

Campus Construction

Summer projects remain incomplete

Renovations to campus fall behind schedule

By JARED COMBS
Assistant News Editor

Many campus maintenance and renovation issues, scheduled for completion during the summer, have yet to be completed as planned.

The \$2 million project to replace faulty underground steam lines and valves has been put on hold until summer 2009 due to a delay in bidding.

"It was not completed as we had planned primarily because the bids came in late," said Mitch Robinson, vice president of academic affairs. "And there was insufficient time to complete the steam line replacement project before the students came back in August."

Some valves have been replaced to keep steam from rising out of

campus manholes, but Robinson said the replacement was only a temporary fix.

"The valve replacement really is getting rid of the visible leaks," Robinson said. "We're hoping that the lines themselves hold up until next May."

Manny Ballen, director of the physical plant, said the replaced valves were 15 to 20 years old; the lines themselves are approximately 40 years old.

Robinson said the Tennessee Board of Regents must first approve all projects that require a

designer or an engineer. TBR then assigns a designer or engineer and the project is bid out to a capable construction firm.

"There were delays in planning it or designing it by the engineer and then there were some delays that were experienced getting it out for bid by the Board of Regents," Robinson said.

Additional effects of the decaying steam line are visible on campus. Robinson said the heat from leaking lines has killed grass in the intramural field and the field in front of Harvill Hall.

"The plan is to have that bid out very early this spring and the work to then commence right after graduation," Robinson said. "That's what we had hoped for this year."

The renovation of the McReynolds building, scheduled for completion in the summer, also has yet to be completed.

\$1.7 million was budgeted at the end of the 2008 spring semester to complete interior renovations of the building.

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Academics

Two programs risk termination

TBR puts Spanish and radiology departments under review

By JARED COMBS
Assistant News Editor

"In an effort to conserve the state's limited resources, [Tennessee Board of Regents] may recommend termination of academic programs that graduate an annual average of fewer than 10 students over a five-year span. The current cycle of programs under review extends through 2009," said Michael Becraft, assistant vice president of academic affairs.

Two APSU degree programs are up for review by TBR in 2009. The Bachelor's of Arts program in Spanish and the Bachelor's of Science program in radiological technology were placed on a watch list by TBR in 2006.

TBR began monitoring low-producing programs in 2003. The analytical system by which programs are monitored operates on a three-year cycle.

TBR eliminated 43 institutional programs in 2003 after an initial review. At the end of the first three-year cycle in 2006, 34 additional programs were eliminated; 70 more have been added to the list of programs to be reviewed in 2009.

"The initial request for information came in February 2006 when these programs were among those identified as required to develop plans and target objectives to increase the numbers of graduates," Becraft said. He said TBR has not eliminated any degree programs at APSU in recent history.

"In 2006, the recommendation for these two programs was to retain on monitored status," Becraft said.

Spanish Program

Miguel Ruiz-Aviles, associate professor of Spanish, said the Spanish degree program intends to graduate five or six students by the time TBR reviews the program in 2009.

David Guest, chair of the languages and literature department, said the Spanish degree program in question and 1000 and 2000-level Spanish courses for core credit are on different terms.



MATEEN SIDIQ/SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Miguel Ruiz-Aviles instructs his SPAN 5000 course. The Spanish bachelor's degree program at APSU is one of 70 programs in the state under review by TBR.

Guest said if the Bachelor's of Arts of Spanish were eliminated, students would still have access to first and second year Spanish courses.

"We have two groups of students majoring in Spanish: those who are seeking licensure to teach Spanish in secondary schools and those who are not," Guest said. "The students seeking licensure major in Spanish and follow a course of study designed to prepare them to teach. The other students major in foreign language with a Spanish concentration."

Guest said the cumulative number of students who have graduated from the Spanish Bachelors of Arts and from the foreign language major with a Spanish concentration have not been considered by TBR.

He added reports that no students in the Spanish major with licensure to teach were incorrect.

Once the reasons for the low numbers are made clear, he said he does not anticipate the program will be eliminated.

"We don't expect that the Spanish major will be terminated by TBR," Guest said. "If it is terminated, we will create a new specialization within the foreign language major." The new specialization would serve all students currently under the Spanish degree program.

"There is a big demand in Tennessee for Spanish teachers and we are making those teachers," Ruiz said.

Radiological Technology Program

The radiological technology program plans to meet the required 10 graduates by 2009. "While APSU cannot speak to the actions the Board of Regents may take, the radiological technology degree program will have a sufficient number of graduates by the time the current low-producing program cycle ends in 2009," Becraft said.

"The program was initially developed as a joint effort between APSU and Vanderbilt University," said Rex Ameigh, associate professor of the radiological technology program. "From 1978 to 2006, the maximum number of students we could ever get was eight," Ameigh said. "And the reason for that was that was all that Vanderbilt could take."

As of 2004 APSU's radiological technology program has become internal and self-sufficient. "2006 is when we actually started graduating our own radiology technology students," Ameigh said. He said the radiological technology program plans to meet the minimum 10 graduates required by the TBR in 2009.

Of the six state universities governed by the TBR, APSU had the lowest number of programs put on monitored status in 2006. Middle Tennessee State University had seven and Tennessee State University had 12. ♦

Student Government Association

SGA appoints officers, prepares for Senate elections

Drew expresses higher expectations for senators, discusses upcoming events

By TINEA PAYNE
News Editor

The Student Government Association appointed the new parliamentarian, speaker pro temp, chief clerk and internal affairs representatives and discussed the freshman and graduate Senate election during the Wednesday, Sept. 3 Senate meeting.

Senate Elections

The SGA Senate election polls for freshman and graduate seats were scheduled to open Tuesday, Sept. 9 at 9 a.m. and close Thursday, Sept. 11 at 11:59 p.m.

Students will be able to vote online through the SGA Web site (www.apsu.edu/sga). Chris Drew, SGA president, said students must log in to cast their vote using their university e-mail and password.

Drew said students can cast a write-in vote of their choosing. Students can vote for freshman and graduate seats regardless of classification.

There are nine freshman candidates and two graduate candidates running for five freshman seats and two graduate seats.

Drew said candidates are responsible for promoting themselves and their platforms through posters in approved locations across campus.

EC Reports

Secretary Hykeem Craft announced that Senate applications were taken out of the SGA and Student Affairs offices and made available online. Craft said he is seeking senators to serve on the public relations committee.

He said the focus of the committee would be to relay information to the student body. Craft also announced the chief clerk position was filled by Rebecca Birt.

Vice President Steven Biter announced Mudbowl would be scheduled for Oct. 2,

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Students can log in to library services

Woodward Library added new computers, changed computer usage policies

By NICOLE JUNE
Senior Staff Writer

Felix G. Woodward Library has made many layout and design changes this semester to accommodate the needs of students, staff and faculty.

Joe Weber, director of library services, said he felt the changes were necessary for the library to function more effectively. "We wanted to provide a better layout that wasn't so crowded," Weber said.

"We have rearranged the shelving and furniture to provide a variety of spaces for research, collaboration, quiet study,

computer use, socializing and relaxation."

Among the new amenities are 20 new study carrels on the third floor, which have access to outlets for laptop computers. Also, five new computers have been added on the second floor, while some of the existing computers have new regulations.

