

SGA candidates debate student issues at APSU



Candidates, Patrick Grady (left) and Jessica Dillingham (right), are running for SGA vice president **PRINCESS ANDRESS** | **STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER**

» **By CHASETON DONAHOE**
Staff Writer

The candidates for the 2013-2014 Student Government Association held their annual executive committee debate on Monday, April 1, in UC 308.

The presidential candidate Michael Rainier is running unopposed, but vice presidential candidates Jessica Dillingham and Patrick Grady explained some of their goals for the next academic year.

Grady became interested in running for SGA because he saw it as a good way to get involved with the campus as a whole and work more closely with the faculty.

“My interest began because I’ve seen the ways that the Vice President is able to get involved,” Dillingham said. “I want to help people, and holding this position is one of the best ways that I can do this.”

One of the questions asked was which piece of legislation each candidate had worked on was their favorite.

“My favorite piece of legislation that I worked on aimed to help make the voting process more secure,” Grady said. “This piece made voting less vulnerable to coaxing students into voting for a candidate that they might not have initially picked.”

Dillingham chose a piece of legislation she worked on that pushed to remove Styrofoam to-go boxes from the cafeteria, because the to-go boxes

are not biodegradable.

“I want to help our campus be more eco-friendly,” Dillingham said.

Grady emphasized that he would push senators to write good legislation and to get ideas for legislation directly from students and that would get students more directly involved with how campus is run.

Grady’s ideas for change on campus included pushing to make APSU more eventful, especially on weekends.

“I also want to start surveys for how we can better run campus events,” Grady said. “I hope to get students involved on campus as soon as they arrive for their first year.”

Dillingham said she would like to improve the connections between the SGA and the student body, and work towards more communication between the two.

“I aim to increase awareness of SGA involvement and help make APSU greener,” Dillingham said.

Both candidates urged students to vote in their closing statements, as it is a great way to let students be heard on campus and get more involved. Voting for the SGA elections are Tuesday, April 2- Thursday, April 4.

To vote, students can go to www.apsu.edu anytime or go to one of the polling stations in front of the library and in the UC plaza between 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Voters will automatically be entered for a chance to win prizes, including a 24” TV, a DVD player and an iPod dock. **TAS**

Vagina Monologues, not just about vaginas



Cast members of the Vagina Monologues perform skits on Tuesday, March 26 and Wednesday, March 27. Left: Jessica Axley. Top Right: Debbie Neely Striclyn. Bottom Right: Culley Carson-Greffe. The performances aim to raise awareness of how much violence against women affects our communities. **DREW KIRK** | **STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER**

Vagina Monologues raise awareness for violence against women

» **By DANIELLE HUNTER**
Staff Writer

APSU welcomed the return of the Vagina Monologues on Tuesday, March 26, and Wednesday, March 27. Both performances were held in the Clement Auditorium, the first night featuring a cast of students and the second featuring faculty and alumni. The Women’s and Gender Studies

Program organized the production.

The Vagina Monologues is an annual production that raises money to help end violence against women, including incest, rape and domestic violence.

“The stories [in the production] bring awareness to the various experiences that women have that [audiences] would not otherwise learn about,” said Lee Gray, who teaches Introduction to Women’s Studies at APSU.

Gray thinks they help people understand how to stop the cycle of violence.

“We can’t stop the cycle of violence or solve the problem until we know what it is. The Vagina Monologues is a good way to educate people,” Gray said.

Jill Eichhorn, Coordinator of Women’s and Gender Studies and professor for the Vagina Monologues

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A student’s guide to filing their taxes

» **By DIONA GARDNER**
Staff Writer

Are you filing your own taxes this year? Do you feel overwhelmed and lost? The deadline to file a federal income tax return is Monday, April 15.

According to the IRS, nearly 100 million taxpayers opted last year for the safest, fastest and easiest way to submit their individual tax returns — IRS e-file. If one’s income is less than \$57,000, the IRS recommends using their free tax tool. The 1040 series are available online at www.irs.gov for free filing. The 1040, 1040-A and 1040-EZ are included in the 1040 series. Most of the information needed will be found

on a W-2 form., provided by the employer.

Niesha Wolfe, APSU accounting instructor, advised, “The most common errors I have found with students completing their own tax returns is that they do not research the benefits of being a college student thoroughly. This means that they may be unaware of the following deductions or credits: Education Deduction, Education Credits, and Student Loan Interest Deduction.”

The Education Credits come directly from the student’s tax liability amount and is filed using Form 8863. There are two credits that qualify but only one can be used per return.

The American Opportunity Credit has a maximum

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SGA CANDIDATES

SGA elections
Tuesday, April 2 - Thursday, April 4

SGA candidates running for election:

President

- Michael Rainier

Vice President

- Jessica Dillingham
- Patrick Grady

Executive Secretary

- Leah Henson

Senior Senator

- Christopher Hayes

Junior Senator

- Daniel Pitts

Sophomore Senator

- Thomas Thorton

College of Arts and Letters Senators

- Danielle Hunter
- Caitlyn Linden

College of Business Senators

- Daniel Anderson

- Brena Andring
- Keyana Peebles

College of Education Senators

- Lauren Williams

College of Behavioral and Health Sciences Senators

- Ian Lucas
- Sierra Miller
- Brenna Sovine

College of Science and Mathematics Senators

- Taylor Gaston
- Dominik Shannon
- Molly Silkowski

Students can vote online at apsu.edu anytime or at polling stations in front of the library or in the UC plaza from 11 a.m.- 1 p.m. on election days.

