

Velazquez speaks out



MATEEN SIDIQ | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Brianna Velazquez stepped down as Chief Justice of SGA on Tuesday, Nov. 17, for personal reasons.

By MARLON SCOTT
News Editor

In the SGA Senate meeting that took place Wednesday, Nov. 18, Senator Trenton Gaasch was sworn in as the new SGA Chief Justice. Gaasch is the third person to serve as SGA Chief Justice this semester.

Megan Garrett stepped down from the position in September for personal reasons. Brianna Velazquez

was later sworn in to the position the same month. She was chosen from six candidates who ran for the position.

Velazquez served as Chief Justice for two months. On Tuesday, Nov. 17, she too, stepped down from the position.

Velazquez's retirement prompted lots of speculation. Rumors ranging from SGA cover ups to Senator power

plays spread across campus-rumors, some feel SGA members ignored rather than clarified.

Hearing the rumors being spread, Velazquez agreed to clarify her side of the story.

"I resigned for personal reasons," Velazquez said. "I can focus on things like school and my faith that have been neglected. People are going to believe what they want to believe."

When asked about the situation, SGA President Chris Drew addressed the rumors as well.

"The Student Government Association does not force people to resign," Drew said.

"I accepted the resignation and didn't pry into the situation because it came down to private matters."

As of press time Monday, Nov. 30, *The All State* is not aware if either Velazquez or any member of SGA is currently facing any

disciplinary action.

"Disciplinary issues are handled with the Dean of Students," Drew said. "As SGA President, even I am not entitled [to know] whether or not someone is facing disciplinary action."

"The SGA Internal Affairs committee handles any cases in which a SGA representative has failed to perform their duties. The Internal Affairs committee is not scheduled nor has been advised to meet for the remainder of the semester."

Gaasch, the senator who replaced Velazquez, had not responded to attempts made to contact him as of press time. Drew said Gaasch was appointed according to the SGA Bylaws.

Velazquez is moving on regardless of any speculation.

"I had my time on SGA. It's time for me to focus on other things," Velazquez said. ♦

Nativity scene display debated

By MARLON SCOTT
News Editor

McGregor Park on Riverside Drive is already lit up with hundreds of lights as part of the many holiday activities scheduled to take place there this December. On Friday, Dec. 11, and Saturday, Dec. 12, the Grace Church of the Nazarene plans to present their "Christmas on the Cumberland" Nativity scene.

However, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) has some objections to the display. The Leaf Chronicle reported the ACLU sent a letter Wednesday, Nov. 11, to city attorney, Lance Baker, claiming the display, allegedly co-sponsored by the city, is a violation of the First Amendment.

The letter sites that, according to information the ACLU obtained, the annual Nativity display is "jointly sponsored by the city and Grace Church of Nazarene." It also states such sponsorship shows favoritism toward Grace Church and endorses Christianity. It is this endorsement for Christianity the ACLU claim, violates the First Amendment.

The letter also included the ACLU had information that showed the city of Clarksville paid \$200 for animals in the Grace Church's Nativity scene last year, a violation of the Establishment Clause. The ACLU included in the letter what they wanted done about the situation.

"We are not asking the city of Clarksville to do away with the 'Christmas on the Cumberland' celebration altogether. However, the city of Clarksville must have an equal access policy for participation in 'Christmas on the Cumberland' to all religious and non-religious groups, must include appropriate disclaimers so that the city's non-endorsement is clear and must provide funding to create or maintain such a religious display."

The letter called for a response no later than Tuesday, Nov. 24, and was signed by ACLU staff attorney Tricia Herzfeld.

It was later reported Mayor Johnny Piper responded to the ACLU

allegations. Piper said the city spent the money two years ago instead of last year as the letter claimed and the spending was not out of the ordinary.

"My response is that we believe that we are factually correct on our position on this," Piper said. "We don't believe we've violated anyone's constitutional rights."

Regarding the letter's accusation of showing favoritism to Grace Church, it was also reported city communications director Christie Hill said no other religious group has requested space.

Supreme Court precedents have been cited to support both sides. Students at APSU said they aren't particularly bothered by the Nativity scene.

Undecided freshman Anna Walla and freshman chemistry major Daniel Grozer said if the church wants to display a Nativity scene, it is no big deal.

"I think they (ACLU) do have a point if they're doing it because of the money," Grozer said.

"I don't think [it] is a big deal if they want to showcase their religion."

Both freshmen also said they have no problem with the city endorsing Christianity.

Since Piper's response, it has been reported city attorney Baker issued a letter responding to the ACLU's accusations as well.

In this letter Baker said, "The appropriate officials have been advised by me that this action was inappropriate under the law."

It also said, "the city will not provide funding to any persons or groups in the future."

However, it was also reported Baker thought the city had paid the church \$200 directly when he wrote the letter. He later found the city paid a vendor for donkey rental.

Baker said this makes a difference regarding legality, but the city's position has not changed.

As of press time Monday, Nov. 30, there was no additional response from the ACLU reported. The Nativity scene is still scheduled to be displayed Friday, Dec. 11, and Saturday, Dec. 12. ♦

BREAD AND WORDS



Above: President Timothy Hall and his wife were among the many people who attended the Bread and Words event on Tuesday, Nov. 24.

Right: Many different types of soups were served at the Bread and Words event. APSU faculty and students read their work at the event as well.



ALL PHOTOS BY SYNTHIA CLARK | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Detective warns against sexual child abuse

By JENELLE GREWELL
Assistant News Editor

On Monday, Nov. 30, at 1 p.m., in the UC Ballroom C, Clarksville Police Department Detective Misty Darland gave a seminar about sexual abuse and Internet predators.

Darland said the definition of child sexual abuse is any sexual contact with a child of any nature.

"Basically, anything to do with sex and a child in the same sentence is considered sexual abuse, if it is outside of the realm of birds and bees talk. If an adult is doing it for the sexual gratification of themselves it is child sex abuse," she said. Darland listed the intimate body parts when touched on a child, are considered sexual abuse. These body parts include genital areas, buttocks, groin and inner thigh area.

Bags were given to those who attended the seminar that contained pamphlets on how to stop Internet predators and how to stop child sexual abuse.

Over half of the students

in attendance of the seminar are going to APSU to become teachers. Darland said a lot of the information given in the bags was good for teachers because a teacher may have to deal with child sexual abuse sometime in his or her career and it is important to know how to handle the situation.

The first video shown was the music video of a song by Collin Raye called "The 11th Commandment" about child abuse, both physical and sexual. The music video showed sequences of actors acting out child abuse and featured quotes such as, "Did God overlook him?" and "The 11th commandment, honor thy children." Raye spoke after the music video to tell of his support in trying to stop child abuse.

By the age of 18, 25 percent of girls and 16 percent of boys are sexually abused, Darland said. "That is 21 percent of the population," she said. Darland said 90 percent of abusers know they are

abusers.

"One in 100 boys and one in 100 girls are sexually abused by a female," Darland said. She said when she typically talks about abuse, she will refer to males not to be mean to men, but because in our society, mostly men are molesting children.

"When a female actually does abuse a child, they do at the same rate of boys and girls and they go to an extreme," she said.

Darland gave an oral quiz to the audience of her seminar. She asked what is the most common relationship between abuser and victim, and an audience member answered promptly with "a child and parent," which was correct. On one question, the audience gave mixed answers on whether if children tend to make up stories about sexual abuse.

Darland said only 33 percent of victims of child sexual abuse disclose as children, and the older the child, the more likely they are to disclose.

"If a child is disclosing, they are normally telling the truth about their abuse," Darland said. She said as a society, we want to believe a child could make up such a thing, but in most cases the child is finally telling the story of the abuse because the child got sick of it and finally found an opportunity to tell.

Darland said some people feel a mother might be forcing her child to say these things to gain custody in a divorce case, but forensics detectives ask very specific questions to discover if a child is telling the truth.

The number one reason children do not disclose their abuse is because of fear. Darland said in a child's mind, bad things happen when he or she tells about sexual abuse, such as they are taken from the home or the parent molesting them is taken from the home, loss of income or sometimes the person the child tells does not believe them.