New Computer Regulations

Six computers are now designated as 60-minute computers and four are 15-minute computers. Users must obtain a password from the assistance desk to access them.

Weber said these computers are primarily for the use of the public or people not affiliated with the university, but can be used by students as well.

"We are a public institution, and

visitors are entitled to use our facilities, but we wanted to make sure that we serve the students first," he said. Only students and staff can access the other computers, as they require users to enter their APMail username and password to log in.

"We were concerned about the lines that would form for the computers, and we wanted to reduce those lines. With the 15-minute computers, students will know that they won't have to wait as long," Weber said.

He stressed the importance of logging off the timed computers once a user is finished, so the next user can sign in



MATEEN SIDIQ/SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Four 15-minute computers have been installed in Woodward library. APSU users must log in using their APMail screenname and password.

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Community Calendar

SEPTEMBER

09/10/08

Rape Prevention Awareness

The first meeting of the Rape Prevention Awareness and Empowerment Program will be from 6-8pm in the Foy Fitness Center. The women only program wil meet every Wednesday to teach awareness and self defense techniques. Classes cost \$10 with APSU ID and \$15 for non-APSU students.

Scrambled Eggs Auditions

Auditions for Scrambled Eggs will be held at 4 p.m. in the Music/Mass Communications TV studio. Scrambled Eggs is a campus-based debate show airing on APSU cable channel 99.

09/11/08

Group Fitness Sampler

A Group Fitness Sampler will be held 4 p.m. - 6 p.m. in the Foy Fitness Center. The event is free to APSU students and \$2 for non-APSU students.

Senate: Future events, filled positions, expectations

Continued from Page 1

and Greater Halloween Options for Safe Trick or Treating (G.H.O.S.T.) on October 26. He reminded senators that Senate training would be held September 22 from 4 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.

Drew said he would meet with campus leaders on Thursday, Sept. 12 to discuss collaborative event efforts. He said student organizations didn't collaborate enough in the past. He said he hopes to have at least one collaborative event per semester with other organizations.

Drew announced in his president's report that APSU Dining Services and Woodward Library each need a representative. He announced planning for Mudbowl to discuss the theme and design of the event.

He also said he has higher expectations for senators after attending the training. "After then, I expect senators to be very sensitive about student concerns on campus, whether big or small," he said.

Drew told Senate that SGA has "dramatically improved" in comparison to the 2007-2008 Senate, as the Senate did not meet until the first week in October. He said the current Senate is relatively smaller than before in effort to reduce senator drop out and maintain a

more stable Senate.

"We shrunk the Senate size. In the past we figured that more representatives would be better, but no. We had some senators drop out and not showing up," Drew said.

Positions filled

SGA filled new positions during Wednesday's meeting. Sens. Jody Dorris and Casey Green were appointed to the internal affairs committee.

Biter recommended Sen. Rylan Kean to fill the pro temp position. Biter explained the pro temp position responsibility to fulfill duties of the vice president in his absence. The Senate voted in favor by acclamation.

Biter also recommended Sen. Will Hendricks for the parliamentarian seat and Brandy Segreaves for senator of the college of science and mathematics. The Senate voted both delegates in favor by acclamation. Segreaves was sworn in as senator.

Senate, campus expectations

Drew said he is more concerned with the quality of legislation passed than the number of legislation written by the Senate. "I want resolutions to be signed

Fall 2008 Senate Candidates

Freshman Seats

- Trenton Gaasch
- Eric Patton
- Thomas Price
- Jordan Reid
- Gene Rutledge
- Eleanor Smith
- Luigi VeenVan
- Brianna Velazquez

Graduate Seats

- Alexis Gatson
- Heather Sayles

For more information visit www.apsu.edu/sga

and supported," Drew said. He expects senators to attend meetings. Drew said he expects senators to keep contact with the Executive Committee. After a senator misses three meetings and fails to contact the EC, internal affairs will review and make the final decision to remove the senator. ♦

Library: other changes

Continued from Page 1

afterwards without a delay.

"We would like students and visitors to use the 60-minute computers for legitimate research and writing purposes, and the 15-minute computers for a quick printing job to eliminate the long lines," Weber said.

Monisha Maxwell, a sophomore nursing major, views the changes positively.

"I think the new system works out well because people don't have to take up the computers for as long and it keeps the space more organized," Maxwell said.

"I like that only a few of the computers are for the public," said Danielle Waxler, a senior

English major.

Other Changes

The room formerly housing the Women's Resources collection is now a group study room, and the collection has been added to the general book collection. The majority of the reference collection was merged into the general collection also.

A new research assistance desk has been added to the second floor for students to ask for advice and assistance with the library's resources.

"Our main goal is to meet the needs of the university, and I believe that these changes will be beneficial to the students and the staff," Weber said. ♦

Construction: completed, future projects scheduled

Continued from Page 1

"The only thing that was done in there was the abatement [which] was totally finished," Ballen said.

According to Robinson, the delay of this project was also due to the delayed bidding. Renovations to the McReynolds building were intended to make the building compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act by leveling the first floor, installing an elevator and renovating the bathrooms.

Ballen said the renovations to Home Court Apartments are expected to be completed by the end of September. "It's about 65 to 70 percent complete," Ballen said. "In a couple weeks, they should be out of there. The project costs an estimated \$100,000 to complete."

A number of other campus projects were completed over the summer. Demoliton of the houses on Castle

Heights and Parham Drive were completed under the original \$120,000 budget. Robinson said the land left by the demolitions would remain vacant as green space.

"We still have three more houses on Marion Street and Robb Avenue that are going to come down," Robinson



Mitch Robinson

said. He said the lots would be used for temporary parking.

Exterior renovations to Blount and Harvill Halls were completed. The projects cost approximately \$180,000. Sprinklers were installed in Blount, Harvill and Sevier Halls. Paving projects for summer 2008 were scaled down in order to remain under the \$1.4 million budget.

Two parking lots on Eighth Street were paved, sidewalks were mended and the Foy Fitness Center parking lot was resurfaced.

The Eighth Street sidewalks, however, were not completed on schedule. "When the bids came in for the paving project, they came in much higher than expected primarily because of the price of oil," Robinson said.

Many of the incomplete projects are scheduled for completion throughout the course of the semester. This may cause some inconveniences as work on the Eighth Street parking lot and sidewalk would be carried out while classes are in session.

"Often times it does displace parking when these projects start up, and we're going to do what we can to keep that at a minimum," Robinson said. "But invariable anytime we make improvements on campus, it's disruptive." ♦

SGA Senate Elections

September 9th-11th

Voting Begins 9:00 a.m. on September 9th
Voting Ends 11:59 p.m. on September 11th

Vote @ www.apsu.edu

Freshman Candidates:

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| Trenton Gaasch | Eric Patton |
| Shelby Price | Jordan Reid |
| Kyle Romero | Gene Rutledge |
| Elle Smith | Brianna Velazquez |
| Luigi Van Veen | |

Graduate Student Candidates:

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| Alexis Gatson | Heather Sayles |
|---------------|----------------|



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OUR TAKE

Drivers: Be prepared to hunt for parking

A swig of coffee and a clatter of keys as one of many rushes out the door to get to class. Many at APSU are commuters.

