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The All State

Alcoholism among students

College drinking isn't as simple as it seems. See why.

On Page 5



Football

Gobs 30-20 win over Valparaiso extends home winning streak to four.

On Page 8

Falling concrete creates structural concerns

By THOMAS VAN HOOSER
Staff Photographer

Around 4 p.m. last Tuesday afternoon, a chunk of concrete about 10 inches in diameter and almost 2 inches thick, fell from the ceiling in the Trahern darkroom. A student worker for the art department was standing only a few feet away when the 10 pound piece of concrete hit the sink behind him.

At the time, there was a class using the darkroom and for safety reasons everyone was evacuated. The darkroom was closed while local structural engineers were brought in to determine the cause of the incident. If you count Photography I and II classes as well as independent study and ART 4150, there are currently 60 students that are dependant on the darkroom to do

their classwork.

"This will have a big effect on them," said Professor Susan Bryant, whose Photo II class was using the darkroom when the concrete fell.

There are a couple of small darkrooms on campus but it's not practical for all the students to use them. Becky Hall, who is currently teaching two Photography I classes, is giving lectures originally planned for later in the semester to fill in the class times until the darkroom reopens.

Some of the more advanced students are being allowed to use the small darkroom on the fourth floor of the Trahern building.

"We're in a holding pattern which is really inconvenient for everybody," said Dixie Webb, the Trahern Building

Coordinator. This is not the first time falling concrete has caused problems at the Trahern Building.

Last spring semester, the area outside near the parking lot was cordoned off after several small pieces fell from the concrete beam above the rear entrance.

Last Thursday morning, a maintenance crew was sent to Trahern to chip off all the loose concrete from the west side of the building.

As of Monday, there was still no information from the engineers about the concrete and how best to patch the holes. The Trahern building was built in 1975 and is currently slated for a \$15 million renovation.

"We're sixteenth on the list with the Board of Regents," said Webb. ♦



THOMAS VANHOOSER/STAFF

Marks in the Trahern west wall show where loose concrete was removed by maintenance crews. In the past falling concrete has posed a hazard to students who gather outside.

Career Fair returns



UPS will be one of the many sponsors who will attend the career fair.

By ALARIC KLINGHARD
Guest Writer

Austin Peay State University's Career and Advisement Center is working to lessen the load on students across campus. They may not be picking up the bill for books or covering unpaid parking tickets but helping in a much more important light.

Beginning at 11 a.m., Wednesday, Oct. 5, CAC is sponsoring the 27th annual Career Fair in the Morgan University Center Ballroom.

The career fair will feature many of the nation's top employers including Enterprise Rent-A-Car, one of the top entry-level employers in 2005 Wells Fargo Financial and Cingular Wireless. A full list of participants is available on the APSU website.

While this is a great opportunity for juniors and seniors to get acquainted with prospective employers, it is also a great idea for freshman and sophomores to attend.

"It gives freshman and sophomores an opportunity to seriously think about their future," said Elizabeth Price, Academic and Career Advisor for CAC. "They get a chance to see who is hiring and get an idea of what positions exist." APSU senior Stewart Tanner is hosting a table at the fair for the Walt Disney College Program.

The internship program takes college juniors and seniors out of the classroom for a semester and places them in a real-life work environment.

Tanner, who interned with the Disney College Program in fall of 2004, views the career fair as a plus for both businesses and students as well.

"It's basically one of our major marketing techniques," said Tanner. "It gets the program's name out to students and helps them to get the necessary information for the internships."

We have people that have been there and done the internships that can answer any questions concerning what it is and how much fun it can be. The opportunities are immense for anyone who attends the career fair.

However, do not come unprepared. Price offers several pieces of advice for students looking to gain contacts for the future. Dress professionally and bring at least 5-10 resumes and cover letters. It is important to be remembered.

Prepare questions you want to ask. "Be prepared to meet people and tell them something about yourself," said Price.

"A lot of times, the students expect the employer to carry the conversation. I think if the student carries the conversation, it shows a true interest in the company and shows a little of what they have to offer."

For more information concerning the career fair contact the Career and Advisement Center in the Morgan University Center, room 210, or call 221-7896. ♦

Admissions to change

Requirements for university placement are subject to increase

By TYLER KING
Guest Writer

On September 22, several people gathered together in a forum to discuss possible changes in the current admissions requirements for Austin Peay State University.

These changes were brought up due to the knowledge that APSU, like many other universities in Tennessee, has a high rate of students that seem to slip through the cracks.

According to Scott McDonald, APSU director of admissions these changes would help prevent fewer students from doing this by setting up "safe guards."

The proposed changes that might take effect would make the admission requirements conditional and unconditional.

"An unconditional admission is a 20 on the ACT or a 2.85 GPA. The conditional admittance is the current requirements [of APSU]," said McDonald. The current requirements for APSU are a 2.75 GPA and a 19 on the ACT.

"We are still allowing the same people we have always allowed in but the proposal would make it to where they would have a limited number of hours and they would be closely monitored so they would be less likely to fall into the cracks."

The number of hours a student can have under the new conditional admissions would be no more than 13 hours during the first semester.

Also, the students admitted under the conditional plan would be required by the university to partake in all the programs for academic strengthening. They also have to keep at least a 1.5 GPA.

