



Heru hails history

**Spoken word poets Heru and Naima
Jamaal and Professor Jeffrey
Menzise share their souls
for students as part of
events for Black
History Month**



LOIS JONES, SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Inset: Professor Jeffrey Menzise gives a lecture about impact of hip-hop.
Large photo: Spoken word poet Heru delivers his performance.
PATRICK ARMSTRONG/SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Poets, professor lend words to celebrate

Spoken word performances
and lecture highlight events

By ELIZABETH BRUCE
Staff Writer

Schools and communities across the country celebrate Black History Month. Usually this would consist of decorations, cultural activities and maybe a movie night. This year however, a representative from Austin Peay State University's African American Cultural Center decided that students shouldn't just acknowledge the culture once a year, but rather, they should really learn the history and make it a year-round process.

Menzise speaks about hip-hop

The Center invited Jeffery Menzise, assistant director of the Race Relations Institute at Fisk University, to speak on the influence of hip-hop particularly on the young black culture. Events also included a spoken word performance by artists Heru and Naima Jamaal, which focused on African culture and history in a brand of poetry he calls, genocide prevention poetry. While attending Fisk University, Menzise was a disc jockey for a local club. It was during that time that he says he had an epiphany. While playing different songs, Menzise watched the people dancing and quickly realized he could control the way they acted and what they did with his music. After leaving Fisk, he attended Howard University where he received a doctorate in psychology. After what he learned as a counselor, his past DJ experience, and the experience he gained in African nations as an educator, Menzise decided to focus his doctoral research on the effects of rites of passage on at-risk children. What he discovered was that when children, especially inner-city children, listened to the lyrics of hip-hop and were told about drugs, violence and other risky behaviors.

While not getting any contradictory message at home — those children began to aspire to only that which their musical idols were telling them to. They took on the attitudes portrayed in the songs. Menzise compared those goals to the goals of the children he saw in Africa, who were looking forward to the day they would be seen as a man in their community, much like a bar mitzvah, or the day when they would achieve a goal they had been working toward and a day they were looking forward to. His lecture at APSU described his findings and the necessity of getting black children away from the drugs and violence of hip-hop goals and back to the African rites of passage and worthy goals that would foster responsibility and pride in oneself.

Poets give positive flow

In addition to Menzise, Heru and Naima Jamaal also gave history lessons through their poetry. Naima, whose family hails from Panama, is a former eighth grade school teacher who initially developed her poetry

See **Black History Month**, page 2

Student Affairs welcomes David Nichols as interim Dean of Students

By TANGELIA CANNON
Assistant Online Editor

Recently, David Nichols was named interim Dean of Students and *The All State* had a chance to ask him a few questions. **The All State:** What made you come out of retirement for this job? **David Nichols:** Actually, I had opted for early retirement to pursue other professional interests to include K-12 schools consultant work and expert witness/consultant work in cases involving crime on campuses. This opportunity at APSU occurred at a good time for me and since I love working with students in a mentoring and development capacity, I was excited for an opportunity to work at APSU and the fine students here. **TAS:** How long were you retired before you took this position?

DN: Three years. **TAS:** What plans do you have for this job? **DN:** In my role as interim dean of students, I hope to support the mission and purposes of the division of Student Affairs and those of APSU. More specifically, I am committed to what is in the best interest of each individual student and to make a contribution which leaves a lasting positive influence on the lives of students. I believe that in making disciplinary judgments it is of paramount importance to be firm but fair, consistent but flexible and to mentor and nurture each student in his/her academic, social and personal growth. **TAS:** How do you like APSU so far? **DN:** Absolutely love it! The students, faculty and staff have welcomed me with their words and smiles.



NICHOLS

the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. **TAS:** What type of degree do you have? **DN:** Doctor of Education, majoring in the administration of higher education. **TAS:** How does APSU compare to your prior university? **DN:** "Having served at four other universities, I have found Austin Peay to be similar to both Jacksonville State University (Alabama) and, to some degree, to Samford University in Birmingham. Both institutions are members of the Ohio Valley

Athletic Conference." **TAS:** What book are you currently reading? **DN:** "Facing Your Giants" by Max Lucado. **TAS:** What has been your biggest struggle here so far? **DN:** I've experienced very little struggle. Everyone has made me feel welcome and the Student Affairs staff has been wonderful in orienting me to the university. Additionally, I have met and become acquainted with several faculty and staff members. **TAS:** Are you married? **DN:** Yes — 37 years to the same beautiful lady. **TAS:** Do you have kids? **DN:** Yes. My son is a graduate of Jacksonville State University and is now a practicing attorney in Birmingham. My

daughter is a graduate of Samford University and is in the process making a career change. **TAS:** Did you move to the Clarksville area just to have this position? If so, how do you like it here so far? **DN:** Yes. I felt the "call" to come up and assist in this strategic role. I really like it here! I am comfortable in a nearby small apartment, I enjoy working out in the Foy Recreation Center weight room, attending basketball games and learning my way around Clarksville. **TAS:** Is there anything else you would like to add? **DN:** I believe in ensuring the dignity of every student regardless of the nature of our encounter. I value integrity and character and try to model these as I interact with students. ♦

Black History Month: On-campus events provide variety of options for celebration

Good Morning APSU

Campus Community Calendar

Presidential search committee

The first meeting to decide on the process to replace President Sherry Hoppe will be held Feb. 28 from noon to 2:30 p.m. The meeting's agenda will be to decide on a schedule for the remainder of the search.

Black History Month

The African American Cultural Center is sponsoring a video series called "I'll Make Me a World." It will be showing from Feb. 19 through Feb. 23 each day at noon. The video series chronicles the experiences of African Americans in the 19th and 20th centuries.

1,001 black inventions

Student Life and Leadership is sponsoring a play this month to highlight the contributions that black Americans have made to history. The play is open to the public and will take place Feb. 20 at 7 p.m. in Clement Auditorium. Contact Eric Bicaba at 221-7431 for more information.

CPR training

The Center for Extended and Distance Education is sponsoring CPR and first aid training for health care professionals, approved for APSU nursing students. For details, call Mary Alice Burkhart at 221-7816.

Correction:

While we at *The All State* continuously strive to provide Austin Peay State University with the most accurate and up-to-date information, mistakes are sometimes made. Such was the case in the edition two weeks ago. The lead story's headline was incorrect.

The Tennessee Board of Regents had nothing to do with the new policies put in place for student organization get-togethers. *The All State* apologizes to TBR, its readers for the misunderstanding and to the Office of Student Life and Leadership for the misrepresentation.



PATRICK ARMSTRONG/SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Beulah Oldham portrays Anne Matthews and Millie Simpkins at the slave narrative readings.



PATRICK ARMSTRONG/SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
The Mosaic singers from Detroit, Mich. made a stop at APSU during their 10-day college tour. Singers from APSU, not pictured here, also took part in the performance.

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as a way of getting her students excited about what she was teaching. Now she says her art is meant to encourage social awareness and inspire justice for the masses.

As a traveling poet, Naima Jamaal educates the masses about African history, spirituality and current political issues.

During this performance, she shared the stage with Heru, a talented poet in his own right. His poetry is what he calls "African classical resurrection."

Heru's art focuses on history and a reconnecting of the people to historical and spiritual roots.

Their inspiring message should not be missed and more information can be found on their Web sites. ♦

For more on the poets:

www.heruspeaks.com

www.naimaj.com



LOIS JONES/SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Spoken word poet, Naima Jamaal shares her work last Thursday in Clement Auditorium.

World Briefs

American death toll since beginning of Iraq war passes 3,100

(AP) — As of Feb. 18, 2007, at least 3,137 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq War in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count.

The figure includes seven military civilians. At least 2,514 died as a result of hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The AP count is ten higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated Friday at 10 a.m. EST.

The British military has reported 132 deaths; Italy, 33; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 19; Bulgaria, 13; Spain, 11; Denmark, six; El Salvador, five; Slovakia, four; Latvia, three; Estonia, Netherlands, Thailand, two each; and Australia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Romania, one death each.

American death toll since beginning of Afghanistan, Pakistan war nears 300

(AP) — As of Feb. 18, 2007, at least 297 members of the U.S. military have died in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Uzbekistan as a result of the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan in late 2001, according to the Defense Department.

The Defense Department last updated its figures on Feb. 14, 2007.

Of those, the military reports 192 were killed by hostile action.

Outside the Afghan region, the Defense Department reports 56 more members of the U.S. military died in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Of those, two were the result of hostile action. The military lists these other locations as: Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, Cuba; Djibouti; Eritrea; Jordan; Kenya; Kyrgyzstan; Philippines; Seychelles; Sudan; Tajikistan; Turkey and Yemen.

There was also one military civilian death and four CIA officer deaths.

Iran denies visit of Iraqi Shiite cleric, calls allegation 'psychological warfare'

TEHRAN (AP) — Iran's Foreign Ministry denied Sunday that radical Iraqi Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr was in Iran, calling statements by U.S. and Iraqi officials saying he had traveled to Iran "psychological warfare."

"No, he is not in Iran," Mohammad Ali Hoseini, spokesman for the Ministry, told journalists during a regular press briefing in Iran's first comment on the issue.

"The report is baseless and a kind of psychological warfare against Iran by the U.S. to put more pressure on Iran."