Blissfully hoping a spot will be open, they are greeted instead with constant disappointment as the hunt for a spot begins. Suddenly, the wish to be in time to class vanishes.

As all are fully aware, we at *The All State* have taken a keener focus on how APSU has grown. If past enrollment trends are any indicator,

APSU has nearly 1,500 new faces this year. Though the once-graveled parking lots are covered in shimmering new black tar, parking is still scarce.

While many freshman bring their cars with them, *TAS* wants to point out that APSU is a “suitcase campus.” Being so close to areas such as Nashville, Dickson and Erin, it isn’t uncommon for most of the student body to disappear on the weekends.

As students head

home, parking is revealed. Yet there clearly isn’t enough parking for all of the students. Many commute to APSU from local residences.

Whereas parking is such an issue, we at *TAS* want to point out other options. The Peay Pickup trolley system is functioning.

While one may have to park farther away, it is to be remembered that a ride to school is available. Also, if there are students who know each other and live

closer to campus, it is a good idea to carpool. Not only does it take up one parking spot, but it also saves on gas.

Other options include biking, walking or simply waking up earlier for a chance at a better spot.

TAS offers some other suggestions as well: parking garages or a better distributed bus system.

The Clarksville Transit System (CTS) is essential to the growth and implementation of safer and efficient

transport around the Clarksville community. While CTS was the key sponsor behind the Peay Pickup, it would be nice to see more public transportation options.

A parking garage would be beneficial. Instead of spreading out, parking can go upwards. Then public transportation would be able to carry students and faculty from one area to another.

Students shouldn’t be prevented from having cars if they live on campus. Part of

Clarksville’s wonder is the ability to explore the town (and to run to Nashville).

Unlike Vanderbilt, which doesn’t allow freshman to have vehicles on campus, we at *TAS* don’t believe that anyone should be restricted to the campus only.

These are just a few suggestions we at *TAS* have for helping the parking situation. Until any drastic changes are made, *TAS*, students and faculty have to grin and bear it. ♦

Communicate much?

I see it commonly in classrooms today: A student sneaking out a cell phone to send a text message to a friend. I’ll admit that I’m guilty of doing such a thing. Nowadays, we all have instant commun-



ication. With the updated iPhone, one can not only make phone calls but can also get a wireless signal in a good variety of places. My friends and I have used this in dire needs for the quick gratification of an answer to a pertinent question. And waiting til we get home just isn’t a solution.

Once upon a time, it was common to have to wait until one got home in order to call a best friend to talk about the day or making plans for later in the evening. There is no need to wait anymore as one can easily call with a cell phone or send a text message. Yet, there lies a new issue here with text messaging. Instead of calling someone to hear their tone, one can now send a text, removing any responsibility for feeling the consequences of what might be said.

Not only can people not unplug, but they can’t even really interact with someone else. The pretenses of reality are warped through forums and online games now. The internet has become more than a search engine; it has become a primary way to network. That’s where friends are made who understand us and where any personality that we want to take on can be had. Someone doesn’t need to see one to understand that person. Only the words typed on a screen or a character created really matter. One can also type whatever he or she wants without realizing the consequences of what is said. There is no face seen on the other side. An attacking party can hurt someone on the other end without feeling the guilt of

being unabashedly cruel.

Has this not crept into the common world as well? Nowhere near as high tech as say on a computer screen, it is still highly obvious through the wonderful power of text messaging. Many times, people know that they are doing wrong by the gut feeling of guilt. Often the proverb of asking forgiveness may be easier. But when there isn’t a way to truly express their remorse or that an accident has happened, one can’t handle the guilt, especially if another party is included. Instead, it’s easier now to type a text message and close the case right then and there. No feelings of anger, pain, depression or regret are heard through the ear to process into our conscience. We are removed from each other today.

One of the hardest things to do is being able to look at someone and to tell them what we feel. Part of that entire action is being able to handle the emotional return that is expressed on his or her face. That’s the consequence; be it a good, bad or unpredictable reaction.

Humans are social creatures and not meant to be isolated from one another. We are forcing a change in habit by being able to react however we want through a digital sense. Instead of noticing others, we are selfish, dwelling in our own skin and neglecting the consequences of our actions. It’s easier to hide instead of facing the challenge of approaching someone face to face.

It’s natural to interact, and by forcing that change, we just damage ourselves. We aren’t meant to be selfish creatures. It would be nice if people would stop hiding behind text messages and actually approach someone. ♦

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I now pronounce you ... well, not quite

People tell me I can now get married in California, too bad I live in Tennessee. I could travel to the nearer state of Massachusetts and get married, but with gas prices, traveling to either state seems expensive. Why travel when I could just get married here? That is, if Tennessee recognized same-sex marriage. The topic of marriage, as controversial as it is, shouldn’t be much of a topic at all; marriage isn’t the end, but rather the beginning.



Marsel Gray

Many protestors against same-sex marriage feel they have a religious duty to protect marriage as being between one man and one woman. Marriage, though, is not a religious right. Atheists can get married. Britney Spears was allowed to annul her marriage after a day. The divorce rate is at nearly 50 percent among straight marriage alone, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. While the founding fathers may have established America on religious principles, they, however, also made sure to incorporate the first amendment. Why then, government officials making such a religious argument against same-sex marriage?

Personally, I have no problem with government leaders practicing any faith or even disagreeing with same-sex marriage. However, they should not be permitted to let that faith rule their time in office, such practice is immoral and against the Constitution. Ever ponder the financial benefits this capitalistic nation would reap from allowing same-sex marriage? Think about all the planning and money that goes into a wedding: the wedding planner, the cost of clothes, food, entertainment, location and then flying in all those crazy relatives. Weddings are expensive and the companies that profit from these

services wouldn’t get a part of the money if same-sex marriage were illegal.

Once the wedding and honeymoon are over, it’s time to purchase a home, buy cars and raise children. Real estate firms, adoption agencies, schools and car dealers would profit. Many foster children might continue to go without homes because they aren’t allowed to be adopted into a loving environment, even if it is with two men or two women. The technicalities set up by many business make it difficult for couples and families to share health insurance, wills and estates, and cause problems among adoptions.

Even if a same-sex couple found out they weren’t right for each other and decided to file for divorce, lawyers would be profitting as well. Living costs money, and allowing two individuals to reap the benefits of marriage helps the economy, something that seriously does need saving. Civil unions and partnerships are great, but compared to marriage they don’t hold much power. In fact, having a difference between civil unions and marriage is segregation.

Enough said about what the world, religion and economics say about same-sex marriage. Same-sex marriage sounds like a bothersome subject, yet it’s simply two individuals committing to each other. Marriage is a private issue. It’s no one else’s business what two people do behind closed doors. Same-sex marriage won’t negatively affect the world, just like allowing women to vote and blacks and whites to be equal.

Allowing individuals to wed only creates families. It doesn’t destroy them. Marriage exists beyond the government and religion, it’s about people — it’s a human right. ♦

Marsel Gray is the online editor. He can be contacted at mgray18@apsu.edu.

New candidate options forever alter White House status-quo

The last week has been an interesting one in the world of politics. Barely within a week, two historical movements have taken place.

First was an African-American accepting the presidential nomination for the Democratic Party. The other was a woman accepting the nomination for vice president in the Republican Party. The question now is which one will break the biggest boundary and go into the executive branch.



