



Four candidates vie for three SGA spots

By **TINEA PAYNE**
Assistant News Editor

The Student Government Association opened polls on Monday, March 17, for students to vote for candidates in both the executive committees (EC) and senate for the 2008-2009 academic year.

The EC consists of a president, vice president and secretary.

There are exactly four candidates running for the EC: Junior Chris Drew for president, freshman Steven Biter for vice president, freshman Kenny Kennedy for vice president and freshman Hykeem Craft for secretary.

Chris Drew, presidential candidate



Drew is an accounting major who currently serves as SGA secretary. He said time management, organization and forward thinking are necessary skills that qualify him for the presidential seat.

Drew said he views himself as a representative of what an APSU student could strive to be. "I think I'm a



SGA held an Open House March 13 so that students would be able to meet the candidates.

MATEEN SIDIQ/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

good role model, that isn't perfect, but learns from mistakes [and] doesn't repeat the same exact mistakes."

He said students have many concerns but aren't sure which are most important to them. "Students have a hard time figuring out what they want."

Students are concerned, among other things, about the campus leaders' lack of communication and knowledge, according to Drew. "They want more interaction face-to-face. Students have no idea who their representatives or senators are."

He said he would aim for "more of a community feel." He stated the college environment should act as a community for students. "We don't encourage that as much as we could."

Steven Biter, vice president candidate



Biter, a political science major, is also running for vice president. The current SGA senator said that experience is key to winning the election.

Biter has served as president for the Mayor's Youth Council for two years and said his strong relationship with APSU

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INAUGURAL MONTH

Shay sheds light on vets' distress



MATEEN SIDIQ/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jonathan Shay received the MacArthur Prize in Fall 2007. This is a prestigious academic award worth half a million dollars.

Psychiatrist compairs vets to Greek heroes

By **JAKE DAVIS**
Staff Writer

Jonathan Shay, author of "Achilles is Vietnam" and "Odysseus in America," spoke at APSU March 13 in Clement Auditorium.

Shay, a psychiatrist specializing in counseling combat veterans, spoke about leadership and several other topics from his books as part of the Inauguration month for President Timothy Hall.

Professor of Classics and Adviser of Eta Sigma Phi Tim Winters surprised Shay with an honorary membership to the classics honor society.

"Dr. Shay has done so much for Classics," Winters said. According to Winters, Shay's book has helped scholars look at "The Iliad" and "The Odyssey" in a fresh light.

Shay's newest book, published in 2002, is about soldiers coming home from Vietnam and how it compares with Homer's "The Odyssey."



MATEEN SIDIQ/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Shay spoke on the similarities of characters in "The Iliad" and "The Odyssey" to modern day combat veterans.

This military topic was very appropriate due to APSU's large military connections.

"Growing up here in Clarksville, I've seen veterans around all my life, and I wanted to see how he related their

experiences to the characters in "The Odyssey," Scott Cochran, a senior Classics major said.

The question and answer session that Shay provided was very lively and full of debate.

Soldiers and students, as well as members of the faculty were all present for Shay's talk.

"It was very enlightening and very informative. I've been looking forward to it," J Grammer, junior English major, said.

Both of Shay's books have attempted to link the experiences of combat soldiers to those of the classic epic poems "The Iliad" and "The Odyssey."

Shay argued that his ideas were not novel but do hold some weight. Many students and faculty agreed with Shay's arguments.

Several guests have come to speak as a part of the inaugural events including holocaust survivor Nesse Godin. Future speakers include historian Jacque Petit and how to identify American soldiers from World War II; Allen Weir, the author of "Tehano" and Frank Gibson, executive director for the Tennessee Coalition for Open Government, will speak about open government. ♦

Sunshine Week 2008

Campus opens up to 'Sunshine' events

By **DAVE CAMPBELL**
Managing Editor

Sunshine Week will shed its light on campus this year as APSU plans several events to make the public aware of what information they have a right to know.

Since 2005, the week has been designated to celebrate and educate the public that government operations should stay open to public view and public information should remain public.

According to Ann Butterworth, the newly appointed ombudsman for Tennessee, "Sunshine Week has everything to do with transparency and open government, and having the public be able to access what is going on."

Both Butterworth and open records specialist, Elisha Hodge, who works with her, agree that it is important for media outlets to build a strong network, one that as Hodge said, is "resourceful and pro-active," with a university in order to facilitate an environment of openness.

APSU sees spread of Sunshine

Sunshine Week is currently in progress until March 22, but the campus will welcome speakers to talk throughout the week and into next week.

Communications specialist for APSU Office of Public Relations and Marketing, Melony Jones spoke yesterday in the UC for the third Library Athenaeum titled, "Spreading Sunshine: Right-to-Know Laws Must Hold Strong."

"Though spearheaded by journalists, Sunshine Week is about the public's right to know what its government is doing and why," Jones said in an APSU press release.

Jones added that the goal is to "enlighten and empower people to play an active role in their government and to give them access to information that makes their lives better and their communities stronger."

Currently working on her doctorate in higher education administration, Jones plans to combine her graduate research from Murray State University with her current doctoral work in order to assess whether postsecondary level journalism education "adequately addresses open meetings and open records laws," according to the press release.

In addition to Jones's talk, Executive Director for the Tennessee Coalition for Open Government Frank Gibson will be visiting campus at 4 p.m., Thursday, March 27 in UC 305. Gibson will give a lecture entitled, "Argument for Open Government: Why Should You Care?"

See **Sunshine**, Page 2

Committee ends search for new dean; Webb selected to serve in meantime

By **NICOLE JUNE**
Staff Writer

Dixie Webb, chair of the art department and professor of art, has been named interim dean of the College of Arts and Letters for the 2008-2009 academic year.

James Diehr, the current dean of the art department, chose to step down and return to

his position as a professor of art. This prompted the former provost to form a search committee in Fall 2007 for a new candidate.

The committee advertised the position and narrowed the applicants down to the three most qualified candidates, according to David Denton, interim provost.

Two of the candidates were unable to accept

the position, and the committee could not come to a consensus on the third. The search was then temporarily postponed. The committee then chose Dixie Webb as the new interim dean.

"Her name was the first that came to my mind," Denton said. "[Webb] is a veteran faculty member who is familiar with the institution and its programs, and she is very successful,

respected, and qualified," he said.

However, Webb has made it clear that she will not apply for the position after her year's term.

"I like my job here," she said. "I really enjoy working in the art department. The faculty is

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Features

Largest collection of classic video games opens in Clarksville



FYI

♦ Sunshine week is in progress until March 22.



Online

Be sure to check out the snapshot of the day

SGA: candidates sound off

From Page 1

administration and Clarksville leaders qualify him for the position. He said he aims to take student ideas and make them his own.

A few student ideas backed by Biter include returning the men's track team to the APSU athletics department, as well as Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity and extending opposite sex visitation for housing, starting in the Fall 2008 semester.

He said he acts as a student liaison to APSU administration. "[This] should be a definition for anyone in SGA."

Biter said that he has strong support and is impressed with student response. He said he hopes to run for SGA president next year.

Kenny Kennedy, vice president candidate



Kennedy, a biology major, is concentrating in pre-med with minors in leadership and chemistry. Kennedy said he sees himself as a "servant leader" who is more "relationship oriented and less authoritative."

"I strive to be diligent, to persevere, to be hard-working and commit to excellence," Kennedy said. The current SGA senator attends First Baptist Church and can be seen at the Baptist Collegiate Ministry.

"I spend a lot of my time [there]. I serve the church as much as I can," Kennedy said.

Kennedy also mentioned the lack of communication between students and campus leaders. He said that steps need to be made to improve communication.

Campus parking was also a topic mentioned by Kennedy. "It's still an issue, especially to a lot of

commuters."

Kennedy said student retention at APSU was another concern of students. "[This] needs to happen for college, there's never 100 percent retention but 50 percent is not acceptable."

To help increase retention rates, Kennedy said the Academic Support Center could be supersized. "They do a great job to meet so many needs, the efficiency could go up."

Hykeem Craft, secretary candidate

Craft is a foreign language major and current SGA senator. He said perseverance, initiative and the ability to communicate are his strengths.

"Giving up is my pet peeve," he said.

Craft said his past experiences could help him uphold the secretarial seat. "As far back as high school, I've always been one to be involved. It taught me all the necessary skills."

He said communication and initiative make him best-suited for the position.

"It's about communication, and I think I've got a good foundation. Initiative is what you need to hold any executive position, especially this position," Craft said.

Craft said that the lack of communication is the most prevalent campus issue. "I'm really big on communication. I can see better communication. I feel it would be very helpful to strengthen it."