An adviser to Iraq's prime minister said last Thursday that al-Sadr, a close ally of Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, was in Iran, but denied that the cleric had fled there due to fear of arrest during a security crackdown by coalition forces.

A member of al-Sadr's bloc in parliament said the cleric had left Iraq three weeks earlier.

Israeli-Palestinian peace talks hit stalemate, Rice vows to push forward

JERUSALEM (AP) — Hoping to turn the page on six years of stalled Middle East negotiations, the U.S. instead found itself boxed in Sunday by a characteristically complex political impasse involving ally Israel and the Palestinians.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice came to the region intending to lead a symbolic peace summit. Her plans, however, have been eclipsed amid uncertainty and disagreement over how to handle last week's sudden announcement of a power-sharing deal to end internal Palestinian fighting.

Rice met for two hours with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, resolute in his position that he must govern hand-in-hand with Hamas militants who refuse to moderate anti-Israeli policies. The United States consider Hamas a terrorist group.

Later Sunday, the U.S. diplomat held a similarly long meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert over

a similarly hard-line position.

Israel will not recognize a Palestinian government that refuses to renounce violence, honor past commitments and accept Israel's right to exist.

Olmert says Washington agrees and will shun the new government. U.S. officials, however, are not going that far — yet.

The United States, still hoping Abbas will change Hamas or change his mind, says it will reserve judgment until the planned Palestinian government takes shape.

Rice acknowledged that the moment is awkward for discussions of peace.

But she wanted to go ahead with Monday's summit with Abbas and Olmert.

Mecca Accord awaits resolution of further issues Hamas before unity is possible

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — Palestinian Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh of Hamas warned that key issues remain unresolved despite the Mecca agreement over a unity government, hoping talks with the rival Fatah would avert a renewal of bloody infighting.

Returning home Monday to Gaza from the Mecca summit, Haniyeh said his government will resign in the coming days, a formality to allow appointment of the new unity government. But first the disagreements must be worked out — especially over control over the disparate armed forces.

Those issues could still cause the deal to unravel, but Haniyeh said in a televised address Monday night that both sides were committed to implementing the Mecca accord signed Thursday.

"All Palestinians have won in this agreement," he said.

Hamas and the Fatah party of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas have agreed to a division of Cabinet positions, but have not yet decided who will get the key post of interior minister, controlling most security forces.

Wrangling over such control helped spark the deadly factional violence that has killed more than 130 Palestinians.

The deal also did not settle the fate of Hamas' 5,600-strong militia, which was formed last year over Abbas' objections. "When President Abu Mazen comes to Gaza, we will continue the negotiations on issues that remain," Haniyeh said, referring to Abbas by his nickname.

Haniyeh said his government planned to resign in the coming days to start the process of forming the new coalition.

Once the government resigns, Abbas would formally tap Haniyeh to set up a new government, said Abbas aide Rafiq Hussein, a step that could happen within days.

President Putin pushes defense minister up in the ranks

MOSCOW (AP) — President Vladimir Putin promoted his hawkish defense minister to a top government post on Thursday, a move that puts Putin's two heirs apparent on equal footing before next year's election to replace the popular leader.

Both Sergei Ivanov and the more liberal Dmitry Medvedev have received lavish coverage in the Russian media, which is strongly influenced by the Kremlin, and are seen as the chief rivals for anointment by Putin as his favored successor in the March 2008 election.

Each man now holds the title of first vice-premier, formalizing a rivalry that is never mentioned officially but is played out daily on state-run television.

News broadcasts prominently feature them struggling to look presidential in government meetings, speeches and closely choreographed visits to farms and factories.

Putin replaced Ivanov as defense minister with Anatoly Serdyukov, until now head of the federal tax agency.

Putin praised Ivanov's work in six years as military chief and said he was broadening his responsibilities to include oversight of defense and some civilian industries. ♦

King III says war on terror distracts from social concerns

Associated Press

The war on terrorism is making it hard to fight the war on poverty and racism, according to the son of slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

"We're having to spend a lot of money to defend ourselves from terrorists, who certainly exist," Martin Luther King III said at a rally Thursday commemorating Black History Month at the state Capitol.

"As a result we're not able to spend money on programs of social uplift: more on education, more on Medicaid and Medicare, more on Social Security, because most of our money is being drained to fund a war that we probably will never win," King said.

King said the country has made progress in the decades since his father's march on Washington, but said there are still areas of poverty and racism that must be addressed.

"My dad had a vision of freedom, justice, equality and community," King said. "That vision, some of it has come to fruition. But in those areas of poverty that continue to exist and the areas of racism, though it's gotten better, continue to exist."

King told reporters after his speech that he does see a parallel between the war in Iraq and the Vietnam war, which his father spoke out against.

Clearly, this war has cost us an amount that we never can retrieve," King said. "It's a dangerous precedent that's been set."

King said pulling the military out of Iraq would allow the region to find ways to keep peace in the Middle East.

It's prudent for them to be adversarial right now while the U.S. is there, because they can do things and hide their hands," King said. "If the U.S. was not there, at least not in such a significant way, I think you would see those countries start to figure out we've got to live in this region and we've got to live together, and it's in our



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sen. Tracy Steele, D-North Little Rock, right, visits with Martin Luther King III before Black History Month observances at the Arkansas state Capitol in Little Rock, Ark., last Thursday.

interests not to finance and fund militarily the things that we're doing right now."

King said he was concerned that the White House may try to threaten action against Iran. President Bush said this week that he believes the Iranian government is providing armor-piercing weapons to kill American troops in Iraq.

"That may or may not be true, but I'm not sure how threatening them ... I'm not sure that's going to be the ultimate answer," King said. "We've got to take a different posture if we want to see change occur in the region." ♦

Kick off 2007 with a Winning Career at Vanderbilt!

Vanderbilt Medical Center Student Career Room
Thursday, February 22nd, 3:30pm - 6:30pm
LP Field (Titans Stadium)
www.vanderbiltcareerevents.com

Attend our Job Fair on Thursday, Feb. 22nd at LP Field, home of the Tennessee Titans. We are hosting a specially dedicated RN Student Career Room just for you!

The RN Student Career Room will be open from 3:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., giving you the exclusive opportunity to meet and network with Staff Nurses and representatives from our various Units and Residency Programs. Interview appointments will be scheduled on-site for employment opportunities.

To pre-register your attendance in the RN Student Career Room on February 22nd, please visit www.vanderbiltcareerevents.com or call 615-322-2116 or 800-288-6622. Please bring your resume and references. Parking is free.

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OUR TAKE

Black out ignorance

The Valentine's craze is done, and leftover candy clutters our desks down in *The All State* office. We've discovered that 20 Pixie Sticks plus a Pepsi equals a thick and potent energy drink, which will keep us awake during the deadline-schedule of this week's issue. This week, we want to talk about something a little more important and much less commercialized than the Valentine's Day of last week: Black History Month.

Black History Month is a time to celebrate how far people in this country have come during the last several decades. Every race contributes to the overall success of the United States and its livelihood. With everything else going on in our lives, it's a breath of fresh air to take a month where activities are offered at Austin Peay State University that truly remind us of our "melting pot" nation. The different races and ethnicities that compose our country can come together and share their accomplishments.

We wish that there were more of a public push for black history knowledge outside February. In retrospect of our childhood education, it seems that the only black men and women we ever

learned about were slaves. But the black population is so much more, and we wish that it were the norm to discuss it within the walls of all educational institutions.

Why can't we have this level of cultural concern throughout the entire year, and why does it have to be limited to just a month? In a way this almost reduces its significance to an issue of meeting some quota. We should celebrate it everyday. Let's show some respect and dignity for the different mix of peoples that we are. And let's understand that no matter what, we are all human and all equally deserve to celebrate our shared history.

Black History Month is a great way to give appreciation to individuals who were so often persecuted. These people made contributions to our society, yet they were often passed over when it came time to receive recognition simply due to their skin color.

We must remember not just the historic events, but also those things editors don't put in world history books. We are all connected in this human family, and as the old saying goes, "If we do not understand our past, we are doomed to repeat it." ♦

Addicted to love (well, maybe porn)

First I must make a confession. I am the true father of Anna Nicole Smith's baby. Not convinced? Well, I guess there's just no fooling you all. Truth be told, the closest Anna and I ever got was when I would pass the Anna Nicole Smith "TRIMSPA" display at Wal-Mart from



Politically Speaking Dr. Greg Rabidoux

time to time. Perhaps I was just feeling left out, what with the count now up to five would-be papas, all claiming to be the biological father of her surviving infant. And what a selection of possible proud papas; a sleazy former lawyer turned lover, an ex-bodyguard and bodybuilder who claims they shared "tender moments," the husband (lost count as to what number) of Zsa Zsa Gabor who is (apparently) the Prince of some principality somewhere, who refuses to say for certain he is the father, out of concern, princely concern, perhaps, for current wife Zsa Zsa and two former boyfriends/lovers, both of whom claim DNA tests will support their respective claims. Maybe when Smith's baby comes of age she can demand to be adopted, or at least demand a recount, though she might want to talk with Al Gore first.

Why are so many out of wedlock (the Bahamas don't really count, sorry Howard) papas wanting to be christened "daddy"? Oh, about 475 million reasons. This is approximately the amount of inheritance Anna's offspring will stand to inherit unless pending appellate litigation proves otherwise. The original "Hubby Greenbacks" you will recall was the late Mr. Marshall, the Texas oil tycoon who was 86 or about 62 years older than Anna when they locked lips in wedded bliss. While living, Anna certainly cut a larger than life existence and her death now is being played out like a Spanish "telenovela" (soap opera to you and I).