Joseph Wojtkiewicz

Both of these are drawing a lot of criticism from a lot of directions in ways that are baffling.

First I will cover Barack Obama. There have been several attacks on religious

fronts. These, to me, are the most outrageous of them all. Attack his record, attack him on his policy, but not on religion. Religion has no place in government.

This country has always stood by the fact that it allows religious freedom. Our founding fathers designed things with a separation of church and state.

He is not a Muslim. Despite the claims made in chain e-mails that have reached thousands of people. But what would it matter if he were? I have met and worked with Muslims that have portrayed more kindness, compassion and integrity than a lot of Christians I know.

I despise the fact that a person’s faith can be made into a major issue. Extremism is another matter. There were claims made by the Tennessee Republican Party that tried to tie Obama to an extremist

Muslim organization. The funny thing is, it’s not true on any front. He did authorize a grant to the Arab-American Action Network, a community outreach organization designed to help immigrants of Arab decent with job training and ESL classes. Nowhere in their agenda does it even mention religion. So I hope that we can move forward in regards to that issue.

Next, I would like to discuss Sarah Palin. She is the governor of Alaska, who accepted the nomination to become the vice president, on Sept. 3. I am not going to discuss how I feel about this choice. I want to discuss what she and her family have been subjected to in the last few weeks.

She has come under criticism for something that I believe has no place in the national spotlight, her family. By the time you read this, the issue of Bristol Palin’s

pregnancy might have faded from the public eye, but right now it is something that can’t be escaped.

This is sad. Her daughter is 17 years old, and she has gotten herself into a situation that she will have to deal with. This is not a national issue, it has no bearing on Gov. Palin as a politician or leader. If you have ever been 17, you know that sometimes nothing your parents say really matters.

The proper way for the media and the rest of us to handle this issue was best stated by another politician. “People’s families are off-limits and people’s children are especially off-limits. This shouldn’t be part of our politics.

It has no relevance to Gov. Palin’s performance as a governor or potential performance as a vice president. So I would strongly urge people to back off these kinds of stories.” Who said

this? None other than the man she is running to defeat, Barack Obama. I, for one, am going to stand on his side as far as this issue is concerned.

So in short I would like to urge you all to do some research before you believe what comes into your inbox, or judge someone based on the actions of his or her children.

Judge Obama for his wavering position on warrantless wiretapping, not something you heard from someone who heard. And if you want to judge any aspect of Sarah Palin’s personal life, judge her for naming her sons Track and Trig (just kidding, but they really are named Track and Trig).

Or just ignore her personal life and leave it as just that, personal; that’s what I’m going to do. ♦

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APSU talent rocks Riverfest



Chris Monhollen sings with his band at the 21st annual Riverfest.

By **TANGELIA CANNON**
Staff Writer

Traffic, cops and trailers lined Riverside Drive this weekend, but all for good reason. This weekend Clarksville hosted its 21st annual Riverfest. Families and friends gathered to enjoy their weekend in the park with kid-friendly inflatables, food, music and entertainment.

Gena Bilbrey, a junior in the nursing program, agrees that “Riverfest is an excellent opportunity to spend quality time with family and friends.” Many talented young people, including APSU’s own Chris Monhollen, lined the schedule to showcase their dancing and musical talents.

At 1 p.m. Saturday afternoon, The Chris Monhollen Band took main stage to start off the Youth Showcase, which featured many aspiring singers and dancers. With the breeze blowing and the river as their background, Monhollen and his band members, Logan Moore and Mike Zagula, kept the crowd going with cover songs such as “Wagon Wheel” and originals written by Monhollen and his friend and co-writer Logan Moore.

Monhollen said he is inspired to entertain by “people, like Garth Brooks, who are really good writers and can get on stage and perceive themselves as a good role model for children and young people.” Other legends who inspire Monhollen and his music are Travis Tritt, Tim McGraw and Toby Keith because they are “the guys that put out really good music and write their own

stuff.”

When Monhollen was 6 years old he began playing music using a “little itty-bitty dollar store piano. After that I moved up from a dollar store piano to a Wal-Mart piano, and eventually in 1998 my mom bought me my first guitar.”

Although Monhollen was able to teach himself basic cords, he remembers learning by ear. “I would listen to the radio in order to learn how to play a song. In 1999, when I was 10 years old, I sang in the bar Pitt Bull Pool Hall in Clarksville, which started my music career.” During the early stages of Monhollen’s career he sang song pleasers such as “My Maria,” as well as all the rest of the Brooks and Dunn songs.

Monhollen’s favorite memory comes from his performance at The Blue Bird Café in Nashville when he was 16 years old. Fans can find photos of this performance online in the archives of the Blue Bird Café’s Web site. He has played at Clarksville’s Riverfest and Rivers and Spires for the past several years, and is a regular performer on Thursday evenings at The Island in Sango.

Although Monhollen’s main focus is country music, his love for music extends past a single genre. He enjoys listening to a wide variety of music.

Monhollen is an active member in Phi Mu Alpha Symphonic, the largest male music fraternity in the world, whose members include the famous Andy Griffith and Reuben Studdard. ♦

Students take course in ‘Love’ this fall

By **TANYA LUDLOW**
Senior Staff Writer

Every four years the creative writing department receives funding for the Roy Acuff Chair of Excellence, a position that rotates annually amongst APSU’s art, music, dance and creative writing departments.

“We try to bring in the best writer we can convince to come here, someone with a national reputation,” said Barry Kitterman, professor of literature and creative writing. Novelist Louise Erdrich, this year’s Roy Acuff Chair of Excellence, not only has a national reputation, but is “one of the most accomplished and well-respected novelists writing in America today,” Kitterman said.

A member of the Turtle Mountain Ojibwe, Erdrich is one of the best known and critically acclaimed Native American writers on the contemporary literary scene.

Her first novel, “Love Medicine,” received the 1984 National Book Critics Circle Award. “Love Medicine” is distinctive for its layering of interconnected narratives that tell the story of several families living on a North Dakota reservation. Erdrich is known for the way she draws from her German-American and Native American heritage in



Author Louise Erdrich is this year’s Roy Acuff Chair of Excellence.

order to weave fascinating characters and complex stories.

“Erdrich writes about Ojibwe culture much in the same way Faulkner writes about Southern culture,” said Stephen Ryan, professor of literature, who is teaching a graduate class devoted to Erdrich’s work. “She studies her culture with care,” Ryan said.

David Guest, associate professor of literature, is also teaching an undergraduate class focused on Erdrich’s novels and stories. Besides the unique opportunity to teach a class devoted to a single author, Guest finds that having a famous author on campus is an invaluable experience for students.

“I have really fond memories as an undergraduate of being able to meet authors I knew. It was a big deal,” Guest said.

As part of the Center for Excellence in the Creative Arts, the Roy Acuff

endowment gives students the unique opportunity to rub elbows with regionally- and nationally-acclaimed artists, like Erdrich. Being able to meet with a successful writer like Erdrich makes the idea of writing for a living more attainable for aspiring writers within the APSU student body.

Far from being a breed apart, students will find that writers are “normal people who work hard,” Guest said. As a creative writing professor and Center of Excellence in the Creative Arts representative, Kitterman emphasizes that being able to meet with renowned writers takes away a little of the unattainable mystique that surrounds celebrity writers.