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H1N1

APSU H1N1 week 11 report

Staff report

The H1N1 task force at APSU has tracked four suspected flu-like illnesses reported from Nov. 16-20.

The task force began tracking cases with the beginning of the fall semester on Aug. 29. The largest number reported since the committee began tracking cases was 50 cases during the week of Sept. 26-Oct. 2. The task force is collecting data from faculty and staff who report cases to a campus e-mail address set up through the APSU Health Services Web site for task force efforts. Student cases are reported to the task force by faculty who have been contacted by their students who are absent and indicate they are experiencing flu-like symptoms or have been diagnosed by a private physician. Student cases are also reported when diagnosed by the APSU Health Services staff.

The Office of Public Relations and Marketing at APSU will discontinue preparing and sending reports until a significant increase in the number of cases is observed, if at all. The task force will continue to track flu cases throughout the flu season and will notify the campus community of any concerns related to H1N1 as they become available.

For the most current information regarding swine flu cases and actions planned by APSU, visit <http://www.apsu.edu/healthservices/H1N1.aspx>.

Detective: child abusers use Internet to find victims

Continued from Page 1

“A lot of things depend upon if the child is going to recover from the situation or not,” Darland said. She said the mother’s reaction and if they are believed or not are factors in the child’s recovery.

“If the mother’s support is not there when the child actually discloses, the child might never recover from mentally from the situation,” Darland said.

Darland listed the possible signs and symptoms of possible sexual abuse in a child which include: running away, self-mutilation, promiscuity, drug and alcohol abuse, over-or under-achievement in school and sexual knowledge.

Darland said the reason many cases of child sexual abuse do not get prosecuted is because of a lack of evidence since many times a child tells about the sexual abuse six months to a year later when there is no longer evidence.

Darland spoke of the changes in handling child abuse cases that have happened since the 1980s. One of these changes is the requirement to work with Child Protective Investigative Teams, which handles the child throughout the whole process of investigation and prosecution.

Darland said back in the 1980s, by the time the child reached the time to testify, the child has told so many people, the child does not want to talk anymore and does not get prosecuted. Darland said the only person who interviews the child is the person doing the forensic interview, which is recorded for future use. “It is your job as a civilian, in the everyday world like today, if you know

that a child is being hurt to report it to DCS,” Darland said. She said if someone does not know how to contact DCS, then to contact the local police department.

Darland said Tennessee has the lowest age for sexual consent at 13 years old. She said until 18 years old, a minor must give consent to someone no more than four years older or it is statutory rape. “Most sex abuse does not leave observable signs,” Darland said as two pictures of hymens came up on the screen. These pictures showed a hymen of child that has hit puberty and a hymen of a child that has not.

She showed the developed hymen being elastic and made to stretch. She then showed a slide with pictures of two more hymens, one with a tear from sexual abuse and the other without. She said hymens are made of the same material as the inside of our cheeks and they heal very quickly, so signs of sexual abuse are hard to detect and do not leave a scar.

After taking a break, the seminar continued with a discussion about Internet predators and how to keep children safe online. Darland said blocks for inappropriate Internet sites are free and easy to get. “However, there is not a block for your computer that will block everything that is bad,” she said.

She said there are so many cases where parents assume blocks will protect their children while they are on the computer. Darland said the computer should be kept in an area where children can be monitored while using the Internet.

Sexual predators use computers for many reasons;

the top four reasons include grooming, storage of media, diaries and finding new victims.

“Grooming is an overall word that we use when a perpetrator is trying to groom a child,” Darland said. She said grooming is when a person tries to get another person to accept something they normally would not accept using means such as attention, gifts and showing love.

Darland spoke of two cases where the sexual predators knew the victim loved Disney Princesses and used explicit pictures of the Disney Princesses having sex to make the child feel comfortable with idea of having sex. She said this is called personal grooming. She said predators try to lure children in by making their social networking profiles luring to children or talking about things the child may like to get on the child’s level and make them feel comfortable.

Internet predators use computers to share stories with other predators, download child porn and pictures of children, Darland said. She said this is how predators keep their fantasy going because there is no other place a predator can find child pornography. Darland said predators keep diaries on their computers of what they have done. “We have made a complete case just by the diary that was on the computer,” she said.

Predators also use the Internet and the computer to locate new victims, Darland said.

She said the predators can use MapQuest and other means to find and locate victims.

“It is easy to locate people online,” she said. ♦

For-profit colleges haul in government aid

Associated Press

Students aren’t the only ones benefiting from the billions of new dollars Washington is spending on college aid for the poor.

An Associated Press analysis shows surging proportions of both low-income students and the recently boosted government money that follows them are ending up at for-profit schools, from local career colleges to giant publicly traded chains such as the University of Phoenix, Kaplan and DeVry.

Last year, the five institutions that received the most federal Pell Grant dollars were all for-profit colleges, collecting over \$1 billion among them.

This year, the trend is accelerating: In the first quarter after the maximum Pell Grant was increased last July 1, Washington paid out 45 percent more through the program than during the same period a year ago, the AP found. But the amount of dollars heading to for-profit, or “proprietary,” schools is up even more — about 67 percent.

For-profit colleges say the country has little choice but to accept their help to achieve President Obama’s goal of getting every American to enroll in some form of education beyond high school. But critics say the increased federal aid has unleashed a new gold rush. They complain the industry has too many incentives simply to enroll students and tap the spigot from Washington — and not enough to make sure students succeed.

The industry is “an aggressive sales operation

that has a voracious appetite for recruiting the poorest students,” said Barmak Nassirian, associate executive director of AACRAO, a group representing admissions officers and registrars at traditional colleges.

“The victims here are the students themselves and the taxpayers, who have to pick up the tab.”

Regardless of how AP’s findings are interpreted, they underscore the extent to which the United States has ramped up its support for low-income college students in recent years, but increasingly outsourced the job to the private sector.

— Last year, Washington paid out a record \$18.3 billion in Pell Grants, which typically go to families earning under \$40,000. Proprietary colleges collected about \$4.3 billion of that, or about 24 percent — roughly double the proportion a decade ago.

— In the first quarter of the current academic year, for-profit colleges collected \$1.65 billion, or 67 percent more than in the same period a year ago. On July 1, the government made more students eligible for Pell grants and increased the maximum award by \$600 to \$5,350.

— For-profits are also grabbing a growing share of loans subsidized by the government to help low-income students. They collected about \$7 billion in subsidized Stafford loans in 2008-2009, up from \$4.7 billion two years before. Overall, the sector enrolled about 2.7 million students in 2007-2008, the latest year with complete federal data available.

The numbers are even more striking for low-

income students: The number of Pell recipients enrolled in for-profit schools is 50 percent higher than two years ago.

Phoenix alone had more than 230,000 Pell recipients last year. Its campuses educate nearly four times more low-income students than the entire Big 10, and more than 30 times the Ivy League, the AP found.

Critics acknowledge for-profit schools can be a good match for some. But they point out median graduation rates of just 38 percent (for-profit colleges counter they’re taking on less well prepared kids, and say they actually do much better than community colleges with two-year programs). Students who don’t graduate will be hard pressed to repay their debts.

On average, for-profit schools cost five and a half times the price of community colleges. Virtually all students must borrow some money, and even among graduates of for-profit four-year programs, the average borrower ends up owing \$33,000, according to the latest government data analyzed by Mark Kantrowitz of the Web site finaid.org.

The federal government has taken steps to help students make more informed choices, said Deputy Undersecretary of Education Robert Shireman.

“Our primary concern is that consumers and students are served well,” he said.

But, he added, “This is a consumer choice system. If people who are eligible for federal financial aid choose one school over another, that is their choice.” ♦

CAMPUS CRIME LOG

The APSU crime log includes arrests and dispatch call-ins. As mandated by Tennessee law, the crime log is updated within 48 hours of an incident and available for public inspection any time during normal business hours.