Controversy swirls over how she actually died, legal battles over where she should be buried and who gets control of the body, and the jurisdiction of the investigation since she was initially discovered in a hotel room at a Seminole Indian tribe reservation. Why are so many Americans fascinated by this once unknown vixen from a small town in Texas? Well, perhaps we are a nation of addicts and our drugs of choice are love and money. And not necessarily in that order. May Smith soon

In the Line of Fire!



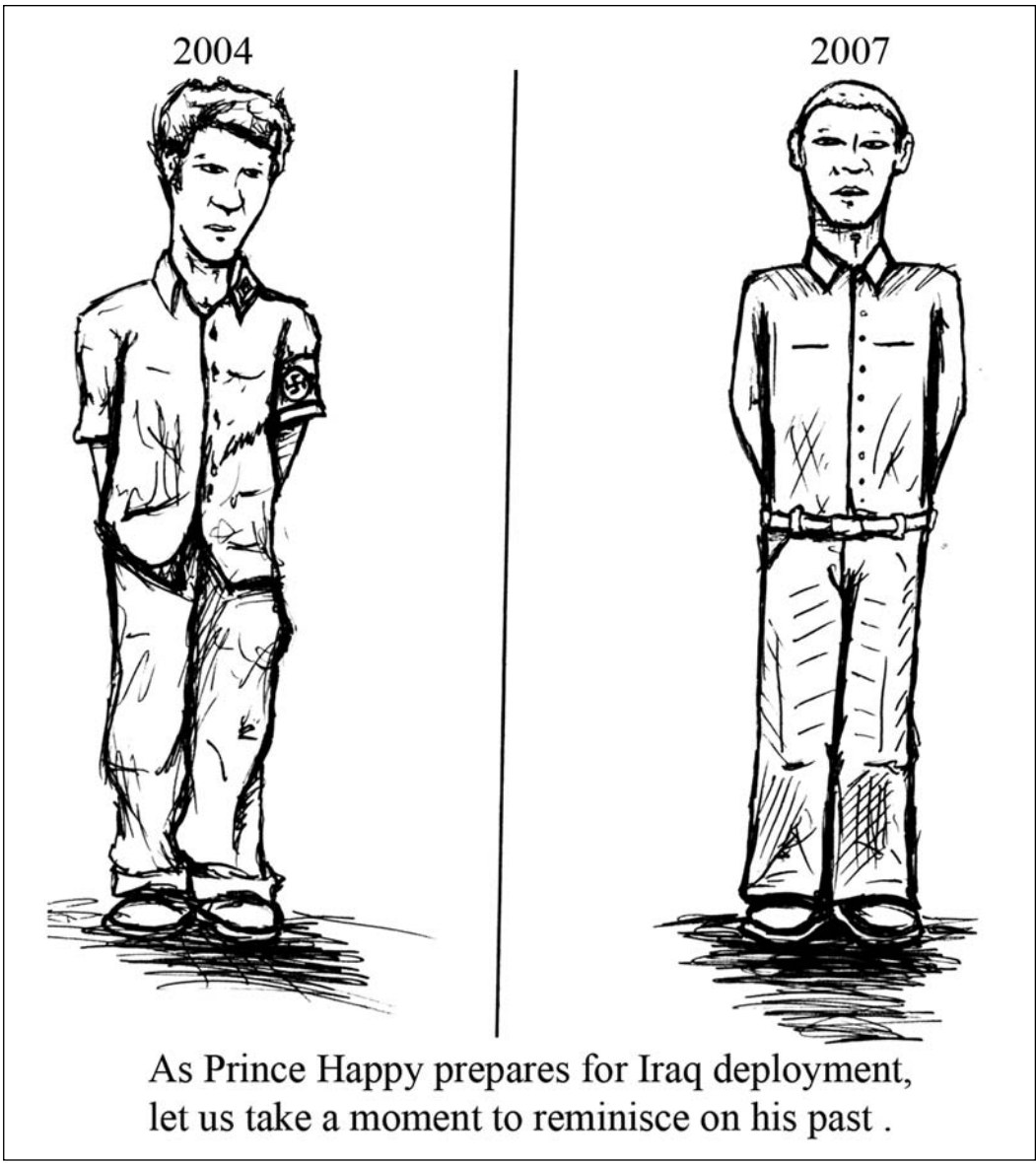
In the Line of Fire! is an open forum for your perspective to be heard. It gives opportunity to express what you think in a short, sweet and anonymous way. Readers are encouraged to speak out for or against any issue desired, no matter how random it may seem.

"Greg Walker is a great broadcaster and is respected among his peers. I have three words for the author of this article that bashes one of the biggest APSU supporters as well as countless amounts of fans and/or students when he is a student himself — get a life."

"I found it to be extremely presumptuous for *The All State* staff to tell me and any others who are celebrating Valentine's Day that we are completely demeaning our relationships by celebrating a commercialized holiday."

Send your views to allstateopinions@apsu.edu

The All State reserves the right to reject inappropriate or libelous statements. Don't hold back and remember, "less is more."



MATT FRAZIER/ STAFF

No need for Black History Month

When studying American history, it is presumed that one will gain the knowledge of each cultural history that pertains to America including the English, the French, the Spanish, the Dutch, the Native Americans and the Africans to name a few. If one went about learning history by focusing on each individual culture, one would not have a full



Perspectives Sarah Bullock

perspective and understanding of American history. They would simply have an understanding of lots of different cultures and their development – sort of. After 1640 one wouldn't be able to follow the cultural lines distinctly. That is, they would be intermingled after that point. Throughout history, America has been the place where heritage and race were blurred into one mindset. The combined character of all the different cultures created

America as it is now. So why do we celebrate an entire month devoted to blacks?

According to the Chicago Public Library's online biography, Carter G. Woodson created Black History Month in 1926 by emphasizing the history of blacks during the second week of February. He thought that the only way American history classes would begin to notice the contribution of the blacks was to bring attention to it with an entire week rather than the more common single day of celebration. He hoped that by doing so, black history would become fully integrated into American history and the need for an entire week would no longer persist. However, for many reasons, it evolved into an entire month despite all of the advances American history classes have made. These reasons include the social desire to victimize blacks, the democratic agenda and fear.

I recently raised the question of Black History Month's relevance and necessity in my American history class with Professor Gildrie and was instantly met with hostility and animosity. I received answers such as, "Is it necessary?! What do you mean, is it necessary?" and "We're the minority!" I didn't expect different: I'm white. Gildrie, of course, actually addressed my question with logical, complete sentences and stated that black history was necessary to learn, but Black History Month did not do the job. He explained that during Black History Month, we tie together an incoherent string of names of black people who invented something or said something or founded something, and then we're supposed to stand back in awe. Since this didn't present the contribution of blacks in the context of American history, it was a distortion and not very effective or productive.

But why is it so engrained in our culture to endure this preposterous and worn out cliché? Since I am white and didn't have much authority on the subject and since people are still not judged by the content of their character (The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. anyone?), I consulted a couple of references that were, in fact, of no credit to themselves, the right color for such a question: black. The injustice of this necessity still pains me, but here it is, nonetheless.

Reginald Jones, in a recent speech at Ohio University, explains more eloquently my distress. "Black History Month is a month-long funeral to bemoan the condition of black people so we will be seen as underdogs who need special help," Jones said. A native of South Bronx, Jones is a 20-year veteran of the music industry and founder of The Reggitainment Group, an entertainment company that manages, promotes and publishes music. Jones also agrees that Black History Month is a hindrance to "the Dream," racism's end, and is only prevalent because politicians depend on the social idea of "the poor black man."

"We don't all live on food stamps. We don't all wind up in prison," Jones said. "We've just got political leaders whose lives rely on blacks being slaves and underdogs." Without society's sympathy towards the stereotypical black person that Black History Month portrays, programs like welfare and raising the minimum wage would go unfunded. He also criticizes the media for the perpetuation of this stereotype. "Those who make it and make a difference go unnoticed. They don't fit the template of what black people are supposed to be," Jones said. "We have to know how dangerous it is that the media constantly portrays one message and one message only."

He used Hurricane Katrina as an example of the media thriving on the image of the "food stamp black."

"The majority of faces of victims we saw were black," Jones said. "Heroes were predominately black, too, and you never saw their faces. You never even heard of them." Jones also criticized the media for turning to the Rev. Al Sharpton and the Rev. Jesse Jackson for comment on all black issues. The "media always runs to the same two people and never gets any other black opinion," Jones said.

Jones isn't the only black American who disagrees with the celebration of Black History Month. Actor Morgan Freeman discusses his aversion to the month with CBS news. "You're going to relegate my history to a month?" he said, during an interview aired on "60 Minutes." "I don't want a Black History Month. Black history is American history."

Freeman brings up a good point. Why is black history celebrated exclusively while excluding all other cultures to the mass subject of American History? There certainly isn't a French History Month. Although most conservatives wouldn't hear of it even though, without the French, there would be no America. (Anyone remember the American Revolution?) So, if the blacks didn't merit this month simply because

“Black History Month is a month-long funeral to bemoan the condition of black people so we will be seen as underdogs who need special help.”

