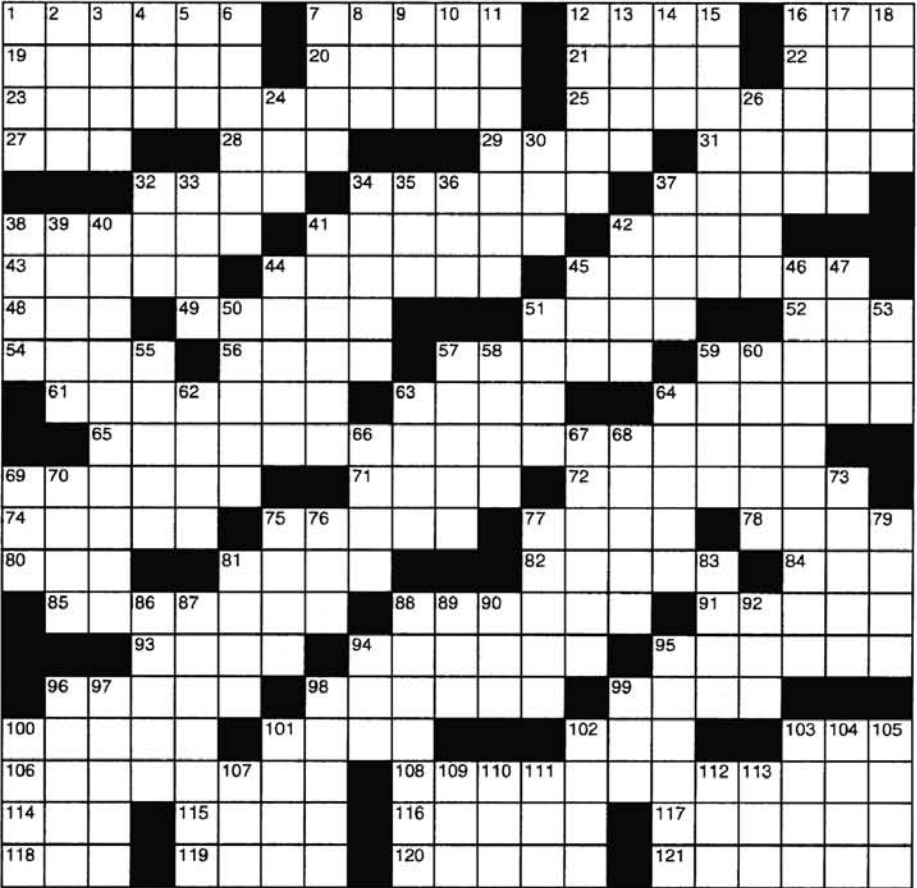
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42 Hagler
43 Time to crow?
44 Black and white delight
45 Wine and dine
46 Hillary's

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51 Victor of "Papillon"
53 Mag. submissions
55 Govt. security
57 Slosh the schnapps
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68 Marine leader?
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70 At the drop of —
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75 "Come Softly —" ('59 song)
76 Distress
77 Buck or Jesse
79 Violinist
81 South African activist
83 Exiled

dictator
86 Renown
87 Frog-to-be
88 Hot stuff
89 Building wing
90 Caviar
92 Gridiron position
94 Beyond balmy
95 Comic Herman
96 Complain
97 Famed fabulist
98 Little lizard
99 Harry — Zell
100 Karate blow'
101 City on the Danube
102 Rose or Rozelle
103 — You Babe" ('65 song)
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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ HOO BOY!