APSU marks construction progress



Mitch Robinson, vice president of Finance and Administration, Sheryl Byrd, vice president of student affairs, Tristan Denley, provost and Tim Hall, president gather for the topping off ceremony of the Phase II Housing project on Tuesday, March 26. **JESSICA GRAY** | **STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER**

» **By BRITTANY HICKEY**
Staff Writer

A topping off ceremony, marking the completion of the framework of the new residence halls, was held by APSU officials on Tuesday, March 26. The ceremony kicked off the final stretch of the housing project that will be ready for students to move in Aug. 1.

The new dorms will house 404 students, freshmen in the west building and upperclassmen in the north and south buildings.

A large grass quad will span the space between the halls, a feature that Joe Mills, director of Housing, thinks

will legitimize APSU’s on-campus life. He suggested that students will be excited to use the space to throw a Frisbee or spread out a blanket to sit and study.

“These buildings are going to change the aesthetics of the campus,” President Tim Hall said. “This is an exciting day for APSU.”

Inside the new residence halls, students will find study rooms and kitchens on each floor, as well as a food court for the three buildings to share.

Over the next four months, construction will move inside and the empty steel framework will be replaced by an interior that closely reflects that of Castle Heights, according

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Vagina Monologue

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course, said the monologues have two main themes: awareness of violence against women and the need for community.

“What I watch year after year is women stepping out of the isolation, either their own abuse or the isolation of knowing someone who has been abused,” Eichhorn said. “We bring the problem out into the open ... Instead of hiding it in secret, we can address it”

The Vagina Monologues production at APSU and at different venues across the world is sponsored by the V-Day College and Community Campaigns. APSU has held the Vagina Monologues as a part of the college campaign since 2002, when V-Day first started the movement.

According to Eichhorn, Eve Ensler, the activist and author of the Vagina Monologues, donates the monologue’s script to community organizations and college students who perform the show The performers then raise money and donate it to agencies that assist women or survivors of violence.

V-Day is an international organization that promotes creative events to increase awareness, raise money and revitalize the spirit of existing anti-violence organizations. The ‘V’ represents victory, valentine and vagina. V-Day was first established on Valentine’s Day 1998 by Ensler and a group of friends after the immediate success of her play. Since then, the organization has grown and is now in 130 countries.

A video of students participating in the V-Day program One Billion Rising introduced the show on Wednesday, March 27. One Billion Rising took place on February 14 and encouraged women to gather together and dance or “rise” against crimes and violence against women.

“One Billion Rising is the idea that one in three women in the world will either be raped or beaten in her lifetime,” Gray said. “You think with how the population of the world is around 7 billion now, and women are half that population — so around 3.5 billion. So 1 billion women are going to be assaulted. That is too many.”

Gray encouraged her students to participate in One Billion Rising on the UC plaza, “I rise because there was a time I could not rise. I rise for those who reached down their hands to show me how to rise. I rise so others might rise.”

The beneficiaries of the 2013 APSU Vagina Monologues are the Clarksville SafeHouse, Legal Aid of Middle Tennessee, and the Sexual Assault Center.

RC Lund, one of the student directors of the production, explained that The SafeHouse in Clarksville is a place where people go if they’re a victim of domestic violence. They provide shelter and legal assistance through Legal Aid of Middle Tennessee.

Easton Cecil, student and friend of one of the Monologues’ cast members, said he enjoyed the production, “I learned a lot about the women’s perspective of abuse, rape, physical and emotional [aspects] and how they feel about themselves.”

Eichhorn believes the monologues are an important tradition because it gives everyone the opportunity to transform the community to be a place where everyone respects each other, rather than dominate and violate each other.

“Fathers, brothers, uncles and grandfathers have daughters and mothers and sisters and wives; everyone is affected when someone has been violated,” Eichhorn said. “It takes learning, investment and strategies of how we’re going to resolve our conflicts.”

Wendi Spanogians, an APSU alumna and member of the alumni show’s cast, discussed how The Vagina Monologues is something everyone should see, and how the play was instrumental in her own coming out.

“It is such a powerful piece,” Spanogians said. “The whole play is an emotional roller coaster for a lot of people who see it”

Sera Huff, an audience member, suggested that everybody should see The Vagina Monologues at least once.

“The shame that goes along with the word ‘vagina’? There’s no use in being ashamed of a word,” Huff said.

When asked if she had a message for any women struggling through abusive relationships or any kind of struggle, Eichhorn said “There are numbers for hotlines, there are resources in our community in Clarksville that are waiting to help ... It’s a two-pronged step, but I would say the primary message is if you ask for help, people will help you. If you try to bear your suffering alone, you will be locked in it. To reach out and create a community for yourself is the path of healing.”

Legal Aid of Middle Tennessee, SafeHouse and CenterStone offer assistance and counseling to survivors of violence.

“The women who participate in [these shows] inspire me to watch women grow and change and learn to support each other,” Eichhorn said. “In a culture that really teaches us to compete with each other, the Vagina Monologues teaches us to reach out and connect and through that process — it inspires me to continue to do the work.” *TAS*

Taxes for Students

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payout of \$2500. Students can file single with a maximum AGI of \$80,000 or married on a joint return with a maximum AGI of \$160,000. The American Opportunity Credit is only used for undergraduate student tuition and expenses.

The Lifetime Learning Credit is typically better for graduate students with the same AGI and filing requirements as The American Opportunity Credit. The maximum credit is \$2,000.