– Reginald Jones, founder of The Reggitainment Group

they're here, what else would qualify their culture for an entire month of study and celebration?

Maybe it has to do with the fact that their particular ethnicity and culture was oppressed. Am I getting warmer? Yes, slavery. It happened. They're sorry. Get over it. Even so, Africans were not the only slaves of colonial and revolutionary times. They were not even the first culture to be enslaved.

Native Americans were converted, killed and enslaved. Where's the Native American history month? Where's the Sharpton or Jackson of the Native Americans? Where are all of the pictures in the media of the poor Native American who needs my tax dollars to survive because they were enslaved? The truth of the matter is: They aren't complaining about it. The media isn't pushing the subject. This is America. There's opportunity to be had everywhere you turn. The Native Americans jumped on these opportunities and now make lots of money of their own. What is taking the blacks so long?

Well, most of them aren't waiting in the ghetto for Uncle Sam to give them a big, fat lottery check. They're people like Reginald Jones, Colin Powell, Condoleezza Rice and Barack Obama. The only reason Black History Month still exists is because the blacks that the media and the Democrats created will not give it up. The successful blacks are ready to dispose of this holiday and simply teach future generations American history.

I've only been in American history since the beginning of this semester. I've been alive and cognizant during Black History Month for 14 years. This being said, I've learned more about black history in the six weeks I've been in class than the entirety of months dedicated to them. It's time to put aside childish things and hold on to truth and progress. Black History Month only promotes racism, welfare and fear. ♦

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

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

McWorld won't supersize my life

Why is it that people in modern society try to find meaning in commercial culture, a culture of consumption that offers nothing of real substance? From the McChicken sandwich at McDonald's to the attractive jacket at Hot Topic, what real value do these things bring to people's lives? Frivolous products like these, which sustain our commercial culture, offer little to no value or meaning to people's lives.

If anything, people belittle their lives when participating in the unessential commercialism of our culture. We consume and consume and consume, but what do we really gain by the consumption of things we don't really need? All we gain is crap, clutter, miscellaneous and disorganized items. Nothing. We need to stop, but stopping is not that simple. The problem is not simply that we're consuming things

we don't need. It's the way we set up and live our lives that encourages our consumption and lets commercialism thrive. In the end, we have confined and enslaved ourselves to this life style of consumption.

Aren't there times in a day when you have the urge to scream? It's as if there's a tension within us. We live our lives in such a manner that prevents us from running a reasonable capacity. Many of us try to fit as many activities in our spare time as we can and in the process make ourselves miserable. We try hard to maintain a calm, rational demeanor, when beneath the surface of that is desperation. There is a constant tension between that desperation and the surface mask. It's this tension that distracts us and lets us fall into the entrapping lifestyle of the commercial culture, the consumption culture. But the consumption doesn't always involve what is normally considered frivolous. Sometimes it involves the things we consider essential.

Here's a quick example. Think of the typical college student (in this case a male student) who puts in 15 hours in class, 30 hours outside of class and 20 hours at work. He insists that he must have a car to function.

Every month, the student makes \$300 car payments, \$200 car insurance payments and \$100 in gas. In order to make the payments, he must work the 20 hours while making around the typical \$5 to \$7 hourly wage. What's all this going toward? He's working to pay the \$500 a month to keep his car to get to work to make the \$500 to pay the bills, and it continues like this in a neverending cycle. But still the student professes that he needs the job to get the car to maintain his freedom. What's his freedom equate to when all his time is

“We consume and consume and consume, but what do we really gain by the consumption of things we don't really need?”

committed to work and school?

This is one instance in which we set up our lives in such a way that requires us to consume. We think we need something and we construct our lives around that perceived need. This is where the real threat resides. It's not that we're just buying useless products constantly, often times on credit. It's that we convince ourselves that we need something and spend all of our time struggling to get it. And what that amounts to is slavery of the self. If we don't question the necessities of our lives, we'll continue to live with the tension that quietly pulls us downward, keeping up from reaching the heights we try so desperately to achieve. Henry David Thoreau once wrote, “The mass of men lead lives of quiet desperation.” I tend to agree. ♦

Remembering those who have fallen since the Iraq Invasion ...



Of all tyrannies, a tyranny exercised "for the good of its victims" may be the most oppressive.

— C.S. Lewis

GRAPHIC BY: KASEY HENRICKS

Gaining weight may save lives

Being in the limelight sometimes ruins a person's life because such exposure discloses everything. This spotlight adds pressure for celebrities to not age, remain beautiful and not get married or divorced. They can't even gain weight without society making a mockery — well, at least this is what happened to Tyra Banks.

After her retirement, the model-turned-talk show host claims to live a “normal life,” but how normal can a woman be after dropping the supermodel title and gaining 40-plus pounds. After Banks hit 161 pounds, the public attacked. Not only has Banks picked up some pounds, but she has also been labeled with nicknames like “Thyra” and “Tyra Pork Chops.” This is a shame.

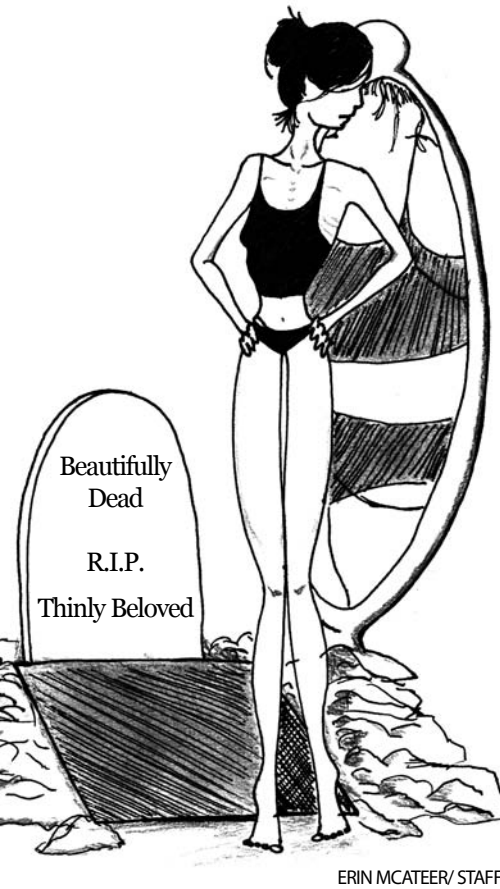
I can honestly say that the public has traded curvy hips and thighs for knobby knees and prominent ribs. In high school I knew a girl who weighed no more than 105 lbs, while standing 5'9". The guys thought she was hot, but I became confused because at home my mom, sister and every other female figure told me that I had a “pretty” shape. But if my shape was so “pretty” why did she get to model, and not me?

But there are some changes that should be made affecting the world of modeling. All prospective models should not be able to work if they have a Body Mass Index (BMI) lower than 18.5. This is considered underweight according to the World Health Organization.

Eliana Ramos, an 18-year-old Uruguayan model, died of a heart attack related to malnutrition. Her sister, Luisel, died at age 22 last August from a starvation-related heart attack. Also, Brazilian model Ana Carolina Reston died because of a restricted diet consisting of apples and tomatoes. Does everyone see this? Women are literally dying to be rail thin. I'm sure that Banks realizes this.

Apparently the public doesn't realize the ramifications of these models' deaths. We still have Naomi Campbell standing 5'9" and weighing 112 pounds and she continues her modeling career reign despite being underweight. According to the National Heart Blood and Lung Institute she has a BMI of 16.5. This means Campbell would have to gain 13 more pounds to be considered healthy, but then she wouldn't be considered “beautiful” in our society. Banks has a BMI of 23.1, and she's a healthy woman. So if Banks is labeled “fat” then what does that make the rest of us? Enrica Albaro, a foreign language major, responds by saying, “That would make me a Goodyear blimp, and I am not a blimp.”

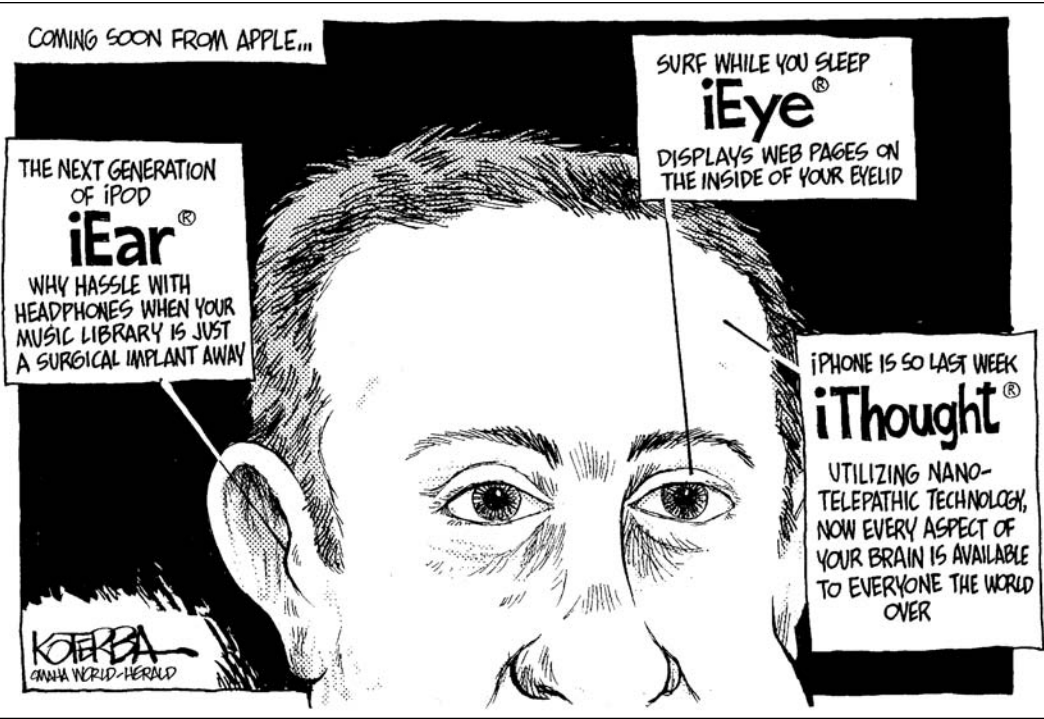
In Spain, Italy, New Zealand and Latin America modeling agencies are taking charge by banning underweight modeling. These changes have not been



matched in the U.S.

