

Publishing company: Student will reveal first comic book at summer convention

from page 1

great comic book to put on their shelves."

Miller believes being listed in a catalog of other companies is not what will draw investors — a quality product will.

Risky business

"It's hard to say where any publisher is going to be in the future because our industry is changing and focusing on different things," Jones said. "Web comics are becoming more viable, and the actual printing of comics has been heading toward graphic novels and collected editions aimed at the bookstore market for years."

No matter what form the final project takes though, the most important thing is to tell a good story," Jones also said that his work with Miller and other talent will lead to HeroStreet's success.

"Right now, I am finishing up work on "Perfect Storm," a project of my own that I created while I was in college about seven years ago," Jones said. "After that I will be

drawing a story written by another industry legend, William Messener-Loebs, called 'Starlighter,' and after that I will be working with Eric on a sci-fi adventure strip he's writing."

"There's a lot of people out there willing to publish you, but they're not willing to invest in your product," Miller said. He also said many want the aspiring creator to provide them with all content and cover all costs.

After this is done, the creator receives a percentage of the profits, which is usually far less than what is spent. This happens because it is difficult to break into the comic book business.

Yet when he expresses this realization, he remains committed to a "trial by fire" and says that he wishes to use what he has learned from his time at APSU to his pursuits with comic books. "There are so many people that want to get in and so few outlets," Miller said.

By creating his publishing company, he hopes to gain the writing experience he desires and also an understanding of the comic book industry.

"I love every minute of it," he

said.

The company will slowly expand if all goes according to Miller's plan.

One anticipated competitor, Speakeasy comics, failed as a business, he adds, due to plans for growth that outsized its ability.

As well as seeking goals in other publishing arenas, he wants to "build a consistent readership." Diamond Comic Distributors is going to be the determining factor in Miller getting his comics distributed nationally.

Yet the cost is high.

Miller said that the total cost is \$1,000 per issue. But Miller sums up his feelings about what he is doing with a positive note.

"It's all a matter of being willing to do whatever you have to do to achieve what you are looking for in life, and I would say that without my college education at APSU I don't know where I'd be," he said.

He plans to continue writing and editing comic books and doing more with his company in the future.

"I'm in it for the long haul," he said. ♦



CONTRIBUTED ART

Hero Street is the first comic book scripted by Miller and will be unleashed at the Charlotte, N.C. Heroes Convention in late June.

Craigslist provides sex in place of rent

Associated Press

In Atlanta, an online ad offers a room in exchange for "sex and light office duty." In Los Angeles, a one-bedroom pool house is free "to a girl that is skilled and willing." And in New York City, a \$700-a-month room is available at a discount to a fit female willing to provide sex.

On the widely used Web site Craigslist.org, some landlords and apartment dwellers looking for roommates are offering to accept sex in lieu of rent.

"They have to be attractive. I don't let just anybody come into my house," said Mike, a man who answered the phone at the New York City listing but declined to give his last name and refused to say whether he has, in fact, collected the rent under the sheets. The offering of shelter for sex is older than, well, real estate itself.

But the online come-ons are franker than anything you might see in the newspaper classifieds, because they are not edited by Craigslist, and perhaps also because the anonymity of the Internet often causes people to shed their inhibitions.

Trading housing for sex is a form of prostitution. But the police aren't kicking down doors.

Paul J. Browne, a deputy police commissioner in New York, said investigators have found that the Craigslist ads are frequently "little more than a form of voyeurism that didn't result in an actual exchange of sex for rent."

Craigslist provides mostly free classifieds for apartments, used cars and just about everything else in more than 200 cities in 35 countries.

"I usually rent the room for 600, but if you are really ticklish and willing to trade being tickled for the extra rent then we have a deal," writes a gay man offering a \$350-a-month room in the San Francisco Bay

area.

An ad for a townhouse near Bradenton, Fla., seeks a "female that likes to be nude. Nothing more expected." It is unclear how much success people have had with their rent-for-sex ads.

One man said he became friends with a bisexual man who answered his ad but did not end up taking the room. The same user said a man visiting from Russia answered his ad and they shared dinner and a bottle of wine, but that was it.

Jim Buckmaster, chief executive of San Francisco-based Craigslist, said the company forbids illegal ads, but his staff of 19 could not possibly police all postings. Craigslist instead relies on users to flag ads they find offensive. If enough people agree, the ad is removed.

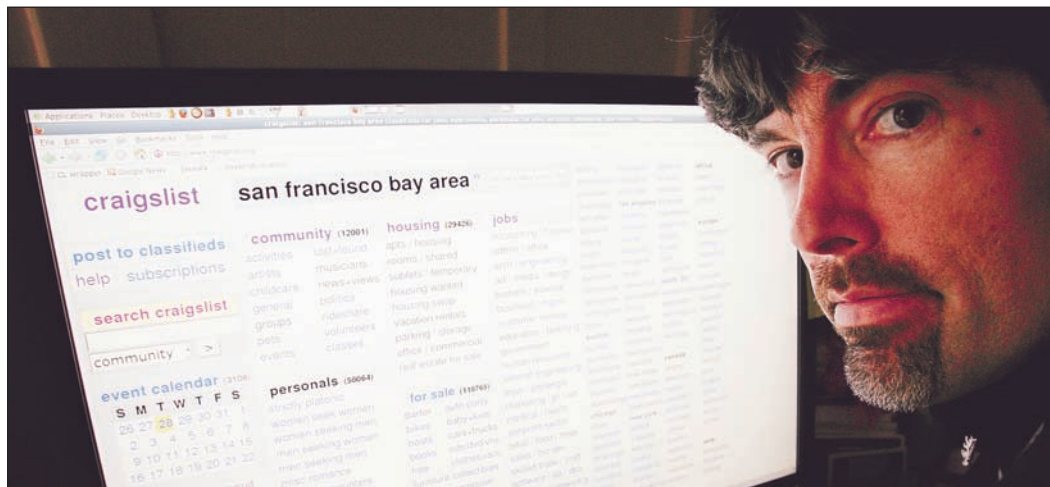
"Tens of millions of users are a much more powerful force in examining the more than 8 million classified ads per month than any staff could be," Buckmaster said.