The Education Deduction can be filed using Form 8917. This form is for the Tuition and Fees Deduction and should only be used if none of the Education Credits apply. The maximum deduction is \$4,000 per taxpayer. The Adjusted Gross Income maximum for a single person, or Head of Household, or Qualifying Widower is \$65,000 or if filing married, the cutoff AGI is \$130,000.

Student Loan Interest Deduction is taken directly on the 1040 forms. The maximum deduction is \$2500 per student. If filing singly

the AGI cannot exceed \$75,000, if married filing joint the maximum is \$150,000.

The Lifetime Learning Credit which is typically better for graduate students and the maximum credit is \$2,000.

Information for all student tuition and fees deductions or credits should be taken from the Form 1098-T (1098-Tuition) which is supplied by the university to the student and reports student (or parent) payments for qualified tuition and related expenses.

“Students should block off at least one hour to go through the IRS tutorial for free efile,” Wolfe said. “So, that they don’t make any mistakes and can take all the deductions or credits allowed to them.”

If one’s tax return involves more than two W-2 forms and several deductions, it is recommended to invest in tax preparation software or hire a tax professional.

If assistance is needed with tuition, scholarship, and education credits contact the office of Financial Aid at 931-221-6329 or sfao@apsu.edu. For more info on filing your tax returns, various forms, or obtaining an extension, visit www.irs.gov. *TAS*

Construction

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

to an APSU press release.

Students may have noticed the work done on Drane Street, which Mills explains has been rerouted with added turns to help slow down traffic for the sake of pedestrian safety when 404 more students will be crossing the street daily.

According to APSU President Tim Hall, if

you’re not digging, you’re dying. Hall has held to that motto during his time at APSU, Castle Heights having just completed in fall 2011 and the new football stadium set to be open for the 2014 football season.

Back in September, APSU held a student contest to name the new buildings, one name for each hall. The official names have not yet been revealed.

Students can already apply for a spot in one of the halls, and many have. *TAS*

CRIME LOG

The campus crime log includes arrests and dispatch call-ins. As mandated by Tennessee law, the crime log is updated within two business days of an incident and new information to an incident available for public inspection any time during normal business hours.

- 4:52 p.m.; Mar. 25; Foy Fitness Center; assault
- 1:19 p.m.; Mar. 25; Trahern; theft of property
- 12:00 a.m.; Mar. 25; Castle Heights; vandalism
- 10:52 p.m.; Mar. 23; Harvill Lot; burglary

- 1:58 p.m.; Mar. 21; Hand Village; simple possession/casual exchange
- 1:58 p.m.; Mar. 21; Hand Village; unlawful drug paraphernalia
- 9:46 a.m.; Mar. 20; Sundquist; theft of property
- 5:18 p.m.; Mar. 19; Meacham Apartments; unlawful drug paraphernalia

Visit TheAllState.org to see an interactive map of the campus crime log and crime statistics.

GPC Presents:

Casino Night

Come out for a Vegas-style Casino Night at the Peay!

Play in a poker tournament, win prizes, take your photo with a Vegas showgirl, have refreshments, and more!

Wednesday, April 10

6-8 p.m.

MUC Ballroom

Free and open to all APSU students.

For more information, visit

www.apsu.edu/sle/gpc.

Sign up NOW in MUC 211 to participate in the poker tournament and win the grand prize! Limited spaces available.

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GRAPHIC BY CHRISTY WALKER | DESIGNER

Students’ majors should reflect interests

»RACHEL OAKLEY

Guest Writer

College students have lots of decisions to make when it comes to furthering their education. Which university to attend, whether to live on campus or commute, and the decision of taking out a loan or working through college are all huge choices the new student might face. However, arguably, the most important decision to make is the choosing of a field of study. The real dilemma is: should you pick a safe major that promises a job after college, or should you choose something you love to do that may be considered risky? For some, choosing a major is the decision that will determine the course of the rest of their lives,

and they want to make sure that there will be a job waiting for them at the end of that degree. However, according to her book, “New Directions in Higher Education” Karen Leppel outlined the possibility that college persistence may be related to choice of major. “Students who have chosen majors which are not so directly linked to a particular job may have picked those fields because of a greater interest in studying the selected subjects. Hence, they may be more likely to think that their course

work is interesting.” Leppel wrote. While I do see the validity in choosing a major that promises a job at the end of college, I cannot imagine working for four or more years towards a career I would hate. Taking classes that are boring and don’t seem to have any real world use would be a waste of time and money. If the student likes their field of study they are more likely to want to come to class, pay attention, and participate willingly. This will reflect positively on their grades, which

will give them more motivation to excel, creating a cycle of successful coursework that will surely improve their chances for success. This is not to say that the student should choose their major exclusively on what interests them. The idea of not having a secure job after college can be as daunting to some as boring coursework can be to others. There is a happy medium. “You should pick a major in a field that is broad enough that you can find a career doing something you love while having a secure degree that allows you to have multiple choices and backup plans” said Daniel Lockwood, a pre-law major. “You spend all this money on college, you might as well make a good investment and do something you love that is still practical.” TAS