- 2:30 p.m., Nov. 24, Claxton, theft of property
- 10:21 p.m., Nov. 23, Hand Village, alcohol violation by a minor
- 5:46 p.m., Nov. 22, Sevier lot, indecent exposure
- 12:00 p.m., Nov. 22, Rawlins, vandalism
- 10:26 a.m., Nov. 19, Trahern lot, criminal trespass
- 9:50 p.m., Nov. 18, Rawlins, alcohol violation by a minor
- 6:00 p.m., Nov. 18, Meacham, violation of drug free school zone, possession of resale, unlawful drug paraphernalia
- 3:56 p.m., Nov. 18, Rawlins, theft of property
- 2:58 p.m., Nov. 18, Rawlins, theft of property
- 2:58 p.m., Nov. 18, Hand Village, theft of property
- 2:20 p.m., Nov. 18, Sevier, alcohol violation by minor
- 8:19 p.m., Nov. 17, Foy Center, theft of property
- 5:11 p.m., Nov. 16, Hand Village, alcohol violation by minor.

- 3:28 p.m., Nov. 16, Shasteen, theft of property
- 9:58 a.m., Nov. 11, Cross Hall, vandalism
- 7:32 a.m., Nov. 10, Trahern lot, theft of property, motor vehicle
- 6:46 p.m., Nov. 6, Foy lot, theft of property
- 5:07 p.m., Nov. 6, Rawlins, alcohol violation by minor
- 1:01 p.m., Nov. 4, Cross lot, vandalism
- 4:06 p.m., Nov. 2, Cross Hall, assault
- 3:13 p.m., Oct. 30, Music/Mass Comm, vandalism
- 5:20 p.m., Oct. 24, Summer Street, disorderly conduct
- 7:58 p.m., Oct. 23, Trahern, vandalism
- 8:34 p.m., Oct. 21, Emerald Hills, vandalism
- 7:35 p.m., Oct. 21, Killebrew, burglary
- 5:24 p.m., Oct. 21, University Center, theft of property
- 4:30 p.m., Oct. 21, Clement, theft of property
- 3:17 a.m., Oct. 19, Hand Village, minor in possession of alcohol
- 11:38 a.m., Oct. 18, Emerald Hills, theft of property
- 7:11 p.m., Oct. 16, Meacham lot, theft of property
- 1:56 a.m., Oct. 16, Meacham lot, theft of property



PATRICK ARMSTRONG | EDITOR IN CHIEF

To view an interactive map of campus crime, visit www.TheAllState.org.



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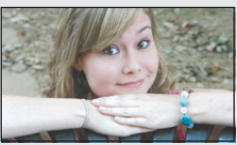
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Electronics ruin the holidays



Nicole June
Perspectives Editor

It’s that time of year again, when the folks are jolly and the malls are a nightmare. For many years, it has been an American tradition for parents to scour the stores frantically for every little thing on their children’s lists, trampling the elderly in the process. As I watched endless commercials these past few days advertising the absolute best deals on the most up-to-date trendy electronics, a few items stuck out to me which dampened my holiday cheer. The first humbug item:

the Yoostar. This brand spanking new device comes with a green screen that allows you and your friends to put yourselves in scenes from popular movies. When you’re done making your best Arnold impersonation, you can upload the scene to YouTube to annoy — I mean, share with the whole world. The best part: you only have to shell out \$169.95. Whatever happened to good ol’ fashioned charades? As far as I know, it’s free, and when combined with a few holiday “spirits” it can provide hours of belly-aching entertainment. The e-reader is not new this holiday season, but it has become increasingly more popular with the release of the Amazon Kindle (\$259). The device has gotten rave reviews so far, and is apparently the height of e-book technology.

Granted, buying and storing books instantaneously on one small device is extremely easy and convenient, and of course, no paper cuts. However, it takes away from the age-old tradition of curling up with a great book that has you turning the pages frantically. Some of my fondest childhood memories are of straining to read the last few chapters of a book by flashlight hours after my bedtime. Somehow it just wouldn’t be the same to shine my flashlight on an electronic screen. The Kindle poses other problems. You cannot share or resell your purchases, unless you want to pass around the device to your friends. Personally, I love recommending a good book to a friend, and letting them borrow it — as long as they

don’t bend the spine, of course. I think I’d have more of a problem lending my \$259 Kindle to all my buddies. Also, the publishing industry and bookstores will suffer, as if they don’t already have enough on their plates, competing with video games. Amazon will monopolize the industry. If the e-book trend catches on too much, the joy of perusing a bookstore, leafing through random titles and sipping coffee in a big leather armchair will be forever lost. This seems like a cultural sacrifice to me. On to the kiddies. When I saw the commercial for this one, I knew all hope was lost. The VTech Ride and Learn Giraffe Bike, for \$54.99. Youngsters pedal maniacally on a cutesy giraffe while staring at a small screen that attempts to educate

them the faster they pedal. I hope it comes with an extra dose of Ritalin. This concept of a stationary, indoor bike for children confuses me. Shouldn’t we save those for when we’re 40, overweight and want to pedal in front of the TV? Whatever happened to letting your kids play outside and ride real bicycles? I have a feeling this generation of tikes will all be a little too sheltered and glued to all kinds of screens: on their bikes, when they read a book, when they play a game. So this holiday season, think twice before you spend your entire paycheck on one of these or similar electronics. Decide if it’s really worth your money, and what you may be giving up in the process. Having a good time does not have to be confined to battery power. ♦

Simple tasks can help environment



Deborah Wilkinson
Staff writer

Global warming is a pandemic that we have all been hearing about for years. The air around the earth is warming and in the last century it has increased by 1.33 degrees. That may not sound like much, but the idea is we humans are temperamental creatures who can only live in a certain perfect amount of heat and humidity, and our planet is just right. But one shift in climate could slim our birth rates, and then we will start thinning out. Or, a drastic shift could annihilate us. It’s a shocking Armageddon theory but one that is very possible. Listen close, because global warming is our greatest enemy, and it may be getting worse with our help. If this is a pandemic, I may have a skewed definition. I thought a pandemic was something to worry about, not something to push to the back of your life and forget. Our nation has

gone into a “go green” kick which seems to be selling really well, but it is best for big business, not our planet. More plastic has been made with “Go Green” labels than previous years, and the thinner plastic water bottles are great but they still take 500 years to decompose. The chemicals used in the plastic are released in the water you drink after it has been used more than once. Those squiggly, energy-efficient bulbs are great and they last forever, but the contents are semi-hazardous and they have to be disposed of properly. I think we are taking the wrong steps to achieving a better, more economical nation. We need to be looking at our personal health as well as the nation’s. A few of these new green products are harmful if not used correctly. Perhaps instead of going with the market on this issue we should take the advice that has been given to us for years. Recycle: It is a wonderful idea and a clean practice. If I could use the same bottle of water for the next 50 years I would love it, but it has to be melted down and remade after so long. So if a few

friends of mine combined all the cases of water we use in a month, we would never need another bottle of water ever, because they are all getting reused and recycled. What a wonderful idea. I wonder why no one does it. Is it too hard to sort the papers or to put things in a proper container? Or perhaps the city you live in refuses to support recycling facilities. The fact is it can be done and it is a big step, but not the only one. There are so many ideas that can help our planet. Smart power grids, more efficient lighting, smart cars, more ethanol in gasses and different kinds of products which decompose faster can all help. It really is all in the hands of our nation. If we go through with the “go green” idea, then perhaps others will follow. We are not the front runners in this idea. Japan has been recycling for the last 20 years. They have laws in place so their citizens must recycle. Perhaps that is not such a bad idea. If our government could take a stand on this issue, or any issue really, then our country would be so much better off, as would our planet. ♦