"[Students] don't know that [the office] is open for them to come in," he said. "We have to publicize ourselves. We as SGA have to make ourselves approachable."

Craft said he wants students to know every concern is accepted at SGA. "There is no dumb issue," he said.

Results for the 2008 SGA election will be posted Thursday, March 20, on the SGA bulletin board. Students will be notified of results by e-mail. ♦

Webb: selected

From Page 1

"A dean's job is to help the faculty to better serve and develop students."

David Denton, interim provost



great and we have a good sense of camaraderie. I am willing to [serve as interim dean] because I think so highly of the president."

The art department will nominate an interim chair in Webb's place while she serves as dean.

The position for dean of the College of Arts and Letters will be re-advertised in Fall 2008 with the hope of finding a suitable candidate.

"We're looking for someone who has the ability to help advise a group of faculty and pull them together as a unit," Denton said. "[The candidate] should have good team-building plans, bring a different perspective on doing things to the college, and be interested in providing the faculty the chance to grow and develop using a nurturing spirit. A dean's job is to help the faculty to better serve and develop the students and remove roadblocks rather than impose things," Denton said. ♦

Sunshine: Laws attempt democracy

From Page 1

Hall opens door of government

President Timothy Hall also said that he supports open governance.

"I am a believer in open governance because I believe that a community needs the active support and involvement of its various members to flourish," Hall said.

Support and involvement of the community "tends not to be present where important decisions are made in secret or without adequate input from community members."

The main topics of discussion during this

week involve what meetings are open and what records are available for the public to obtain.

Hall said that he understands the basic parameters of open meeting and records laws in Tennessee, and is "committed to seeing that the university complies with them."

He adds that there has not been a case in which he has had to deny access to meetings or records that were requested.

Congress shuts out the light

In related news, last week for the first time in 25 years and sixth time in its history, the House of Representatives held a secret closed session "to discuss what they termed classified

security matters."

Ohio Congressman Dennis Kucinich refused to take part in the session, stating that there is a very high bar to pass before Congress should go into closed session.

"Transparency; it's essential for a democracy," Kucinich said. ♦

What's not open in Tennessee

- Meetings: Labor negotiations; personnel matters; and discussions with an attorney regarding pending litigation.
- Records: Medical records of patients in state institutions; some investigative records; and public school student records.

New tornado sirens



A new tornado siren was placed near the Ellington building. According to Director of Public Safety Lantz Biles the unit was placed in that location due to testing which showed voice commands were inaudible on that side of campus. There are two other locations of sirens on campus. There is a large unit at Governors Stadium, and another is located at Emerald Hill.

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OUR TAKE

Piracy raises ‘Ruckus’ at APSU

Editorial Roundup

THE ISSUE:
APSU is now offering students free music downloads through Ruckus Network, Inc.

OUR TAKE:
Partnering with Ruckus gives APSU the opportunity to claim that piracy problems have been taken care of.

Last week, APSU announced its partnership with Ruckus Network, Inc., which is a digital media service provider. This partnership will allow students to be able to download up to 3 million songs for free, although they won't be able to play the songs on their iPods, Zunes or any other MP3, and the songs will expire as soon as students graduate.

The All State would like to point out that this partnership was brought about in response to a bill that is being considered by the Tennessee General Assembly. This bill would require Tennessee's state-funded colleges and universities to: "Develop and enforce a computer use and ethics policy covering students, staff and faculty which prohibits the infringement of copyrighted works; and analyze its computer network to determine if it is being used to transmit copyrighted works."

If an institution of higher learning

discovers that its computers are being used to download copyrighted material, it will be required to "take affirmative steps to prevent such activity." In addition to preventing the activity, the institution in question must notify the Tennessee Board of Regents, which would, in turn, notify the Tennessee Higher Education Commission which would then notify the education committee of each house of the general assembly.

For some, the APSU/Ruckus pairing is the kind of progressive problem solving that will set the standards for other institutions of higher learning. However, we at *TAS* do not see it that way.

According to Web-Internet specialist of the Office of Information Technology, Reggie Wooden, APSU has received several notifications from the Recording Industry Association of America about possible legal action against students who had illegally

downloaded music. It would seem as though offering students free, legal music downloads would be an effective way of stopping the problem, but in reality, it only serves as a type of band-aid. This is especially applicable in regards to the bill that is being considered. If the bill becomes a law, APSU can claim that the problem has been solved, and that because they are providing free and legal means to an end, it is no fault of the university's should students decide not to utilize it.

One of the biggest reasons partnering with Ruckus will not solve APSU's piracy problem is that students who are illegally downloading music are doing so in order to put it on their MP3 players. It seems pointless to download songs if they can't be taken away from the computer. This is especially true with songs from Ruckus, given the fact that they will expire as soon as a student graduates. Why would students want

to build a music library that will disappear as soon as they graduate?

Also, what's to stop students from finding ways to strip the digital rights management codes from the songs? In effect, it would be like handing students free songs that they could then pirate quite easily.

Another reason for concern is the fact that Ruckus is an ad-based company. In partnering with them, APSU has inadvertently associated itself with all the companies being advertised on Ruckus. APSU students who do decide to use Ruckus will be forced to deal with the running banner ads.

So far, there are no punishments for students who illegally download music, and there are no incentives for not doing it either. The solution to the problem seems to lie not in giving students access to three million songs, but in raising awareness of the severity and extent of piracy. ♦

YOUR TAKE

“Five years after the invasion of Iraq, what are your thoughts?”



“We haven't done anything in Iraq. Why is the U.S. there? There's no purpose.”
—Victor Martinez, freshman, psychology



“There are many factors for our participation in Iraq. There's many things that the public isn't told about. The U.S. will probably be there five years from now.”
—Leigh Schmittou, sophomore, undecided



“At this time, it's stretched on much longer than it should have.”
—Tracey Kyles, freshman, graphic design



“I feel sad for all the innocent Iraqis who have died from this war.”
—George Edwards, freshman, computer science



“We're involved in a war that's gone on too long and what we've done in Iraq has caused more trouble than good, especially in our relations with the rest of the world.”
—Michelle Peacock, sophomore, public relations



“The original handling of the war was botched. We're making progress, but it's not enough progress that many people want to see.”
—Trevor Law, sophomore, political science

Human life: Greatest loss of Iraq War

Five years ago, the statue of Saddam Hussein tumbled to the ground, symbolizing at that moment liberation for the people of Iraq. Today, marks the fifth anniversary of the invasion of Iraq. No celebratory ceremonies have been announced.

The costs of the Iraqi War range broadly. Many analysts tend to focus in terms of dollars. In September 2007, an article in *The Washington Post* reported: “The war is costing \$720 million a day or \$500,000 a minute, according to the [American Friends Service Committee's] analysis of the work of Nobel Prize-winning economist Joseph E. Stiglitz and Harvard public finance lecturer Linda J. Bilmes.”

In addition, a recent column by Bob Herbert of *The New York Times* reported: “The war in Iraq will ultimately cost U.S. taxpayers not hundreds of billions of dollars, but an astonishing \$2 trillion, and perhaps more.”

But is a dollar figure capable of measuring the losses this country has experienced? What about the losses that Iraqis and other bystanders have experienced? As the war reaches the five-year mark, an alternative approach is needed to better address the suffering endured.

Let's not view Iraq in terms of dollars, but in human lives. Recalling days after the invasion, former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld was questioned how many American lives will be lost in this war. Rumsfeld responded by saying he could count this number on both hands. He was off.



Kasey Henricks

According to the Department of Defense, approximately 4,000 U.S. servicemen and women have died since March 19, 2003, and over 2,000 of those were soldiers enlisted in the Army. Of the 4,000 lives, the Iraq Coalition Casualty Count records that 84 were from Tennessee and three of those from Clarksville. In addition, more than 82,000 noncombatants, or innocent civilians, have been killed during this time, as reported by Iraq Body Count.

If all of the dead military servicemen and women were APSU students, this would mean our university would lose almost half of its population. Furthermore, if the noncombatant Iraqis who have died were APSU students then our university would increase its current enrollment nine times over.

Numbers matter, but which numbers are taken into account must be considered. A dollar value cannot measure the losses of life in the Iraqi conflict. Life is too precious to put a price tag on it. Five years later, it's a duty of the living to remember and acknowledge the dead, and the sacrifices that have been made.

Iraq. Why are we there? For many, this answer remains murky. Regardless of the reason(s) why the U.S. is there, the fact remains that we are there. No easy answers are available on how to solve this situation successfully and peacefully. But as the five-year anniversary is upon us, I ask our readership to stop and acknowledge the dead lost in this conflict. Light a candle. Say a prayer. Observe a moment of silence.