If a student does not meet this they will be suspended

for one full semester.

Since APSU has a large number of non-traditional students the new admissions requirements would affect them as well.

"Right now we have a pretty open admissions policy when it comes to non-traditional students," said McDonald.

"If this new policy took into effect it would still pretty much stay that way. Their [non-traditional students] compass scores would still place them [into classes]."

But if they scored into more than one DSP course then they would be classified under conditional admissions and by subjected to the same rules as students under 21."

This change in admissions

requirements would have only affected about 9% of the students that applied in the fall of 2004.

This proposal will also set into place a new student athlete.

McDonald said, "In the proposal, anyone [athlete] that has to meet the requirements of any sports organization also has to meet these [requirements]."

They normally go on a weighted scale and so they are looking at a GPA in core courses that they have to meet. Then they have to go to a clearinghouse.

In a way it is a little bit tougher. And then they also have to have a certain ACT score that is based on a sliding scale.

The higher their ACT, the lower their GPA has to be. The majority of our athletics are going to fall in to this standard all ready. So no real change will take place."

"This is the help the students that may need a little bit more monitoring. And our goal is to not deny people entrance into APSU but to help them when they get here." ♦

Raising the bar



Bush announces new council for Supreme Court

By DEB RIECHMANN
Associated Press Writer

President Bush nominated White House counsel Harriet Miers to the Supreme Court on Monday, turning to a lawyer who has never been a judge to replace Sandra Day O'Connor and help reshape the nation's judiciary.

"She has devoted her life to the rule of law and the cause of justice," Bush said as his first Supreme Court pick, Chief Justice John Roberts, took the bench for the first time just a few blocks from the White House.

If confirmed by the Republican-controlled Senate, Miers, 60, would join Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg as the second woman on the nation's highest court and the third to serve there. Miers was the first woman to serve as president of the Texas State Bar and the Dallas Bar Association.

Senate Republicans said they would press for confirmation by Thanksgiving.

Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, said he intended to talk to Miers later in the day "about how many speeches she's made and about how many articles she's written and about how many cases she's tried and what volume of paper we will have to look at."

O'Connor has been the court's majority maker in dozens of controversial cases in recent years, casting deciding votes that

upheld the 1973 ruling that established the constitutional right to an abortion, sustaining affirmative action programs and limiting the application of the death penalty.

Within hours of Bush's announcement in the Oval Office, Miers travelled to the Capitol to begin courtesy calls on the senators who will vote on her nomination.

Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., was first on the list. His welcome was a statement in praise.

"With this selection, the president has chosen another outstanding nominee to sit on our nation's highest court," it said.

Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid was complimentary, issuing a statement that said he likes Miers and adding "the Supreme Court would benefit from the addition of a justice who has real experience as a practicing lawyer."

He said he looked forward to the "process which will help the American people learn more about Harriet Miers, and help the Senate determine whether she deserves a lifetime seat on the Supreme Court."

Reid had personally recommended that Bush consider Miers for nomination, according to several sources familiar with the president's consultations with individual senators.

Of equal importance as the White House



ERIC DRAPER/AP PHOTO

President Bush has chosen Miers, White House counsel and a loyal member of the president's inner circle, to replace retiring Justice Sandra Day O'Connor on the Supreme Court, a senior administration official said Monday, Oct. 3, 2005.

see Miers, page 2

Graduate students make impact

By KERRY KING
Staff Writer

If you attend Austin Peay State University long enough, you've got a good chance at having a graduate assistant in one of your classes.

Alex Barrett began his GA position in the Hispanic Cultural Center two weeks ago.

Barrett, a transfer student and music major, applied for a graduate assistantship in the music department.

He was turned down, but his Spanish minor and past experience qualified him for a Spanish graduate assistantship.

Barrett said his GA duties include "opening the center, keeping it organized and helping students who come in with Spanish questions."

Having his GA position will save him out-of-state tuition fees of \$4,444 per semester.

Dennis Long, a graduate student displaced from New Orleans, is new to APSU. Since APSU doesn't match his program at SUNO, Long is stocking up on Spanish courses in hopes of teaching high school.

Long makes daily visits to the Hispanic Cultural Center where he first received help from Barrett, one of two GAs at the center.

"Alex was the first one to help me," Long said. "He's lived in Mexico, and he knows the language." Long said he sought out the center for practice in speaking Spanish.

Dawn Smith, 23, a senior and English major, said the GA in her creative English class, Alicia Casey-Baum, is "extremely helpful in bringing subjects to a new light."

"She's closer to our age and our experiences," Smith said.

"I think a lot of the professors don't put up a lot of barriers, but the graduate students do an even a better job of coming across to students."

Charles Pinder, dean of the College of Graduate Studies, oversees the processing of all graduate assistantship applications and is responsible for the supervision of 67 of the GAs.

Pinder said there are three classifications of graduate assistants: administrative, research, and teaching assistants who assist in the research, service and teaching functions of the University.

According to Pinder, a new TBR (Tennessee Board of Regents) policy went into effect this past year that gives GAs a wider scope in the classroom.

"Before the policy change, graduate assistants helped classroom instructors by correcting exams and performing other non-teaching duties," Pinder said.