OUR TAKE

SGA rumors, speculations fly

Recently, it has come to the attention of the TAS editorial board some of the changes being made in SGA are centered around heavy rumors. Trent Gaasch has taken up the post of Chief Justice, because former Chief Justice, Brianna Velazquez, stepped down due to what she said were “personal reasons.” SGA President Chris Drew and SGA Adviser Greg Singleton both confirmed this statement. This would not normally be cause for concern. However, the student body has been buzzing with rumors that suggest the change in staff has another meaning. Nothing has been confirmed, and no one is talking. Gaasch is also the third Chief Justice SGA has had this semester. The first Chief Justice, Megan Garret, resigned at the beginning of the semester, citing personal reasons as well. No significant speculation surrounded her resignation, though. One editorial board member said it would be best for SGA to come forward and explain

in order to separate fact and fiction. While everyone is eager to know the truth, we feel it is the sole responsibility of the person involved to come forward if they so choose. We regret Velazquez’s own personal choices have been the cause of such commotion, but when one is elected to a public office, one must accept the responsibilities of that office, including the public eye. Despite all the “he said/she said” mess, it is likely more details about the story will not be revealed anytime soon. Therefore, we must take the explanation as is, and make the best of the situation. All the attention SGA is receiving stems from a dramatic situation. Perhaps the student body should pay more attention to SGA and its affairs all the time. We cannot complain about being out of the loop and uninvolved if we don’t make the first step. SGA holds open forums in which students are permitted to express themselves. We should take advantage of this opportunity to contribute to our campus. ♦

This week in ridiculous: housewives to New Moon



Jess Nobert
Chief Copy Editor

The story began like this when I read it from The Washington Post’s Web site Monday morning, Nov. 30: “The Secret Service director and the couple who crashed the Obama administration’s first state dinner have been called to testify before Congress on Thursday about the incident.” The couple, Tareq and Michael Salahi, just showed up uninvited to the White House State Dinner hosted for the Indian Prime Minister. Who are these people? That’s what I was sayin’. According to the article, “Michael Salahi is a reality TV hopeful trying to get on Bravo’s ‘The Real Housewives

of D.C.’” Seriously? Last week, while I was catching up on some backed up TiVo, I heard a story that left my mouth agape. U.S. Speed Skating was looking for a new sponsor and Stephen Colbert of the Colbert Report and the leader of the so-called Colbert Nation signed an agreement to take on the role. Again, seriously? A TV personality has enough influence to get people to donate that much money? In the first weekend alone, the “Nation” had already donated over \$200,000. What is even better, in some races over the last few weeks, the skaters actually wore stickers bearing the sponsor’s name, “Colbert Nation.” Hilarious. If you want to donate to the cause, you can do it on the Nation’s Web site. I have the AP mobile app on my iPhone, just in case you couldn’t already tell from all of those AP references I’ve been making all this time.

With this app, you can get breaking news sent to your phone so you know the most up-to-date information on “important” things. I say this because I don’t always think they’re that important. A few weeks ago, I got a breaking update letting me know Jimmie Johnson had just won his fourth consecutive NASCAR championship. Is this really necessary? I don’t really care for NASCAR, and I was hoping it might be something more along the lines of consumer confidence has gone up, or the housing market is improving. Not. Then Friday, Nov. 27, I got another update. It was Tiger Woods this time. If he had died in the car accident, I get it. But he was just in a car accident. Whatever caused it is more breaking news at this point than the fact it happened. I am please to announce that as of press time, Monday Nov. 30, there had not been

any deaths reported where Black Friday shopping crazies were to blame. This is an improvement from last year. This could be because some Walmarts hired armed security and let people in before the sales started. They just had to wait to get the goods from those coveted plastic-wrapped pallets. The best part of all of this, I went out this year with my oldest sister. I choose to not support Walmart because of the unfair wages and lack of reasonable benefits I have read about, but I don’t force my family to agree with me. So, I did go with her to Sam Walton’s famous store at 4:30 a.m. Here’s the best part. I got to combine my two least favorite things when my sister made me wait for the “New Moon” board game at Walmart. All the hype for these books is exciting because Stephenie Meyer is getting these tweens to read. Note, I had to do a Google search to

find out her name. However, the people who bring the bound vampire stories to football games and other social gatherings because they just can’t put them down is outright ridiculous. If you can’t take a break, leave it at home. Then the movies came out and the box office went crazy. The latest cinematic installment, the aforementioned “New Moon,” was listed as “the biggest autumn opening weekend in history and the third biggest three-day debut ever, according to early estimates from Hollywood.com Box Office,” in an article I read while following CNN on Twitter. But it still ranks 159 of all time as of Monday, Nov. 30. If you’re one of those hooked on the “Twilight” fiasco, best of luck to you. I just hope you don’t dress up like the people did for “Harry Potter.” The team this guy or that guy shirts is where I’m going to draw the line. ♦

THE ALL STATE

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Trend story: the mainstreaming of geek culture

By **BRAIN BIGELOW**
Guest Writer

Geeks are staging a coup on Hollywood, and people are getting rich in the process.

Geek culture is invading the mainstream as the potential for large-scale profit from comic book properties and traditional geek interests grows ever more apparent.

“Geek. Nerd. Dork ... These are terms used for people who have interests that are outside of popular culture,” said Johnny Yu, in his paper, “Looking Inside Out: A Sociology of Knowledge and Ignorance of Geekness.”

However, a group of self-described “geeks” at APSU say that particular definition of “geek” is somewhat outdated and broader than the currently accepted, functional definition of the word.

“Geek” no longer holds power as a general-purpose slur; it has been transformed by self-identification into a term that can be embraced with some level of pride.

Geeks are people who are extremely enthusiastic about a particular interest or set of interests, said Aaron Tiffner, a self-described geek and student at APSU.

The term “geek,” then, can apply to many individuals and many interests — anyone who is “inexplicably obsessed” with any particular thing, said Tiffner. There are “band geeks,” “theater geeks,” “anime geeks,” “comic book geeks,” “computer geeks” — the list is near inexhaustible.

The term “nerd,” Tiffner said, represents a subset of the broader category of “geek” — one whose interests are largely academic.

“Each phylum of geekdom has different tiers,” says Tiffner, referring to the scientific method of classification used to group organisms in an analogy for the complex interrelations and affiliations that unite and distinguish the various types of geeks.

But if a geek can like anything, what is geek culture?

The definition of “geeky” interests, and by extension that of “geek culture,” is less inclusive than the identity of “geek,” and harkens back to Yu’s definition as “interests that are outside of popular culture” or “things that the dominant group does not approve of.”

As geek interests increasingly invade popular culture and as geek interests expand to encompass cultural imports, the second part of the definition gains greater importance — whether the disapproval be tacit or explicit, informed or ignorant.

“America is fairly backwards as far as comic book reading is concerned,” said Byron Troy, the customer service manager for Mile High Comics — the “largest comics dealer” in America, according to their Web site www.milehighcomics.com.

“Comic books have been

stigmatized since their introduction in the mid-1930s,” said Paul Lopes in his paper, “Culture and Stigma: Popular Culture and the Case of Comic Books.”

“I even experienced this stigma ... from colleagues when I chose to study comic books.

“The most interesting aspect of the stigma was how the stigmatization of comic books as subliterature and a children’s medium prevented this art form from evolving into more adult genres ... [which] is how comic books evolved in Europe and Japan,” said Lopes.

The erosion of stigma is centrally related to the success of films based on comics, as well as their impact on popular culture and its relation to geek culture. Box-office receipts may be more a cause than an effect of the lessening of this stigma.

Not all comic books and geek-inspired movies have been blockbuster successes — some have been downright failures — but a few have managed to break box-office sales records and win awards.

According to Box Office Mojo (www.boxofficemojo.com) the newest Batman movie, “The Dark Knight,” set the record for the highest opening-weekend gross, bringing in over \$150 million domestically. “Spiderman 2” set a Fourth of July weekend record in 2004, opening to over \$88 million.

“The Dark Knight” also places in all-time worldwide sales with over \$1 billion in revenue. And let’s not forget the third installment of the movie adaptation of J.R.R. Tolkien’s sword and sorcery masterpiece “Lord of the Rings: Return of the King” won the Academy Award for Best Picture and that Heath Ledger’s performance as the Joker in “The Dark Knight” earned him the Oscar for Best Supporting Actor.

Largely as a result of the cross-demographic success of movies like these, the line separating geek culture from popular culture is beginning to blur, and, to a limited extent, so is the line between the geeks and everyone else.