Mike, who offered the room in New York, said his ads are frequently flagged and removed, resulting in a cat-and-mouse game in which he puts them back up.

Tenants' rights groups have accused Craigslist of skirting fair housing requirements. In February, a group called the Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law sued the Web site for publishing housing ads that excluded people based on their race, religion and sex.

But legal experts say Craigslist is shielded by a 1996 federal law that protects online service providers that merely pass along unedited information provided by someone else.

In most states, prostitution laws apply only if the ads are followed by e-mails, phone conversations or other acts that advance the proposition. ♦



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Web site Craigslist.org chief executive, Jim Buckmaster, poses in his office in San Francisco, Tuesday, March 28. In Atlanta, one posting offers a free room for "for sex and light office duty."

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO MAKE \$750.00 BY TALKING ON THE PHONE?

The APSU Office of Admissions will have positions open this Summer in our Student Telecounseling Admissions Representatives (STARS) program. This is a \$750.00 (For full summer) scholarship program where YOU become a part of a prospective student's admissions process.

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Makeba Webb- webbm@apsu.edu

GOOD LUCK ON YOUR FINAL EXAMS FROM THE APSU ADMISSIONS OFFICE!

Good Morning APSU

Campus Community Calendar

Financial aid for Fall 2006 & Spring 2007

All students who wish to apply for financial aid for the upcoming Academic Year 2006-2007, you will need to complete the 2006-2007 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). For more information please contact your financial aid counselor at sfao@apsu.edu or 931-221-7907.

Weight Watchers at APSU

If you are looking for a way to lose weight and keep it off then Weight Watchers is for you. The meetings at Austin Peay are held in ten-week series and are open to anyone. Each meeting is approximately 45 minutes, including a private weigh-in. Please visit the website listed below for complete information (see special rate for APSU students). For more information please contact Lynne Yarbrough at yarboroughl@apsu.edu or 931-221-6844.

Tutors needed

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

'Evolution of Woman'

Art student Caitlin Gibson is opening a multimedia installation art show from April 24-28. The presentation features photography, ceramics and drawing. The opening is from 7-9 p.m. For more information call 615-498-1118.

Latin dance classes

Free dance lessons with Juan Vazquez at 11 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the fitness studio of the Drew Simmons Fitness Center. Classes end on Thursday, April 20. Sponsored by the Hispanic Culture Center and University Recreation. For more information please contact Tina Tarpey at 221-6645.

Teach in Spain

The Spanish Ministry of Education and Science will be sponsoring a North American Language and Culture Assistant Program for elementary and secondary schools in Spain. The program enables US citizens to work as English Language Assistants in Spain for the school year 2006-2007. For information please contact José Ruiz at northamericanos@mec.es 202-728-2335.

Summer job opportunity

Tri-County Upward Bound is interested in hiring APSU students as resident advisors to supervise high schools students on campus from June 4 to July 15. Student must be at least 21 and have auto insurance. Stop by 223 Castle Heights or call 221-6410 for details.

Consider taking a Maymester geology course.

Physical and Historical Geology will be offered during the short semester before regular summer classes. The Maymester session is only three weeks long (May 15 to June 2). Physical Geology lecture and lab classes (GEOL 1040, 1041) will be taught by Dr. Phyllis Camilleri and the Historical Geology lecture and lab classes (GEOL1050, 1051) will be taught by Dr. Jack Deibert. For class times see http://www.apsu.edu/schedule/068_GEOL.HTM.

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OUR TAKE

More to story, says Struckel

Last week an inaccuracy was found in *The All State* highlighting the aspiring rap artist, Harold Bush also known as Black Jesus. The inaccuracy in the article was the false information received concerning Bush's registration for next semester. He in fact will not be a student; the details are included in the letter below. We did not run a background check because this Features story focused on his music. We were not aware of his personal history, but if we knew such information, we would have chosen to recognize another student's accomplishments. Bush was chosen for this article because another band had referred his work to a staff writer and he later met Bush on campus. We are not aware of any other inaccuracies. The following is a letter from Officer Charlie Struckel, head of Austin Peay State University's Crime Prevention Unit.

To the Editor:

I recently read an article in the April 12 edition of *The All State* that featured a former student at Austin Peay. The article was "Former APSU student lights up local rap scene" and the former student's name is Harold E. Bush. I was taken back by all of the various inaccuracies and wanted to point out a few factual realities. Harold Bush is in fact a former student due to the fact he recently was arrested and convicted of aggravated criminal trespass by APSU police as well as student code violations which were enforced by Student Affairs. TCA 39-14-405 Aggravated Criminal Trespass by definition is "a persons commits aggravated trespass who enters or remains on property when said person intends, knows, or is reckless about whether their presence will cause fear for the safety of another."

Mr. Bush forced his way into an on campus dorm room, stole one of the room

keys and continued to utilize the room at will and cohabitate there against the occupants consent. Also, Mr. Bush upon subsequent criminal investigation was found to have extensive criminal history. This semester Public Safety/Campus Police have received several criminal complaints regarding his conduct and actions on campus throughout this current semester. He has received multiple criminal trespass verbal and written warnings from Public Safety/Campus Police as well. He has been ordered by Student Affairs, Public Safety/ Campus Police, and Montgomery County General Sessions Court to never appear on any APSU property. He received a letter from the Chief of Police at APSU with explicit instructions on how to obtain permission to come on campus for official business. To date, since his criminal conviction, he has made no such attempt. His appearance on campus to conduct the interview for the above mentioned article with *The All State* is a violation of criminal law by committing criminal trespass. TCA 39-14-405 criminal trespass is defined as "a person commits act who knowing the person does not have the owner's effective consent to do so, enters or remains on property."

Mr. Bush is not enrolled as a student next semester and is currently ineligible to do so. I appreciate the opportunity to state a few facts regarding this article and would very much appreciate in the future if the staff writer would validate facts and conduct basic research on material for accuracy prior to submitting future articles.