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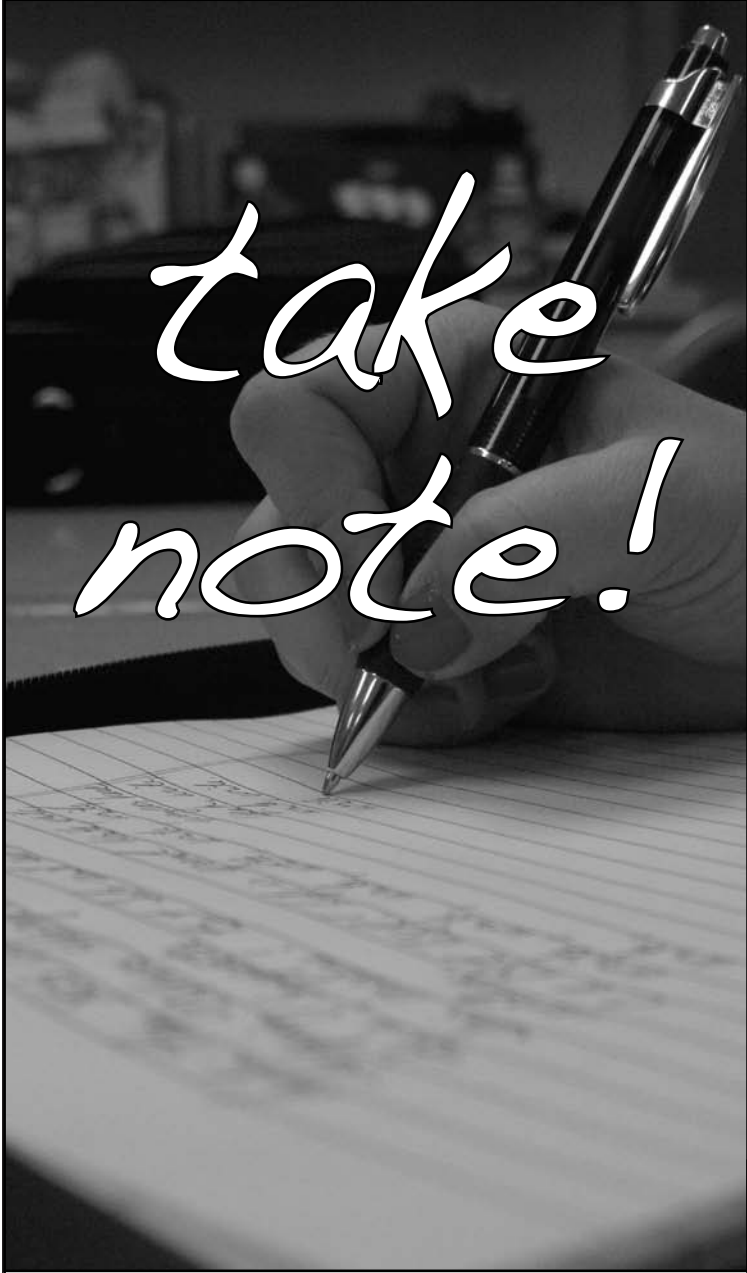
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If you would like more information, please stop by our office, located on the ground floor of the Clement Building, Room 140, or contact the office at (931) 221-6230 (voice) or (931) 221-6278 (tty) for more information. You may also contact Beulah Oldham via e-mail at oldhamb@apsu.edu or Lynette Taylor at taylorl@apsu.edu.

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December basketball both hot and cold

Lady Gavs freeze up, lose six during break

By MARLON SCOTT
Sports Editor

The temperature dropped and the Lady Gavs went ice cold, losing seven games in a row.

On her weekly radio show, head coach Carrie Daniels explained how her team refuses to give up during this cold spell.

"It's definitely been a rough road for us," Daniels said. "But we have to look for positives. They continue to work each day and that is what we are going to continue to do. We are not going to give up. I am going to continue to fight. I am going to continue to work and we are going to turn this thing around."

Middle Tennessee, Dec. 15, 60-95

The Lady Gavs had no answer for MTSU guard Amber Holt. Holt had a double-double with 33 points and 14 rebounds. The Lady Gavs shot just 46.3 percent from the field and produced 39 turnovers. Ashley Herring scored 16 points and Kellea Reeves had a good game with 11 points. But it was not good enough and the Lady Gavs dropped to 4-5 overall.

UNLV, Dec. 20, 38-60

What happened in Vegas was the Lady Gavs worse loss of the season 60-38. The Lady Rebels took advantage of Lady Gavs turnovers to take a 28-17 halftime lead. Making only 10-of-44 field goals (22.7 percent) made it impossible for the Lady Gavs to catch up. Amber Bacon led the team with 11 points and four assists. Herring scored 10.

Ball State, Dec. 21, 59-68

The Lady Gavs luck did not change for their second game in Las Vegas. Ball State made 10-of-22 three-pointers in the game including two at the end of the first half to create a 43-28 lead. Bacon kept the Lady Gavs in the game making 6-of-8 three-pointers on her way to 22 points. Nine Lady Gavs scored while battling the whole game including Herring who scored 12 points. But the closest the Lady Gavs would get to the Cardinals was 59-52 with 7:25 left in the game.

Tennessee Tech Jan. 3, 52-65

Sitting on a chilly 4-7 overall record, the Lady Gavs had 11 days to get ready for their third Ohio Valley Conference game of the season at TTU. Apparently, it was not enough time. TTU's Kristina Tyler started her new year by scoring 29 points. She also had four blocks and two steals. Comparatively, the Lady Gavs centers combined for 19 points. Newcomer Janay Armstrong had the most of the three centers with 10 points. Herring continued to be consistent with 17 points.