Since the introduction of the blockbuster superhero movies, “more and more, people come into the store that never would have years ago,” said David Saindon, general manager at Mile High Comics’ Lakewood store in Colorado.

Likewise, the effect extends to the individual geek level. Tiffner says these movies have helped him to “talk to people about comics who never read comics before,” a sentiment echoed by John McFarland, a history education major and fellow geek at APSU.

McFarland has shared several geek movies with his family — specifically “Iron Man,” “The Dark Knight” and the recent reboot of the “Star Trek” franchise — whose broad appeal served not only as an opening to talk about his interests, but, also, as an “opening to talk about



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fans of “Twilight” gathered on Monday, Nov. 16, across the nation to show their “geekness” for the premier of “The Twilight Saga: New Moon.” “New Moon” remains on top for another weekend, grossing \$ 42,870,031.

being a geek.”

Comic book adaptations are the new golden geese for movie studios — Columbia Pictures, 20th Century Fox, Universal Studios, Lions Gate and New Line Cinema have all released movies based on comic books over the past decade.

Disney recently announced a deal to purchase Marvel Comics for a reported \$4 billion.

Marvel owns over 5,000 characters, according to its Web site — some of which are almost universally recognizable

like Wolverine, Spiderman and Captain America.

“These are characters people grew up with. They were part of people’s lives to begin with,” Saindon said, adding comics can serve as ready-made storyboards and provide a sense of what a finished film might look like.

Add to the decades of existing story lines and a ravenous fan base, and you have a recipe for myriad movie franchises and sequels.

You may have even watched a comic book movie without realizing it.

“The Road to Perdition,” starring Tom Hanks and “A History of Violence,” starring Viggo Mortensen, didn’t feature any superheroes, but both were based on graphic novels of the same names.

Marjane Satrapi’s comic book “Persepolis” advanced the perceived potential of comic books — and their adaptations — as not only commercially viable but artistically valid as well. The cartoon adaptation of her autobiographical comic book, “Persepolis,” — which detailed her

childhood in Iran during the late 1970s and 1980s — won the Jury Prize at the Cannes Film Festival.

Because of these and similar movies, a degree of cultural common ground is being established. It is now possible to talk about geek interests with a non-geek audience — to an extent — and have it still be socially acceptable, McFarland said. But, a new conflict of social taxonomy has also arisen, says Tiffner, over “who is really a geek” and who just happens to “like what geeks like.” ♦

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AP311/10-09/400

WEEKEND BOX OFFICE

1. “The Twilight Saga: New Moon” — \$ 42,870,031
2. “The Blind Side” — \$ 40,111,364
3. “2012” — \$ 17,651,729
4. “Old Dogs” — \$ 16,894,511
5. “Disney’s A Christmas Carol” — \$ 15,758,273
6. “Ninja Assassin” — \$ 13,316,158
7. “Planet 51” — \$ 10,218,641
8. “Precious: Based On the Novel ‘Push’ By Sapphire” — \$ 7,081,032
9. “Fantastic Mr. Fox” — \$ 6,965,267
10. “The Road” — \$ 1,502,231



“It depends on the day. There can be anywhere from one to 20 people in here.”
— Daniel Rye, sophomore communications major

The Green Room

This room in Trahern is a regular hangout for many theater majors and their friends. A TV is connected to the stage to see what’s happening during performances.

ALL PHOTOS BY TRENTON THOMAS | SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

SWEET SPOTS

FOR WINDING DOWN BETWEEN CLASSES

“A lot of band members sit in here and socialize. There’s no band in the spring, so this is where I’ll hang out.” — Jennifer Moran, freshman marketing major

MMC lobby

Students of many different majors spend time in this lobby between classes. The three floors of the MMC provide several different seating areas for students to congregate.



The third floor of the library is a popular place for students to bring their laptops and work together or get away from the noise of campus.

Third floor of the library

“I come here because it’s a quiet place to work and get away from the dorm.”
— Laura Czecholinski, elementary education major



“I come here a lot. Nobody bothers me here.” — Faith Robinson, Middle College student

Third floor of UC

Students can be found on the top floor of the UC sitting quietly using the wireless or in groups doing everything from you-tubing videos to working on class projects.



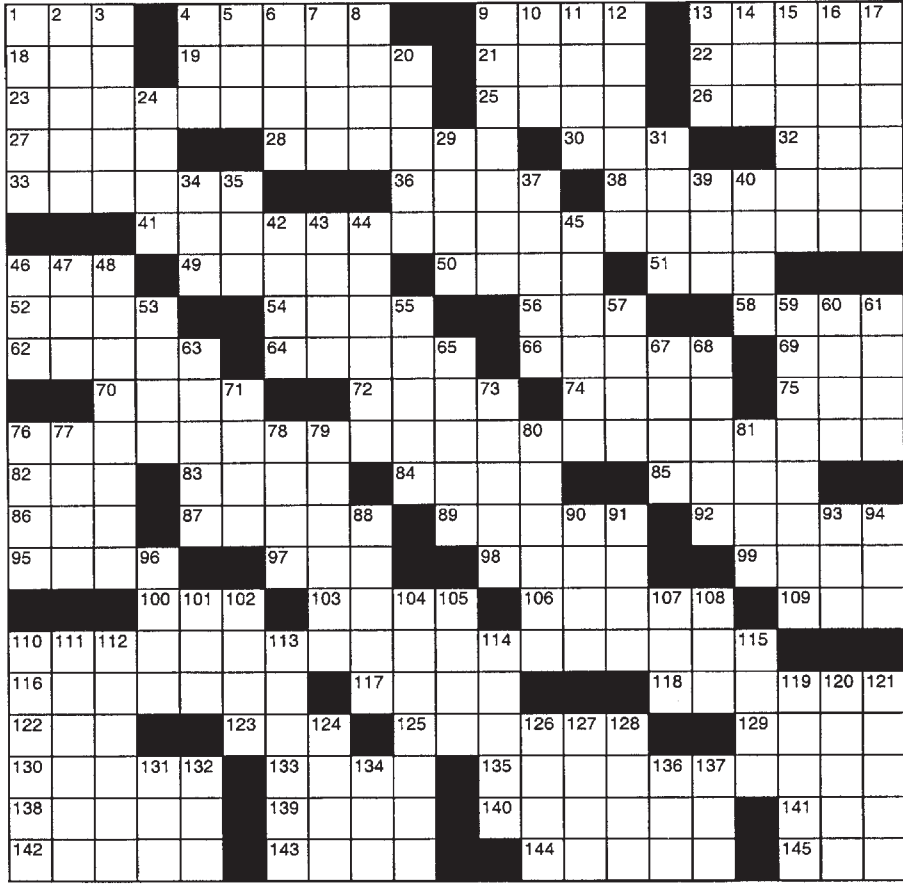
The regulars at this spot call it “Rome,” because they say while the Greeks have taken over the UC, they reign here. They welcome newbies to their eccentric conversations.