Charlie T. Struckel
APSU Public Safety/Campus Police
Crime Prevention Unit

True heroes not remembered: American history dishonored

"Freedom is slavery!" Who would have ever thought the satirical prediction would have come true? In 1984, George Orwell makes a progressive, bold statement as he foretells history will be falsely rewritten in order to accommodate society to a more satisfying self-image. For American history, this satire has become literal truth. It's no doubt that America has always been infatuated with fantasy rather than reality, with fiction rather than fact. However, there comes a point when America forgets the boundaries and begins to develop its own concept of what's true and what's not. As it appears in the U.S. history books, it's clear that no American can do any wrong. Americans don't do bad things; bad things just happen (and the books clean them up). The history taught is only an incomplete reality.

The frustration sets in when so-called historical figures are celebrated as people of impeccable integrity and high moral values when they were anything but. We have put figures such as Abe Lincoln and Ronald Reagan on pedestals and commemorate them for character they didn't necessarily have. While these figures are falsified, we fail to acknowledge true revolutionaries (for example, John Fee and Robert Flournoy) who embody truth and commitment to what is right.

Who was "Honest" Abe Lincoln? He wasn't the radical slave liberator that the majority of America gives him credit to be. In his famous proclamation, it should be noted that Lincoln really freed only a few, if any slaves. The Confederacy did not adhere to northern legislation, and in the Union states, the slavery need was low so only a nominal number were freed. I'm not saying Lincoln didn't play a part in the progression of civil rights, but I am saying he is attributed with a higher regard than what is deserved. Society is quick to overlook the values that Lincoln really exemplified. In 1858, also the same year of the Emancipation Proclamation, Lincoln went on to address a pro-slavery Illinois crowd, affirming his opposition to "bringing out in any way the social and political equality of the black and white races."

Furthermore, it should be noted that Lincoln was an advocate for division, not unity. Practically throughout his entire political career, Lincoln made public his intentions of segregation through the colonization of people of color to land outside the United States. This idea is well documented as Lincoln included this proposal in many speeches, including two State of the Union addresses and various prewar discourses. Does this sound like the same Abe Lincoln memorialized in high school?

And what about Reagan? It's not to be argued that Reagan didn't restore American self-confidence and re-establish the dominance of American influence around the world, because he did. What he didn't do is show any concern or action in

addressing the issue of social inequality. Through Reagan's indifference toward equality, it can be argued that he left a nation more divided. Reagan hampered, if not crippled, the movement towards social equality. During Reagan's tenure in politics, he opposed affirmative action, vetoed the Civil Rights Restoration Act, and severely reduced housing assistance programs. Reagan did not agree that affirmative action was the answer needed in the workplace; he claimed it to be nothing more than "reverse racism."

The problem with that approach is that it changes nothing. To alter the social structure of society, part of the process must include government policy being set forth to implement that change; this would allow for a better balance of wealth and prosperity. In 1988, Reagan vetoed the Civil Rights Restoration Act. This act, which was overridden and passed by Congress, expanded non-discrimination laws requiring private institutions receiving federal funds to abide by them. Why would such a provision be vetoed? Reagan called this act an "intrusion of business rights." So by Reagan protecting business rights, he was also justifying racism. During Reagan's presidency, he greatly reduced housing assistance programs by 67 percent. With this action, Reagan left hundreds of thousands in urban areas without homes. He took away help from those who needed it. Is this the Reagan you know?

And what about the guys you don't know – the guys who are never talked about? Robert Flournoy is a name few have ever heard. Flournoy, a Mississippi native, was a soldier who quit the Confederacy and encouraged blacks to flee towards Union states. Flournoy went on to publish a newspaper called "Equal Rights" where he called for the desegregation of Ole Miss. He was ahead his time; the integration wouldn't take place until one hundred years later. John Fee is another revolutionary who deserves more credit than he received. He was an abolitionist preacher from Kentucky. Fee made a bold statement as he radically refused to minister to slaveholders, claiming that their actions were not morally right; he was beaten and almost drowned for his beliefs in equality. Fee went on to establish the prestigious Berea College just outside Lexington. Berea College was one of the premiere interracial institutions of higher learning. Americans do not approach history holistically, and this, my friend, is unpatriotic. It's unpatriotic because society is celebrating an image that isn't a reality. It's an injustice to those hidden heroes, and maybe more so to the oppressed victims because our history books aren't acknowledging both sides of the gun. How would you feel if you had to celebrate a so-called hero that directly inflicted pain or maybe even attempted genocide upon your own people? Positive and negative aspects must be acknowledged for the true essence of an American to be known. Only half of our history is recognized, and many liberationists who have given their lives to a cause have long been forgotten. We need to recognize historical figures for who they were, but we must not forget who they weren't. ♦



YOUR TAKE

Cartoons Offensive to Readers

To the Editor: I have been reading *The All State* for some time now and have been keeping my mouth shut. I have finally had enough. The cartoons in the paper are really offensive to me. Not all of them, but most of the ones lately are not only disgusting but very inappropriate. Even for college-aged men and women. I am a 28-year-old non-traditional sophomore, and I don't think that the subjects are funny. I find it very offensive to read a comic that has one of the main characters insinuating "masturbation" after looking at a picture of Jessica Alba. I also don't think it is very wise to put cartoons in the paper that deal with guns, ammunition or shooting people. Especially since it has only been about a little over a year since the suicide that took place right here on campus. Maybe students without problems think that it is funny, but other students who may be going through a rough time will take it a different way. I am not saying that people will start to do the acts shown in the cartoons—I am simply saying that I don't want to read them, and I am sure other people feel the same way. I think there could be other things to write and draw that would not only be tasteful but also be funnier. I am not knocking the artist I am knocking the choice of the subjects. I think the cartoonists can do much better.