To the servicemen and women and the Iraqi civilians, “We remember.” ♦

Kasey Henricks is a two-time Southeast Journalism Conference award-winning writer. He serves as Editor in Chief and can be reached at jpk.henricks@gmail.com

News vs. Noise

When thinking about freedom of the press, John Milton comes to mind. I seem to remember hearing in a British literature lecture that Milton was an early advocate, in England, for freedom of the press. He believed that no one ought to be censored: Except Catholics. It may sound silly, but I have since wondered how much “free press” is really like that. What's being left out?



Kevin Scahill

A friend of mine once said the major theme in the fictional works of Jorge Luis Borges was the idea that saying “fictional narrative” is the same as saying “narrative.” All story telling involves an arrangement of some sort from the storyteller no matter how objective one is

trying to be. There has been a lot said about the freedom of the press, but I am not sure how much is really said about something else also extremely important: The artistic freedom of the press.

As I understand it, in the U.S., we have what is legally known as a free press. It is not like China, for instance, where the government actively censors things, and that is an amazing and glorious truth to be thankful for. It seems to me, however, that it would be a little miscalculated to claim that we, as Americans, always hear the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth in our news. The sunshine of truth may pierce the clouds of open government censorship in America, but what about the finer shades?

Even if we rule out the idea of a bias in the media on behalf of the huge corporate conglomerates that own most of the news networks in our country, there's still the issue of the individual journalist and the various conventions of journalistic style. All combined, it certainly suggests we can rule out complete objectivity and that we see the news “as through a glass darkly.”

Of course, all that having been said, what I have proposed is already a mere commonplace to plenty of “thinkers” who have given up hope at all of getting any sort of truth out of the American press. I have known several people who have confided in me that they only watch foreign news networks like the British Broadcasting Corporation because they are convinced that only foreign countries will give an objective view of America (as if other countries were somehow more objective).

So here we have our freedom of the press, but I can't help but wonder sometimes whether we're too far gone for it to matter. Half of the country accepts too readily whatever it hears or reads, and the other half prides itself on not accepting anything that it hears or reads.

If journalism is about getting to the truth, then how is a journalist supposed to act in a world that sometimes seems divided between people who will believe the wrong thing as easily as they believe the true things and people who will disbelieve the true things as easily as they disbelieve the false things? I am reminded of Cassandra from Greek mythology who was blessed with the gift of prophecy, but cursed so that even when she told the truth no one would listen to her. Perhaps, in a sense, the press in America is a little too free. It could be argued that it would be ideal for everyone to have a voice, but can you imagine really trying to listen to every voice?

If true news is true, then how can we separate the news from the noise? Let me be clear, I am not advocating censorship of any kind. It seems clear to me that the duty of every journalist is to try and report the truth as accurately as possible, but what's to be done with all of the dishonest or just plain wrong-headed journalism that so easily flourishes with freedom of the press? I don't have an answer, but I think that anyone news-oriented ought to wonder just how much their particular contribution is actually reaching anyone. ♦

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is not an official publication of Austin Peay State University. The views herein do not necessarily reflect those of *The All State*, Austin Peay State University or the Tennessee Board of Regents.

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Publication Schedule:
The All State is published every Wednesday of the academic year, except during final exams and holidays.

Letters to the editor should include the author's full name, e-mail address and telephone number (plus major and class if applicable). All letters will be checked for authenticity. Letters should be received no later than 4 p.m. on Friday of each week for it to be considered for publication. Letters may be edited for clarity and grammar.

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

Libel — “reckless disregard for the truth and actual malice” (*NY Times v. Sullivan*, 1964).

Let’s face it, the press in America is annoying. They often stick microphones and tape-recording devices in people’s faces and “ask” for a comment in the midst of some terrible tragedy or crisis. Reporters frequently fire terribly embarrassing or awkward questions at people when it seems that civility and common courtesy would dictate that they simply demur and leave their “victim” alone to grieve, to reflect, to do and think whatever they wish in private.

And the way these so-called “journalists” sometimes address our president, the commander in chief, why, they seem to doubt what our leader says, or cynically assume there were “other” reasons for his actions than those he just stated in public. Where, I ask, is the respect from the press? Where is the professional responsibility to print what they are told so generously and helpfully from those in power?

I mean, just look at the trouble that an irascible press caused then President Dick Nixon. Why couldn’t they just leave well enough alone, simply accept White House statements that there were no secret tapes? That there was no Watergate break-in, no break-in of a psychiatrist’s office to try to frame Daniel Ellsberg (the defendant in the Pentagon Papers case, 1973)? Why couldn’t the press simply accept that Nixon was sincere when he flashed the peace sign at reporters in 1972 and said, “I am not a crook?”

And, poor Billy Clinton, why did they have to hound him so? Why not give him the benefit of the doubt when he said, “I did not have sexual relations with that woman” and let him move onto, um, other pressing matters? And, while the press seemed to go along with President Bush and Dick Cheney for awhile, did they have to keep asking questions like, “Why haven’t we found weapons of mass destruction?” and “Are we really certain Hussein conspired with Osama bin Laden to attack us on September 11?” I mean, these questions got a little awkward; we were in the middle of a war with Iraq. The time for questions was over.

Yes, the press is annoying and what they write is frequently

unpleasant and I am sure it is just a coincidence that former Gov. Eliot Spitzer blasted the press for wasting time on innuendoes and rumors about some silly sex scandal linking him to prostitutes. And did the press really have to “dog” the former Rev. Ted Haggard about him allegedly having sex and doing drugs with male prostitutes? Didn’t he already take time out of his busy televangelist fundraising to tell them it wasn’t so? Why can’t the press just leave these folks alone and do their job?

Oh, that’s right, it is the press’ job to “speak truth to power.” That is why in 1789 our nation ratified the Bill of Rights that included in the First Amendment to our U.S. Constitution the guarantee that “Congress shall make no law . . . abridging the Freedom of the Press.” That is why in the days of Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin and Alexander Hamilton the press excoriated public leaders. If you think what is written in today’s free press is tough on our elected officials or on those who claim to be “fit” to be given our trust to help lead our nation, then read some articles “back in the day.” The framers of our Constitution absolutely knew the power and peril of guaranteeing a free, thriving press. They knew that the written word could hurt, insult, upset, vilify and yes, even uncover some truths that people in power wish could have stayed hidden. That was the point.

The framers were convinced that a free press, more than anything else in a democracy, short of allowing people to vote, was essential to a living, thriving democracy, unable to be extinguished by the intolerance of ideological bigotry, political correctness run amok or tyrants that knock on our door in the clothing of sheep.

Today, we as citizens of America have more choices and “menu options” to choose from in where, how and from whom we get our news than ever before. Are you conservative? Well, tune in to Fox News, catch an episode of Bill O’Reilly or listen to Rush Limbaugh. More liberal-minded? Try CBS, at least that’s what pundits used to say when Dan Rather was its anchor, maybe now it’s changed. Tune in to NPR, and if you can find him, dial up Al Franken. Of course, when *The New York Times* bashes Bush it’s a “liberal rag” when it bashes Clinton it’s “just doing its job . . . finally,” at least that’s what I hear.

Here’s my point, the framers didn’t guarantee freedom of the press so that its ranks could be filled with really swell people with noble intentions who would nary say a mean word about anyone.

They probably didn’t envision how today’s media would be controlled by a few major conglomerates and tabloid talents like Rupert Murdoch and the corrosive effects such ownership would have on the press and the pursuit of truth in a democracy, but that’s not their fault, we could have said “No” at any point along this journey.

In 1931, a small newspaper publisher named Near printed some nasty and despicable things about elected officials in Minnesota (Near v. Minnesota, 1931). He said they were cheaters, liars, adulterers and embezzlers. They said we are going to sue you Mr. Near for libel and defamation of our spotless character. The U.S. Supreme Court sided with Near, essentially saying, if you don’t want the press to write that you cheat, lie, steal and embezzle, then don’t cheat, lie, steal and embezzle. If Spitzer had bothered to check with me first, I would have simply said, don’t mess with prostitutes and the press probably won’t write that you mess with prostitutes, but then I know I can oversimplify things.