Smoking section

“We come here to talk about sex, drugs and alcohol. People who don’t even smoke hang out here.” — Eric Herron, junior engineering technology major

Super Crossword ICE-OMETRICS

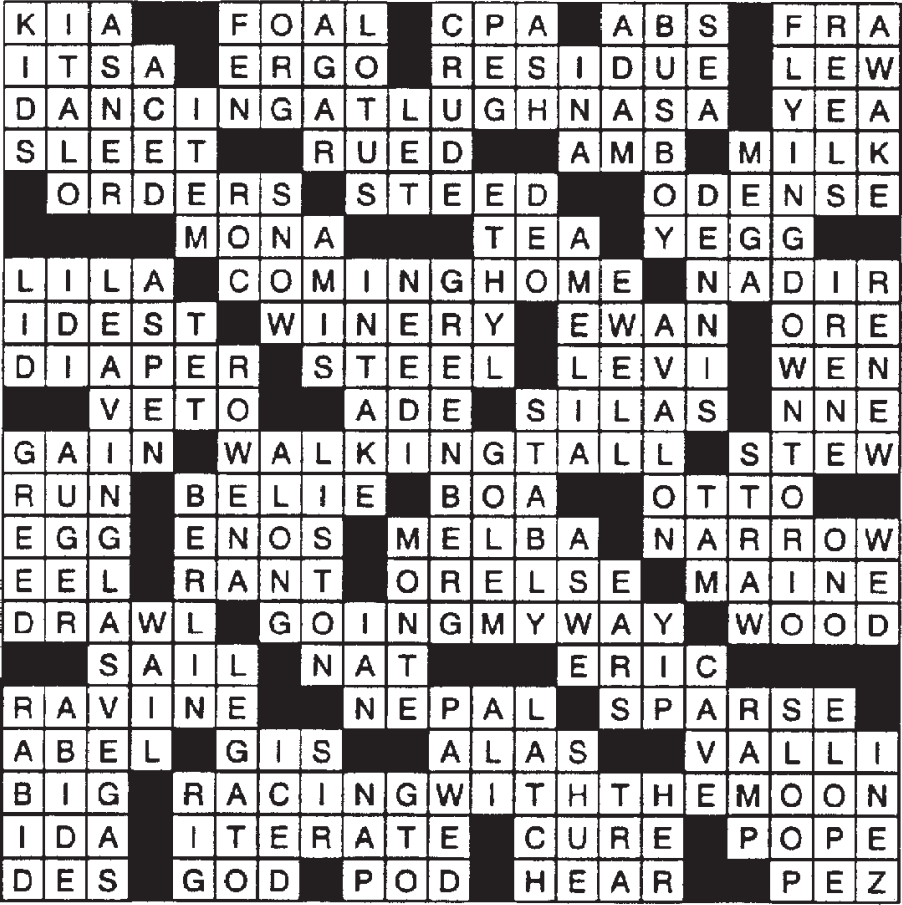
- ACROSS
- 1 Wine word
4 Hardy hog
9 Metric weight
13 Meeting place
18 "— of You" ('84 hit)
19 Speak freely
21 Designer Gernreich
22 Meyerbeer masterpiece
23 Speaker of remark at 41 Across
25 Orenburg's river
26 Munch-hausen's title
27 Lhasa —
28 Strut
30 "Mamma —" ('76 song)
32 Cephalopod's squirt
33 German astronomer
36 Blows away
38 Increase
41 Start of remark
46 Cal. page
49 Napoleon's fate
50 Show the way
51 Mrs. Eddie Cantor
- 52 Welsh symbol
54 "Oh, woe!"
56 QB's stats
58 Depend (on)
62 Basketball's Patrick
64 Blazer part
66 VCR button
69 Pipe cleaner?
70 "A Doll's House"
72 Protection
74 Sweet sandwich
75 Geologic period
76 Part 2 of remark
82 Diminutive suffix
83 Overwhelm
84 Pound of poetry
85 Story
86 "Holy cow!"
87 Actress Berger
89 Eisenhower or Perot
92 Busbody
95 Collie's concern
97 Dadaism founder
98 Drained
99 Singer
100 Carter or Vanderbilt
103 In addition
- 106 Chemist Marie
109 Savvy
110 Part 3 of remark
116 Studio
117 Port —, Egypt
118 Shoe part
122 — Beta
123 Kappa
129 Director Peckinpah
135 End of remark
138 Register
139 Burdon or Italy
140 Change
141 First zoo?
142 Poor
143 Salt serving
144 Subdued
145 "Brand New —" ('71 hit)
- DOWN
- 1 "Wheel of Fortune" host
2 Split and splice
3 Necklace part
4 Rimsky-Korsakov's "Le Coq —"
5 News org.
6 Guns the engine
7 Recruit-to-be's status
8 AKC rejects
9 Cheese-board choice
10 Capek play
11 Faith or Sandler
12 Sphere
13 Sampras stroke
14 — Locka, FL
15 Sea or strait
16 Rodeo horse
17 Pulled hard
20 "Fie!"
24 — me tangere
29 Army offender
31 Pro foe
34 Compass pt.
35 Allen or Reed
37 Use rollerblades
39 Concealed
40 At a distance
42 Lab item
43 Grasso or Wilcox
44 Swung a sickle
45 "Goldfinger" character
46 Stout relative
47 Basilica feature
48 Cupid, for one
53 Feel certain
55 Move smoothly
57 Withered
59 — hour
60 Apollo's instrument
61 1492 or 1776
63 Sward stuff
65 Hungarian composer
67 Penny
68 At present
71 Relative of pre-
73 — throat
76 Grant or Laurie
77 Nautical adverb
78 Salad ingredient
79 Set up for a fall
80 Zapotec's home
81 Marge in the fridge
88 Excellent grade
90 Grad
91 Caligula's nephew
93 Constrain
94 Nile slitherer
96 Author Roald
101 — tai
102 First name in fashion
104 Loyal
105 Frigga's fellow
107 Bankbook abbr.
108 Tokyo, once
110 Occur
111 Natural gas component
112 Actress Hall
113 Cleared the slate
114 Turn of phrase
115 Navy warrior
119 Dagger's partner
120 Put on a pedestal
121 Famous p-p-pig
124 Actress Sorvino
126 Item of True Value
127 Singer James
128 Mock
131 Poet McKuen
132 TV Tarzan
134 "M*A*S*H" extras
136 When Pierre perspires
137 Nourished



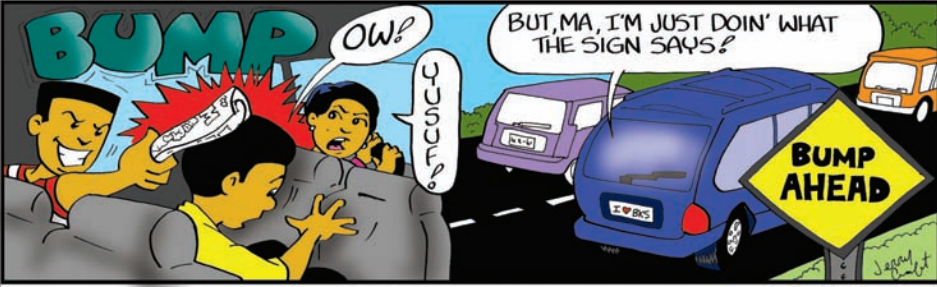
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Super Crossword