Shanna Moss
Sophomore
Biology Major

SGA Represents Students

To the Columnist: Last week, an article was published in the opinion section in which it was questioned "What do they [SGA] do for me, or the general student body?" That is a very good question. The purpose of SGA is to represent the students through elected candidates. What the author posing the question flat-out questioned was the smoking policy that was passed in the SGA by the students several months ago. In theory, the senators went out and publicized the referendum in which students voted to ban smoking on campus beginning next year and continuing with periodic evaluations. What I found by speaking with many students, however, was that few even knew who their senators were, let alone what their opinions were on such a drastic issue. What senators do and what they are supposed to do are two very different issues. I've spoken with senators and they tell me that they find it difficult to do what the students want because so few students actually approach them. Who is to blame? Both the senators and those they represent are at fault yet I can't help but feel that the SGA senators have failed the most. As a senator, it is my responsibility to get out into the student body, especially to my constituents, and find out what they think would make campus better.

Richard Longstreth
Freshman
Political Science

AIDS not going anywhere; Austin Peay should gain free testing to prevent spread of infection

I have not had any coffee in three days so who knows how this article will turn out. This morning when I woke the thought came into my mind of how unconcerned with people and life we have become as Americans. I touched on this in my last article regarding the Katrina disaster, but it hit home for me this morning due to a combination of factors. People are losing their concern for other people. We have blinded ourselves to what is going on around us and those who are suffering and dying. It is time to step it up and get with the human cause. AIDS is a topic that most people were scared to talk about because it was linked to homosexuality. Similar to the ideals of these "protesters," the focus was put on groups and not the issue. AIDS was given the title "Gay Disease" and only suited for homosexual men and drug addicts. However, things have changed, and most educated people realize that it

is a universal disease that can affect or infect anyone. The problem now is that the stigma related with HIV/AIDS has decreased and unfortunately so has the effort to combat the disease. The disease is not going away and the people are not fading away—they are dying. The numbers are on the rise again particularly for African American men, but the attitude regarding AIDS is that it is an old cause. Who is to blame for this? I could easily say just the president, but anyone who desires to change life and the way of life for people also are to blame. Bush prefers to decrease money here for research and assistance for those living with HIV/AIDS while increasing the help abroad. As much as I am thankful that he is offering help for those in less fortunate countries, his motives are not to help but are purely political. "W" has made it clear on his stance regarding non-white, non-heterosexual Americans. Debating whether or not Bush is making an effort to help those in the U.S. with HIV/AIDS is useless—he is not. But I will point the fingers at others and firstly, at myself. I am in the prime, some might say, of my educational career. I have some influence on campus and I tend to be a good public speaker. Like many gay men in America, I have let the negativity surrounding

AIDS and its connection to homosexuality stop me from voicing needs for those living with HIV. Many people in the gay community, as well as others, in once vocal communities, have gone on to other causes such as the marriage initiative and human rights, leaving those fighting this disease in the dust. It still exists, and there is still a need to educate, fight and act against AIDS. I push groups on this campus like the Gay-Straight Alliance to step forward and implement programs on this campus to actively fulfill the needs of this cause; without your voices, no one can speak for the dead and dying. I have more ideas to get out there. Testing is the first step in preventing this disease. Knowing whether or not you have a disease can help you make educated decisions when behaving sexually. The Ryan White act offers federal funding to educational institutions that offer information and programs regarding HIV/AIDS. This would enable the Austin Peay State University Health Services to administer free HIV testing. It currently costs \$27 for the procedure, which defers many from this campus from getting test. I push for APSU to apply for the grant and make it easier for students to educate themselves on the diseases they face. ♦

WE WANT YOUR OPINION

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

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

Kasey's Random Thoughts

Has anyone ever noticed people in Georgia have no "R's" in their alphabet? Just listen up next time you hear them say "Flowda" or "Geowgia." To satisfy the laws of science these "R's" cannot be destroyed so they migrate. Where to? Tennessee, that's where. To prove the point, ask a Tennesseean to say "washing machine" and you'll hear them respond "wurshing machine."

Word of the Week:

embrocate—(em-bre-kat) *verb*. To moisten and rub with a liquid medicine.

Usage:

Could you please embrocate some cool aloe vera on my sunburn?

—www.m-w.com

Today in the Past:

1938

TV experiments begin

RCA-NBC launches its first regular TV broadcasts. The programs, broadcast from the Empire State Building, were an experiment and aired only five hours a week. Very few TV sets existed at the time to receive the programs.

1957

Bogey cult launches

The Brattle Theater in Cambridge, Massachusetts, presents its first showing of *Casablanca* (1943) on this day in 1957, introducing a new generation of film viewers to Humphrey Bogart, who had died in January 1957. The showing marked the beginning of a Bogart revival that would boost the star to cult-like status in the 1960s and later.

—www.historychannel.com

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"boredom"

"It is simplicity that makes the uneducated more effective than the educated when addressing popular audiences."

Aristotle (384 BC - 322 BC), "Rhetoric"

—www.quoteationspage.com

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Staff member, husband have more than 200 slithering 'babies'

By LOIS JONES

Staff Writer

When you first meet Sherry Koontz-Howell and her husband Donnie Howell you might notice her wheelchair and his prosthetic legs. What you "see" when you talk to them for any length of time, is their love for their "babies" the 200-plus snakes that currently reside with them in their home.

Sherry Koontz-Howell has worked for Austin Peay State University for 28 years. She has worked in several departments over the years and currently works in the Music/Mass Communications building as a secretary for the Communications and Theatre Department. She has been there since July of 2003. If you walk into her office, on her desk you will notice the pictures she has of some of her snakes as well as some snake decorations. If you talk to Koontz-Howell at all, the subject comes back to her "babies".

Koontz-Howell has been on crutches since she was 10 as a result of a birth defect and subsequent bad medical care. Since an accident in 2001, she has been using a wheelchair. Howell is a double amputee. He lost his right leg in May of 2000 after repeated surgeries following a work injury in 1998.

Due to an accident that shattered his toes, Howell underwent 11 failed surgeries that resulted in the amputation of his left leg in August of 2005. Within a span of 5 years Howell had lost both of his legs. Neither Koontz-Howell nor her husband allow their disabilities to interfere with their love of snakes.

"I was deathly afraid of snakes," said Koontz-Howell, until a student worker in the Agriculture Department brought her Redtail Boa with her to work every day. "It took me a month just to touch her and one more week to hold her." "After the first time I held her, I just fell in love," said Koontz-Howell.