Jacksonville State, Jan. 5, 67-72

The Lady Gavs played a strong game at home against JSU until the last six minutes of the game. Armstrong continued to make her presence felt in the paint with 10 points and six rebounds. Reeves had one of her better games of the season with 13 points and six rebounds as well. The inside game



LOIS JONES/SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER
Senior point guard Ashlee McGee looks to score for the Lady Gavs. McGee scored 17 points against EIU.

success opened up the outside for April Thomas who contributed a double-double with 15 points and 13 rebounds. They still need to complete a game strongly, but they took one step closer to success.

Eastern Illinois, Jan. 7, 52-75

Just as they thought they were thawing the Lady Gavs frosted back over against EIU. The Lady Gavs shot just 27 percent from the field, their lowest of the season. The shooting woes were compounded with 21 turnovers. Like their previous games, a weak presence in the paint allowed one player to penetrate and score at will. This time it was EIU's Rachel Galligan. She scored 26 points. Ashlee McGee led the Lady Gavs with 17 points and Thomas added 11. The only other bright spot was the 17-20 shooting from the free throw line. ♦



Red Hot Gavs sear through six straight wins

By MARLON SCOTT
Sports Editor

The APSU Gavs basketball team is on fire. Like a Yule log doused in lighter fluid, the Gavs have burned through December with six straight wins. Instead of the latest cell phone or a Nintendo Wii, the Gavs players and coaches wished for one Christmas present: To once again be the Ohio Valley Conference regular season Champions and to win this year's O'Reilly OVC tournament.

Akron, Dec. 15, 55-64

The Zips handed the Gavs their first home loss of the season. Akron made 9-24 three-pointers and opened the second half of the game with an 11-4 run the Gavs did not recover from. Drake Reed led the Gavs with 17 points. Fernandez Lockett scored 10 in the game.

Belmont, Dec. 19, 93-84

The Gavs appeared unable to miss a shot in the first half of the game. They shot 68.6 percent from the floor. Four Gavs produced double-digit scores. Derek Wright led the way with a career high 24 points. A spark was lit in Nashville and Belmont was the kindling.

Eastern Kentucky, Dec. 22, 75-67



LOIS JONES/SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER
Drake Reed was named OVC Co-Player of the Week.

EKU came out swinging and stunned the Gavs by making 10 three-pointers in the first half. However, the Colonels offense stalled in the second half and the Gavs took advantage of the lapse with a 10-2 run. Todd Babington and Reed both had 18 points in the game. Wright continued to amaze with 10 points and five assists.

The win brought the Gavs record to .500 (6-6) and was the third conference win for the team (OVC 3-0).

Middle Tennessee, Dec. 29, 78-75

In Murfreesboro, Middle Tennessee almost snuffed the Gavs winning streak. With 24 points including 4-5 from three-point range, Demetrius Green gave the Gavs a headache all night. The Gavs were ahead by 12 points with 10:20 left in the game. At the 3:56 mark Green hit a jumper to bring Middle Tennessee within one point. One minute later, he made two free throws to give his team the lead.

Wright made key free throws after a game-changing steal to give the Gavs the lead they would hold until the end of the game. Wright had 16 points, four assists and three steals. He rekindled the flame and the Gavs continued to burn.

Tennessee-Martin, Jan 3, 90-85 (OT)

UT-Martin's Lester Hudson scored 31 points in the Gavs first overtime game of the season. His teammate Marquis Waddle added 27 points, but it was not enough to overcome the Gavs who had made a New Year's resolution to not lose another OVC game. Babington scored 18 points, Reed scored 17 and Lockett put up 16. Kyle Duncan and Wes Channels both scored over 10 points as well.

Jacksonville State, Jan 5, 71-55

Jacksonville state had only won two games before facing a red hot Gavs team. The Gavs pulled down a season high 40 rebounds and committed only four turnovers. It was not a pretty game. However, it ended with one team 0-5 in the OVC and the other on a five game winning streak (9-6 overall, 5-0 OVC).

Eastern Illinois, Jan. 7, 73-57

It took over four minutes for the Gavs to score. Down 7-2, the Panthers seemed poised for the upset as the Gavs turned over the ball and missed shots. A 12-0 run changed the games momentum permanently. At halftime the Gavs led 38-24. The Panthers did not get within 12 points the rest of the game. Reed led his team with 14 points. Caleb Brown scored a season high 12 points.

On the Dave Loos radio show, Wright summed up the Gavs play over the break. "We are starting to click on all cylinders," Wright said. "I think we can do a lot better also. The 6-0 [win streak] in the conference is a good thing to have, but I think we have to play a lot better to be successful in the second half of the season."