“The idea that they might also have a career as a writer doesn’t seem so far-fetched,” Kitterman said. Students involved in the creative writing and English literature departments recognize the

invaluable opportunity of discussing not only an established author’s work, but their own. As a graduate student in the creative writing program, Stephanie Dugger is both intimidated and excited by the prospect of sharing her own work with an established writer.

“I’m nervous but I think it’s a great opportunity,” Dugger said. “A chance like this doesn’t come very often.” Although exposing her own writing to an established writer such as Erdrich is a daunting prospect, Dugger believes that feedback from someone of Erdrich’s caliber is invaluable to her own growth as a writer. “The benefits far outweigh the intimidation,” Dugger said.

“This semester is a Louise Erdrich semester,” Kitterman said. With two classes devoted to Erdrich’s work, as well as the AP Read 2008 fall book being her novel “Love Medicine,” his words appear true.

Erdrich will conduct two readings and two short residencies on campus this semester, and will be corresponding closely with professors and reading student work while not on campus.

Her first reading is tonight at 8 p.m. in the MMC Concert Hall. ♦

Writers’ creativity blossoms in ‘Red Mud’

By **KIMBERLY SHUEL**
Staff Writer

College offers many creative opportunities. Students can express themselves in almost any way possible. Creative writing is one way for students to reveal their talents and ambitions to the world.

There are six campuses in the Tennessee Board of Regents. There are two Centers of Excellence at APSU in the areas of field biology and creative arts. These two centers receive extra funding to provide students with scholarships and the opportunity to publish their work.

The creative arts funding goes toward music, art, theater and creative writing. The creative writing fund brings writers to campus to speak and publishes two campus literary magazines in addition to providing scholarships. Approximately 10 to 12 creative writing scholarships are awarded each year to students who have submitted work to the center.

Barry Kitterman, professor of literature and creative writing, teaches several creative writing classes at APSU. He has taught at APSU since 1994 and in May he published his book, “The Baker’s Boy.” He is also the fiction editor for *Zone 3* which is a national magazine published by APSU’s Center of Excellence for the Creative Arts. It profiles writers all over the country who are not students. Copies are available for purchase through the *Zone 3* office in Harned room 139.

The *Red Mud Review* is the second creative writing magazine at APSU. It is edited by students and contains photographs, poems and short stories submitted by students. Although it is student-run, the *Red Mud Review* is sponsored by the Creative Writing Program.

“It is a great way to publish our students,” said Kitterman. Unlike *Zone 3*, it is absolutely free.

If students find these publications interesting and would like to get involved, there are great opportunities.

“Students don’t have to be English majors,” said Kitterman. Students can also submit work to the *Red Mud Review* without having a creative writing minor, but for students who want to continue seriously on the creative writing path there are many classes available.

“[The *Red Mud Review*] is a great way to publish our students.”

Barry Kitterman,
Professor of English

“[First,] read a lot of good fiction,” said Kitterman. When students begin writing, Kitterman recommends they “let friends read [their work] first, then tougher people.”

The first step towards becoming a creative writer is taking English 2200, the Introduction to Creative Writing class. This class is

polish their skills. *Zone 3* and *Red Mud Review* are wonderful ways for students to publish their work and possibly begin a career in creative writing. ♦



Eric Patton
Freshman Senator to the SGA



Brianna Velazquez
For
Freshman
SGA
Senate

Fox football celebrates women



PHOTOS BY LOIS JONES/SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER



Above: GT Suttles breaks a run against the Montreal Blitz. Right: Jenn Puhl Winkler, Foy Fitness assistant director, waves to fans in celebration of victory.

By **MARLON SCOTT**
Managing Editor

This is the time of year when football fans are happiest. After counting down the days, hours, minutes and seconds from the last game of last season, it is a relief to see a football hurled with a perfect spiral into the outstretched hands of a receiver or a nimble running back juking a linebacker out of her shoes.

A lot of football fans are reading the end of the last sentence and scratching their heads. Although they are used to cheering for football players from youth leagues all the way to the NFL, they are not used to any female references (except cheerleaders) in football.

Those football fans still scratching their heads don't watch the Clarksville Fox. Clarksville, Tenn. has a women's

full-contact semi-pro football team called the Fox. According to their Web site, www.clarksvillefox.com, 30 women don shoulder pads, helmets and the Fox yellow and black uniforms to play full-contact football from April to July under the direction of head coach Ron "Gator" Graham.

With the help of his wife and generous sponsors, owner and general manager Rob "Pops" Brown started the Fox in 2007. Attracting talented local women athletes, the Fox played in a regional league and advanced to the league's championship game their first year.

The team's success and growing fan base allowed the Fox to join the larger and more competitive Independent Women's Football League

(IWFL) in 2008. The Fox was one of three new teams joining the IWFL in 2008, increasing the league to 41 teams.

"The IWFL is definitely the cream of the crop," Brown said. "IWFL is superior to other leagues on all levels."

Both away and at Northwest High school in Clarksville where the field becomes the "Fox Den," the Fox continued to find success and became the 2008 IWFL Tier II Midsouth Division Champions with an 8-2 record.

"Our second year was incredible. They did a wonderful job," Brown added. "Hopefully, next year we go all the way and become national champions."

With 90 percent of the 2008 team returning next season, the Fox are in a good position to continue improving with

some key additions. The key to their success last season was a smothering defense and an impressive running game. Brown says now they are looking for a veteran quarterback to improve the passing game.

Continued success helps the Fox recruit veteran players from around the country. However, they are always looking for local, talented female athletes. Women 18 and older interested in playing football for the Fox can sign up for tryouts Saturday, Sept. 27 at Northwest High School. The tryouts will begin in December and no experience is necessary.

"Hopefully, we can pick up 15-20 athletes willing to play football and increase our talent," Brown said.

But playing football is not the only responsibility members of the Clarksville Fox have. The Clarksville Fox is an organization that helps the community. Trixie, the mascot, is an officially registered spokesperson for D.A.R.E. In addition, players and coaches promote activities for young women while visiting churches and hospitals.

At least in Clarksville, football fans have the opportunity to extend their football watching into July. Some fans may even get used to using the words "she" and "her" when describing a great play in the break room at work.

For more information about the Clarksville Fox and the IWFL, log on to www.clarksvillefox.com. ♦

Would you like a chance to change hall, room or apartment?

All Hall, room & apartment changes will be available on a first come first serve basis on...

“GREAT CHANGE DAY”

September 10, 2008

12pm to 3pm

Miller Hall 109



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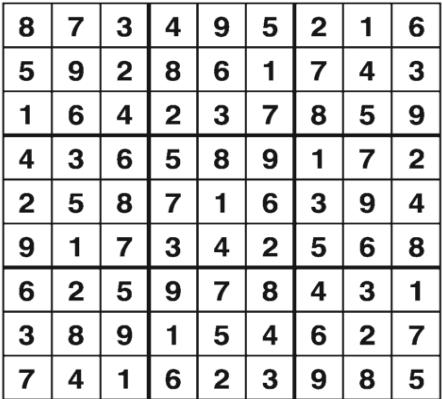
*Numbers will be given out at 8:00 am in 121 Miller Hall

*Numbers will be called starting at 12am-3pm

*When your number is called be prepared to make your request

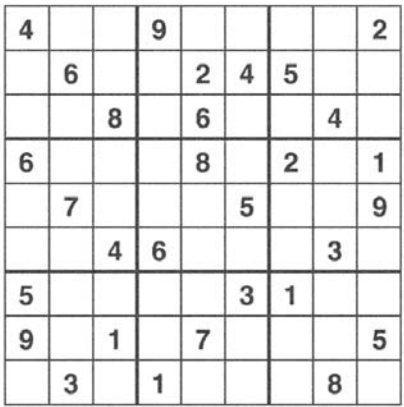
*If you are not there when your number is called you forfeit your chance!