"The new policy states that if a student has 18 graduate semester hours in a particular discipline, they may qualify to be a teacher of record in an undergraduate course under the direction of a full-time professor," Pinder said.

"The new policy allows teaching assistants to conduct a class with the advanced preparation they've received, without a professor's constant presence," Pinder said.

Tripp Allen is in his third semester as a GA in the communication department under Frank Parcells, professor of mass communication.

Allen assists in the combined class of COMM 3720 and COMM 5410. He graduates in May with a master's degree in corporate communication.

see Assistants page 2



Some of the flower planters on the main entrance of campus are being removed due to fire regulations. They are being replaced with guard poles. THOMAS VANHOOSER'S STAFF

Radio show host makes unethical comment

By NATALIE GILMORE
News Editor

On Sept. 28, radio personality and former Education Secretary William Bennett announced on his radio show that "you could abort every black baby in this country, and your crime rate would go down."

According to the Associated Press, Bennett was responding to a caller's question and somehow linked the topic of reducing the crime rate to abortion, basing his "hypothesis" on a recent book he read.

After the comment Bennett went on to say that the process would be "an impossible, ridiculous and morally reprehensible thing to do, but your crime rate would go down. So these far-out, these far-reaching, extensive extrapolations are, I think, tricky."

Meanwhile, Democrats are demanding

an apology from Bennett, but he feels no need for reconciliation, claiming his words were misinterpreted. According to Bennett, he was trying to point out that the idea of "supporting abortion to reduce crime was morally reprehensible."

The following day, Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid, (D-Nev) said that he was "appalled by Mr. Bennett's remarks" and announced for Bennett "to issue an immediate apology not only to African Americans but to the nation."

According to the Associated Press, the president and other representatives from the White House believe that the comment was not appropriate.

During the past weekend President George Bush and other lawmakers joined together on condemning Bennett for his remarks, but at the time of publication no plans had been made to cancel his radio show. ♦

Good Morning APSU Campus Community

Healthy Lifestyles Group

Join us as we continue our discussions of health, fitness and wellness. This group is just getting started so bring your ideas with you! Wednesdays at 5 p.m. in Memorial Health 104. For more information, please contact Jenn Puhl at 7564.

Step in the name of health

Earn rewards for getting fit by climbing to the top of some of the world's tallest buildings. Sign up at the Drew Simmons Fitness Center. Free with a valid Govs ID. For more information, please contact Montrell Besley at 6975.

Oct. 5 Career Fair

Wednesday, Oct. 5 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. in the UC ballroom. Meet professionals in: Nursing and Allied Health Services, Federal, State and Local Government, Numerous Industries and Businesses, Graduate Schools. Bring copies of your resume. Professional attire is strongly encouraged at the 2005 APSU Career Fair. For more information, please contact, Elizabeth Price at 7896.

APSU hosts reception sets up education scholarships to honor Al Williams

You are invited to attend a reception honoring retired education professor Al Williams, 5 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 13, in the UC ballroom. A scholarship is also being established in his name. For those who want to honor Williams, donations can be made at the reception, or you may be mailed to University Advancement, Box 4417. To make reception reservations, please telephone by Thursday, Oct. 6. For more information, please contact Heather Legg at 7127.

APSU Phi Kappa Phi graduate school workshop 2005

The APSU Chapter of Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society offers a Graduate School Workshop 2005 held on Thursday, October 6, in the University Center, room 303. This workshop focuses on junior and senior undergraduate students who wish to explore the possibility of attending graduate school, and offers information on selecting, preparing for, and applying to a graduate program. For more information, please contact Dr. Frank Parcells at 6308.

Hispanic Heritage Dance Series

Experience the tradition of several different Hispanic dances each day Oct. 4th 5th and 6th from 12-1pm in the UC Coffeehouse Lobby. For more information, please contact Charon Griswol.

Assistants: Linking students and instructors

from page 1

"Dr. Parcells and I try to establish a mutual interest in what I want to do and what he feels is appropriate for me to do in the classroom - we hit a good balance with that," Allen said.

"I've been able to assist in classes I have a professional interest in, and I've learned things from other students in the process," Allen said. "I'm getting experience managing the communication department's web server. I wouldn't have gotten that just going through my basic courses."

"Graduate assistants extend the effectiveness of any professor," Parcells said. "Communication department graduate

assistants enhance learning by providing additional office hours almost in a tutorial environment, in Tripp's case, by helping students with web design problems, all the way up to talking about public relations classes," he said.

"In addition to that, Tripp helps in a number of ways.

"He's done lots of work in installation because of his knowledge in technology," Parcells said.

"The graduate assistant program is an excellent opportunity to help students who otherwise could not afford graduate study," Parcells said.

"The new policy is great too, now GAs can teach classes.

In the past they could help, they could lab, but now it's really opened things up and

provided a good opportunity for them," Parcells said.

Kanya Allen, a graduate student majoring in corporate communication, is taking COMM 5410 this semester.

"I've never had a class with a GA until this one," Allen said. "I've found Tripp to be very knowledgeable, and willing to go the extra mile to help us."

"Students interested in graduate assistantships can apply through the graduate school, listing their top three choices for departments they'd like to work for," Pinder said.

Their completed files are sent to the requesting departments who make their own selections.

An accepted graduate assistant is then assigned to work under a graduate faculty

member generally in an area of their specialty.