The Gavs streak ended Thursday Jan. 10 against Murray State 70-82. They top the OVC with a 10-7, 6-1OVC record. ♦

New Lady Gavs vault into indoor track season

By MARLON SCOTT
Sports Editor

The stands are empty and the new scoreboard is turned off in Governors Stadium. APSU athletes and coaches, however, can be seen around the field stretching, running and jumping. The Track and Field season has begun with its indoor sessions and the Lady Gavs are already practicing and competing.

Because of the recruiting efforts of head coach Doug Molnar and his assistants, Adrian Wheatley and Crystal Keck-Williams, this season's Lady Gavs squad has a lot of new talented faces.

"Last year we just really got after recruiting," Wheatley said. "We brought in four state champs, four state qualifiers and a couple of regional qualifiers as well."

This season's team includes 14 freshmen. One of the freshmen improving under the watchful eye of the coaches is Keyvia Davis from Memphis, Tenn.

"I like it. It's a big difference from high school," Davis said. "I feel like it is a lot more pressure. It's fun at times, but it is still practice. We work really hard."

In addition to the coaches, the freshmen are learning from upper class teammates like seniors Danja Yates and Leeann White. Yates and White are the teams only seniors, two of only seven upper classmen. The combination of new and old has already yielded success in the first two meets of the season.

When the Lady Gavs traveled to Carbondale, Ill. Dec. 7 for the Saluki Fast Start Invitational, sophomore pole vaulters Molly Bartkiewicz and Carrie Burggraf tied for first place with a 3.5 m vault. White finished fourth in the long jump (5.81 m) and 15th in the 200-meter dash (26.74 s). Davis debuted in the long jump with a 5.5 m jump that landed her in 6th place.

In Nashville, at the Ed Temple Classic Jan. 5th, the Lady Gavs continued to compete well. Burggraf won her second consecutive pole vault competition (3.35 m) and White took second in the long jump (5.88 m).

Sophomore Beonna Brown finished third in the 800m run (2:24 s). Junior Tameeka Southern finished 10th in the same race (2:36 s). Together, Southern and Brown were part of two Lady Gov teams that placed sixth and seventh in the 4 x

400m relay. Sophomore Amanda McCoy also had a top-10 finish in the 55m hurdles.

Burggraf was named Ohio Valley Conference co-Female Field Athlete of the Week. She and White have both worked hard to improve this season. The results of their hard work are evident.

"This season is going really good. I am way stronger than last year," White said. The success so far this season has provided motivation for the team to work even harder and remain consistent until the Division I Indoor Track and Field Championships in March. All the coaches are excited about the future.

"It is making my job a lot easier," added Wheatley. "They are policing themselves. They know the expectations. I come out, coach and do the recruiting. They sell the program and work hard for themselves."

The Lady Gavs return to Carbondale, Ill. To compete in the Saluki Booster Jan 18-19. ♦



LOIS JONES/SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER
The dirt flies as Leeann White sticks the landing of a triple jump. Wite placed second in the long jump at the Ed Temple Classic.

OPINION

Championship loss by one



Like millions of obsessive football fans, I shuffled, traded and cursed NFL players to compete in fantasy football. With a healthy ego and no modesty, I wrote down my choices, made bold predictions and dared anyone who was interested to read about my progress this season as I attempted to capture my first fantasy football championship.

I blew through the 14-week regular season like a tsunami. The only thing better than smacking around my opponents to a 10-4 regular season record, was writing about it afterwards.

I celebrated the first week of the break by winning my first playoff game 87-77.

For my first fantasy football championship, I faced the team I had renamed "2nd Victim" after defeating them 90-75 in week three. I also

dominated 2nd Victim in week 14 for my greatest win of the season 139-85.

I was ready to light a cigar and throw some confetti before the game even began.

In the Championship finale, my opponent started quarterback Carson Palmer; running backs Brian Westbrook and Najeh Davenport, and the Ravens defense. The best wide receiver starting for 2nd Victim was Torry Holt. The team also had Kellen Winslow at tight end.

For the GridIronGavs, I started quarterback Derek Anderson, running backs Marion Barber and Steven Jackson, and the Buccaneers defense. With Tony Gonzalez at tight end and both Wes Welker and Marques Colston starting at wide receiver, I could not conceive of any way I could lose this game.

I was wrong. I lost the Championship game 80-81. It was like a great football game ... with two seconds left on the clock, the GridIronGavs lined up for a 45-yard field goal to win the game. The snap is good ... the kick is up ... and it is wide right. The kick is no good. I cursed, cried and cursed some more.

The owner of the Championship winning team, 2nd victim, will tell the story of this game for the rest of his life as an example of why fantasy football is awesome. I will add this lesson to a long list of reasons why fantasy football is not for the faint of heart.

I will be a fantasy football champion someday. For the detailed results of the Championship game and the GridIronGavs tragic schedule log on to www.theallstate.com ♦