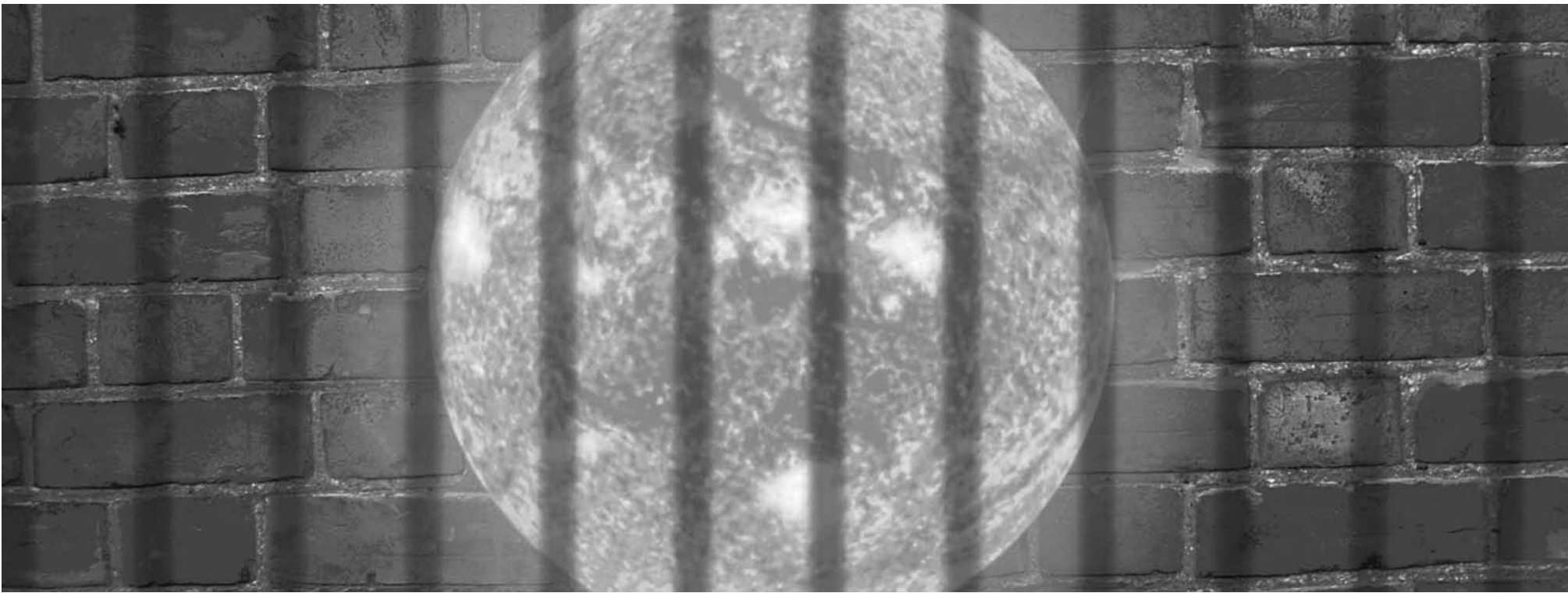
March 16-22 is National Sunshine Week. This marks a celebration of open government and freedom of information in our democracy. It started in 2002 by the Florida Society of Newspaper Editors who were concerned that the Florida Legislature was passing so many “exceptions” to their state laws on guaranteeing open records, meetings and access to government they threatened to “gut the existing laws.”

Here in Tennessee we, too, have open records and meetings laws. We also have at my last count, about 125 “exceptions” to such noble and democratic laws. Such laws are not just for the press, they are for everyone, but the press, in order to fulfill its constitutional imperative of remaining free and, doing its job in reporting real news and “speaking truth to power,” needs to not be locked out by politicians who fear what a meddlesome reporter could write about them. I urge all of you to find out more about Sunshine Week by doing a little investigating on such sites as www.sunshineweek.org or www.thefirstamendment.org.

The next time you hear some official say “No comment” or blast the press for asking irresponsible and embarrassing questions or writing terrible things, ask yourself, would you really want it any other way? I am certain the framers didn’t. ♦

Dr. Rabidoux is a professor of political science. He can be reached at rabidouxg@apsu.edu.

Sunshine Week 2008



DUSTIN KRAMER/ART DIRECTOR

U.S. behind in freedom index

Now I know that this is a subject that has been beaten to death on these very pages, but I laughed the first time I read the “Free Speech Area Guidelines” in the student handbook. The wording took me by surprise:

“Use of the ‘Free Speech Area’ falls in two categories: (1) Planned in advance and the ‘Free Speech Area’ is reserved or (2) spontaneous and no advance reservation is made.”

I read it again to make sure I didn’t miss anything and decided that this part was okay. Then further down it says: “In general, free speech activities may last no longer than 90 minutes in duration, whether reserved or spontaneous.”

Are 90 minutes of free speech really free speech? If they say so, I guess.

Anyway, that really is enough about that; we’ve all heard it before. But it does sort of relate to what I really wanted to talk about and I honestly couldn’t help myself. Let me start over.

It’s Sunshine Week, which is basically a celebration of you (the people) having the right to know exactly what the hell the government is doing and why in the hell they are doing it. According to *The Tennessean*, your right to sit in on “any formal meeting of two or more councilmen” in your city is protected by Tennessee’s own Sunshine laws. That’s comforting to know. But I guess what is even more comforting is that I don’t ever have to go to these meetings. Things like these Sunshine Laws make the newsman’s job easier too.

Thank God for journalists. They go to those meetings so that I don’t have to. They stay on the lookout for anything iffy and give you a short synopsis of what happened, even if it’s terribly boring. It’s a hard job, let me tell you. That’s why I write for “Perspectives.”

Freedom of the press is something that I have a particular interest in, but not because I write for a college newspaper. I’ve already admitted that I am no news reporter. On the contrary, I need those guys out there to be my ears. It’s important for me that they have the freedom to do their job with very little restrictions.

Reporters Without Borders (www.rsf.org) publishes a World Wide Press Freedom Index annually. According to the 2007 results, the U.S. internationally ranks 48 out of 169 internationally. Countries above us include the United Kingdom, Canada, Ireland, Lithuania and at the top of the list Iceland. It wasn’t a surprise to see North Korea at the bottom. Journalists get thrown in jail for misspelling names in print there.

So, in the U.S. the press has relatively more freedom than most other countries, but why aren’t we at the top of the list? At least the top ten. When RWB first started publishing the index in 2002, the U.S. was in the 17th position. Why have we slipped so far down the list in only five years? RWB claims that “(r)elations between the media and the Bush administration sharply deteriorated after the president used the pretext of ‘national security’ to regard as suspicious any journalist who questioned his ‘war on terrorism.’”

Probably one of the worst examples of “suppression of press” is that our federal courts won’t recognize the right of journalists to protect their sources and “even threatens journalists whose investigations have no connection at all with terrorism.” The courts are taking away the very fundamental trust element that is so important to gathering good, reliable sources. I mean, who would ever want to tell a journalist the truth if they knew that there’s a chance that the journalist may be forced to reveal their name in sensitive cases?

Clearly something is going on here, and I don’t think enough people are aware of it. Our media is changing, and members of the press aren’t being allowed behind all the closed doors. And the closed doors are the ones where we need our ears the most.

That’s why something like Sunshine Week is so important, because people are talking about this sort of thing. Hopefully we’ll see the U.S. climbing steadily up that index in the next few years. It’s way too important of an issue for a democratic society’s press to just settle snugly into the latter 40s.

This is definitely something we all should be concerned about and keep a close eye on to make sure that it gets better now rather than

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Vulgarity: First Amendment right?

Recently *The Smoking Gun*, the online news source for those wishing to peruse entertaining mug shots of the famous, infamous or just plain ordinary people having a bad day, or to read the backstage riders of musicians (Did you know that Matchbox 20 demands two boxes of unscented Kleenex as well as a bag of fat free

pretzels? Call me old-fashioned, but I like my rock stars to have habits that don’t remind me of my grandmother) reported that an eighth grader in Ohio was expelled because he created a fake MySpace page for the principal of his middle school.

Although the student did not use the principal’s name, he used his picture and portrayed him as a child molester whose general interests included “jacking off in my office” and “giving students anal.”

In response to his expulsion for the remainder of the school year, the student’s parents are suing the school district for violating their creative offspring’s right to free speech and demanding his immediate return to school. They argue, “disrespecting teachers outside of school is an age-old tradition, and one from which teachers neither need nor deserve protection.” If you were able to resurrect the founding fathers and show this culmination of their efforts at hammering out the amendment that protects the freedom to express ourselves, I have no doubt that their collective reaction would be, “That is bananas.”

There is something uniquely American about how touchy we are concerning our right to free speech, just as there is something uniquely American about how we gleefully explore the boundaries of this inalienable right. For example, take the humble T-shirt. What used to be a fairly mundane article of clothing that helped protect our naked bodies from the elements is now a billboard of expression and self-advertisement. I have nothing against self-expression, but the T-shirt messages of today seem to have no limit in the extent of their disclosure of the values and habits of the wearer. We have moved way beyond the “I’m with stupid” T-shirt. We have T-shirts advertising

meanness (“Tell your boyfriend I said, Hi”), bad puns (“Got wood?”) and ones that are just kind of embarrassing in exposing the wearer’s isolation from mainstream society and desire to portray an aura of mystery, even danger, to that society (“I can’t hear you over the voices in my head”).