Graduate assistants must work a required 20 hours per week.

"All APSU graduate assistants are paid a stipend of \$9250 per year and their out-of-state tuition fees are waived," Pinder said.

Currently there are about 85 GAs who work in support and academic departments at APSU.

The graduate assistant program is a long-standing program at APSU that "provides practical, hands on experience for graduate students," Pinder said.

"The program helps to enrich the graduate experience at the university because, basically, graduate assistants are more than just students, they are what I call working professionals." ♦

Miers: Nominee has no judicial experience

from page 1

maps its confirmation campaign is that the Nevada Democrat had warned Bush.

At the same time, Republican strategists who spoke on condition of anonymity said they would have to work hard to assure the support of some of the more conservative Republicans in the Senate.

All 55 GOP senators voted to confirm Roberts. Miers, whom Bush called a trailblazer for women in the legal profession, said she was humbled by the nod.

"If confirmed, I recognize I will have a tremendous responsibility to keep our judicial system strong and to help insure the court meets their obligations to strictly

apply the laws and Constitution," she said.

Whatever her credentials for the high court, Miers' loyalty to Bush is above question.

When he first decided to run for governor in the early 1990s, he hired Miers to comb his background for anything derogatory that opponents might try to use to defeat him.

\$1,000 Southern Methodist, notoriously pro-abortion," said Troy Newman of Operation: Rescue.

While House spokesman Scott McClellan said the president had seriously considered 12 to 15 contenders for the job.

He said more than one Democratic senator had broached Miers' name to the president, but declined to identify them. ♦



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OUR TAKE

Bad Mouth

Let's get one thing out of the way so that there is no mistake: Former (Reagan-era) Education Secretary William Bennett's comments were detestable and completely ungrounded in anything more than his own prejudice.

Last Wednesday on his syndicated talk show, Bennett made comments overtly implying that if all black babies were aborted, the crime rate would go down. Does this mean that now there are acceptable grounds to start censoring speech? Absolutely not, but there is something missing here. What ever happened to the middleman? (i.e. the Public Relations guy).

They should be the ones that regulate and help to articulate what people are trying to say without being offensive. Although there was not much you could say to clean up what Bennett said.

PR agents could take some time to show some semblance of judgment to the loose-tongued entertainment industry these days. Sometimes, there is no defense warranted for such comments like the ones that Bennett made. However, what about the comments that Kanye West made a couple of weeks back during a Hurricane Katrina benefit?

West's comments may have held some validity. Bush may not care about black people, but to make a frantic statement doesn't lend much credibility to the argument.

Let's consider this possibility: Kanye West talks to his PR agent before he makes his live statement, he comes forward with verifiable facts proving that George Bush hates black people. Maybe then people could have taken what he said and his comments could have made people think.

Instead, as it went, there was no follow-up of the statement (partially because he was cut off). It seemed as though it came from a desperate place in his mind. He wanted to make a good point; but without the explanation or refining behind it, there

wasn't much we could do but scratch our heads and say, "okay please continue, why does George Bush hate black people?"

Instead we should analyze people's statements on the basis of individual merit. How can we differentiate between the candid blurbs of both Bennett and West?

Well, obviously Bennett's statements were more reprehensible and awful to think about, but as to the support for what both said, there is none for either one of them. They both need to understand that being in the public eye illicit more scrutiny to one's words and the substance to support their rhetoric.

As public figures, they have a responsibility to maintain a pattern of honorable and respectable relations with the public. Of course, this is an ideal, not exactly a possibility when referring to the entertainment industry.

As a result of this, Bennett's career is most likely finished, all due to one stupid mistake. If there had been a good coach there to guide along the way, maybe someone could have made his statement, oh I dunno, not racist. Was he talking about the crime rate in relation to blacks who have been caught?

No one wants to consider that this crime-rate he is referring to is entirely dependent upon those who have been caught. Who, as a whole, is put into the target of law enforcement? This reveals his statement as containing a clear racist tone.

Some, like Bennett would say that blacks are the source of most crime. Yet is he considering that if the same number of white middle class were investigated, that the numbers would be just as high? Of course not.

Now you be the judge. Do you want people to simply rally up the herd or would you rather hear a message that is supported and most importantly makes sense. Use your middlemen.

That's why we have them. ♦

Chalk talk leaves bad taste all over the walk

By MICHAEL WEAKLEY
Guest Writer

This morning was full of sunshine and a pleasant walk to the library before my first class began.

I was able to avoid spilling my coffee all over myself during the a.m. commute. I avoided dropping crumbs from my biscuit onto my lap while making the annoying effort to try and park on this campus, however, I was not as fortunate to avoid being attacked by several miles of pink, yellow and white chalk advertisements.

As I wiped me feet, as proper gentlemen often do on the library entrance rug, I witnessed the formation of a kaleidoscope of colors on the floor that followed me to the computer lab which is when I decided to write an article about the nuisance of the chalk phenomenon here on this campus. First of all, I come from a Public Relations background and in no point in my college or professional career have I ever read where chalk advertising was a profitable PR tactic.

Most people avoid it, run from it and few read it. The ones that I did decide to read had several spelling errors and a few grammatical errors (note to the chalk writers the words

"too and to" are often misused, using the phrase "We want you too come" is not correct).