11-25-09 Answers

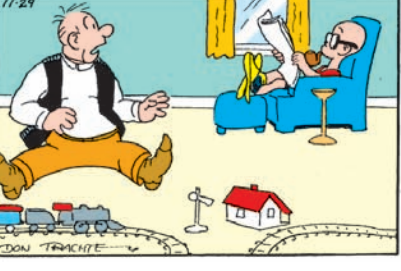
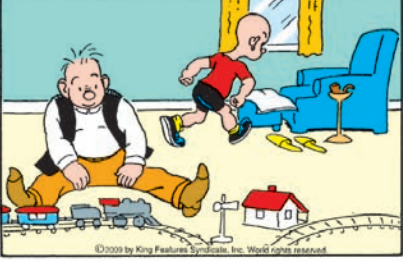
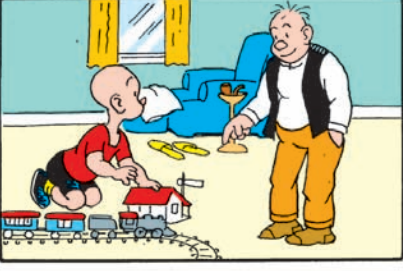
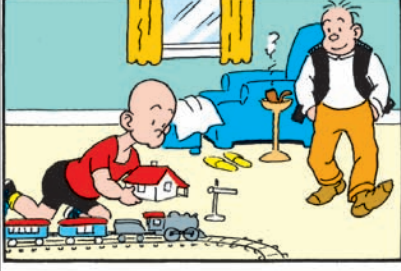
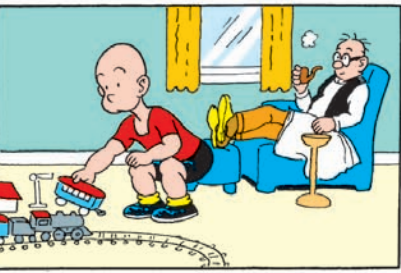
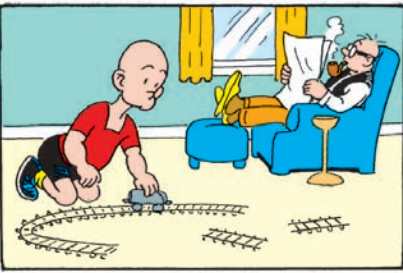
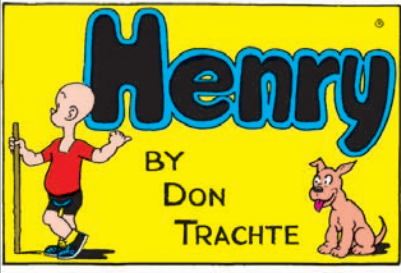
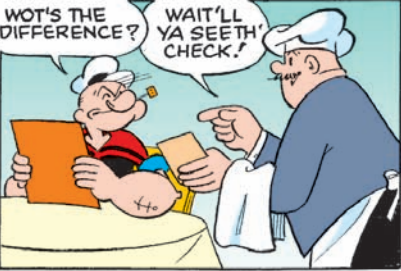
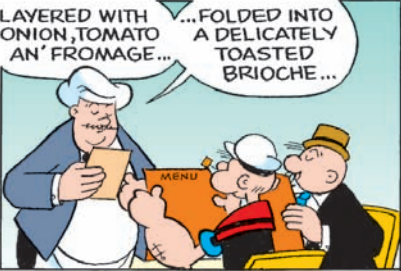
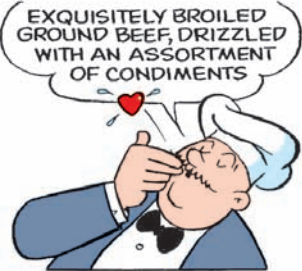
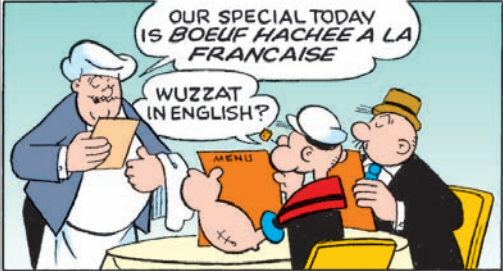
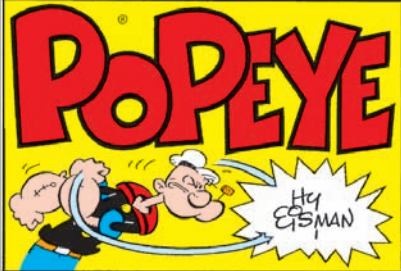


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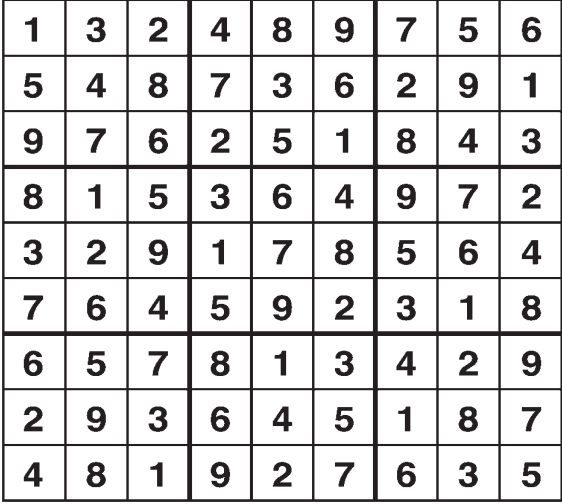
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



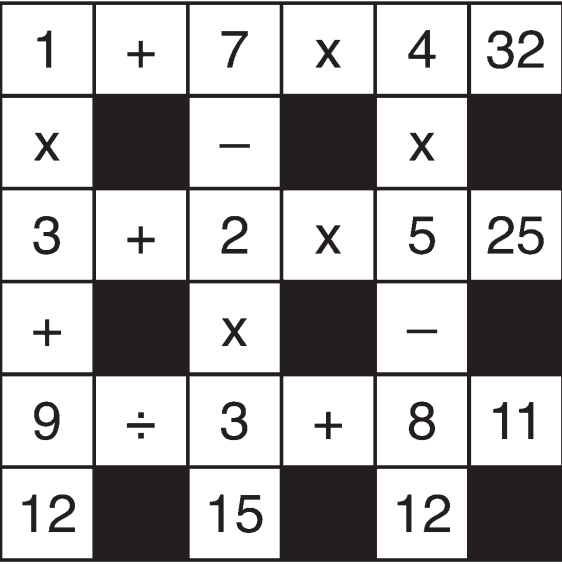
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Govs fall in OT, 86-84

APSU Sports Information

Junior Ashley Herring hit a game-tying three-point field goal to send the game into overtime, but the Lady Govs basketball team could not hold onto a six-point overtime lead and fell to Northwestern State, 86-84, in the Saturday, Nov. 28, consolation game of the Vanderbilt Thanksgiving Tournament at Memorial Gymnasium.

APSU (1-5) scored eight of the first 10 points in the extra period and led 82-76 with 2:08 left, but right after building that lead, Herring fouled out with 1:53 remaining as Northwestern State converted a traditional three-point play to cut the lead in half. Senior Nicole Jamen would hit a jumper to push the lead back to five points with 1:18 to go, but it would be the last field goal APSU would hit.

Northwestern State (2-4) scored the game's final seven points, but did not grab the lead until Brittany Houston was fouled on her driving layup and converted another three-point play with 18 seconds remaining. On the ensuing, and final possession, APSU saw a 15-foot jumper fall short and a put-back try under the rim go begging as the final horn sounded.

The Lady Govs needed late theatrics in the second half just to force the extra time. Entering the second frame with the score level at 36-36, APSU made the period's first field goal and held the lead for the first three minutes of the second half. However, Northwestern State put together a 13-2 scoring burst to take a 55-44 lead with 13:07 remaining. Freshman Neika Smith would respond with a field



LOIS JONES | SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Junior Ashley Herring uses the crossover to get past the Chattanooga defender, Sunday, Nov. 15.

goal followed by Herring's three-point field goal to push the deficit back into single digits.

The Demons lead would grow no larger than nine points but would not fall below four points over the next eight minutes. It took APSU piecing together a 13-4 half-closing run that began with five minutes remaining to finally dent the lead. Four different APSU players scored during the burst, but it was Herring's three-point basket with 22 seconds remaining tied the

game, 74-74, to provide five additional minutes.

Herring, who was named to the all-tournament team, led APSU with her second consecutive 21-point outing, making 7-of-12 from the field, including 5-of-9 from three-point range. Jamen finished with an 18-point, 11-rebound double-double, and sophomore Jasmine Rayner added an 18-point, 17-rebound double-double performance as well.

APSU won the rebounding battle with an impressive 52-36 margin

including 26 offensive rebounds. Houston led Northwestern State with 27 points while Jessica McPhail added 21 points. The Lady Demons won the game at the free-throw line where they made 22-of-28 (78.6 percent) while the Lady Govs shot a season-low 52 percent (13-of-25).

APSU returns to action when they open Ohio Valley Conference play with a 5:15 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 3, contest against Southeast Missouri and play Eastern Illinois Saturday, Dec. 5. ♦

COLLEGE BASKETBALL



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kansas center Cole Aldrich (45) shoots over Tennessee Tech forward Terrell Barnes (11) during the first half of an NCAA college basketball game Friday, Nov. 27, in Lawrence, Kan.