*Rooms & apartments are assigned on a first come first serve basis



Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle



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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★

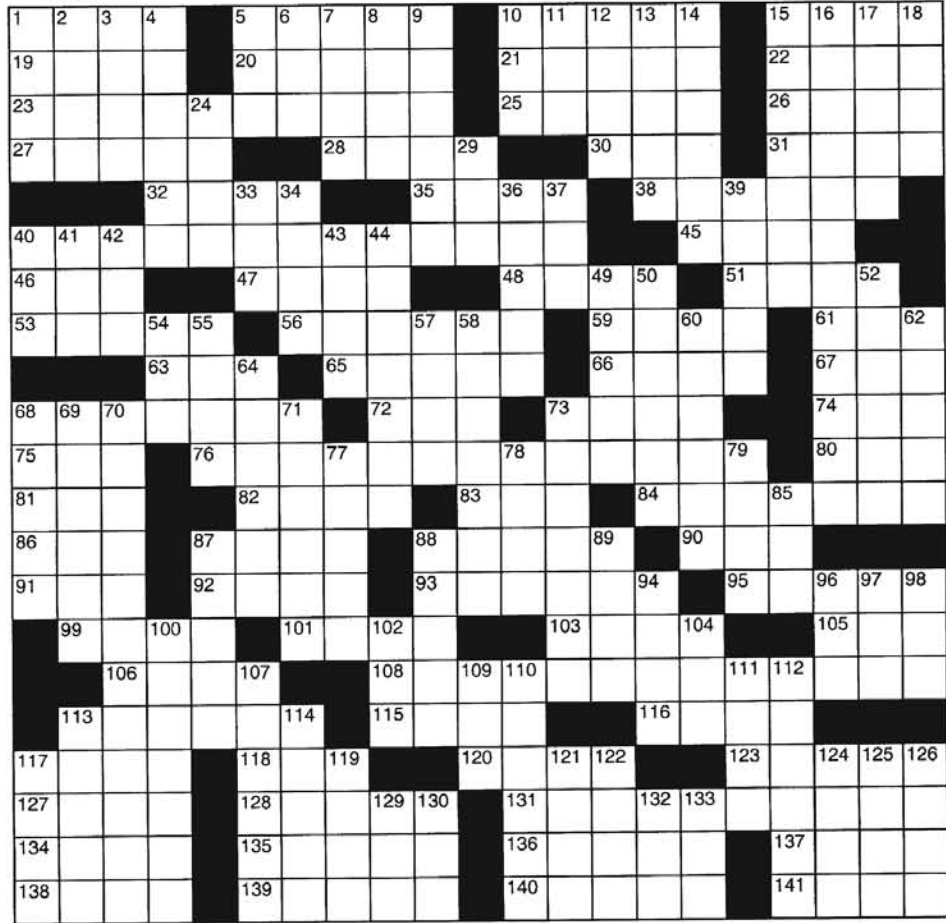
★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ HOO BOY!

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Super Crossword

ALTERNATIVES

- ACROSS
- 1 Type of file
5 Broadway org.
10 Bog
15 — Cass
19 Game ending?
20 Prentiss or Poundstone
21 Kind of quartz
22 Vizquel of baseball
23 Approximately
25 Puzzling problem
26 "Peter Pan" pooch
27 Hester Prynne's kid
28 Kids connect them
30 Shorten a skirt
31 Social climber
32 James of "Misery"
35 Clods
38 Owl or eagle
40 New Hampshire's motto
45 — -do-well
46 Shelley showcase
47 Lauder powder
48 Squealers
51 Zodiac crustacean
- 53 32 Across' co-star
56 Mountaineers' gear
59 "Darn!"
61 Envelope abbr.
63 Indeed
65 Egyptian Nobelist
66 "Battle Cry" author
67 Alibi
68 Coaching legend
72 Came by
73 Exclude
74 Actress Hagen
75 Misdemeanor
76 "Make a decision!"
80 Big —, CA
81 "What —, a mind reader?"
82 Appearance
83 Royal abbr.
84 Most meager
86 Pres., e.g.
87 Delhi dress
88 Assault
90 Author of Grafton
91 Cry over a mouse?
92 Lena of "Havana"
93 Showy shrub
95 High-toned guy?
99 Couch
- 101 Wax device
103 Praise
105 Summon
106 Enthusiastic review
108 Hamlet's line
113 "Islands in the —" ('83 hit)
115 Frame of mind
116 "Nonsense!"
117 Terrible
118 Boar's beloved
120 Rigatoni relative
123 Bridal path?
127 Brainchild
128 Hebrew text
131 Survival option
134 "Oh, woe!"
135 Honshu metropolis
136 Furry fisherman
137 Tourist isle
138 Riga resident
139 Katmandu's country
140 Peter of Herman's Hermits
141 List ender
- 4 Give it one's awl?
5 Cal. page
6 Guitarist Sussman
7 Acted promptly?
8 Besides
9 Ecclesiastic
10 Cartographer's creation
11 Give it — (try)
12 Hasty
13 That's no bull!
14 Grammy winner Woody
15 Dragon or Dracula
16 Words for a wimp
17 Lord's lair
18 Spirited steed
24 Norwegian name
29 Disconsolate
33 Humorist Buchwald
34 Tide type
36 Earliest
37 Word with cow or horse
39 Acts like a chicken
40 Tennis stroke
41 — Bell Wells
42 Donkey doc
- 43 Bulldogs
44 A shape that stops traffic
49 Tiny Tom
50 Soap opera, e.g.
52 Cassius' cohort
54 Pupil's place
55 Medieval menial
57 Bouquet
58 Mississippi port
60 Gary and Elizabeth
62 Kickoff
64 Muppet drummer
68 Quiet partner?
69 Hosts
70 Halloween greeting
71 Ancient deity
73 Shakespearean tragedy
77 German poet
78 Air bear?
79 Flexed, as muscles
85 Born
87 Italian wine
88 "The Jungle Book" bear
89 Glum drop?
94 Parental sibling
- 96 Sgt. or cpl.
97 Solid circle
98 New York city
100 Polo's place
102 Bk. convenience
104 — wop
107 Singer Sheena
109 Literary pseudonym
110 Bright inventor?
111 Dictator
112 Pyramus' paramour
113 Move like
114 "Archie" character
117 Push-button predecessor
119 Envelop
121 Schipa or Jackson
122 Up on
124 Flatten a fly
125 Kedrova of "Zorba the Greek"
126 Runner Zatopek
129 Record abbr.
130 Smith or Foster
132 Novelist Kesey
133 Vein contents



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The All State has openings for students of any major. Openings for Fall 2008 include the following positions:

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• Podcasters and vodcasters, earn \$15 per podcast or vodcast

• Photographers, earn \$5 per photo (starting pay—promotions possible for photographers who excel)

• Advertising representatives, earn 10 percent commission on regular sales and 5 percent on APSU sales

• Cartoonists, earn \$5 per cartoon

• Copyeditors, earn \$15 per week

For an application, visit the Student Publications Web site, <http://www.apsu.edu/student%5Fpubs/>. For more information, please e-mail gillilandt@apsu.edu. Completed applications may be e-mailed to theallstate@apsu.edu or delivered to *The All State* office in MUC 115.