Koontz-Howell got her first snake in 1999, a Rosy Boa named Peppermint. Howell got his first snake for

his birthday, a Ball Python named Bandit. The rest is history.

The 200-plus snakes they have now are of their personal collection, the ones they have for sale, the ones they are fostering for the soldiers in Iraq and the ones that they have received in their shelter due to abuse or the owner's lack of knowledge about raising a snake.

"Reptiles are so misunderstood and often bought on a whim. We have received many snakes that have been burned by their heat source or bitten by their food source. The owners are often ignorant to the needs of snakes in general," said Koontz-Howell. The snakes that are sheltered are evaluated to see if they can be adopted. If they are not adoptable then they will remain in the shelter for the rest of their life. They are never sold.

Each day there are some snakes getting fed or their cages are being cleaned or snakes are having "mommy" and "daddy" time. With over 200 snakes, not every snake can receive the same attention on a daily basis.

Kris, a 14-foot, 50-pound, Bermese Python and his "sweetie" Pokey, also a Bermese Python, 14 feet long and 75 pounds, escaped one night to play. In the middle of the night, Koontz-Howell had awakened to the sound of "booms" coming from the utility room. Kris had climbed onto the top shelf in the utility room and Pokey was in the rodent room. Koontz-Howell woke her husband and had him check out the noise.

"When Donnie tried to get Kris down from the shelf by grabbing his tail, Kris would knock another thing off the shelf on Donnie's head. Every time Donnie went to get Kris' tail, Kris knocked something down on Donnie's head" said Koontz-Howell. Howell got Pokey out of the rodent room and as soon as [the snake] saw Koontz-Howell, "ran" for her, "Mom, Mom, let me show you what I found," Koontz-Howell described. These are just some of the every-day antics that go on in their home.

If you want to know anything about snakes, Sherry Koontz-Howell and Donnie Howell are the ones to ask. They have a Web site, www.reptiliacs.com, and welcome questions. Koontz-Howell's always ready to talk "snake," and before you know it you will have lost your fear and developed a new curiosity. ♦

ALL PHOTOS BY LOIS JONES/STAFF



Sherry Koontz-Howell and Crotalus, a blood python



Meshii, a green tree python



Donnie Howell and Crotalus



Kris, a burmese python

Art show contributes to student scholarships

By LOIS JONES

Staff Writer

The US Bank Open Exhibition at the Downtown Artists Co-op Gallery opened April 14 and runs through April 29.

Award winners will be displayed at the Public Square/downtown office of US Bank. This exhibition is for Montgomery County residents, students enrolled in Austin Peay State University, employees of Fort Campbell military post and members of the DAC Gallery, who may submit one work of art in either the professional or amateur division.

This show helps raise money for art scholarships at APSU. Twenty percent of the sale of the artwork goes to the scholarship fund. To date, 11 art majors have benefited by the scholarship program.

Awards will include, Best of Show, First, Second and Third places in both professional and amateur categories. There also will be purchase awards by downtown businesses.

Different mediums are represented, and many are mixed media pieces. The DAC is a juried gallery and regularly displays and sells the work of local artists. Many of these artists APSU art instructors and students. DAC defines the amateur category as artists who paint for their own pleasure and have not received a professional art collage or university art department education.

The professional category is defined as artists who have received a professional art education and who regularly sell their works of art. Art students in college are considered part of the professional category. The DAC provides a local venue for Montgomery county residents to enjoy the talents of their neighboring artists. ♦



LOIS JONES/STAFF

"Aquatic Promenade," above, was created by Tracie Griffith Tso using ink on rice paper. This is an example of the talent that is being displayed at the DAC gallery.

Local artist Eric Vinson is a big Southern hit



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Beware: Eric Vinson makes music that can be very habit forming.

By BECCA YEATTS
Staff Writer

Not all musicians have life-long dreams of playing music. Take Nashville's own Eric Vinson into consideration.

"As a little kid, my dream was no different than any other boy's dream who loved sports: to be a professional athlete," said Vinson. "I always enjoyed music but never really thought of myself being anything more than a listener."

Vinson, 22, didn't get into the music game until his high school years, when he lost interest in baseball and basketball, picked up a guitar and started writing his own songs.

It took a while, even though it wasn't the easiest process, but when he finally figured it out, the Carolina native was hooked. "I began to listen to different kinds of music and try to write my own...I found songwriting to be one of the most challenging hobbies," Vinson said.

Vinson finally made the trek to Nashville in 2001 to attend Trevecca Nazarene University and found a place in the local music scene. "The Nashville music scene is great for so many reasons, but I'd say specifically for its camaraderie. Everyone is always trying to support each other by going to shows in town when they can or

picking up the latest records"

In 2005, Vinson cut his debut album, "There to Here," a fun, funky mix of old-school Motown beats, acoustic guitar vibes and Vinson's trademark songwriting style. His songs are clever and charming, but grounded.

The Eric Vinson sound is ever-developing. Not even a year after "There to Here" was released, Vinson is already working on a new album. "I feel I have grown so much as an artist since even this point in time last year when I was cutting "There to Here. I hope the new EP that will come out sometime this summer will be a better representation of who I am and where I am going without forsaking where I've been."

Vinson plays all around Nashville and has branched out into other parts of the south, including Memphis, Georgia and the Carolinas. "The upcoming dates I have in the South is me trying to slowly expand the fan base and revisit some of the places I've been," he said.

Vinson is one of those artists that is easy to get hooked on. He's witty and fun, but serious about his music. And before we know it, he's going to take over our radios.

For more information visit www.ericvinsonmusic.com. ♦



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Vinson is like any young adult: big dreams and plenty of laundry.

New release looks promising

**GOOD NIGHT,
AND GOOD LUCK.**



We must not confuse dissent with disloyalty. We must remember always that accusation is not proof and that conviction depends upon evidence and due process of law. We will not walk in fear, one of another. We will not be driven by fear into an age of unreason, if we dig deep in our history and our doctrine, and remember that we are not descended from fearful men - not from men who feared to write, to speak, to associate and to defend causes that were, for the moment, unpopular.