If organizations insist using these chalk writings, I recommended writing them out beforehand and utilizing the ever popular spell check on your computer. This will help your group sound a little more educated (being that it is a college campus and all).

One might attack my writing skills for this article and I agree that I have followed no format of acceptable writing used in newspaper publication and some may note that my article is as annoying as the chalk writings. These annoying chalk writings are neither a valuable nor necessary part of the college experience. I do not enjoy having to wipe multiple colors of chalk stain from my new tennis shoes and it does not make me happy when I track several feet of chalk stains everywhere I go. Hopefully, the latter effects of the hurricane season will hit us soon and these colorful displays will be washed away.

Until then, if organizations insist on using these chalk tactics, at least do it tastefully, sparingly and, most of all, grammatically. ♦



By MARTIN FOX

FBI looks at porn

By JAROD LEONARD
Staff Photographer

It is during this fourth year of the War on Terror that the FBI has initiated its new program in accordance with President Bush's wishes.

The FBI's new program is not, however, focused on potential sleeper cells of terrorists waiting to be activated, nor is it focused on psycho killers currently on the loose, but rather, pornography.

It is not criminal porn, like abhorrent child pornography, but the kind of porn that consenting adults like to watch in the privacy of their own homes that the FBI is targeting.

Positions on this anti-porn squad are being offered to the new recruits who joined the FBI in the wake of 9/11 and during the current War on Terror, curtailing many dreams of chasing down Bin Laden, instead of Ron Jeremy.

Pornography is a multi-billion dollar industry, having grown into video stores, specialized cable channels, the Internet and even radio programs. Pornography has changed from the seedy backroom videotapes sold under the counter to an acceptable mainstream industry.

While I grant that the FBI is only

going after the really kinky stuff such as bestiality, which is illegal to begin with, it is also going after the manufacturers of porn that includes sadomasochistic behavior. Sadomasochism is a very broad term that usually deals with some sort of pain.

What boggles my mind and several people in the FBI is if they are now able to set up such a specialized task force for such a morality driven issue, then have we won the War on Terror? Has Bin Laden been caught?

Are our shores so safe that they can now focus on the grounds of morality?

There is also the question of our freedom of speech.

By going after that which is easily prosecutable — kinky acts between consenting adults for the viewing pleasure of consenting adults — our government sets up precedents to further limit our freedom of speech. Porn is a multi-billion dollar industry. That tells me that somebody wants to hear what they have to say.

The issue of protecting our children from the morally degrading material of pornography is an important one, but it is also so overblown in our society that it is a moot point.

Recently, Rockstar Games' Grand

Theft Auto: San Andreas was slapped with an "adult's only" rating for having sexual content that could not be accessed without either hacking the program or modifying the console on which it was played.

GTA:SA is a game so full of violence, including actions such as stealing cars, drive by shootings, heavy gang references, and even gang wars, that any parent would be reluctant to let their impressionable child play.

However, it took this inaccessible material to become exposed for the government to become involved. Name me five children with the necessary skills to access that material and I'll show you a humbled writer.

I would like to see the FBI and our government less concerned with my moral protection and more concerned with my physical and civil protection. While our friends and family members are still in a war zone overseas, fighting for our freedom and protection, our government agencies should not be doing their best to limit it.

It should be the responsibility of our parents, teachers, and for some, preachers to be our moral guides in our lives, not our president, especially one one who is guilty of a few indiscretions of his own. ♦

Roberts confirms control

By HEATHER GORDON
Guest Writer

Last Thursday, Judge John Roberts was confirmed as the nation's 17th Supreme Court Chief Justice.

So how did the Senate vote? With a 78-22 vote in the Senate this week, Roberts won the Senate confirmation quite easily. All republican senators, including Tennessee senators Bill Frist and Lamar Alexander, along with many democrats voted in favor of Roberts.

Other democrats voted against his confirmation. Some of the senators who were not in favor of him were senators John Kerry, Hillary Clinton and Edward Kennedy, but that was no surprise.

Many people were concerned about Roberts becoming the next Chief Justice because they feel that he did not answer questions well enough to let the public know who he really is. Others feel that he is well qualified for this position.

One issue that many people worry about is that Roberts refused to comment on many of his opinions that would hint at how he would vote if elected.

For example, Roberts did not comment on abortion in case this topic is brought to the Supreme Court.

Conservatives have the advantage in that Bush now has the power to nominate two justices to the Supreme Court. Fortunately for Bush, with a

Republican majority in the Senate, this won't be an extremely difficult task for him. However, despite these advantages, people are predicting that the next candidate to be sent for senate approval will not pass as easily as Roberts did.

Many democrats are saying that Roberts was a more moderate candidate. So what does this mean for us? The Supreme Court's term begins this week with many cases to look at.

Some of the cases on the court's docket deal with assisted suicide, abortions for minors, criminal punishments, and gay rights in the military.

The results of these cases will impact many of our own lives. ♦

Bedtime for democracy when journalists jailed

By Paul K. McMasters
First Amendment Center

It can be something of a jolt to the democratic sensibilities of most Americans when they learn that a journalist has been arrested for treason, held for months without public charges, denied bail not by a court but by the government accuser, and is destined to be tried in secret.