Homosexual equality: Closets are for clothes, not people



»PHILLIP SWANSON

Staff Writer

A bill passed in May 2012 mandated that a university in Tennessee could not force a student faith-based organization to not discriminate according to the organizations beliefs. If that university did regulate whether a student organization could discriminate, the state would cut the institution’s funding. The bill would’ve have been a final say in the matter, but Gov. Bill Haslam vetoed it before it could be enforced. Upon his decision to veto the bill, he said, “Although I disagree with Vanderbilt’s policy, as someone who strongly believes in limited government, I think it is inappropriate for government to mandate the policies of a private institution.” Now, the Supreme Court has been in session determining whether the Defense of Marriage Act is constitutional. The Act, formed 17 years ago, claimed that marriage is defined as a union between a man and woman. Many believe that the act is discriminatory against someone because of their sexual orientation. If DOMA is ruled unconstitutional, what will happen to these faith-based organizations that choose to discriminate against

individuals because of their sexual orientation? If the U.S. government can no longer discriminate, will student organizations still feel entitled to? Unfortunately, I believe that discrimination against individuals for their sexual orientation will continue. For women there was Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton who helped secure suffrage. Who is truly standing up for homosexuals in America? To my knowledge I can’t think of anyone significant. I am sure there have been a few that have tried and gotten some mild success. Until there is someone who will fight to the bitter end for what they believe in, there will still be discrimination; a divider between those who have a “traditional” sexual orientation and those that do not. In almost every religion there is a “Golden Rule”: treat your neighbor how you would like to be treated yourself. Do you want to be refused the right to believe and act how you see fit, especially when your beliefs only differ with your choice in who you love? TAS

OUR TAKE

Things our editors say about marriage equality:

“A lot of arguments I’ve heard against gay marriage involve religion, but there’s obvious separation of church and state in the Constitution.”

“Why not?”

“We should be embracing equality not following religious guidelines that not everyone follows because not everyone is a Christian.”

“Bikini tops and bras are the same thing. Like gay marriage, why is one socially acceptable and one is not?”

“It’s 2013. The idea of unequal rights is so old. We should focus on teaching the next generation to be less judgmental and marriage equality goes with that.”

“I think people should mind their own business, and if you have a problem with it, don’t marry a gay person.” TAS

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ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

The All State is published every Wednesday of the academic year, except during final exams and holidays. Letters to The Editor should include author’s full name, email and phone number, plus major and class, if applicable. Letters will be checked for authenticity and should be received

no later than 4 p.m. on Friday to be considered for publication. Letters may be edited for clarity and content, and should not exceed 300 words. The All State’s mission is to publish timely and pertinent news for the Austin Peay State University community. It serves as a voice for the students and

is entirely managed and produced by APSU students. The All State is not an official publication of Austin Peay State University. The views herein do not necessarily reflect those of The All State, APSU or the Tennessee Board of Regents.



EVENTS

Wednesday, April 3

- 11 a.m.-12 p.m.; **Flack Girls Just Want to Have Fun: The Young Women of the German 21st Aircraft Division;** MUC 308
- 12 p.m.; **Wellness Class: Stress Management;** Foy Center
- 12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m.; **Not All About Tacos: Guatemala;** MUC 213
- 6:30 p.m.; **GPC Presents: Comedian Godfrey;** Clement Auditorium

Thursday, April 4

- 12 p.m.; **Wellness Class: Cooking Concepts;** Foy Center
- 4:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m.; **HCC Spanish Game Night;** MUC 213

Friday, April 5

- 11 a.m.-1 p.m.; **First Friday;** MUC Plaza

Tuesday, April 9

- 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; **Freedom Scientific Vision Awareness Event;** MUC 303
- 2:30 p.m.; **Wellness Class: Keys to Climbing;** Foy Center

To submit on- or off-campus events for future Community Calendars, email allstatefeatures@apsu.edu.



Top: Michael Krychiw poses in front of the Alps during a trip to Germany, France and Austria in 2011. Above left: Talia Leggett visits Argentina's Iguazu Falls in 2011. Middle left: Students take a class in Italy's La Meridiana Ceramics School in the summer of 2012. Bottom left: Nicole Donnelly and Michael Parker deal with the snow in Sweden in spring semester 2011. CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



Study abroad programs offer learning opportunities, unique experiences

» By LINDA SAPP
Staff Writer

While it may seem like a vacation, studying abroad is more than a simple trip to another country. Studying abroad is a great way to immerse yourself in a country's culture while earning credit hours, according to English professor Jill Franks. "After a study abroad experience, students may desire to live in another country," Franks said.

Short term study abroad programs last between one to six weeks and include 10 to 30 students accompanied by APSU faculty.

Included in the study abroad programs are exchange and consortium programs, as well as internships.

The exchange program offers an opportunity to earn up to 12 credit hours and can last one or two semesters. Studies occur at a partner university, and students can travel independently.

Consortium programs allow students to travel with students and faculty from other universities, while internships offer the opportunity to work in another country for five to nine weeks. Currently, APSU has consortium and internship programs located in Australia, Belize, Ghana, Hong Kong, Ireland and Jamaica, among others.

Many faculty members believe studying abroad lends itself to increasing students' abilities to become open to other viewpoints and, thus, their abilities to absorb more material. English professor Kenneth Cervelli, who went on his first study abroad as a faculty member to London this winter break, referred to the concept as the "immerse impact."

"[The experience] creates a connective environment and a sense of being both places at one time," Cervelli said. Cervelli, while in London, chose to focus on romantic poets such as Blake, Wordsworth and Keats. The class travelled to places these poets had visited to better understand their work.

Political science professor Matthew Kenney, who leads an "AP Goes Global" trip to Valencia, Trinidad and Tobago where students assist Habitat for Humanity, thinks the service-learning project is valuable for students.

"What the students find most enjoyable is the work ... where they really feel they're making a contribution to something," Kenney said.