—Edward R. Murrow

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CONTRIBUTED GRAPHIC

DVD Movie Review: 'Good Night and Good Luck'

By DAVE CAMPBELL
News Editor

"Good Night and Good Luck" is out on DVD and all who are interested in either politics or journalism are strongly urged to witness this triumph in filmmaking.

George Clooney plays Fred Friendly, producer of "See It Now," the show hosted by Edward R. Murrow, legendary pioneer of broadcast journalism.

David Strathairn delivers Murrow's character in a top-notch stellar performance. He gives what many argue as the best performance of his career by nailing the look and feel of Murrow's demeanor with pointed certainty, yet the delivery in his voice is what seals this captivating performance.

But why in the wide world of cinema would Clooney decide to film a movie about the historic struggle between the communist-phobic senator Joseph McCarthy and Murrow? What possible relevance could it hold for us now? Maybe it was that Clooney's father was broadcast journalist Nick Clooney, and his son was paying homage to this father's profession. Maybe Clooney sought to make a clearly striking political message with the lessons that were learned from this story.

There is also a theme of the responsibility that journalists have, to hold politicians accountable, and Murrow was the prototype for this idea.

What is more likely is that there is an underlying

message about television in general that Clooney wanted to convey.

The following quote from Murrow sums up the intention of this movie, though the film has many sub-implications: "This instrument [television] can teach, it can illuminate; yes, and it can even inspire. But it can do so only to the extent that humans are determined to use it to those ends. Otherwise it is merely wires and lights in a box."

In directing his second film, Clooney has created his tour de force thus far in his career. He may have won an Oscar for his performance in Syriana (Syriana was nominated for six Oscars) but Clooney's sleek and sophisticated direction should have received the majority of focus at this year's Academy Awards.

He chose to film in black and white and used archives of McCarthy footage as opposed to finding an actor to portray this character, whom he felt was enough of the stern and authoritarian figure without being otherwise depicted.

This film is not all pomp and circumstance; there are even moments of humor. I offer only one caution before renting/buying this DVD. If you are not excited by the thought of watching Murrow and an early installment of the CBS News team bring down one of our most notoriously rotten politicians, then this movie could possibly bore you to tears. ♦

Women's Studies clothesline APSU



LOIS JONES/STAFF
On April 24, Women's Studies will display "The Clothesline Project." This project, first displayed in October 1996, gives a voice to the many women that have suffered due to violence.



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Govs lose conference series to Tech

Bat Govs' lone win topples seven-game losing streak

By MICHAEL YOUNG
Sports Editor

Heading into Wednesday's contest against Belmont, the Austin Peay State University baseball team can breathe a little easier.

After suffering seven straight losses dating back to a 6-2 loss to Vanderbilt on April 5, the Bat Govs finally lifted the losing skid with an 11-7 win over Ohio Valley Conference member Tennessee Tech on Sunday.

"Oh man, it felt good," left fielder Brett Luther said. "A losing streak is never a good thing, and it hurt us mentally and physically. When you come to the ballpark it just isn't the same as when you are winning. We just stepped it up today. We got some early work in before the game as hitters, and we came out and swung the bats a lot better. Our chemistry was just a lot better today."

The Bat Govs (20-15, 5-7 OVC), who decisively defeated Belmont in both of the team's match-ups last season, will take on the Bruins as their last non-conference game of the week before heading to Southeast Missouri for a three-game conference series.

The Redbirds (14-20, 5-7 OVC) are tied with the Govs for seventh place in the OVC along with Tennessee-Martin. With five conference weekends left in the season, the Bat Govs, who are five games out of first place in the conference, will face a difficult challenge trying to reclaim the top spot.

"We are just going to try and take it one game at a time," Luther said. "Every weekend is not necessarily a must-win but we are going to go out there, balls to the wall and start winning and sweeping teams. We are going to do what we have to do to win the OVC."

"We just have to stay focused," added freshman Ryan Gilboy. "We definitely have the pitching to get us back in the OVC race – we just have to toughen up, play defense and play our game at the plate, and we will be fine."

The Govs dropped both contests of their Saturday doubleheader against the Tennessee Tech Golden Eagles.

First game starter Rowdy Hardy (6-2) allowed five runs (two earned) on eight hits while striking out four in 5.2 innings of work as the Govs dropped the first game, 5-3.

Despite a stellar complete-game performance from second-game starter Shawn Kelley (2-3), the Govs were unable to muster any offense as they fell, 2-1.

"I think the big thing was that we didn't execute at the plate," Gilboy said. "We didn't get very many guys on, and when we did, we didn't move them over and get them in. In baseball, big hits obviously help but it is the little things that you do that will really win you a ballgame and we didn't do those little things."

The Bat Govs finally stymied their losing streak on Sunday as their offensive power led the way. APSU posted four runs in both the first and seventh innings in order to propel themselves to victory.

Senior hurler Brad Daniel (3-1), who relieved starter Matt Reynolds in the fourth inning, picked up the victory, allowing four runs on six hits in 4.1 innings.

"We were better at the plate," APSU head coach Gary McClure said. "Time will tell if we have found our groove because consistency is the key. In winning day-in and day-out, consistency is the key, but I think that this win is a big step in the right direction. I think our guys need to take the positives out of today and try to build off them." ♦



JAROD LEONARD/ STAFF
Freshman first baseman Ryan Gilboy hammers a pitch during the Govs' win over Tennessee Tech on Sunday. Gilboy led the Govs' offense over the weekend going 7-for-13 at the plate with three runs and three RBI. The Govs posted 11 runs during their first win since April 4 at Western Kentucky.

12th annual Bass Tourney drawing closer, slated for May 13

Austin Peay Sports Information

The 12th annual Austin Peay State University Governors Bass Tournament will be held, Saturday, May 13.

The popular two-man bass fishing tournament, which drew a tourney-record 260 boats a year ago despite threatening weather, will be held at Kentucky Lake with registration and boat launching from Paris Landing, Tenn., State Park.