And even though that injustice unfolds in China, quite distant from us geographically and constitutionally, there are elements of such government action that offer unsettling reminders that from time to time we threaten our journalists with jail, too.

Zhao Yan was charged by Chinese authorities with the capital crime of leaking state secrets after his employer, The New York Times, published an article about the impending resignation of a top government official. Zhao and the Times both assert that Zhao had nothing to do with the article; nevertheless he faces a harsh prison sentence.

Zhao is not alone. The Times reports that 30 other journalists are in jail in China right now on similar

charges.

Such a thing couldn't happen in the United States, at least not in that way.

We have the First Amendment to protect journalists. We have independent courts to safeguard the rights of all Americans. It is not in our nature to charge journalists with treason when they disclose sensitive government information.

We are much more circumspect when we threaten journalists who irritate government officials or confound government procedures. We try to follow the law and we respect the Constitution.

But we still find ways to send journalists to jail.

For example, one way around current law and the First Amendment is to go after journalists' confidential sources — and then send the journalists to jail if they refuse to disclose those sources to a grand jury investigating a possible crime.

That is why Judith Miller, also a Times employee, has been incarcerated nearly three months in a federal prison, the longest term ever served by a newspaper reporter in the

United States. Miller is not in prison for revealing "state secrets"; she did not even write an article. Instead, she was held in contempt of court for refusing to tell a grand jury who in the government she talked to, or, more probably, who talked to her.

She has become collateral damage in a special prosecutor's investigation into whether administration officials broke the law by leaking the identity of a CIA officer. In fact, it is possible for the prosecutor to end his two-year inquiry with no charges against anyone and only one person having served time: Judith Miller.

She is supposed to get out of prison when the grand jury's term ends in October, but special counsel Patrick Fitzgerald has the option of increasing the pressure to reveal her source by threatening to extend her incarceration, even though there is a good possibility she has nothing to tell him that he doesn't already know.

Although Miller is the only reporter jailed in this case, other reporters in the case escaped that fate only by securing release of confidentiality from their sources or otherwise

cooperating with Fitzgerald. Several other journalists face the same sort of coercion and possible imprisonment in two separate cases.

There are those who would like to have other tools for punishing journalists or making them an unofficial arm of law enforcement. For instance, members of Congress and others over the years have floated legislative proposals that would punish anyone who disclosed sensitive or classified material to the public or the press. As with the grand jury investigations, such a law would target journalists indirectly by essentially making them co-conspirators with those who leaked sensitive national-security information.

In fact, just such a law was embedded in an intelligence authorization act passed by Congress in 2000 and then vetoed by President Clinton.

The concept still tempts lawmakers. In a recent speech, Rep. Pete Hoekstra, R-Mich., chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, called for a comprehensive law providing criminal

penalties for the unauthorized disclosure of classified information "regardless of the type of information or the recipient involved." On Sept. 14, he held the first of a series of hearings on the issue — in secret.

Adding yet another tool for threatening and jailing journalists would be a mistake. It would further tilt democratic procedures away from government accountability and toward official secrecy.

Finally, here is another jolt to our democratic sensibilities. Only two nations in our hemisphere have journalists in jail for the principled practice of their profession: communist Cuba and the United States. Like China, Cuba has many journalists in prison while the U.S. has only one — at the moment.

But as Eduardo Berton, a human rights official with the Organization of American States, said recently, "the presence of even one journalist in jail because of what he or she does is always bad news, whether it occurs in a society with a firmly rooted democracy or in one that is still striving to be free." ♦

WE WANT YOUR OPINION

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

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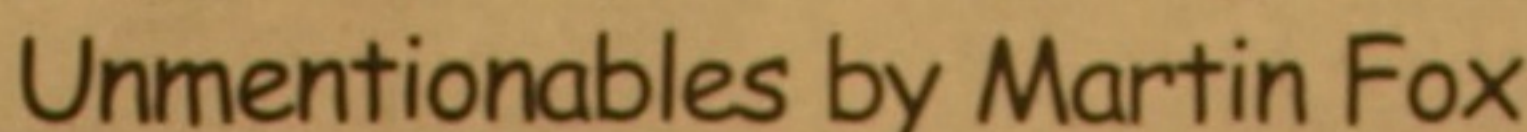
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Publication Schedule
The All State is published every Wednesday of the academic year, except during the final exams and holidays.

Letters to the editor should be saved to a floppy or Zip disk as a text only document or as a Word document along with a signed hard copy including the author's full name, signature, 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.

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Reaching fresh, new spiritual heights

Meditation is
the perfect way
to rejuvenate

By DAN MAURER
Staff Writer

In the 1960s, meditation became a new catch phrase. Along with psychedelics and protest, meditation became a fad that thousands of young people were trying out all across the country. Today, however, meditation is more than just the hip thing to do. It is the healthy thing to do, as research has repeatedly documented.

While the use of psychedelics and popular protest lost intensity, meditation held its ground. No longer is it something for people to experiment with on the weekends, with a friend teaching you the methods.

Today it is backed up by research, and can be mastered fairly quickly with the help of experienced practitioners, who are available practically everywhere.

"Why meditate?" you ask. How about greatly increased physical and mental health.

The stress reduction provided by meditation has been repeatedly documented and published in nearly every periodical, from "Times" to "Business Week."