One particular episode stands out in my mind. I was in Wal-Mart when I noticed the most amazing woman lumbering towards me. I say “lumbering” because it most adequately describes the largess of her overall being and the effort to move that mass. She was thoroughly Teutonic in bearing, six feet tall, imposing and stern in expression. I could almost hear the strains of Wagner’s “Flight of the Valkyries,” when I looked at her.

If there was anyone who did not need words to advertise or express him or herself, this, I thought, was that person. However, as struck as I was by her hulking presence, her T-shirt managed to say even more. Plainly in white on a black background, were the words, “Touch me in my dirty place.”

How do you respond to that? “Thank you for your kind and generous offer, but I will politely decline,” seems inadequate. Although I noticed people were generally scrambling out of her way as she purposely strode through the cleaning products aisle, I was not able to ascertain whether they did so out of recognition of her forceful bearing, combined with her clearly superior strength of will and body, or if it was out of fear she would force them to capitulate to the demands of her shirt.

It remains to be seen if the student will be able to uphold his right to engage in the “age-old tradition” of spreading malicious lies about teachers and other authority figures on the Internet or in whatever forum he chooses to exercise his right to free speech.

On the subject of obnoxious T-shirts, be ready for the long haul. In 1971, the Supreme Court upheld the right of Paul Robert Cohen to wear a shirt that said, “Fuck the Draft” inside a courtroom.

As Justice John Marshall Harlan II famously wrote in the majority opinion that overturned the lower courts’ ruling against Cohen, “One man’s vulgarity is another man’s lyric.” ♦

Tanya Ludlow is a graduate English student and is the Assistant Perspectives editor. She can be reached at tludlow14@apsu.edu.

New ‘Retro’ arcade invades Clarksville



ASHLEY WRIGHT/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



ASHLEY WRIGHT/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Top Left: Nathaniel Brown, freshman biology major, and A. G. Harris, junior criminal justice management major, are shown playing one of the many classic arcade games at Retro’s

Top Right: Police Trainer and Tiger Road are just some the many classic arcade games at Retro’s.

Bottom: Brown and Harris were checking out the Steel Gunner arcade game, which was made in 1990.



ASHLEY WRIGHT/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Retro’s boasts country’s largest collection of classic arcade games

By **PATRICK ARMSTRONG**
Features Editor

Donkey Kong threw barrels at Mario, Tron’s lightcycles raced through cyberspace and Luke Skywalker flew across the Death Star to eventually blow it into smithereens. These are just some of the many arcade games one can play at the newest place in Clarksville for video game lovers, Retro’s. Not to mention, this place has the largest collection of classic video games in the country, according to Roger Fisher, co-owner.

Retro’s opened its doors Sat., March 8, but its official grand opening will be in mid-April. “We are easing our way into it,” said Roger Fisher. Due to some contracting problems, the opening was delayed later than wanted.

Roger Fisher started it all when he bought a game for the house, and it took off from there. Roger Fisher said, “You get one [arcade game], and it is an addicting habit. If you’re a gamer, it is the cheapest way to play.” This is the second arcade room he has opened; the first was with his cousin.

Fisher’s son, Dustyn Fisher, helps his dad refurbish the games. “I like tearing them apart and dad refurbishes them,” said co-owner, Dustyn Fisher, who graduated from APSU with an associates in construction technology.

They plan on switching some of the games out with others they plan on buying. The average arcade game at Retro’s costs around \$1,000, including delivery which is expensive.

Retro’s arcade games are not the newest ones on the market, but are classic arcade games from the late ’70s to early ’90s which are all in their original condition. “Technology is cheesy but still fun today,” Roger Fisher said.

Fisher’s concept is a ’80s style hangout with a 12-foot screen that will eventually play ’80s movie and sport clips, music videos and commercials. “Some people think we should get new games but they missed the concept,” Roger Fisher said.

Retro’s features classic arcade games like “Donkey Kong,” “Mario Bros.,” “Galaga,” “Frogger” and “Tron.” Others include “Multcade,” which holds 48 games to choose from; “Play Choice,” that has 10 games from the original Nintendo Entertainment System; “Asteroids Deluxe,” showing three dimensional effects; original Sega Genesis demo rack and “Gauntlet Dark Legacy,” in which players can save their progress by creating a password and return to continue game play where they last left off.

“Police Trainer’ and ‘Soul Caliber’ are games you can play all day,” said Ben Schenurer, senior art major and employee at Retro’s. They even have Xbox to bridge the gap to the new era of gaming.

Retro’s also has a lot of video game history within its walls. According to Fisher, the game “Tetris” was developed in Russia. The Russian government acquired the game because they thought it would make money. If one looks closely at the design on the game, there is a picture of St. Basil’s Cathedral falling apart in pieces symbolizing the fall of communism.

Many would think each game would cost anywhere from 25 cents to one dollar, but in fact that is not the case. Gamers pay \$6 at the door and receive a wrist band to play all day. “You will find that people will try games they never would before,” Roger Fisher said.

As Retro’s grand opening looms near, they will be putting in a lot of new stuff. The plan is to have different video game tournaments, Xbox live, live cable and internet access.

The father and son team said that it is funny because you see a 15 to 20 year old walking in with an older person. It rekindles memories of the games they played as a child, some of which are in Retro’s.

Retro’s is located at 138 University Ave., and is open tentatively weekdays noon to 10 p.m., weekends noon to midnight and Sundays noon to 8 p.m. “[It’s] going to take time because of the different concepts we have.” ♦

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‘Blood’ is ‘Simply’ marvelous

By **DUSTIN KRAMER**
Art Director

First-time filmmakers often make the mistake of putting everything they ever wanted to see on the big screen into their premier effort. More often than not, this makes their film feel bloated, uneven and sometimes gratuitous. Remarkably, this is not the case with the Coen brothers (“Fargo,” “No Country For Old Men”), whose first film is as solid a freshman outing as you’ll find.

“Blood Simple,” an independent film financed in its entirety by private investors, tells the story of Ray, a small-town bartender, and Abby, the wife of Ray’s boss, and the affair that they are having behind her husband Marty’s back. When Marty catches wind of the shenanigans, he hires a private investigator to confirm his suspicions. The unnamed detective returns with photos of the couple at a local motel which enrages Marty to the point where he hires the P.I. to murder the adulterous duo. The investigator returns with more photos, but this time of the bullet-riddled corpses laying in bed. All is not as it seems when the detective is paid and proceeds to shoot his

temporary employer in the chest with Abby’s stolen revolver. From there, the film continues in a series of twists and turns, putting the most unlikely of people in the worst of situations.

The Coen brothers crafted an extraordinarily mature, well-paced and engaging film with “Blood Simple.” The cast of John Getz, Frances McDormand, Dan Hedaya and M. Emmet Walsh deliver all-around fantastic performances, a necessity in making a neo-noir film like this work well.

This film is about people and what moves them to do the things they do to each other. It calls into question the validity of what we, as humans, have decided is good or evil. Is a man justified in killing another man in the name of love? How about justice? Or what if you killed someone because you felt like you had no other choice? These are questions that can’t be answered, and the film doesn’t try to.

Although a tough find, as it’s now out of print on DVD, “Blood Simple” is a movie you should be watching. ♦

True costs of war revealed in ‘Baghdad ER’

By **TANYA LUDLOW**
Assistant Perspectives Editor

Is there a war going on? Even though we are in the same town as a major military installation, sometimes it seems as if the War in Iraq is just another fact of life to be taken for granted, even ignored. The major news networks deliver the events from Iraq and Afghanistan in a perfunctory manner, informing viewers of the latest death toll in the same manner they convey the latest stock and business information.

And even if that cursory glance of the human misery occurring at this very moment bothers you, with one click of the remote you can be safely settle in the love world of Flava Flav or Tila Tequila, or whatever belle de jour has currently captured the U.S. public’s imagination. The bi-monthly anti-war rallies on campus seem to have fizzled out, which isn’t a surprise considering the anemic attendance.

“Baghdad ER” is a documentary that everyone

in this country needs to see, no matter his or her political inclinations. It reveals the true cost of the war in Iraq. Taking an unobtrusive viewpoint, the documentary chronicles the efforts of a medical unit based here at Fort Campbell as they battle to save lives and limbs in Baghdad.