What, are we too good to be healthy? People file lawsuits against McDonald's for making them “fat” and then those same people chug down energy drinks and pop TRIMSPA like candy. The U.S. is unhealthy, not only for obesity, but for underweight, malnourished people in entertainment. How many beauty pageants have I seen where the winner is 6'1” and 101 pounds? Too many, I've befriended a pageant contestant whose diet consisted of Special K for breakfast, lunch and dinner. And she won too. Talk about an extreme Special K Challenge.

So why doesn't healthy equate to beautiful? Beyonce Knowles and Jennifer Lopez are both beautiful women. And these are people I'd rather compare myself to — curvy, healthy and beautiful figures. But that's just a woman's perspective. As for guys, I can't recall the number of times one has said that Paris Hilton was hot. The public needs to realize that dying to be beautiful — by modeling standards — isn't a realistic or reasonable way to die. And until modeling agencies uphold some stronger standards, by the words of Tyra Banks, “You can kiss my fat ass!” ♦



Last three Republican presidents say, ‘War is just good business’

Since the Cold War ended, American death dealers have suffered financial losses. As stated in an April 1994 issue of Middle East Economic Digest (MEED) in the article titled, “Insecurity stimulates arms sales,” the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war and the Invasion of Kuwait started an arms race for the rest of the Middle Eastern region. Saudi Arabia agreed to buy 72 F-15 stealth

fighter jets for their air force and both Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have agreed to purchase the M1A2 tank from American suppliers. All the while, Raytheon Corporation, the makers of the Patriot anti-missile missiles, has cut its work force by seven percentage and Martin Marietta Corporation agreed to buy out the Grumman Corporation.

Where are these companies now? Raytheon, through many other acquisitions such as General Dynamics Missile Systems, is a \$21 billion entity as of July 2, 1997. The Grumman Corporation merged with Northrop who recently merged with TRW which has made over 16 acquisitions of other companies in an eight year span. They are now one of the leading defense firms with an annual revenue of over \$26 billion and one of the nation's leading employers. These figures are pre-Iraq war and are provided by www.global.org.

It is worth recalling history and reflecting upon how Americans were held hostage by Iran for 444 days only to be released within an hour of Ronald Reagan being sworn in as the president in January of 1981. According to renowned columnist Christopher Hitchens of “The Nation,” this situation also indicates there are reports in which some of Reagan's operatives brokered deals with the Iranians in an “Arms for Hostages” exchange post-election. Furthermore, “U.S. News & World Report” indicated in the article “Tilting toward Baghdad: U.S. Iraqi relations” that in February 1982 the Reagan administration removed Iraq from the list of terrorist nations and under the advisement of Jordan's King Hussein, provided support to Iraq in the war against Iran. Although in May of 1988 the Iraq army killed 2,000 Kurds in the village of Halabja with the use of chemical weapons, President Reagan still supported Hussein's regime with claims that sanctions against Iraq would not be prudent due to the amount of trade the U.S. was doing with the Iraqi government.

Another article published by Current Events entitled “Iran-Iraq War” indicates that the Iran-Iraq war, which started in Sept. 22, 1980, resulted from an ownership dispute over the waterway Shatt al Arab — the border between Iran and Iraq. Saddam Hussein attacked Iran to gain control over an oil rich section of Iran and to stop radical religious groups from intervening in Iraq.

Presidents Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush backed Iraq during the eight years of war with Iran. In fact, the United States provided not only military arms and money for those Iraq, but the U.S. also provided arms to Iran. These arms sales helped result in the injuries of 1.7 million people and the deaths of 1.5 million people, according to “Current Events.”

Did George H.W. Bush deliberately set up Saddam Hussein in an effort to boost arms sales in the Middle East? In 1986, according to the New Yorker, Bush had a meeting with King Hussein of Jordan and President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt. The reason of this meeting was to tell Saddam Hussein to bomb deeper into Iran's Ixan area because of the religious radicals there. Untold to Hussein though, was the hope that this would result in Iran needing more American arms to defend itself against Iraq. Hussein did just that. On Sept. 19, 1986, Iran petitioned Oliver North for more Hawk Missiles and radar equipment.

Also reported in “Newsweek” on Feb. 12, 2007, Saddam Hussein accused the Kuwait government in 1990 of stealing \$2.5 billion in Iraqi oil supplies. When Kuwait refused to pay compensation to Iraq, Iraqi tanks and troops in armored vehicles begin to line up at the Iraq Kuwait border. Again, the House and the Congress want to impose trade sanctions against Iraq but the White House refuses. And when the U.S. Ambassador April Glaspie meets with Saddam Hussein, instead of telling him the U.S. would defend it's ally Kuwait, she tells him that the U.S. “has no opinion on Arab-Arab conflicts, like your border dispute with Kuwait.” Just two days before the Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait, Glaspie is still telling Saddam Hussein she is working to have the \$500 million in agricultural loan guarantees, which had been previously suspended by Congress, reinstated to Iraq.

“In fact, the United States ... provided arms to Iran. These arms helped result in the injuries of 1.7 million people and the deaths of 1.5 million people.”

In a July 1994 article titled “Spider's Web: The Secrete History of How the White House Illegally Armed Iraq,” in “The Progressive” and written by Zachary Karabell, Karabell states that in January of 1989, George H.W. Bush is inaugurated and in August of that year, the FBI exposes the gross amount of fraud and illegal loans to Iraq. Many of these loans by the Banca Nazionale Del Lavarro in Atlanta Georgia, were backed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corp and totaled over \$5 billion. The investigation resulted in 347 indictments against President Reagan's operatives.

The current Bush administration is making a lot of noise about the possibility of Iran providing arms and ammunition to participants in the Iraq civil war. Even though all of our 16 intelligence agencies state there is only an ambiguous correlation between the two and that it makes little difference to the war because the religious hatred throughout the region needs no outside instigation according to the Feb. 17, 2007 issue of “Newsweek.” Is President Bush preparing to insight a war against Iran? You can bet your greenbacks on it. ♦

Student Government Association

Elections for Student Government Officers are coming up!

Applications will be made available Feb. 28 in UC 214 and www.apsu.edu/sga. Applications are due to Student Affairs on March 19 by 4:00 p.m.

Mandatory Candidate Orientations
March 19, 5:00 p.m. and March 20, 12:20 p.m.

Candidate Debate (in University Center)
Friday, March 30
12:20 p.m.

SGA Open House
Wednesday, March 28
12:20 p.m.

Elections will take place between April 2 and April 4, 2007
The results will be ratified April 9, at 12:20 p.m. by the SGA Election Board

What's in this issue:

Movie Reviews: "Norbit" and "Bridge to Terabithia"

Black Contributors

TRIO/Upward Bound program

Oscar review

This day in history:

Feb. 21, 1965: Black nationalist and religious leader, Malcolm X, is assassinated in New York City. He was exposed to the Islamic religion during a prison stay, which led to his passionate desire to promote civil rights and justice for blacks.

Word of the Day

turbid \TUR-bid\, adjective: 1. Muddy; thick with or as if with roiled sediment; not clear; – used of liquids of any kind.

Example Phrase: "Rough or smooth, the Irish Sea at Blackpool is always turbid. Beneath the murk float unspeakable things." – David Walke, "Is Labour right to end its affair with Blackpool?"

Quotes of the Week

"Promises are like crying babies in a theatre, they should be carried out at once."

~Norman Vincent Peale

"All the art of living lies in a fine mingling of letting go and holding on."

~Havelock Ellis

Did you know?

~A group of geese on the ground is a gaggle; a group of geese in the air is a skein.

~Fishing is the biggest participant sport in the world.

~The first pop video was "Bohemian Rhapsody" by Queen, released in 1975.

~Approximately one billion snails are served in restaurants annually.

~China uses 45 billion chopsticks per year. Twenty-five million trees are chopped down to make the chopsticks.

~A person remains conscious for eight seconds after being decapitated.