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Developed for the Austin Peay State University Students

Approved by The Tennessee Board of Regents
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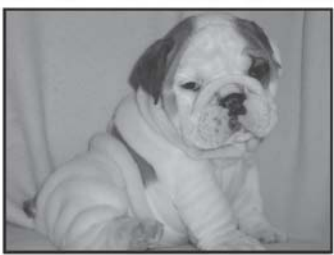
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- ✓ Coverage for inpatient and outpatient hospital expense such as: surgery, physician's visits, diagnostic testing, prescriptions and other services
- ✓ Coverage: 80% in PPO & 60% Non-PPO; \$100,000 maximum benefit
- ✓ Discount Prescription, Dental & Vision Plans included
- ✓ Reasonable premiums – see brochure and enrollment form for payment options: annually, semi-annually, semesterly or a nine payment option is available

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- MTSU Student Health Center
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Football

Fumbles cause Govs’ stumble to 0-2



Govs can’t stop Eagles rally in fourth quarter

By MARLON SCOTT
Managing Editor

When the APSU Govs tied the game 13-13 with 1:26 left in the first half, Govs fans at Paulson Stadium in Statesboro, Ga. moved to the edge of their seats, excitedly anticipating the second half of the game.

Those same fans erupted from their seats jumping and cheering when Jontamion Forrest caught an eight-yard

touchdown pass to give the Govs a 20-13 lead in the third quarter.

However, both Govs fans and players left Statesboro stunned because back-to-back fumbles gave the Georgia Southern Eagles the opportunity to swoop back into the game. They produced three scores and defeated the Govs 34-20.

After the game, Govs head coach Rick Christophel spoke to Dave Loos on Solid Gospel WVRY 105.1 FM.

“You can’t come into an adversarial place and turn the ball over and lose the kicking game,” Christophel said. “That is the two things we did. We turned the ball over in crucial situations and then the kicking game, as good as it was last week; it may have been as bad this

week.”

Despite a slow start, the Govs kept pace with No. 16 Georgia Southern for three quarters, improving dramatically from last week.

Govs quarterback Gary Orr completed only two passes in game one against the North Dakota State Bisons and the offense generated just 91 yards. Against the Eagles, Orr completed 17 passes for 169 yards and two touchdowns. In addition, the Govs also produced 123 rushing yards.

But the Govs’ improvement and momentum came to a crashing halt when running back Jeff Lyle fumbled the ball on the Govs’ four-yard line early in the fourth quarter. The Eagles recovered the fumble and quarterback Antonio Henton scored on the next play, making the score 20-20.

On the Govs’ next drive, freshman running back Ryan White took the hand-off up the middle where he was met by Eagle Chris Rogers. White fumbled and the Eagles recovered the ball in Govs territory for the

second time in two minutes.

Henton capped off the ensuing Eagles drive with a 16-yard dash into the end zone. Henton harassed a tiring Govs defense in the fourth quarter. He finished the game with 103 yards rushing and two touchdowns. Henton also completed 10 passes for 68 yards with one touchdown and one interception.

The Govs failed to score the rest of the game. They committed another fumble later, making it three total turnovers in the fourth quarter.

The Govs defense generated their share of turnovers as well. In addition to four sacks, they recovered two Eagles fumbles and Kevis Buckley grabbed one interception.

Jason Vanatta led the defense with seven tackles. Daniel Becker and and Chris Haynes both had six tackles.

“Certain guys stepped up to the plate and made some big plays tonight,” Christophel added. “The points, I don’t think that tells how good our defense played tonight.” ♦



PHOTOS BY LOIS JONES/SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Top: Govs scramble for loose ball against Belmont last season. Saturday the Govs lost three fumbles against Georgia Southern. Bottom: Govs receiver Lanis Frederick jogs to the sideline. Frederick caught two touchdown passes against the Eagles.



Eric Patton

Freshman Senator to the SGA

The Great Housing Half-Time Giveaway

The Office of Housing/Residence Life and Dining Services
Will be giving away:

Two/\$500 Housing Scholarships
Two/iPod's

When: Saturday, September 13, 2008
Where: GOVS Football Game
Time: Half-Time
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You MUST Be a Campus Resident and Present To Win



Austin Peay’s Housing and Football
What a Winning Combination!

*Housing Staff are not eligible

Soccer

Govs fall short to Mocs, 1-0



LOIS JONES/SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Senior midfielder, Elyse Lovelace runs past Chattanooga defender, Katharina Rheinheimer to get to ball. Lovelace led the Govs with six shot attempts.

By TYLER O'DONNELL
Guest Writer

The Lady Govs soccer team fell short Friday night in its quest to get back to .500 for the season. The game proved to be an offensive struggle as the Lady Mocs of Chattanooga got the win 1-0 at a wet Morgan Bros. Soccer Field. Both teams struggled from the start.

The Lady Mocs committed eight fouls in the first 12 minutes of the half. They had 12 fouls in the first half alone.

The Lady Govs finally broke through with their first shot of the game in the 25th minute. Elyse Lovelace had a chance to put the team ahead before halftime. Her shot came from outside the penalty box and almost went over the head of Lady Moc goal keeper, Allie Preston. Lovelace led the team with six attempts on goal.

The Lady Mocs possessed the ball for most of the half but could not get past the Lady Gov defense.

Intensity picked up as the game progressed into the second half. Yellow cards were given to players on both teams.

Coaches on each side were nearly thrown out of the game for arguing calls.



LOIS JONES/SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Freshman Govs forward, Jocelyn Murdoch evades defender. Murdoch had two shot attempts.

Defense kept offensive charges into opponent's territory brief. It was deadlocked in midfield.

It seemed as though a tie was a strong possibility until D.K. Henry, who missed a wide open shot earlier in the game for the Lady Mocs, took a pass from Caroline DeRhodes and found the back of the net.

The goal, which came near the 80-minute mark, was scored from the left side of

the net just inside the penalty box.

The Lady Govs tried a counter attack, but Preston made to make two key saves down the stretch to end the game.

Preston stopped five shots to get the shutout and gave UTC its first win of the season.

Henry led the team with six shot attempts, four of which were on goal.

"We had our

opportunities," stated Lady Govs head coach Kelley Guth. "We played down a man for 63 minutes. We'll need to get players back from injury so we can be ready to play Evansville on Sunday."

UTC now has improved to 1-2-1 on the season while APSU fell to 1-3. Next, the Lady Govs face the Arkansas Lady Razorbacks at home on Morgan Bros. Field, Friday, Sept. 12. ♦

Volleyball



MATEEN SADIO/SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Lady Govs volleyball head coach, Jenny Hazelwood talks to her team in the huddle. Lady Govs swept Loyola(Md.) this past weekend

Lady Govs spike Owls, Greyhounds

By DEVON ROBINSON
Sports Editor

After a brief losing streak, the Lady Govs volleyball team is back on a winning course after traveling to Kennesaw State for the Owls Challenge.