Not for the squeamish of heart or mind, the pain of a soldier losing a friend in an IED attack is as heart-wrenching as the gory amputations and surgeries are gut wrenching. The relentless stream of injured and dead soldiers and civilians serve to underscore the incredible resolve and resiliency of the medical team. Still, there is that nagging and unresolved question in the background: What is it all for? As one doctor puts it, “This war and the number of lives it’s affecting is just unbelievable. I have to think that the people in this country are in a better place for it, or will be in a better place for it – I have to believe that because otherwise this is just sheer madness.” ♦



APSU goes Tacky



Top Left: A group of students danced to various songs including "Crank Dat," "The Cupid Shuffle" and "The Cha Cha Slide."

Bottom Left: The award for tackiest dressed group went to Sigma Phi Epsilon.



ALL PHOTOS BY PATRICK ARMSTRONG/FEATURES EDITOR

Top Right: APSU alumni, Molatore Daniel shows students his break- dancing styles.

Bottom Right: Students received a blast from the past when the D.J. played the "Macarena."

'Tackiest' dressed makes appearance

By RACHAEL HERRON
Staff Writer

Hair curlers, skirts made of wool and sweater dresses: These are just a few of the horrible ensembles that were worn in the gym of the Foy Fitness Center Thur., March 13. The Gov Programming Council called the event "Tacky Prom".

Student and member of the Gov Programming Council Paige Rumussen, freshman Spanish major, proudly wore an '80s green, pencil dress with the typical '80s couture rose by the shoulder; the rose

that makes dresses the tackiest of tacky. The dress belonged to the Director of Student Life and Leadership Heidi Leming.

Rock Band and Dance Dance Revolution were activities set up for students to enjoy.

Like any other prom, the competition was high for tacky prom king and queen. The king, Damareus Wellington, business management junior, wore a sportscoat with a shirt underneath, fishing hat, sunglasses, shorts, tube socks and crocs.

The queen, Carly Hatcher, senior history major, wore a hideous green sweater dress. Tacky and gruesome? Yes.

Competition went beyond tacky king and queen. There was an

award given for tackiest group that went to Sigma Phi Epsilon.

Left foot forward, middle, right foot forward, middle. These are the fundamentals to the Salsa. Students competed to see who could get their Salsa on while shaking their hips; after all, that is the key to Salsa.

The competition got fierce while students fought to claim the best hip-hop dancer. The pros demonstrated, and the amateurs followed. They were looking for constant movement and only a few were brave enough to compete.

All in all the night was a blast. The crazy getups and intense dance competitions sealed the package for a night of fun and free, live entertainment. ♦

Pi day celebrates everlasting number

By SAMANTHA PARIS
Staff Writer

Senior physics major, Jonathan Fisher attended the Pi Day Luncheon last week, calling it "a nice place to hang out and get some food and try to memorize a couple more digits of Pi."

The Pi Day Luncheon was held March 14 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the third floor of the Claxton Building. March 14 is known to many mathematicians as Pi Day because Pi (π) is approximately 3.14 and the day is 3/14.

The announcement for the luncheon was, "You can have your Pi and eat it too." That is what the people that attended did. "It went really well," Jackie Vogel, professor of mathematics said.

Vogel was the person overseeing this event. "The main purpose is to have fun, this is the fourth year celebrating Pi Day at APSU. I have been doing Pi Day for 15 years everywhere I taught," said Vogel. He is not alone; there are people everywhere that celebrate the love for this number on March 14.

The Web site www.piday.org is a place where folks go and talk about all things Pi. There is a running countdown to next year's Pi Day. If you would like to show your love for Pi, there is an online store filled with Pi T-shirts, buttons and mugs. To keep in touch with your Pi friends or to meet new ones,

there is also a Pi Facebook group.

For your viewing enjoyment there are YouTube videos of homemade Pi songs. Kirsten Boyd, professor of mathematics, thinks Pi Day is great for APSU.

"We wanted student interaction, and a lot of faculty able to make pies," said Boyd. Chris Carroll, junior statistics major, was one of many at the luncheon.

"I came with my friend to have lunch with him and also to get some desert," said Carroll. Food is also what brought Brian Troutman,

freshman public management, to stop by. "The free lunch was what brought me and my friends here to hang out and catch up," said Troutman.

This was the first year for Jaime Taylor, interim dean of math and science, to celebrate Pi day.

Taylor said the luncheon was a success, adding that it was a great turnout and all the food was gone. With the help of Taylor, the luncheon was free this year.

"Last year students had to pay, but this year we had Dean Jaime Taylor help us out so students could attend the event and enjoy themselves. We also like Pi Day because we are able to interact with the students," said Coretta Griffy, professor of mathematics. So it looks like Pi Day will go on and on just like the number 3.14 ... ♦



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Girls & Sports



Weekly SUDOKU
by Linda Thistle

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ HOO BOY!

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ATSEA PIET NAB ICE
ELMO SKEW BORSCHT
OFMEASSUPERIORBUT
TKO REIN PINCE MEAD
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ACNEALP SUE TARA
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FORBES TEBALDI EPILOG
NORAWHEAT IMPSPADO
ALWAYSJUSTHAPPENS
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Super Crossword

A PLUS

ACROSS

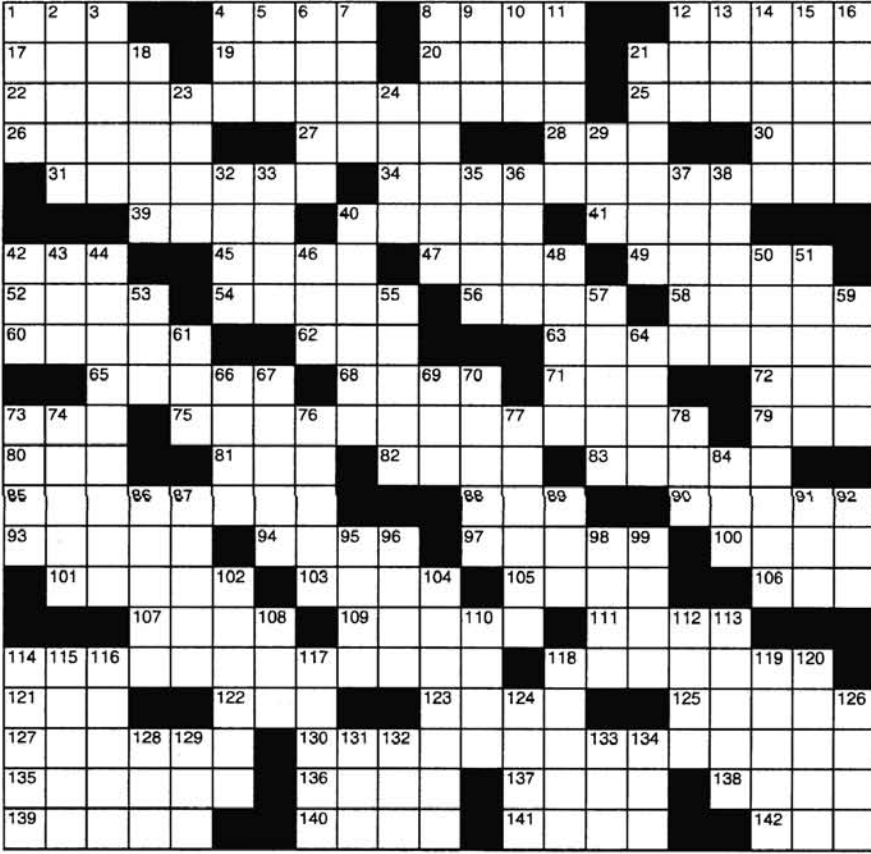
1 Buddy
4 Verne hero
8 Cantata composer
12 Goo
17 "— corny as Kansas ..."
19 Orenburg's river
20 Literary pseudonym
21 Like Schoenberg's music
22 Like Felix Unger?
25 Act like Holmes
26 "— Card" ('90 film)
27 Comic Orson
28 Bungle
30 Sweater letter
31 On the nose
34 Skinny novelist?
39 Get on
40 Rocker Tom
41 Curly coil
42 "Saving Private Ryan" extras
45 Moflo or Magnani
47 Reggae's Peter
49 Offer an apple?
52 Pinnacle
54 Dawns, to Donne

56 Coarse flour
58 "— on My Pillow" ('59 song)
60 Still's partner
62 Tread the boards
63 Man from Munich
65 Ponderosa, for one
68 Mrs. Zeus
71 Mineral suffix
72 Sgt., e.g.
73 Gamble
75 Extremely encouraging individual?
79 Kitten's comment
80 Sharpston and
81 Hockey great
82 A sweeping success?
83 Calliope's sister
85 '66 Tommy Roe tune
88 Merino male
90 Shiva worshiper
93 Throw forcefully
94 "The Ramayana" heroine
97 Actress Samantha
100 Jury member
101 Economize