While safety during travel is always a concern, French professor Karen Sorenson said university policies help to prevent international incidents.

"Tennessee Board of Regents policy does not permit APSU to send students on study abroad or exchange programs to countries that are under a State Department travel warning," Sorenson said. Sorenson believes studying abroad "prepares students for a global society."

Study abroad opportunities for fall and winter 2013 are currently available. Students interested in taking a class abroad can contact International Education at InternationalEd@apsu.edu or in Harned Hall, Room 127.

"It gave me an eye-opening experience," said nursing student Hanna Tweedy of her study abroad. "There's a lot out there to see." **TAS**

Klan protests Memphis park renamings

» ASSOCIATED PRESS

About 60 members of the Ku Klux Klan rallied Saturday, March 30, in Memphis to protest the renaming of three parks with Confederate-themed names.

The rally was peaceful, with no injuries or property damage and only one arrest for disorderly conduct, Memphis Police Director Toney Armstrong said.

The police presence was heavy in a closed-off section of downtown Memphis.

Klan members were bused to and from the protest and were relegated

to a fenced-in section in front of the Shelby County courthouse.

Some wore pointed white hoods and waved flags with the letters "KKK" on them.

Police said an impromptu anti-Klan rally located in another fenced-in area about 100 yards away attracted over 1,275 people throughout the day.

A popular chant at the rally was "KKK, go away."

A North Carolina-based faction of the Klan came to protest after the Memphis City Council voted to rename Nathan Bedford Forrest Park, Jefferson Davis Park and Confederate Park.

Forrest was a slave trader, Confederate cavalryman and member of the first version of the Klan, and Davis was president of the Confederacy.

Bystander Veronica Milton, 37, viewed the protest mostly as an educational experience, though she described the Klan's white supremacist message as sad.

"Everybody has different opinions, different voices," said Milton, who is black.

"There's nothing wrong with seeing things from every side."

The family-themed event organized to counter the rally at a separate location featured more than 1,500 people by the end of the day, who ate from food trucks, listened to live music and attended a diversity workshop. **TAS**

“There’s nothing wrong with seeing things from every side.”
— Veronica Milton



Roy Blount Jr. read from his recent book *Alphabetter Juice* on Tuesday, March 26. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Humorist Roy Blount Jr. reads

» By **FAITH JOHNSON**
Guest Writer

Nationally recognized writer and humorist Roy Blount Jr. read from his work and told other humorous anecdotes on Tuesday, March 26, as part of the Center of Excellence for the Creative Arts’ Visiting Writers Series.

As creative writing professor Barry Kitterman said in his introduction, “[Blount] rafted the Amazon, played baseball with the 1969 Chicago Cubs, and hung out with the likes of Wilt Chamberlain, Yogi Berra and Reggie Jackson.”

Blount is a graduate of Vanderbilt and Harvard Universities, author of 23 books and a regular panelist on National Public Radio’s “Wait, Wait ... Don’t Tell Me.”

He worked for *Sports Illustrated* from 1968-1975, is the former president of the Author’s Guild and a member of The Fellowship of Southern Writers.

“The New York Public Library has banquets to raise money, the Literary Lion Banquets,” Blount said to begin his reading. “People can ask them three things you don’t want to answer ... The worst of which being, ‘how’s

your book doing?”

In a separate instance, Blount spoke of an experience when about 200 of the “Lions” were brought together for an evening and the organization involved lining up in alphabetical order and being shushed like children.

Blount also had advice for the students and writers in attendance.

“Meryl Streep said one time to a Yale graduating class, ‘you know, you are leaving college now and going out into the real world, and you will find that the real world is not like college. The real world is like high school,’” Blount said. “But sometimes the literary world is a lot like grammar school.”

Kitterman was quick to point out the reading could not have been possible without the sponsorship of the Center of Excellence for the Creative Arts and president Tim Hall.

“Tim Hall is a real, authentic literature guy,” Kitterman said. “We’re only able to bring writers this big [to APSU] because he helps with the money.”

Blount currently contributes to *Oxford American* and has a column in *Garden and Gun*, while being a regular guest of Garrison Keillor’s on “A Prairie Home Companion.” *TAS*

Morocco’s rebel rapper released after year in prison

» ASSOCIATED PRESS

CASABLANCA, Morocco — A Moroccan rapper known for his protest songs said Friday, March 29, after completing a yearlong prison sentence, that he will be concentrating on his studies and improving his music and is unsure about further activism.

Mouad Belghouat’s angry rap songs excoriating the gaps between rich and poor in Morocco provided the soundtrack to the North African kingdom’s Arab Spring protest movement in 2011 that called for social justice and greater democracy.

But while Belghouat, known as El-Haqed or “the enraged,” was in prison, the February 20 movement, as it was known, faded away as popular ire with the state was defused by a string of reforms promulgated by the king.

“I will concentrate more on my studies — I have my high school exams to pass in June,” said a pale, subdued 26-year-old Belghouat to journalists and activists, showing only occasional flashes of his trademark irreverent sense of humor. “I played around a lot before, and in prison I discovered the importance of reading more.”

The rapper appeared in glasses, which supporters say he now needs because of how his health deteriorated in prison where he said he experienced harassment and even went on hunger strike at one point to protest conditions.

Belghouat was convicted in May for insulting a public official over his song “Dogs of the State,”

which was addressed to the police.

“You are paid to protect the citizens, not to steal their money,” said one lyric. The song then asks the police to arrest the wealthy businessmen who have divided the country up for themselves.