Sponsored by Triton Boats by Earl Bentz, The Leaf Chronicle, Legends Bank, Prudential Realty, Jenkins and Wynne Ford Lincoln Mercury Honda Isuzu, B&J Marine, WJZM (1400 AM) Radio, Charter Communications, Wal-Mart Super Center (Wilma Rudolph Blvd./Madsion Street), 5 Star Radio Group, DBS and Associates Engineering, Inc. (David Smith), WKAG-TV, Grandpa's, WCKV-TV (Family Net) and the Governors Club, the tournament will benefit APSU athletics.

Eleven thousand dollars in prize money will be awarded with a guaranteed first-place prize of \$3,000, second-place is guaranteed \$1,500.

Third and fourth-place will receive \$1,000 and \$600, respectively. The top 30 places will receive prizes.

Each boat also will have the opportunity to win in a grand door prize drawing of \$500, and if the tourney winner is fishing in a Triton Boat, Triton Gold will pay an additional \$1,000.

New this year, a MotorGuide trolling motor will be given away as a second door prize.

The tourney will begin 6 a.m., Saturday, May 13, although all contestants must be checked in between 4-5:30 a.m., with a mandatory meeting at 5:45 a.m. Pre-registration entry fee is \$100 per boat (two people per boat), but it is \$110 after noon, Friday, May 12.

Fishing with artificial bait only is authorized with no motor trolling allowed. A five-fish limit per boat exists.

Boat launching that day is based on order of registration, from the earliest registrants to the latest.

Weigh in will begin at 3 p.m. and boats launching will take place in order of postmark of entry form.

Only largemouth, smallmouth and spotted bass measuring 15 inches (with mouth closed) will be weighed.

For entry form and more information, stop by the APSU development office or call 221-7024 or (221-7127), between 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

After business hours, call 358-5450 or 358- 2984. ♦

For More:

- For an entry form, call 221-7024 or (221-7127), between 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- After business hours, call 358-5450 or 358-2984.

Austin Peay Player Profile



JAROD LEONARD/ STAFF
Junior outfielder Ami Bush currently leads the Lady Govs in offense with a .340 batting average and 36 total hits. Bush has proven to be a vital asset to the Lady Govs' lineup next to power-hitting senior Brianna Venable.

By MICHAEL KELLUM
Staff Writer

Junior Ami Bush, a significant part of the Lady Govs' softball team, first came to Austin Peay State University to be a nurse.

"I was planning on being a nurse after I graduated from Austin Peay," she said. "They have a good nursing program and I thought that was what I would be doing."

Bush, however, recently changed her major to health care management. The change of mind did not sway her previous decision to attend APSU.

"They offered me a scholarship, and after looking at the area I took advantage," Bush said. Though she will not become a nurse, Bush still plans to work in a hospital after completing her degree.

"I want to work at Vanderbilt and start saving some money so I can eventually start a family," Bush said.

Bush joined the Lady Govs' softball team after a highly successful high school career that included being a four-year letter winner,

earning All Mid-State, All District, and earning her high school team's golden glove award three years in a row.

APSU softball coach Jim Perrin said he is glad she is a part of the Lady Govs team.

"Ami has played very well this season," Perrin said. "We recently moved her to the No. 2 spot in the lineup, which is more pressure on her, but she has responded well to the change. She is definitely the most improved player on the team this year and she is having the best season of her career."

So far this season, Bush leads the team in batting average (.340) and total hits (36).

"I put in a lot of work in the weight room to try and get stronger," Bush said.

The junior right fielder said her favorite memory so far has been just hanging out with her teammates and bonding. Bush said she wants to continue to improve during the season.

"I am just going to continue to play hard and give it my all, and try and help my team make the OVC tournament," Bush said. ♦

Vital Stats

Name: Ami Bush
Class: Junior
Major: Health Care Management
Hometown: Manchester, Tenn.
Sports Idol: Tiger Woods
Favorite Sports Team: Miami Heat
Favorite Place To Eat: Red Lobster
Favorite Place To Go On A Date: Dinner and a movie

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Thursday

Softball
vs. Tennessee-
Martin,
3 p.m.,
Clarksville, Tenn.

Friday

Men's and
Women's Tennis
O'Reilly/OVC
Tournament,
TBA,
Nashville, Tenn.

Saturday

Softball
at Tennessee
State (DH),
1 p.m.,
Nashville, Tenn.

Baseball
at Southeast
Missouri (DH),
3 p.m.,
Cape Girardeau,
Mo.

Track and Field
at Vanderbilt
Invitational,
Nashville, Tenn.

Men's and
Women's Tennis
O'Reilly/OVC
Tournament,
TBA,
Nashville, Tenn.

Sunday

Softball
at Tennessee
State,
1 p.m.,
Nashville, Tenn.

Baseball
at Southeast
Missouri,
1 p.m.,
Cape Girardeau,
Mo.

A Stroke of Genius

Kane's 31-game hitting streak
leads college baseball nation

By MICHAEL YOUNG
Sports Editor

The game of baseball has been known as one of streaks. Whether it's winning, losing, hitting or missing, streaks make the game go round.

A hitting streak, one of the most rare feats to accomplish, takes plenty of skill, a dash of luck and unwavering focus. However, the pressure of trying to keep a hitting streak alive is sometimes unbearable.

"Many guys don't have very long hitting streaks because it is very, very difficult to do," APSU head coach Gary McClure said. "It's a great feat to accomplish because it does take a lot of talent and focus. You have to take your hat off to him."

For senior left-fielder Ryan Kane, hitting a baseball is just a routine. The 6-1 left-hander has staked his final season on the Austin Peay State University baseball team on his success at the plate.

"I have a routine when I go to the plate," Kane said. "I do a little stretching and try to clear my mind. I look to see what kind of pitches are being thrown at Youngblood and Crass if he is in there because their pitches would be similar to mine since we are all left-handed. I just try to clear my head and take what pitches he gives me and put it all together to get the job done."

Most players would be ecstatic to hold a 31-game hitting streak, which is currently tied for the longest streak in the nation with Tom King of Troy University, during their last season of collegiate baseball. However, Kane is still not completely satisfied.