103 Calligraphy supply
105 Land in the sea
106 Longing
107 Jets, Mets, or Nets
109 Release
111 Hideaway
114 Dishonest anchorman?
118 New Jersey's Pine
121 Port: abbr.
122 Director
123 "Dies —"
125 Be of use
127 Bring to light
130 Corrupt college official?
135 Acid's opposite
136 Bronte heroine
137 Ice-cream thickener
138 Writer Hunter
139 June birthstone
140 Paper quantity
141 Slink
142 Prior to, to Prior

DOWN

1 BB-gun sound
2 "That's —" ('53 tune)
3 Paint
4 Lots of laughs
5 Part of NATO
6 Hayes of westerns
7 Crafter's need
8 Publisher Cerf
9 Ginger —
10 Security grp.
11 Couldn't stand
12 Canonized Mile.
13 King's "Salem's —"
14 Motionless
15 "— Man" ('78 song)
16 Singer John
18 Farm sight
21 Directionless
23 Native Peruvian
24 Yarn
29 Singer Chris
32 Soho streetcar
33 Carson's successor
35 Particle
36 AMEX rival
37 Scacchi of "The Player"
38 Seascape painter
40 Cisco's chum
42 Pin group
43 The — Capades
44 Einstein's chair?
46 New Deal
agcy.
48 Convent
50 Dentist's fee?
51 Vestige
53 Geologic division
55 Cook
56 Word with pork or karate
57 Make chair legs
59 Chilly powder?
61 Social worker?
64 Swerve
66 Word with pork or karate
67 Toast start
69 Dietary abbr.
70 TV's "Hearts"
73 Big party
74 Cary of "The Princess Bride"
76 Bit of a beach?
77 Leisurely, to Leoncavallo
78 Team scream
84 Palm oil?
86 Lloyd Webber musical
87 Principle
89 Booker T.'s group
91 Billy — Williams
92 Fancy planter
95 Slope
96 Cain's victim
98 — breve
99 Bring up
102 Gauguin setting
104 Feminist Gloria
108 Pie ingredient?
110 Greek sandwich
112 Neighbor of Turkey
113 Variety show
114 Tight
115 Actress Berry
116 Slezak or Alexander
117 Consumer advocate
118 Stocking shade
119 Credulous
120 Indian instrument
124 Way over yonder
126 Director Adrian
128 Roller-coaster unit
129 Under the weather
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Kickball tourney kicks off soon

INTRAMURALZONE

By MARLON SCOTT
Sports Editor

There are a lot of games that reminds people of their childhood. Ping Pong may conjure visions of summers in recreation centers. Badminton might induce flashbacks of high school gym class. However, there is only one game that combines the glory of a grand slam with the pain of being nailed by a rubber ball hurled with vicious intentions. Kickball: A devious combination of baseball, soccer and dodgeball.

For all those potential soccer players who cannot get around the no-hands rule but can kick a rolling, bouncing rubber ball into space, intramural kickball is coming to the Foy Fitness Center. Strap on some running shoes and start flexing those leg muscles. Sun., March 30, intramural teams will compete in a kickball tournament. The cost is \$10 per team and the sign-up deadline is Mon., March 24. There will be an information meeting about the event held Tues., March 25. Here are four reasons why APSU students should sign up.

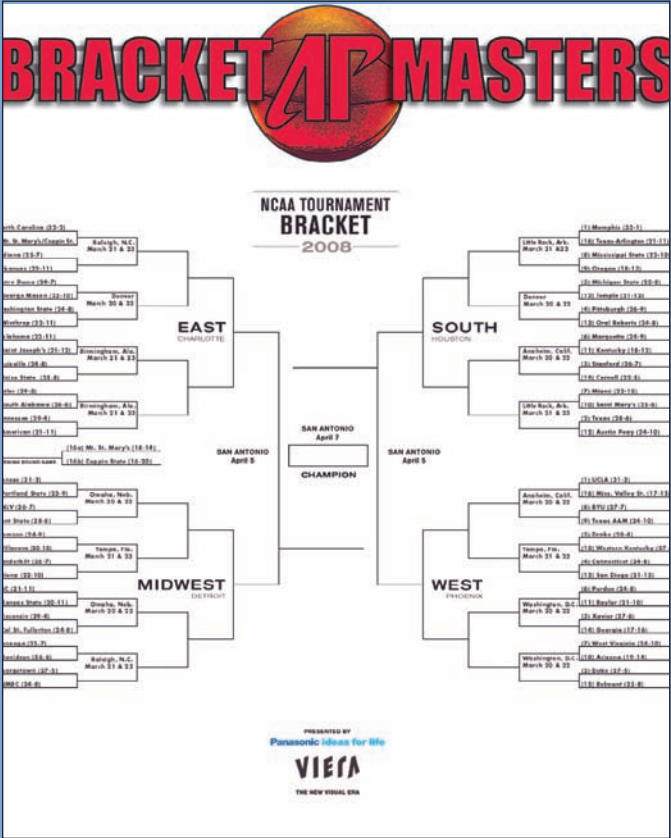
1. Revenge for the beatdowns taken during intramural basketball.
2. Reliving high school glory and rekindling the nickname, “Judge Leg.”
3. Take one step closer to starting the NKL (National Kickball League).
4. No test for steroids.

The All State will not only be covering the event, but plan to participate as well. Is there any team with the skills necessary to stop TAS All Stars from winning it all? There is only one way to find out. ♦

DUSTIN KRAMER/ART DIRECTOR



‘Experts’ accept Bracketology challenge



DUSTIN KRAMER/ART DIRECTOR

By MARLON SCOTT
Sports Editor

For weeks sports fans have been watching college basketball teams fight for the right to attend the big dance. The competition has been tough and the action has not been disappointing. However, the dust finally settled Sun., March 16, and the mood has changed.

The madness has set in. March Madness is here and it is an opportunity to earn bragging rights for the rest of the year. All the research is done. Pens in trembling hands are furiously scribbling down predictions as 65 college basketball teams are poised to do battle. Are you ready?

Everyone knows one person who claims to dominate the brackets every year. This season *The All State* decided to find some “experts” willing to showcase their skills under public scrutiny. The brackets will be filled and a running score will be kept. Weekly winners get to brag and the overall winner will bask in glory until next year. James Horn (The Big Dog) and soon to be APSU Alumni Michael Young from *The Leaf Chronicle*, Greg Piggot APSU Intramural Coordinator and TAS editors Marlon Scott and Kasey Henricks are just a few of the names ready to prove to the APSU community who is a true Bracketology master. It is time to separate the gurus from the lucky posers.

Comments are welcome. The race begins in the March 26 edition of *TAS*. ♦

OPINION



Yoga. The workout is a powerful one. It increases cardio, while improving flexibility, strengthens heart rate and tones muscle. Sounds almost too good to be true, yet there is a fitness program that can do all those things and more. Yoga’s numerous benefits are thrusting it into the society’s view. There are many forms of yoga. The traditional form that is taught in Western cultures is known as Hatha Yoga.

“I’d always been the type to be into hardcore sports,” said Carrie Harris, a local yoga instructor. Harris, who began yoga in January of 2007, considers yoga “the ultimate exercise.” Indeed, yoga, which is an ancient practice, has evolved from a rich history of integration between mind, body and spirit.

Yoga has the ability to alleviate many health problems. www.YogaBasics.com, a leading site in yoga, has a large list of health problems that yoga can help fight. Some of the leading health problems include high blood pressure, cholesterol, aches and chronic illness.

Yoga also provides the same benefits as the next high-endurance fitness program. Yoga increases stamina, reduces stress and improves a stagnant life with little time for exercise. Yoga has a huge advantage in that it is a low-impact activity, where gravity is the only resistance. As a result, it has little strain on the body.

There are three unique features mentioned on www.healthandyoga.com that sets yoga apart from many traditional exercise programs. Yoga helps the body to lubricate joints, ligaments and tendons. It also forces practitioners to increase their flexibility. Second, yoga can “massage organs.” It can actually massage the internal glands and organs of the body to help prevent diseases or infections. The last serious benefit is detoxification. By gently stretching muscles and massaging organs, yoga flushes out toxins from all different parts of the body delaying aging and increasing energy.

Since yoga focuses much of its fitness techniques on breathing, it leaves a lot of room for meditation and inner thought. Meditation, thoroughly studied by many, has been proven to reduce stress and blood pressure. Yoga deals with many spiritual and inner philosophies that can be implemented into any lifestyle.

Many consider yoga to be a “trendy” practice instead of a hardcore exercise. It provides just as many health benefits as hardcore regimens. The Foy Fitness Center offers classes in yoga for those interested. For more information log on to www.apsu.edu/recreation. ♦



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Gov fans party before the big dance

The Govs had a seeding party at the Dunn Center Sun., March 16. The turn-out, made up of alumni, current students, players, athletic staff and the media, was good. They all had one thing in common: Their love and support of the Govs.