Morocco, a popular tourist destination for Europeans, has one of the highest discrepancies between rich and poor in the Arab world, according to international development agencies.

“It was a huge relief when he was released,” said Abdullah Abaakil, an activist with the movement that introduced the rapper at the news conference. He emphasized Belghouat was key for the movement to reach out to young people, especially in the country’s slums. “He suffered for all of us ... he more than did his part”

As the protests died away, dozens of activists from the February 20 movement have been arrested and imprisoned. A statement by 18 local non-governmental organizations in December said at least 58 activists were in prison.

Belghouat, who described in an Associated Press interview last year how he would go to poor neighborhoods to raise people’s awareness about the injustices in the country, was noncommittal about his future as an activist.


“I am just out of prison, and I’m still tired, so I need a bit of time to answer this question about how I will assess the situation of the February 20 in the country,” he said, though he didn’t rule out staying involved. “And if tomorrow there was a demonstration for February 20, I might well join, why not?” *TAS*

Phi Kappa Phi FACT

Olen Bryant, APSU Professor Emeritus of Art, won the Distinguished Artist Award during the 2007 Governor’s Awards for the Arts. In the same year, there was a major retrospective exhibition of his work at the Customs House Museum and Cultural Center in Clarksville, Tennessee.

Ken Shipley


The SGA Election



The SGA election polls will open on Tuesday, **April 2** at **9:00 a.m.** through Thursday, **April 4** at **11:59 p.m.**

Students can vote online anytime at **www.apsu.edu** or at a polling station located in front of the **library** and in the **UC Plaza** from **11-1 pm**

Voters will be automatically entered to **win** one of many **prizes.**



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SCHEDULE	
UPCOMING SPORTS SCHEDULE	
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3 Baseball - 6:00 p.m. at Western Kentucky FRIDAY, APRIL 5 Golf (W) at Colonel Classic Baseball - 6:00 p.m. versus Tennessee Tech SATURDAY, APRIL 6 Softball - 12:00 p.m. and 2:00p.m. versus Morehead State Tennis (M) - 1:00 p.m. versus Tennessee State Tennis (W) - 1:00 p.m. versus Tennessee State Baseball - 2:00 p.m. versus Tennessee Tech SUNDAY, APRIL 7 Tennis (W) - 10:00 a.m. versus Belmont Softball - 12:00p.m. and 2:00 p.m. versus Eastern Kentucky Baseball - 1:00 p.m. versus Tennessee Tech Tennis (M) - 2:00 p.m. versus Belmont MONDAY, APRIL 8 Golf (M) at C.O.G. Mizzou Intercollegiate TUESDAY, APRIL 9 Baseball - 5:30 p.m. at Kentucky WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10 Baseball - 3:00 p.m. at Southern Illinois FRIDAY, APRIL 12 Track and Field at Sea Ray Relays Baseball - 5:00 p.m. at Southeast Missouri SATURDAY, APRIL 13 Softball - 12:00 p.m. and 2:00p.m. at SIU Edwardsville Tennis (M) - 1:00 p.m. versus Tennessee Tech	 Baseball - 2:00 p.m. at Southeast Missouri SUNDAY, APRIL 14 Tennis (W) - 10:00 a.m. versus Jacksonville State Softball - 12:00 p.m. versus SIU Edwardsville Baseball - 1:00 p.m. at Southeast Missouri Tennis (M) - 2:00 p.m. versus Jacksonville State TUESDAY, APRIL 16 Softball - 12:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. at Tennessee Tech Baseball - 6:00 p.m. at Evansville FRIDAY, APRIL 19 Track and Field at Vanderbilt Invitational Tennis (Men and Women) at OVC Championships Baseball - 6:00 p.m. versus Belmont SATURDAY, APRIL 20 Softball - 12:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. at Belmont Baseball - 2:00 p.m. versus Belmont SUNDAY, APRIL 21 Golf (W) at OVC Championships Baseball - 1:00 p.m. versus Belmont Softball - 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. at Tennessee State TUESDAY, APRIL 23 Track and Field versus Battle of the Cumberland WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24 Baseball - 6:00 p.m. versus Evansville THURSDAY, APRIL 25 Golf (M) at OVC Championships

Softball fail to close games

» **By JOSHUA STEPHENSON**
Staff Writer

The story of the Lady Govs Softball season has been their inability to close games that they have a chance of winning.

“It’s really about putting it all together,” said head coach Stephanie Paris. “When that happens we will get some wins.”

The three game stand at UT Martin ended with three losses (8-4, 4-3, and 5-2); the Lady Govs fell to 10-16 on the season and 3-8 away from the friendly confines of home.

Paris, who is in her first season as Lady Govs softball head coach, said it’s usually one of three things that keeps her team from winning the game.

“It’s either we don’t have a good outing from our pitcher, or we are not hitting, or we make a mistake on defense,” said coach Paris, she is waiting for her team to be able to put it all together. “When that day comes we will get some wins.”

The Lady Govs, who are currently 4-5 at home and 3-3 on neutral sites, have really struggled in conference play so far posting a 1-7 record.

“Timely hitting is everything. We had bases

loaded in the first inning and left them on,” Paris said after their final loss in the three game stand against the Skyhawks. “We are getting runners on base, we are just not getting them in.”

The talent for this Lady Govs team is there; they have the tools to be a good team, but so far this year their “Achilles heel” has been the inability to be consistent game in and game out.

Lauren de Castro has been one of the most consistent players for the Lady Govs so far this season batting .370 with 14 RBI’s and also has the best ERA on the team at 3.32 and a 5-7 record on the mound.