"It feels good, obviously, to keep a hitting streak through as many games as I have, but if we don't win then it absolutely means nothing to me," Kane said. "We haven't been doing a lot of winning here lately so I haven't thought about it much."

Though Kane tries not to think the feat that lingers day-by-day, he admits that there is no way to ignore it.

"There is no way that I can get by without thinking about it," he said. "Even though I try not to, I think about it all the time. I just have to go up to the plate no matter what I have done one at-bat before or two at-bats before and try and erase everything from my head and get the job done. You just have to have a short memory with this game."

Kane's hitting streak dates back to February 26 when the Govs took a 6-5 win over Illinois State and it was currently extended to 31 games this past weekend during APSU's three-game series against Ohio Valley Conference-rival Tennessee Tech.

With 21 games left in the 2006 season, Kane stands just 11 games shy of the OVC record for most consecutive games hit safely (42) that was set in 1996 by APSU's own Chuck Abbott. Kane, however, refuses to think about the record at this point in the season.

"However long I am away from the record, that's still a lot of games," he said. "It would be a good two or three weeks before

"It feels good, obviously, to keep a hitting streak as many games as I have but if we don't win then it absolutely means nothing to me,"

— Ryan Kane, senior left fielder

I would get close to that at all so I am definitely not thinking about that right now. Once it gets closer I am sure that I will think about it, but right now I am just concentrating on getting hits and winning ballgames."

McClure, who coached Abbott during his respective career at APSU, sees a lot of similarities between the two players.

"I think that Chuck and Ryan have a lot of likeness in that they both have speed so they can utilize that in order to get base hits," McClure said.

"They can get some hits that some guys can't get because they have that kind of speed. They are both just good hitters and, at the same time, both guys have done such a great job during their streaks. The longer you go the harder it gets because the odds are stacked against you."

McClure also likes the two players' approach to the attention gathered by such a streak.

"I think that a hitting streak is great as long as the person does it trying to help the team win games," McClure said.

"You just hope that it is not the most important thing to that person because the most important thing is for the team to win games. The thing that I liked is that both of them kept their streaks within the team basis of trying to win games and not just trying to go out and get a hit for themselves."

Despite his .338 batting average, McClure does not believe that Kane is hitting to his potential at this point in the season.

"I think we are really wanting Ryan to get it going and swinging the bat to his capabilities,"

he said. "I think that that is even better than the way he is now."

However, only time will tell if Kane can hold up under the pressure of the streak and the pursuit of history. ♦

Photo by Jarod Leonard/Staff



JAROD LEONARD/STAFF

Senior Ryan Kane relies on a distinct routine in order to keep his success and rhythm at the plate alive. His routine has led him to a nation-leading 31-game hit streak that is rapidly closing on the OVC record.

During
Streak

Govs Record- 18-13
Batting Average- .344
On-Base Percentage- .404
Runs Batted in- 27
Runs Scored- 27

Lady Govs' homers lead way to UT-Martin

By MICHAEL KELLUM
Staff Writer

The Austin Peay State University softball team beat Samford (14-34, 4-12 OVC) two out of three games last weekend to continue improving their Ohio Valley Conference record.

"If we continue to play the way we have been as of late, we have a chance to make the OVC tournament," said head coach Jim Perrin.

Next up for the Lady Govs is a home game against OVC rival Tennessee-Martin Thursday.

Perrin said a win Thursday is crucial if they want to stay in the conference tournament race.

"We really need to compete well against UT-Martin in order to close the gap," he said.

Currently the Lady Govs (15-24-2, 7-10 OVC) are ranked seventh in the OVC standings, right behind sixth-placed UT-Martin.

Perrin said the way the Lady Govs played against nationally-ranked opponent UT-Knoxville helped their confidence.

"We played really well against Tennessee even though we were beat," Perrin said. "I think the girls saw that if they could hold their own against them, they could play with anybody."

The Lady Govs beat Samford with the help of home runs during the weekend. In

"We need to beat UT-Martin Thursday and get at least two wins against Tennessee State in order to keep our chances of playing in the conference tournament alive,"

— Jim Perrin, APSU softball coach

Saturday's game, back-to-back home runs by Brianna Venable and Natasha Anderson helped seal the win for the Lady Govs.

The Lady Govs continued their offensive strike in the fifth inning as Jennifer Simpkins scored off an illegal pitch while Nikki Garrett scoring an unearned run. APSU got its last run of the game in the sixth inning off an unearned run by Jennifer Walker.

Samford, however, didn't go down without a fight as Shelley Stanley slammed a three-run homer in the bottom of the sixth, but that was all Samford could produce.

"They really made us nervous," said Perrin. "After that home run I thought they might make a comeback, but, fortunately,

we closed it out."

The Lady Govs were beaten by Samford in the first game of the doubleheader on Friday as the Bulldogs posted one run in each of the second and sixth innings to take the game, 2-0.

Anderson took the loss after allowing five hits while fanning eight.

In game two, Venable's home run in the fourth inning gave the Lady Govs a 1-0 lead but Samford came right back and scored a run of their own in the bottom of the inning.

In the sixth inning, Venable blasted another home run, her 13th on the season, over to left field to seal the victory for the Lady Govs, 2-1.

"Brianna played well and those home runs were big for us," Perrin said.

Elrod pitched the complete game, giving up just one unearned run on three hits while fanning six.

Perrin said the season is pretty much in their hands now.

"In the next two weeks we are either going to help or hurt ourselves," he said.

"We are excited about what we have been able to accomplish so far, but we want to continue to improve."

We need to beat UT-Martin Thursday and get at least two wins against Tennessee State in order to keep our chances of playing in the conference tournament alive." ♦



JAROD LEONARD/STAFF

With three conference weekend series left in the 2006 season, the Lady Govs are currently three games out of sixth place with a struggling 7-10 record. Led by senior Brianna Venable's power at the plate, the Lady Govs' softball team will be fighting for a spot in the OVC tournament.

13

The number of home runs hit by senior second baseman Brianna Venable.

2

The number that Natasha Anderson's 182 strikeouts rank in the OVC.

1

The number of walks allowed by sophomore pitcher Sarah Longmire.