Contact us with your story ideas:

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Sarah Bullock, assistant features editor yladoob@yahoo.com

Murphy's 'Norbit' is huge hit



Eddie Murphy, pictured here at the "Norbit" premiere in Los Angeles, revisits his multi-character roots by portraying Mr. Wong, his adoptive Chinese father, as well as Rasputia, his overweight, over-demanding wife. "Norbit" is Eddie Murphy's 14th No. 1 box office opener.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

By A.J. DUGGER

Senior Staff Writer

People were laughing in movie theaters all over the country on Friday, Feb. 9. The reason: There is a new Eddie Murphy movie. "Norbit" is the story of a man who has had a pretty complicated life. For starters, he was abandoned on the steps of a Chinese restaurant as a baby. He grew up to become a shy, awkward geek, complete with speech impediment, glasses and an afro. He also has trouble standing up for himself against people with more confidence (the sad part here is that everyone in town has more confidence than Norbit). Despite this, Norbit is a very good-natured man and he does have morals.

During his childhood, a mean child named Rasputia saves Norbit from being beat up by two bullies. Due to Rasputia's own forceful nature, poor Norbit is pushed into being her boyfriend. As adults, Rasputia's three mean older brothers force Norbit to marry Rasputia. The plot twist occurs when an old flame from Norbit's childhood Thandie Newton moves back into town.

The comedy in "Norbit" is constant. The script was brilliantly written and the plot was well crafted. Murphy is known as a comedic genius, but he does need help. Other well known comedians are featured in the movie such as Eddie Griffin, Katt Williams and Marlon Wayans. Even Murphy's older brother, Charlie Murphy, has a voiceover cameo on one part. Other stars in the movie include Cuba Gooding Jr. and Clifton Powell. "Norbit" is also quite special because Murphy does something that he has not done since "The Nutty Professor": he plays multiple characters. In addition to playing the title character, Murphy plays Mr. Wong, the Chinese man who raised Norbit. Murphy's performance is very convincing. He does an excellent job as Mr. Wong. Also, Murphy plays Rasputia, who is an overweight, loud, selfish and controlling woman, who always annoys everyone with her catchphrase, "How are YOU doing?"

Many in the press have criticized Murphy's films of recent years, pushing away from his standup and offensive language, focusing more on family friendly movies, like "Daddy Day Care," "Shrek," "The Haunted Mansion," and the "Dr. Dolittle" films. Indeed, the language sometimes used in "Norbit" can be foul, which attributed to the PG-13 rating, but regardless, this is a film that everyone can enjoy. Not only can newer fans enjoy the movie but Murphy's old fans will find pleasure.

"For it to be comedy, it was way too brutal," said C.J. Marshall, a junior mass communications major. "Rasputia was way too mean." Some say that the character of the mean and aggressive Rasputia was a negative stereotype of overweight black women.

"The movie is a bad stereotype," explained Joy Pigott, a junior pre-law major. "There was only four people in that theater and that included me and my son." Delores Peters, an APSU alumni, agrees with Pigott. "They made too much fun of bigger individuals," she said.

Everyone has different opinions and tastes in movies, but one thing is a fact. "Norbit" is Eddie Murphy's 14th No. 1 box office opener and it looks like it will not be Murphy's last. ♦

'Bridge to Terabithia' spans realms of childhood

By DAVE CAMPBELL

News Editor

Sometimes, it's difficult to remember what it's like to be a kid. The new movie, "Bridge to Terabithia" refreshes the memory and rejuvenates the imagination, stimulating the child locked inside.

Surely everyone remembers a place and time that was shared, as children, in which the outside world was not allowed. The outside world here is Terabithia and when watching the new movie, there is the chance to return.

Visually, the movie was everything that could be hoped for. The cast and setting appeared precisely the way that one would picture when reading the original award-winning children's novel.

Scenes from within "Terabithia" were incredibly on target, featuring fantastical creatures and near dreamlike sequences in a wooded setting near the house which the children called Terabithia.

Most importantly, Anna Sophia Robb and Josh Hutcherson both nailed the mental image of young Jess and Leslie that the original novel inspires. Robert Patrick offers a great portrayal of what Jess' father might have looked like to Katherine

Paterson, the author of the novel.

Adaptations of other works are usually disappointing, flawed as they forget certain pieces. "Terabithia" intensely satisfying to people familiar with the book and at worst, simply missing a few pieces.

In all fairness, the movie wasn't perfect. For instance, the audience could have been given an elaboration on final scenes featuring Leslie's character. As well, why did we have a princess instead of a queen at the end of the movie?

These are questions that people familiar with the book will wonder and those unfamiliar with the book will have to go see to understand. This small lack of thoroughness does not detract so much from the movie that it hinders the enjoyment of it.

The novel ranks ninth on the American Library Association's list of most challenged books—or books that have generated controversy. Many felt that the issues of death were inappropriate for young children to be reading.

In addition, there was controversy surrounding the boy-girl relationship that the main characters Jess and Leslie share. Yet the relationship, especially as portrayed

here, presents a typical adolescent friendship between a boy and girl. Any confusion of that in the movie could simply be blamed on a person's inability to cope with the untraditional roles of that time period.

What really sets this fantasy story apart from others like "The Lord of the Rings" or "The Chronicles of Narnia" is that first, it's not a series. It stands alone as a single story.

Second, it acknowledges that Terabithia is a place that the children create to escape and learn to deal with the issues surrounding this time of life.

At least as far as the storyline is concerned, there is some element of truth that is offered here. Children often create a fantasy world in order to escape from real life problems; this fantasy world is Terabithia for Jess and Leslie.

For this reason, young adolescents may want to see this movie as it will sympathize with their feelings towards dealing with hardships. It is equally important for adults be aware of this opportunity to revisit their sense of nostalgia on a time long passed and the simple beauty of childhood. ♦



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The movie "Bridge to Terabithia" opened in Clarksville on Feb. 16. The movie is showing at The Great Escape theater, as well as the Carmike 10 in Governors Square Mall.

Oscar predictions: Eastwood still has it, Babel towers over others

By JESSICA BAIRD

Staff Writer

Another year of biopics, little indie films that could and Clint Eastwood proving he's still the coolest man in Hollywood can only add up to one glittering, spectacular night. The 79th Annual Academy Awards are airing Sunday Feb. 25 on ABC. Here are the big-category nominees, along with a few predictions, on which of these hopefuls will walk away with Oscar gold.

Best Picture

"Babel"
"The Departed"
"Letters from Iwo Jima"
"Little Miss Sunshine"
"The Queen"

This is one of the few categories without a clear front-runner. After collecting the highest honor at the Screen Actors Guild Awards, the lovable, yellow bus, Little Miss Sunshine could speed off with the trophy. However, the crime drama The Departed should win based on incredible directing, writing and first-rate ensemble acting.

Best Director

Clint Eastwood, "Letters from Iwo Jima"
Stephen Frears, "The Queen"
Paul Greengrass, "United 93"
Alejandro Gonzalez, "Inarritu Babel"
Martin Scorsese, "The Departed"

One of the biggest head-scratches in all of Oscar's history is the fact that Martin Scorsese has never won for best director. The Departed is Scorsese's sixth nomination and it's about time the academy awarded the man behind such classics as Raging Bull and Taxi Driver. However, there are possible spoilers on the horizon thanks to Clint Eastwood directing two stellar films within the same year. Letters from Iwo Jima and



The Kodak Theatre in Los Angeles prepares for the 79th Academy Awards by placing a 32-foot Oscar statue outside the building. The awards will be held at 7 p.m. on Feb. 25.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Flags of Our Fathers show that the 76-year-old has the best work ethic in Hollywood and that he shows little signs of slowing down.

Best Actress

Penelope Cruz, "Volver"
Judi Dench, "Notes on a Scandal"
Helen Mirren, "The Queen"
Meryl Streep, "The Devil Wears Prada"
Kate Winslet, "Little Children"

This statue belongs to Dame Helen Mirren for her portrayal of Elizabeth II, in the wake of Princess Diana's death. At this point in the race, Mirren has collected every trophy from The Golden Globe to the SAG award. Although the other nominees were wonderful, (Who didn't love Streep in Prada?) Mirren is the only actress that needs to prepare an acceptance speech.

Best Actor

Leonardo DiCaprio, "Blood Diamond"
Ryan Gosling, "Half Nelson"
Peter O'Toole, "Venus"
Will Smith, "The Pursuit of Happyness"
Forest Whitaker, "The Last King of Scotland"

Similar to Mirren, Forest Whitaker has won many awards already for his role as Ugandan dictator Idi Amin. Thanks to these multiple wins, Whitaker is most likely to walk away with the gold, but there is still competition. In spite of eight nominations, screen legend Peter O'Toole has never won. His role as a dying actor in Venus could give him an overdue trophy. Ryan Gosling was breathtaking as a crack addicted inner-city school teacher in the little-seen Half Nelson. Leo should have been nominated for The Departed, and Will Smith is just happy to be there.

Best Supporting Actress

Adriana Barraza, "Babel"
Cate Blanchett, "Notes on a Scandal"
Abigail Breslin, "Little Miss Sunshine"
Jennifer Hudson, "Dreamgirls"
Rinko Kikuchi, "Babel"

When Jennifer Hudson belted out the verse, "You're gonna love me," in the musical Dreamgirls, apparently she really meant it. The reject from American Idol is experiencing some of the best beginner's luck Hollywood has ever seen. As for the other women in this category, the Babel nominees will cancel each other out and Cate Blanchett won for The Aviator in 2005. Ten-year-old Abigail Breslin might have been the cutest pageant contestant in Little Miss Sunshine, but the crown will go to Hudson.