The evidence couldn't be clearer. Meditation will improve your health, vitality, and your overall enjoyment of life. Whether you are looking for relief from work-related stress, the anxiety of finals week, trying to reduce the symptoms of ADHD, or even to cope with cancer, meditation can help.

As reported in the "International Journal of Neuroscience," June 2005, "...meditators have better capabilities to moderate intensity of emotional arousal."

So whether yours is an illness-related issue or you are simply trying to cope with the increased pressures of modern living, you can benefit from meditation. But how does one meditate?

Most people picture some Hindu yogi, sitting lotus position on a Himalayan mountain peak, when they think of meditation. Well, Hindu yogis aren't the only ones who meditate, at least not anymore.

Today, millions of Americans are meditating, and many of them are more than happy to help you get started as well. Try doing an internet search on meditation techniques, just to see what pops up. You might find exactly what you are looking for. For those of you who hesitate to actually pursue the information, here are a few helpful guidelines:

- Don't just do something—sit there.
- Just like any exercise program, you are certain to encounter time obstacles as well as periods where you question the payoff, so find yourself a teacher or trainer.
- Focus on your breathing, by counting or simply keeping a steady rhythm.
- Try pondering questions that can't be answered by logic. This should help to quiet the mind.
- Or for those of you who are spiritually inclined, try a mantra to focus the mind on a specific concept or ideal.
- Most importantly relax, breathe and quiet your stray thoughts. You will not understand how important this is until you have done it. ♦



ALEXANDER ELLIOTT/ASSISTANT FEATURES EDITOR

Alcoholism is rising epidemic among college students on campuses across America

By ALEXANDER ELLIOTT
Assistant Features Editor

It has been a rising trend for years, and does not seem to be slowing down in any way. No, this has nothing to do with what people are wearing or typing on, but instead what they consume. Alcoholism on college campuses is reaching an all-time high, and it is time to highlight what can and will occur every time one caps off a bottle of booze.

According to the Annual Review of Public Health, "drinking by college students aged 18 to 24 contributes to an estimated 1,700 student deaths, 599,000 injuries and 97,000 cases of sexual assault or date rape each year."

To make matters worse, over 11 percent of college student drinkers have damaged property while under the influence, 5 percent of them have been in trouble with authorities and many college campuses feel that they have a moderate or major issue with alcohol related school damage.

Though it may not seem as severe, alcoholism is considered a disease. According to

CollegeDrinkingPrevention.gov, "the craving that an alcoholic feels for alcohol is as strong as the need for food or water." Also, some individuals may be genetically inclined to become alcoholic, and others due to the lifestyle of the people around them.

"The first six weeks of the first semester are critical to a first-year student's academic success," according to CollegeDrinkingPrevention.gov. When alcohol comes into play during this time, there are serious consequences including health problems, depression and a 33 percent chance that a student will not enroll for a second term of college.

To add to the allure of drinking are the myths that have been told by some and believed by many. Though it can be stopped, alcoholism currently cannot be cured. In fact, just like an addiction to anything else, relapsing is common. Additionally, women do become more intoxicated than men, even when they do consume the same amount of alcohol. Women have less water in their bodies than men, making it easier for alcohol to tamper with their bodies first.

It takes an abundance of support in order to help control alcoholism. If it is suspected that a friend or loved one is having trouble with the bottle, here are a few tips on how to uncover the problem.

1. Ask casual questions such as "Do you think you drink too much," or "Have you ever drank to get rid of a hangover?" If the person in question answers, "yes" to any question like these, then it's time to take action.

2. It may seem rude, but check a closet or hidden place to see if there is a stash of booze around. If there is, it may be a good idea to confront an individual on why they feel they need to hide such a thing.

3. Never give up on an alcoholic. Let them know the results of getting help and that you won't give up on them until they agree to get some.

For additional information on alcoholism and support, please visit the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence at www.acadd.org, www.collegedrinkingprevention.org, or get in contact with your local Alcoholics Anonymous center or similar groups. ♦

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Mod-ish alumnaes' new chic boutique brings style

From swanky handbags to high-end jewelry, this shop has couture and brings big-city fashion to a small town



Melanie Dennis, one of the owners of chic shop, The Red Pepper Squirrel, poses near accessories.

By REBECCA YEATTS
Staff Writer

Clarksville is not traditionally known for being high fashion. If you want something unique or one of a kind, you have to drive to Nashville or get it online, right? Thanks to two Austin Peay State University alums, Clarksville has recently become trendy.

"The Red Pepper Squirrel" is a retail haven created by Melanie Dennis and Jolyn Swanson. Being from the area, the longtime friends understood the lack of great shopping options and went into business, opening a specialty boutique in the heart of downtown Clarksville.

"We knew that many people want the types of items that we carry but have to drive miles to larger cities to find them," says Dennis.

"We wanted to bring the best of the best to Clarksville. We think Clarksville deserves it."

"The Red Pepper Squirrel" carries a variety of items ranging from housewares and baby accessories to high-end jewelry and cosmetics.

There are boutiques within the boutique, every room housing different categories of merchandise. The store also works in conjunction with the Customs House Museum to present a gallery of photography and artwork. But the real stars of the store are the one-of-a-

kind handbags that Dennis designs. There are currently two styles available, the LA-Ex and the Dumb Jock, and they are designed with the modern college girl in mind.