“De Castro has really done a great job,” Paris said. “She really came through this weekend with her hits”

With six days in between series the Lady Govs have a chance to regroup, focus and turn their attention towards Moorehead State, who come in for a three game stand starting Saturday, April.

“It will be great to be at home. We’ve been on the road for two weeks straight,” Paris said. “We definitely need to be at home, be comfortable, and be relaxed; just play our game and put things together and be ready.” *TAS*

APSU women’s tennis on a roll

» **By BRITTANY HICKEY**
Guest Writer

APSU’s women’s tennis team took on Southeast Missouri and UT Martin on Friday, March 29, and Saturday, March 30, at home and prevailed.

The weekend puts the women at 6-10 this spring.

They won the weekend in the singles matches, winning eight of 12, four and four respectively against UTM and SEMO.

While the women swept

SEMO in doubles, UTM dominated their doubles competition, winning all three matches 8-0, 8-1, and 8-4.

The two conference wins could be indicative of APSU women’s tennis coach Ross Brown’s prediction that they would work hard and get better and solidified his hopes to make the conference tournament.

“The women have been competing hard the whole season and this weekend that determination and no

give attitude helped to get those wins,” Brown said, pleased with their weekend performance.

Vanessa Tavares, Jovana Karac and Andra Cornea all won against both SEMO and UTM in their singles matches.

The women will go up against Tennessee State and Belmont at the home courts this weekend on Saturday, April 6 and Sunday, April 7.

Brown said he expects his team to keep up the consistency. *TAS*

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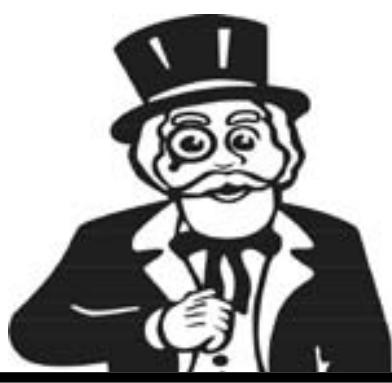


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GOV'S THE KNOW
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CODE OF CONDUCT WEEK
April 2 - April 4 2013

Tuesday April 2
Informational Table
MUC Lobby 11 a.m. -1 p.m.

Wednesday April 3
Conduct Cupcakes
MUC Lobby 11 a.m. -1 p.m.

Thursday April 4
Conduct Trivia
MUC Plaza 5 p.m. -7 p.m.



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Dave Loos steps down as athletic director



Coach Loos is currently 351-290 as the coach of the APSU men's basketball team. ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bat Govs Sweep Murray

» By **COREY ADAMS**
Staff Writer

APSU and Murray State renewed their rivalry that dates back to 1963, as the Govs traveled to Reagan Field for a three-game conference series against the Thoroughbreds, Thursday, March 28 through Saturday, March 30.

The Govs (22-5, 7-1) swept Murray State (12-15, 6-6) in the series; its first sweep of the Thoroughbreds since 1992. However, the three wins did not come easy, as the Govs opened the series against Cameron Finch, who recorded a no hitter in his last appearance against SIU Edwardsville.

Game one was closely contested, with extra innings needed to settle the score. The Govs earned the win behind starter Lee Ridenhour, who pitched nine innings, totaling 123 pitches, and racked up a career-high nine strikeouts.

Craig Massoni tied the game 3-3 for the Bat Govs in the eighth with a two-run homer, which forced the game into extra innings. In the top of the twelfth, P.J. Torres led off with a single and was brought home with a sacrifice fly by center fielder Dylan Riner, giving the Govs the lead 4-3. Closer Tyler Rogers sealed the deal in the bottom of the inning, inducing a game-ending double play.

In game two of the series on Friday, APSU pulled out in front with a comfortable lead and

never looked back in the 10-3 win.

After totaling a career-high nine strikeouts against Jacksonville State last Friday, March 29, APSU's Casey Delgado came back a week later to set a new high in strikeouts with 10. Delgado allowed only four hits and relievers Tommy Hager and Jared Carkuff held the Thoroughbreds hitless for the rest of the game.

Torres led the offense with a three-run home run in the second inning to put the Govs on the board. APSU added to their lead with a seven-run fifth inning, which was capped off with a three-run blast by Reed Harper.

Head coach Gary McClure turned to Ryan Quick, who has primarily been used as a bullpen arm, to go for the sweep against the Thoroughbreds on Saturday, March 30.

Quick earned the win, with relief help from Kacy Kemmer, Hunter Lindley, and Rogers, who picked up his tenth save of the season.

The middle infielders—Harper, who reached base in all five plate appearances, and Jordan Hankins, who was three for five—led the way for the Govs with two RBIs apiece.

APSU returned to Raymond C. Hand Park on Tuesday, April 2, to host Lipscomb. After a trip to Western Kentucky the following day, the Govs prep for a three-game OVC series against Tennessee Tech over the weekend from Friday, April 5, through Sunday, April 7. *TAS*

» By **SEAN ATKINS**
Sports Editor

When school resumes this fall and students return from the summer, they will see a new athletic director looking over all the APSU sports programs.

At a press conference on Tuesday, April 2, Dave Loos announced he was stepping down as APSU's athletic director.

The announcement was made at the Dunn Center, the basketball arena where the coach's name is labeled on the floor when basketball players take the court.

Loos served as APSU's] athletic director for 16 years and took over the responsibility in April of 1997 after Kaye Hart who previously held the position.