Best Supporting Actor

Alan Arkin, "Little Miss Sunshine"
Jackie Earle Haley, "Little Children"
Djimon Hounsou, "Blood Diamond"
Eddie Murphy, "Dreamgirls"
Mark Wahlberg, "The Departed"

Veteran actor Alan Arkin could walk away with the win for providing some of the best laughs in Little Miss Sunshine. Mark Wahlberg was the only actor nominated for The Departed, despite its all-star ensemble cast. Although Wahlberg was great as a corrupt Boston cop, this category belongs to Eddie Murphy in Dreamgirls. Murphy played a drug addicted R&B singer similar to James Brown, and proved that he's a lot more talented than some of his other films would suggest.

For more nominees log on to <http://www.Oscars.org>. Be sure to tune in to ABC at 7 p.m. on Sunday to watch Ellen DeGeneres host the most anticipated night in Hollywood. ♦

TRIO helps students become Upward Bound

AIMEE THOMPSON
Staff Writer

This summer Jesse Parker will complete the final leg of her journey to entering college. Now a senior at Cheatham County High School, her story begins with her sophomore year when one of her teachers recommended her for the Tri-County Upward Bound program at Austin Peay State University.

Though she was scared to leave home for the six-week summer program, she came through a much more confident person, with a goal: She wanted to go to college one day.

Parker is not the only person who has come to the realization that a college education is within grasp. The federal TRIO programs at APSU are helping nearly 2,000 people do exactly that, and on Feb. 24, APSU will show its support by celebrating National TRIO Day.

The first TRIO program began in 1965 when the U.S. government established Upward Bound in response to the administration's war on poverty. Soon after, two other federal programs were created: Talent Search and Student Support Services. These three formed the basis of all federal TRIO programs. Since then a total of eight programs have been created in order to better serve the needs of students and adults who wish to advance their education beyond a high school level.

APSU supports five TRIO programs: The Educational Opportunity Center, Student Support Services, Veterans Upward Bound, High School Upward Bound and Tri-County Upward Bound. These programs all play an important role in helping low-income, first-generation and adult students reach their academic goals and is supervised by Stanley Groppel, the dean of Extended and Distance Education.

The Educational Opportunity Center was created due to the Higher Education Amendment of 1972. Its goal is to provide adults with the help and information they need in order to complete a college or training program. The Center counsels adults on how to acquire



PATRICK ARMSTRONG/SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

The Tri-County Upward Bound building is located on Castle Heights Road, and provides a variety of helpful services to students, veterans and others.

financial aid and eases the application process between potential students and educational institutions. It also provides adults with a variety of services such as academic advice, career workshops, tutoring and mentoring. APSU's main EOC office is on campus (Ellington 102), but there are also offices in Stewart and Christian counties which serve Fort Campbell, Hopkinsville and Dover.

Student Support Services was created in 1968 and was originally known as Special Services for Disadvantaged Students. This program is designed to encourage students to succeed in graduating despite any economic or physical disabilities. SSS supplies students with academic, financial or personal counseling, admissions and financial aid assistance for enrollment in graduate programs and special services

for students with limited English proficiency. It also helps students gain college scholarships.

Like all Upward Bound projects, Veterans Upward Bound provides instruction in math, laboratory science, composition, literature and foreign language. VUB prepares eligible veterans for college or technical schools. Members of VUB are supplied with free educational services such as personal and career counseling, along with educational goal setting. Seminars about computer literacy are also available, as well as preparation for the GED.

High School Upward Bound is different from VUB because it deals with low income high school students in Montgomery County. APSU's Tri-County Upward Bound differs from HSUB because it serves low income high school students in Cheatham, Houston and Stewart counties. However, both high school programs offer students the opportunity to excel in school and prepare them for enrollment at a four-year college or university.

Parker has steadfastly participated in the Tri-County program since she was a high school sophomore, giving up one Saturday a month during the school year to work with Upward Bound counselors, who made sure she stayed on track with grades and homework.

She has also participated each year in the Upward Bound summer session in which students take classes and live on campus for six weeks in order to simulate college life. "It taught me about how to meet new people," Parker said. "Each time I left with a million best friends. I think it will help take the shock out of college when I go later on this year."

Daniel Botula, who has been the director of APSU's Tri-County Upward Bound program since 1999, said that the summer program "takes away the mystery of college life," and makes students "learn to compromise and get along. They learn how to function in college before actually having to be in it." He went on to say that the Upward Bound programs "provide students with new experiences" and "give them a greater

understanding of the world."

Tray Turner, a senior and general business major, has been a mentor in the Tri-County program for three years, and has been with Parker since she first started the program. "Jesse's always been bright," he said. "But it was through Upward Bound that she gained a college focus." This summer, following her graduation, Parker will participate in the Upward Bound Bridge experience, which means she will live on campus and be able to earn six college credit hours. However, Parker will not be attending APSU this fall; she hopes to go to University of Tennessee at Chattanooga instead.

Parker's choice to attend a different college does not disappoint Botula. "We are not here to recruit for Austin Peay," he said. "We are here to show students the different options open to them. The payoff for us comes in seeing them working in and contributing to society."

Turner agrees that the program rewards everyone involved, not just students. "It pays full time," he said, "but even if it didn't, I would still do it. It's that good." ♦

Contact information on APSU'S TRIO programs:

- **Veterans Upward Bound Director:**
Arthur L. Neal, neala@apsu.edu 221-7600
- **Student Support Services Director:**
Marissa Chandler, chandlerm@apsu.edu 221-7418
- **Educational Opportunity Center Director:**
John Johnson, 221-7481 or 1-800-351-3382.
- **High School Upward Bound Director:**
Marsha Lyle-Gonga, lylegongam@apsu.edu 221-6200
- **Tri-County Upward Bound Director:**
Daniel Botula, botulad@apsu.edu 221-6410

Play 'Bald Soprano' deals with discord of every day life, relationships

By HEATHER CLARK
Staff Writer

"Explanation separates us from astonishment, which is the only gateway to the incomprehensible." —Eugene Ionesco

Eugene Ionesco saw the art of communication more as an exercise in futility. With that perception on human interaction, he penned the absurdist play "Bald Soprano" in 1950. Fifty-seven years later, this nonsensical drama makes its way to the Trahern Theatre, compliments of director Sally Welch and a small, dedicated cast.

Welch provided some background regarding the Absurdist Theatre movement. Grown out of World War II, absurdist playwrights created works that were hard, if not impossible, to define. Breaking from tradition, the creations were thought to be "anti-plays," strays from the social norm similar to the works of art produced during the Dada

period. There is seldom a plot or sense of character development. The plays are commonly cyclical, ending where it first began. "Bald Soprano" itself was inspired by the inane sentences Ionesco read over and over in the primer he used to learn English (as a third language).

A bit of background into this genre will be a useful tool for anyone who goes to see "Bald Soprano," since the expectations for a traditional play do not apply. As explained by Erika Arnold (who plays the maid), "People should leave their expectations at the door." Search for meaning and you're sure to be left behind. Those who can let go and appreciate the play for what it is (or isn't) will get more out of the performance.

Saying there is nothing to expect should not suggest, however, that there will be nothing to look forward to. The quasi-comprehensible banter that takes place between the six characters is often humorous in its insanity. The play begins

with Mr. and Mrs. Smith (Joe Robinson and Jamie Farmer) having a rambling conversation which starts with dinner and leads around to the idea of a good doctor dying with his patient, paralleling the manner of a captain going down with his ship. Soon the audience is introduced to the "dinner" guests, Mr. and Mrs. Martin (Jeremy Maxwell and Brittany Carlton), a couple initially caught up in the notion of knowing each other without realizing how.

Completing the triad is the truly odd third couple consisting of the Smith's maid (Arnold) and the visiting fire chief (Joe Wojtkiewicz). The height of their bizarre interaction comes from the maid's hilarious recitation of a poem about fire.

Throw in an alliterative fight scene where the Smiths and Martins spew C words, G words and the like, a phantom doorbell that creates a rift between the sexes, some moral-deficient fables and

you have the play in a nutshell.

Ionesco's purpose was not to tell a simple story. "I think he wanted people to laugh at the absurdity of life," explains Wojtkiewicz.

In truth, one really can see elements of real life in this play. We are often victims of speaking only to fill spaces of silence and we often fail to listen in conversations. Rather, we are merely waiting for our turn to speak once again.

It's a phenomenon that is evident on television and in real life.

The cast and crew of "Bald Soprano" deserve real recognition for opting to challenge people with this production. If they take nothing else from this performance, the audience will surely grasp the sense of a month's worth of hard work.

The show premieres today and will show one final time at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 25. ♦



LOIS JONES/SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Tickets for the "Bald Soprano" can be purchased at the Trahern Theatre box office.

Citizens defend rights

By SARAH BULLOCK
Assistant Features Editor

The road to equal rights and freedom for blacks has been strewn with men and women of every race during every age since America was settled. Modern and historical heroes of the age include those who fought originally for civil rights, those that overcame the odds of racism and those who still fight to maintain equality today.

Activists from History

Hiram Rhodes Revels (1827-1901)

The first black elected to congress, Revels was a member of the state senate of Mississippi in 1869. Revels was elected as a Republican to the United States Senate, serving from Feb. 22, 1870, to March 3, 1871.

Thurgood Marshall (1908-1993)

In 1967, Marshall became the first black to be appointed to the Supreme Court.