AP Top 25

1. Kansas
2. Texas
3. Villanova
4. Purdue
5. Kentucky
6. Duke
7. West Virginia
8. Syracuse
9. Michigan State
10. North Carolina
11. Tennessee
12. Washington
13. Florida
14. Connecticut
15. Ohio State
16. Georgetown
17. Gonzaga
18. Clemson
19. Texas A&M
20. Louisville
21. Florida State
22. Cincinnati
23. Butler
24. UNLV
25. Portland

USA TODAY Top 25

1. Kansas
2. Texas
3. Villanova
4. Kentucky
5. Duke
6. Purdue
7. Syracuse
8. West Virginia
9. Michigan State
10. Washington
11. North Carolina
12. Tennessee
13. Connecticut
14. Georgetown
15. Ohio State
16. Gonzaga
17. Florida
18. Louisville
19. Clemson
20. Butler
21. UNLV
22. Texas A&M
23. Georgia Tech
24. Cincinnati
25. California

Reality VERSUS *Perception*

Over **98%** of APSU students have not damaged property because of alcohol.

Over **97%** of APSU students have not gotten into trouble with the police or authorities because of alcohol.

Over **93%** of APSU students have not been taken advantage of because of alcohol.

Over **88%** of APSU students have not performed poorly on a test or project because of alcohol.

Over **87%** of APSU students have not missed a class because of alcohol.

Over **80%** of APSU students have not gotten into a fight of argument because of alcohol.

Over **83%** of APSU students have not driven under the influence of alcohol or other drugs.

BASKETBALL

Govs hounded by Bulldogs, 78-72



ALL PHOTOS BY LOIS JONES | SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Left: Freshman Chris Reaves leaps high for the dunk. Reaves finished the night with four points against the Drake Bulldogs, Saturday, Nov. 28.

Right: Senior Wes Channels drives hard past the Bulldog defender to make a play. Channels scored 10 points against Drake.

By **ANTHONY SHINGLER**
Assistant Sports Editor

They made 10 three-pointers, but the APSU Govs' late rally fell short.

In a return game from last season's ESPN Bracketbuster, Saturday, Nov. 28, the Govs lost their home opener to Drake 78-72.

The Govs fell to 2-4 for the season, and remain winless against Missouri Valley Conference opponents since they defeated Evansville in 2005.

Drake, also 2-4, recorded their first road win of the season.

"We just couldn't guard them — some of it was physical, some of it mental — but we just couldn't guard them," APSU head coach Dave Loos said. "The energy level and determination needs to be

higher and the mental mistakes need to go down."

The Govs trailed by 10 after a Josh Young three-pointer with 2:16 left in the game.

Tyrone Caldwell made a free throw to convert a three-point play as part of eight straight points by the Govs to cut the lead to two with 1:05 remaining.

The Govs had an opportunity to tie the game, but they missed a layup and the following put back with 41 seconds left.

Drake's Ryan Wedel had 19 points in the first half. Drake took a 38-29 halftime advantage. The Govs shot just 11-of-31 (35.5 percent) in the first half.

Drake made seven first-half three-pointers. The Govs made five.

The Govs would not go away. They cut the Drake lead to five

on three different occasions in the second half, but could not get a defensive stop when needed. The Govs' defense finally began to show up with a little more than two minutes left in the game.

Anthony Campbell kicked off the run with a three-pointer. Then the Govs forced consecutive turnovers. One culminated in a dunk by Marcel Williams to make the score 74-69 with 1:33 left.

Afterwards, Caldwell, who set up Williams for the dunk, came up with a steal.

On the ensuing play, Caldwell rebounded a missed shot and was fouled while making the bucket.

Campbell led the Govs with a career-high 23 points. Wesley Channels was the only other Gov to score in double-figures

with 10 points. Williams grabbed 11 boards, and Justin Blake scored career-high eight points in 14 minutes. Caleb Brown also scored nine points.

After a horrific first-half shooting performance, the Govs shot 53.3 percent, 16-of-30, in the second half.

Drake shot 50.9 percent (28-of-55), including 13-of-22 from three-point territory.

"We have to develop some consistency and it's not happening yet," Loos said.

The Govs return to the hardwood Thursday, Dec. 3, to face Southeast Missouri in the Ohio Valley Conference home opener. Tip-off will be at 7:30 p.m. For their second conference game this week, the Govs will play host to Eastern Illinois 7:30 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 5. ♦

Govs' Basketball Schedule

Thurs., Dec. 3	Southeast Missouri
Sat., Dec. 5	Eastern Illinois
Wed., Dec. 9	Ohio
Sat., Dec. 12	Marian
Sat., Dec. 19	Kentucky
Tue., Dec. 22	Evansville
Sun., Dec. 27	Missouri
Sat., Jan. 2	Morehead State
Mon., Jan. 4	Eastern Kentucky
Thurs., Jan. 7	UT-Martin
Sat., Jan. 9	Murray State
Sat., Jan. 16	Tennessee State
Thurs., Jan. 21	Tennessee Tech
Sat., Jan. 23	Jacksonville State
Thurs., Jan. 28	Eastern Kentucky
Sat., Jan. 30	Morehead State
Thurs., Feb. 4	UT-Martin
Sat., Feb. 6	Murray State
Tue., Feb. 9	Tennessee Tech

Govs football down now, hope for the future



Anthon Shingler
Assistant Sports Editor

The Govs wrapped up the 2009 season with what some would believe to be a disappointment, finishing with a 4-7 overall record and 3-5 in Ohio Valley Conference play. APSU graduates 25 seniors, which includes the first senior class to play for the Govs during the reinstatement of scholarship football four years ago.

As advertised, the Govs' weapons were and will continue to be the monsters in the backfield. Explosive sophomore Ryan White rushed for 1081 yards averaging 4.7 yards per carry. Terrence Holt, his speedy and dangerous counterpart, finished the season with 793 rushing yards, averaging about 5.4 yards per carry. He led the conference with 13 total touchdowns. The passing game showed promise at times, but inexperience at the wide receiver position showed its face at crucial situations when the Govs needed the big play. Though the future of the passing game isn't totally bleak, when redshirt Jake Ryan stepped in, he guided the Govs to a 2-3 record over the final five games of the season.

Defensively, the Govs were loaded with experience starting eight seniors including First Team All-OVC award winner Daniel Becker and Second Team award winners Dee Peeler and Kevis Buckley to lead the

charge. The Govs' run defense ranked in the top half of the conference. The "herd" stopped some of the conference's best running teams, as well as getting key takeaways at pertinent times to get the Govs offense going. Graduation is going to plague the soon to be young Govs squad, but there is potential in the secondary with two key underclassmen in sophomore Amius Smith and freshman Jeremy Ross. Ross started for the Govs because of injury and is going to be a key part of the Govs success in the future.

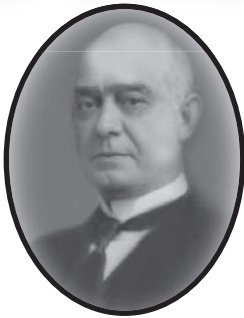
Holt broke the APSU all-purpose yard record with 2,373 total yards, averaging 215.7 all-purpose yards per game. Being a dynamic force on the offensive front makes Holt someone to look forward to see perform in the next season. One spot the Govs drastically improved on is the kicking game with freshman kicker Stephen Stansell. Any recent APSU fan can remember not being very confident in the APSU kicking game. Well, Stansell's kicking was noticed in the early part of the season when he nailed a 41 yard field goal as the time expired to get the three points in the game against Southeast Missouri. As Stansell ages, the Govs kicking game should only improve.

The graduating seniors left their mark after coming back from a four game skid with a come-from-behind win to defeat SEMO. The win against SEMO was the turning point of the Govs season. The very next week the hard-nosed Govs defeated Eastern Kentucky, to end the nation's third longest losing streak of 22 straight games and sent shockwaves through the conference. APSU struck again when they knocked off Tennessee State at their homecoming. The season saw the

Govs finish higher than what the preseason ranking suggested. With graduation hitting the Govs, they need to replace eight starters on the defensive side of the ball, as well as recruit a dynamic receiver with speed. Next season looks to be exciting with the

return of both first-team OVC backs White and Holt hopefully complete with age and experience to continue to move the ball. Hopefully coach Rick Christophel will let Jake Ryan grow at quarterback to gain some consistency in the Govs passing game. ♦

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