I chose this picture from the event to give a different perspective from what most people would see. I have an advantage because of my access. I have freedom to move around anywhere during the event.

The picture is an overview shot from the second deck. It shows the fans, team, pom squad, cheerleaders, pep band and the big screen TV on which the players and coaches watched the NCAA selection show.

This view shows the main event. Everyone is on the court, watching intently, and I was above it all. There was also an autograph signing prior to the commentary and announcing of key speakers by the emcee Greg Walker.

We can wrangle Texas and send them back to the ranch if we play with the fire and determination that we have exhibited in the past. Go Govs. ♦

Pairing Party reveals Govs vs Longhorns

By MARLON SCOTT
Sports Editor

Madness has infected APSU. The Dunn center was ground zero of the infection on Sunday, March 16.

Like thousands of college basketball players, coaches and fans all over the country infected with March Madness, the Govs were on Dave Loos court anxiously waiting to find out who and where they would play in round one of the NCAA tournament.

“Definitely, your heart is bumping,” junior Drake Reed said. “You don’t want to play someone that can dominate you.”

At the Peay Pairing Party, fans of all ages were able to sit with the Govs and wait for the big announcement.

APSU President Timothy Hall and his wife, Lee Hall, were just a couple of the people who donned red and came to the event.

Cameras flashed constantly and the APSU Pep Band played, entertaining the crowd as they sought autographs from the players. A raffle was held and cake was served. A 27-inch television, free car rentals, autographed basketballs and a massage were given away.

But even the energetic dancing of both the cheerleaders and Pom Squad could not distract everyone for long. Everyone was focused on hearing the news.

“I was very anxious,” senior Fernandez Lockett said. “We knew we were going to play a big name team, so we were just sitting there waiting. It was very exciting.”



Left: The APSU Govs basketball team sits on Dave Loos court in the Dunn Center watching highlights from their games in the OVC tournament.



LOIS JONES/SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Both President Hall and Gov coach Dave Loos spoke to the fans. Hall expressed his excitement and commended the players on raising the visibility of APSU.

Loos thanked everyone for their support of the Govs and summed up their performance this year with a humorous, anonymous poem.

“From all of us to all of you, Number one is the best we

could do,” Loos said.

After the speeches, video highlights from the Govs Ohio Valley Conference tournament games were shown. The atmosphere rose and fell like waves on a beach and the clock counted down until the time for the news to be revealed.

Who were the Govs going to play? The speculation was on the lips of everyone in the Dunn Center.

As everyone mingled, smiled and shook hands, they constantly checked the large screens hanging in the corners of the court. There were also two large-screen televisions placed on the court drawing people’s attention.

At 5 p.m. the NCAA tournament selection show came on and everyone listened intently as Greg Gumbel made the announcements.

First he announced the No. 1 seeds: North Carolina, Memphis, UCLA and Kansas.

Then he broke down the regions.

No luck in the East. Passed on in the Midwest. It came down to the South or the West.

“Every time they would go through a new area we were like okay this is us,” Lockett added. “But they finally called our name.”

First Gumbel announced Texas as the second seed in the South and then he told the world that APSU was their opponents as a 15th seed.

The red crowd in the Dunn Center exploded with cheers and applause. Everyone began making plans. The Govs will face the Longhorns Fri., March 21, in Little Rock Ark. The stage is set and the madness continues. ♦

Lady Govs mauled by Lady Bulldogs in OVC opener

By MARLON SCOTT
Sports Editor

The APSU Lady Govs softball team began Ohio Valley Conference play against the Samford University Lady Bulldogs in Birmingham, Ala. According to APSU Sports Information, Lady Govs head coach Jim Perrin expressed concerns before heading to Birmingham.

“It’s been an up-and-down start to the season for us,” Perrin said. “At times we’ve looked okay. But at other times we’ve really struggled. I know part of it is the fact we’re such a young team that is still trying to find its way. But now that conference play is here we need to be more solid in our overall play.”

After splitting the doubleheader on Sat., March 15, the Lady Govs (4-12, 1-2 OVC) were one game away from winning their first OVC series this season. In the final game Sun., March 16, the Lady Bulldogs (10-13, 2-1 OVC) rallied to a 5-5 tie in the seventh inning. In the bottom of the eighth, Lady Gov junior pitcher Ashley Elrod threw a wild pitch and Lady Bulldog senior outfielder Emily Deaux scored the game-winning run. It was Elrod’s only wild pitch in the game. She pitched the entire game, allowing six runs from eight hits with three strikeouts.

The Lady Govs opened the game with an offensive explosion. Sophomore third baseman Ashley Taylor hit a single. Afterwards, sophomore outfielder Beth Carr hit another single and advanced to second on a Samford error. Sophomore catcher Daniella Hooper cranked a home run over the left field fence and made the score 3-0. Later, junior second baseman Krista



LOIS JONES/SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Lady Gov catcher Daniella Hooper walks away from home plate. Hooper hit a home run against Samford.

Henke would hit a two RBI double and the Lady Govs would finish the inning leading 5-0.

Behind 5-1 at the bottom of the seventh, Lady Bulldog sophomore third baseman Katie England changed the momentum of the game with a solo shot home run. After a rally that included one Lady Gov error and a changed call by the umpires, the Lady Bulldogs tied the game 5-5.

The score remained tied until the bottom of the eighth inning. When the Lady Bulldogs opened with back-to-back hits, the Lady Govs tried to load the bases to create a force out situation at home plate. But a wild pitch during an intentional walk allowed the game-winning score.

No Lady Gov got more than one hit in the game. Hooper hit the only home run and Henke the only double. Freshman Ashley Anderson hit her first college home run in game one of the series.

The Lady Govs continue their road trip to Lebanon, Tenn., to play Cumberland in a two-game series today.

Afterwards, they will travel to Charleston, Ill. to play a three-game series against OVC opponents Eastern Illinois. The series will begin with a doubleheader Friday, March 21 and end with one game Saturday afternoon, March 22. They will not return to APSU until Tuesday, March 25. ♦



LOIS JONES/SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Lady Gov freshman first baseman, Ashley Alverson, hit her first college home run against Samford.

Govs slashed by University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Panthers at home



LOIS JONES/SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Bat Gov senior outfielder Rafael Hill finishes a swing for the fence. Hill had an impressive weekend at the plate against the UWM Panthers. He went 8-for-14 with two RBIs and five runs in the series.

By MARLON SCOTT
Sports Editor

The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Panthers baseball team came to Raymond C. Hand Park and played the APSU Govs in a three-game series starting Fri., March 14 and ending Sun., March 16. Like the weather, the Panthers rained on the Govs, winning the series 2-1.

Errors in the first two games helped the Panthers (3-11) walk away with the series early.

The Govs (8-7) scored two runs in the first and fourth innings of game one establishing a 4-3 lead. However, two errors in the fifth inning helped the Panthers score five runs and take an 8-4 lead. The Panthers continued swinging their way to a 12-7 victory. They played four runs from eight hits in the last four innings and finished the game with 17 hits. The Govs finished the game with 12 hits. Senior center fielder Rafael Hill had three hits in the game, including one RBI. Senior third baseman Tyler Farrar hit a solo shot home run. Freshman pitcher Ryne Harper (1-2) picked up the loss.

Hill continued to impress at the plate, going 4-for-4 in game two on Saturday. The Govs defense was not as impressive. The Panthers won the game, 10-5, by playing small ball. Hitting singles, they produced only one hit for extra bases in the

game. The Govs scored two runs in five innings. Behind 10-2 after eight innings, Govs coach Gary McClure made massive substitutions. The substitute players took advantage of the opportunity and scored three runs in the last inning. Sophomore Gov pitcher Stephen Huff (1-2) pitched six innings, allowing only four runs from five hits. He also threw seven strikeouts and was tagged for the loss.

The sun shined on the Govs Sunday afternoon. For the first time all weekend, they capitalized on Panther errors and held up defensively for the 6-4 win. Tied 1-1 after two innings, the Govs scored two runs in the third inning to take a 3-1 lead.

Junior designated hitter Chad Cunningham got things started with a single. He stole second and Farrar was walked. Cunningham stole third and then scored on a throwing error by the Panther’s catcher. Farrar scored when sophomore first baseman Matt Kole singled to left field and advanced to second on a Panther fielding error.

By the top of the seventh inning, the Govs were ahead 5-2, but the Panthers did not roll over. Instead they plated two runs to make the score 5-4. After extending their lead with one more run in the bottom of the seventh, the Govs defense shut down the Panthers attempted rally in the eighth with a 6-4-3 double play. ♦