"I designed both bags based on needs that I had and that my girlfriends had," says Dennis.

"The LA-Ex bag can be used as a handbag or a bookbag, and the Dumb Jock bag is great for carrying books to class. We wish we'd had this option when we were in college."

The bags are all unique and are made from fun, funky fabrics straight from LA's fashion district, and each line of bags is named after one of Dennis' or Swanson's ex-boyfriends.

"We've got a lot of bags to make!" said Dennis.

And as for the funny name?

"When I was a little girl I had a pretend store called 'The Red Pepper Squirrel,'" says Dennis.

"When Jolyn called and said that she was ready to open a store, I knew that it had to be called 'The Red Pepper Squirrel.'"

"The Red Pepper Squirrel" is located at 215 S. Second St., across from the Customs House Museum. For more information or to join the Red Pepper Squirrel's VIP list, visit www.theredpeppersquirrel.com.

Hip hop gets "Fine\$\$ed"

Talented student adds new flavor to hip hop

By A.J. DUGGER
Guest Writer

She's breaking down all the walls. She goes by the name of Fine\$\$, and with the massive strength of a juggernaut, she pounds her way through 13 tracks on her impressive, slammin' CD.

Fine\$\$, whose real name is Alicia Watson, is a junior communications major focusing on broadcast media. Influenced by rap artist Jay-Z, Fine\$\$ really showcases true talent and passion. Fine\$\$ used to release her venom and aggression on the basketball court. According to her, she's been a true rapper since birth.

"I used to focus on basketball, but now I have the time," she said with a sparkle in her eye.

Thank God she does have the time to make hip hop records because if she didn't, we would definitely be missing out on something special.

On Fine\$\$' sophomore album, "Da Secret's Out," we see everything from her point of view. The album serves up plenty of familiar hip hop beats, ranging from popular samples of recent hits by Alicia Keys, Boyz n The Hood and Lil' Wayne.

Stephen Williams, senior communications major also known as Young Duck, produced the album, and J-Loon, another hip hop producer, made two contributions to the CD.

"We put it all down in five days," said Williams.

"She'd do 4 or 5 songs a night."

One of Williams' favorite songs on the album is "My Life."

"I love this track because the hot beat and hot bars

compliment each other," Williams said.

While every track on the album has its place, some are more personal than others. Tracks like "My swagger," "My Cash Flow" and "My Hustle" show off Fine\$\$' persuasive grip, displaying her confident, boastful side. Others like "My Stress" narrate how life can throw unexpected curve balls at you. According to Fine\$\$, the most personal track on the album is "My Love," a heartfelt tribute to her brother who passed away last year.

The lyrics are touching. "You my dog, you my love, my partner in crime/ you the one who kept it real when I started writing rhymes/ I never thought, I couldn't guess that it would end this way/ I can't let go. It ain't fair. I just want you to stay."

Fine\$\$ does not bring us her message alone. Producer Young Duck accompanies her on two tracks, one being "Let's Go," a dynamic powerhouse song where Fine\$\$, Young Duck and Squeaky (Maurice Hampton) take turns expressing themselves on the microphone.

The album is on sale for \$10. She says herself on one track, "Got more people looking for me than Saddam Hussein/ By the time this album's done, you better know my name."

This album is definitely for the clubs or your car speakers.

Indeed, with her own unique style of floetry, Fine\$\$ takes you for a ride during the course of her album, from the soulful intro to the very last track. Your CD collection will feel naked without this hot LP to complete it. ♦



Finess displays her new album, "Da Secret's Out," which was released earlier this month.

Political science professor captures Mayan culture in Chiapas

Landscape, artifacts and indigenous vegetation were inspiration for an adventurous educator

By Tiffani Carver
Guest Writer

"Chiapas," a new photograph exhibit in Austin Peay State University's Woodward library, is sure to grab students' attention.

The pictures were taken by Political Science Assistant Professor, Dr. Matthew Kenney. Kenney's photographs were taken while he visited Chiapas, Mexico in July of this year.

"The main purpose for going to Chiapas was to work on two community development projects in the county of San Pedro Chenalho," said Kenney.

He also said that the first project that was worked on was the construction of a corn crib for a local corn cooperative, and the second was a dental health program.

According to the facts displayed in the exhibit, corn is a very important element in the Mayan diet. There are several pictures showing how the corn is grown. One in particular shows a man building a corn stall in

Yabteclum, Chiapas. Kenney not only captured the culture of the country, he also did a great job showing the beauty of it.

He said he is not a photographer by any stretch of the imagination.

Along with the corn pictures are many other displays of Chiapas's culture. Pictures of the landscape and artifacts of the city as well as pictures of the people are among the collection.

When asked about his over all experience in Mexico, Kenney said, "I would describe my experiences in Chiapas as extremely positive. The people that I met and interacted with are people of great integrity and generosity."

Kenney plans to return to Chiapas next summer and maybe during spring break. He also plans to visit Brazil in the future.

The exhibit in the library opened Wednesday, September 28 and is going to continue through mid-October with the possibility of a time extension. ♦



Left: One Chiapas family dyes material used to make cloth. Right: Kenney points to a church built on a burial site.

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