Despite stepping down as athletic director, Loos will still be coaching the men's basketball team.

As the men's basketbal coach

the past 21 seasons, Loos has compiled a record of 351-290, including 223 wins in the Ohio Valley Conference, the most by any coach in the conference's history.

Loos has led the men's basketball team to five regular season conference championships, most recently in 2008.

Loos will remain APSU's athletic director until a successor is found, as the position is expected to be filled this summer.

When Loos was hired, he faced immense pressure to satisfy fans after the Govs football team could not hand out any scholarships to football players.

As a testament to his work as athletic director, APSU has gone from being a small college to being one of the most recognized sports programs in the southeast.

Loos has done all of this work


on a tight budget as APSU's sports program is one of the least funded in the Ohio Valley Conference.

Loos established a Lady Govs soccer program while also bringing back women's golf to go alongside a recognized men's golf team.

As APSU's baseball team began to stand out during his tenure, Loos worked with Bat Govs head coach Gary McClure to build locker rooms for players and coaches and also build new rest room facilities for fans at baseball games.

Loos' most recent accomplishments revolve around the Govs football program, installing scholarship football in 2006 and gaining approval to renovate Governors Stadium after the 2013 season.

Once the football season is finished, work will begin on a \$16.9 million renovation to the stadium from bleachers to the stadium from bleachers to locker rooms for coaches and

SCORE BOARD		
		
OVC BASEBALL STANDINGS		
School	OVC	Overall
Belmont	8-1	20-6
Austin Peay	7-1	22-5
Tennessee Tech	10-2	21-7
Jacksonville State	9-3	15-14
SEMO	7-5	15-14
Murray State	6-6	12-15
SIUE	5-7	7-15
Morehead State	4-8	9-18
Eastern Kentucky	2-7	5-18
UT Martin	1-11	8-19
Eastern Illinois	0-8	6-18
OVC SOFTBALL STANDINGS		
School	OVC	Overall
East		
Eastern Kentucky	6-4	19-14
Jacksonville State	5-4	19-15
Tennessee Tech	2-3	13-14
Tennessee State	2-6	11-22
Belmont	2-7	11-16
Morehead State	1-5	11-11
West		
Eastern Illinois	9-1	19-9
SIUE	7-2	22-8
UT Martin	7-2	23-9
Murray State	5-4	12-18
SEMO	3-5	10-18
Austin Peay	1-7	10-16

‘March Madness’ - easily the most exciting sports championship



»**SEAN ATKINS**
Sports Editor

Of all the sports championships at the college and professional levels, the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament is the most unpredictable. That's the beauty of "March Madness."

Sixty-four teams began their quest to the Final Four in the 2013 NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament on Thursday, March 21. As of Wednesday, April 3, four teams remain to prepare for the Final Four in Atlanta, Ga., from Saturday, April 6, through Monday, April 8.

The remaining teams include a number-one seed, the Louisville Cardinals; two number-four seeds, the Michigan Wolverines and the Syracuse Orange; and a number nine-seed, the Wichita State Shockers.

Many fans likely have Louisville, the overall number-one seed, in their Final Four bracket.

But if you picked any of the other three teams before the start of the tournament, some people would question whether you even watch basketball.

The only team I picked that actually made it to the Final Four was Louisville.

My other picks to make the Final Four—Georgetown, Ohio State

and Indiana (whom I picked to win the National Championship)—have already been eliminated.

Even though I have only one team in the Final Four, I still have a better-looking bracket than any of my three roommates.

But like every other year, the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament presents plenty of shocking scenarios by the time we reach the Final Four. And that's why plenty of people refer to this time of the year as "March Madness," because anything and everything you can imagine could happen by the end of the tournament.

Take, for example, Florida Gulf Coast. Positioned as a 15-seed in the tournament, virtually everyone figured number-two Georgetown would easily defeat FGCU.

But the Eagles FGCU shocked the world on Friday, March 22, when they defeated number-two seed Georgetown, busting everyone's brackets—including mine—in the process; I had Georgetown reaching the Final Four.

Florida Gulf Coast's "Cinderella" run ended on Friday, March 29, when they lost to Southeastern Conference powerhouse, Florida, 62-50. But still, FGCU reached the "Sweet 16," which is further than almost everyone predicted the Atlantic Sun Conference team would go.

Another prime example is the 14-seeded Harvard Crimson's defeat of the number-three seed, New Mexico Lobos.

Each of my three roommates, relying on statistics and sports

analysts' quotes from ESPN, predicted that New Mexico would reach the Final Four.

This seemed like a safe pick as no one expected Harvard, an Ivy League school, to defeat a team that entered the tournament with a record of 29-5.

But on Thursday, March 21, the Crimson pulled off the seemingly impossible and defeated the Lobos, creating madness amongst sports fans and bracketologists all around the country.

After the first round of games, USA Today reported that no brackets remained perfect from the multitude of fans that submitted brackets on ESPN.COM and YahooSports.com. This is a perfect example of how unpredictable the tournament is; any team on any given day can win—or lose.

Personally, I love Major League Baseball more than any other sport as I root for the Atlanta Braves. But sports like baseball have become somewhat predictable thanks to the prevalence of advanced statistical analysis.

When teams enter the NCAA Tournament, statistics and records go out the door; it's all about who has the hot hand or which teams have the determination to shock everyone.

"March Madness" will always be the most exciting of all sports championships to follow because of its unpredictability.

It has been that way for decades past and will be for decades to come. *TAS*