The Lady Govs loss the opening round to Butler (1-3), but completed the weekend with a three-game sweep (25-20, 25-14, 25-15) of the Loyala (Md.) Greyhounds Saturday afternoon.

Fighting a rigorous back-and-forth battle until the score was 16-16, the Lady Govs (6-2) began to set its own tempo with a kill by junior, Stephanie Champine. The Lady Govs scored six of the final eight points and won the set.

The Lady Govs did not let up the two next sets. On the second set, APSU was ahead 10-5, and consistently kept the lead. The third set was not any different with the Lady Govs pulling ahead quickly 7-14 and never looking back.

Outside hitter Kayla Grantham led the team with 15 of the team's 46 kills. Her teammates, juniors Jessica Mollman and Stephanie Champine reached double digit kills with 11 and 13 respectively. Both Lady Govs were named to their second all-tournament team this season.

According to APSU Sports Information, Lady Govs head coach Jenny Hazelwood was impressed with her team's performance.

"We played at a high level throughout the match and played the way we wanted to," Hazelwood said. "We let Loyola stick around in the first set but between the first and second set we reminded the players what we were trying to accomplish and they came out and executed in the second and third sets."

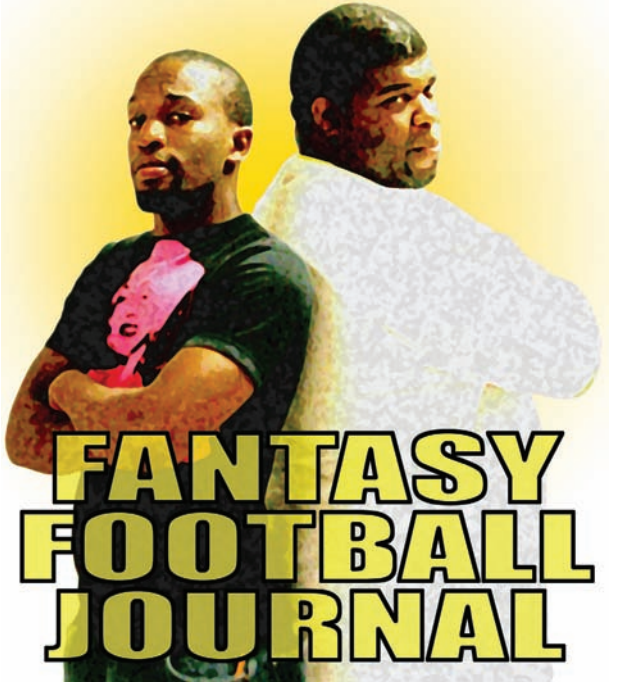
Loyola just could not find their offensive rhythm, with only 26 kills. Junior outside hitter Nicole Scimeme of the Greyhounds finished with a team-best six kills for the day.

Hoping to continue their recent success, the Lady Govs travel to compete in the Tulsa Tournament on Friday, Sept. 12. In the first round, they face Long Island at 10 a.m. ♦



MATEEN SADIO/SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Lady Govs midblocker, Ashley Estes goes up for a spike.



Season two, week three

Robinson, Scott celebrate victories

Dear Diary,

You know, after doubling my opponent's score, I don't want to ask for a more successful week because I really don't want to jinx anything (cough, Tom Brady, cough). I'm going to go ahead and get that out the way. Tom Brady's season-ending injury has to be the biggest gift and death to many fantasy teams. I'm giggling at the thought of people scrambling to find a replacement for the golden boy.

Marlon is in a nail-biter this week. I mean, before noon on Sunday he was losing by a pretty decent margin, but by the grace of God, or Matt Forte and the Chicago Bears, he pulled ahead of his opponent. I have to give Marlon props for proving me wrong, for once.

On a much happier side of the pasture, Tony Romo looked fairly nice in his game against the Cleveland Browns, throwing for 320 yards and a touchdown. I would just be greedy to see the "choke artist" do any better. Right, Marlon?

Willie Parker did exactly what I knew he was going to do. Of course, that's to run all over the Houston Texan's defense with 138 rushing yards and three touchdowns. His teammate, Hines Ward, tacked on two touchdowns and 76 receiving yards. My "rookie" quarterback, Matt Ryan, sitting on my bench, even did well in his debut, throwing for 161 yards and a touchdown.

Now, I am a man that is humble even in victory. Calvin Johnson failed to get a touchdown against the Atlanta Falcons, but still managed to get 107 receiving yards for the day.

The Colts defense left just about everything to be desired; just letting the Bears look a lot better than they really are, not doing too much for my overall score. I'm looking to trade Ahmad Bradshaw pretty soon, because he doesn't look like he's going to be seeing much ball time this season.

After the Colts and Bears game, I was winning 96-45. Now unless Green Bay wide receiver Donald Driver has a game where he gets about six touchdowns and 400 receiving yards against Vikings defense, I win the game.

Even though Donald Driver is playing against the Viking defense, I think I'm going to root for Green Bay anyway. He's not going to do much to my score, but he is going to do something to Marlon's score.

Go Green Bay,

Devon

Dear Diary,

As a football fan, I love the first week of the season. The hits, highlights, upsets and blowouts, all of it is great. However, as a fantasy football manager, the first week of the season is brutal. From the last second starting roster changes to unforeseen injuries, it is an emotional rollercoaster that would drive lesser men mad.

Speaking of lesser men, Devon is going to be unbearable this week. Because the Houston Texans don't know how to play defense, Devon's players, Pittsburgh's Willie Parker and Hines Ward, combined for major yardage and five touchdowns. As a result Devon's team earned 95 points. Only one other team in our league scored higher. He is going to be grinning for the rest of the week.

Despite some doubts by other people, Chicago Bear's running back Matt Forte was a great pick. With 123 yards rushing, 18 receiving yards and one touchdown, he was the star of my team and the difference in a very close week one game.

My week one opponent, the Muckrakers, had me worried early because the team included Eagle's running back, Brian Westbrook. Westbrook earned an outrageous 21 points. No one else on the Muckrakers squad came even close. But by 5 p.m. Sunday my team was behind six points.

Luckily, the late game was the Colts vs. the Bears and I had both Peyton Manning and Forte on my roster. In addition to Forte's awesome game, Manning (whose arm I swore on) threw for more than 250 yards and a touchdown. When the game was over, I was ahead of the Muckrakers, 58-51.

I was about to do a victory dance when I noticed the Muckrakers still had one player who has not played yet.

If Green Bay's tight end, Donald Lee, earns more than seven points (a receiving touchdown over ten yards) Monday night against the Vikings, I will lose the first game of the season.

It is bad enough Devon doubled his opponents score. But if he wins by such a large margin and I lose week one ... I shudder to think of the damage to my poor ego. I would feel just like all the managers who picked Tom Brady in the first round who are now in tears, praying his knee is okay (sorry guys). Guess what I am doing Monday night?

Cheering for the Vikings,

Marlon

For Marlon and Devon's weekly results check out
www.theallstate.com.