Carter G. Woodson (1875-1950)

Woodson was the founder of Black History Month which began with Negro History Week in 1926.

Ida B. Wells (1862-1931)

Wells was a journalist and civil rights activist. Wells was the first to publish statistics and information on lynching in America. Wells founded the newspaper, *The Free Speech*.

Blacks overcoming adversity

Langston Hughes (1902-1967)

A playwright, novelist, and poet Hughes was the most popular for his poems that revealed his unswerving admiration for blacks, especially the poor. He was particularly inventive in fusing the rhythms of jazz and blues, as well as black speech, with traditional forms of poetry.

William Thaddeus Coleman, Jr. (1920-)

Coleman, in 1952, joined the law firm of Dilworth Paxson Kalish Levy, and in 1956 he became a partner. Coleman became the first black partner of a prominent white Philadelphia law firm.

Colin Powell (1937-)

Appointed by President George H.W. Bush, Powell was the first black chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the highest position of the United States Armed Forces.

Sammy Davis, Jr. (1925-1990)

Davis was one of the first black entertainers to produce fans of both black and white people. Davis is sometimes considered one of the world's greatest entertainers.

Civil Rights Defenders

Thomas Sowell (1930-)

As a professor of economics and civil rights activist, Sowell is known as a cutting debunker of what he views as racial-economic myths propagated by a self-serving black leadership and the white liberal establishment.

Herman Cain (1945-)

Cain was the first black president and CEO of the National Restaurant Association and constantly advocates the pursuit of excellence in Americans' personal and professional lives.

Ronald Reagan (1911- 2004)

Reagan passed the Federal Contract Compliance and Workforce Development Act of 1988 to improve enforcement of affirmative action requirements and to increase funding for job training for women and minorities.

Richard Nixon (1913- 1994)

Nixon passed the 1972 Equal Employment Opportunity Act to overcome democrat President Woodrow Wilson's purge of blacks from all federal jobs in 1912.

For this and more information, visit the History Resource Center: which is available through the APSU library Web site. ♦

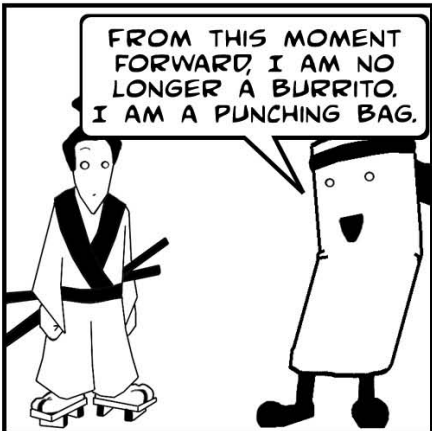
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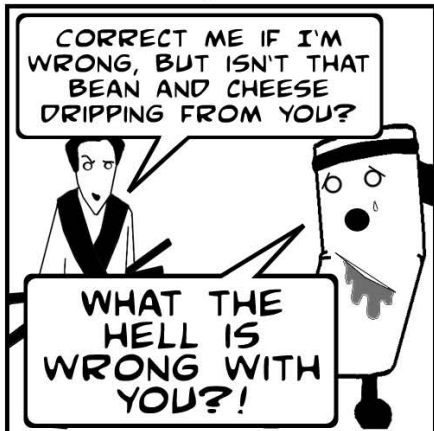
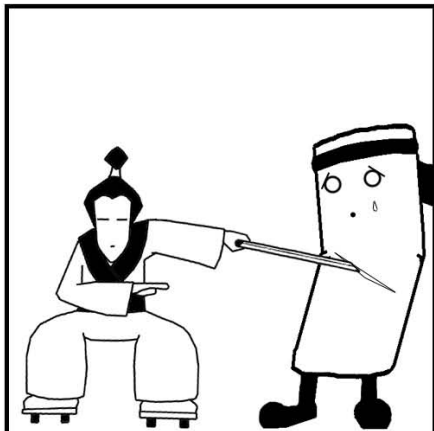
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JIM & TIM WEEKLY BY JOHN LUDWIG



by R. Dustin Kramer

3rd EYE



by Jennifer Otto

Love x3



by Apryl Rose

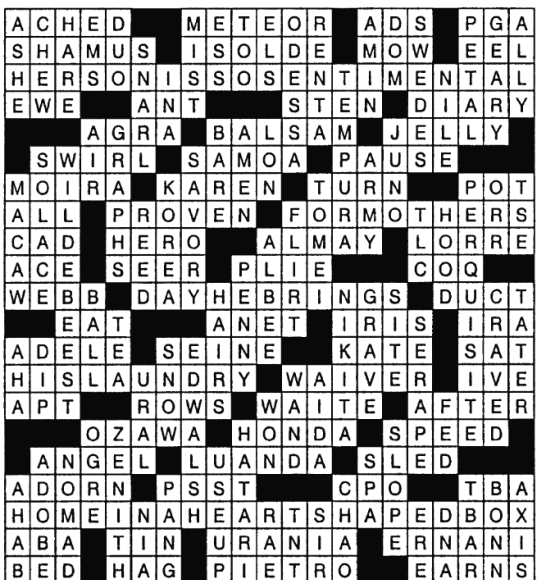
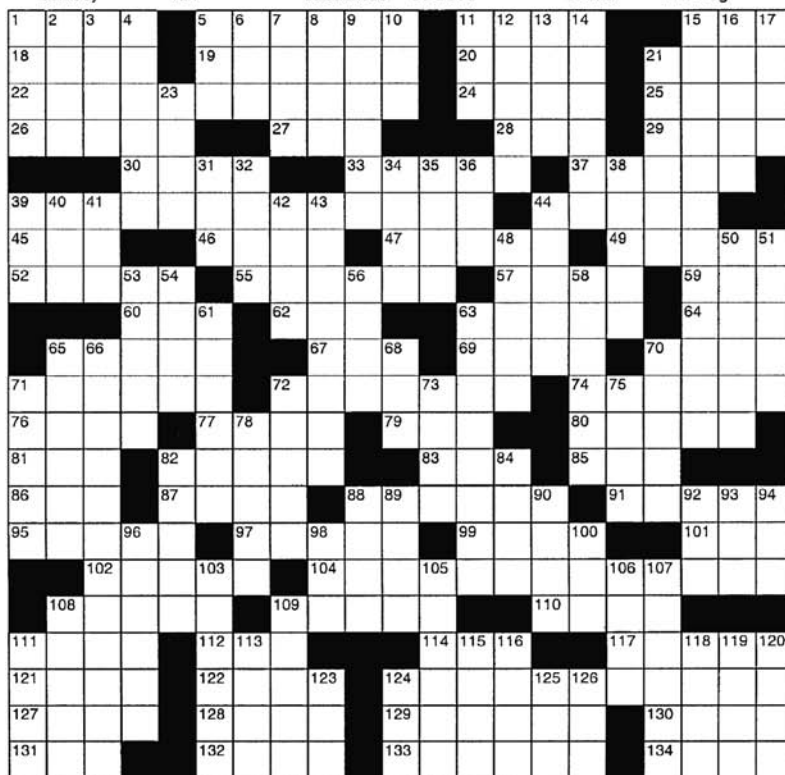
Super Crossword

OUT-OF-IT AFRICA

The Weekly Grind

by Matt Frazier

- ACROSS
- 1 "Lil' Abner" cartoonist
5 Mann or Greeley
11 Lloyd Webber musical
15 Owns
18 Fragrance
19 Military helicopter
20 Tigris-Euphrates land
21 Convent cubicle
22 African Revolutionary War heroine?
24 Hunt's "— Ben Adhem"
25 Wells' creatures
26 Stun
27 Author Follet
28 Actress Massen
29 Primer
30 Nobelist
33 Operetta composer
37 — out (eradicate)
39 African sitcom?
44 Actress Talia
45 Relished a roast
46 King of comedy
- 47 Grind
49 — cotta
52 "America's Most Wanted" host
55 Jubilant
57 Beltry sound
59 Marry
60 Roller-coaster unit
62 LAX letters
63 Desire
64 Botanist
65 Frighten
67 — "Magnon"
69 Roll-call reply
70 Cozy successors
71 Swiss sight
72 African appetizer?
74 Crowl tool
76 European capital
77 Memo start
79 "Agnus —"
80 Wonderful
81 Conductor
82 Queller
83 Like a raisin
85 — deco
86 Lodge brother
87 Part of MPH
88 Stalk
91 Cosmetician
95 Take the honey and run
- 97 Walker's "The —"
99 "Pat on the burns?"
101 Sign a contract
102 Declaim
104 Start of an African anthem?
108 Nasty
109 Puccini's "— Lescart"
110 Secure the ship
111 Scoundrels
112 Cow's cry
114 LP
117 Most minute
121 Potpourri
122 British buggy
124 African movie theme song?
127 Wise — owl
128 Turner or Wood
129 Aromatic plant
130 Mrs. Charlie Chaplin
131 Looney Tunes critter
132 In addition
133 Salem's state
134 Manipulates
- DOWN
- 1 Deep unconsciousness
2 Smith or Sandler
3 Actress Negri
4 Much valued
5 "Bali —"
6 Select, with "for"
7 Pinion's partner
8 Flu
9 Chinese Olympic skater
10 Chariot
11 Security grp.
12 Ann —, MI
13 New Mexico resort
14 Court sport
15 Beach Boys' African hit?
16 Knock for — (astonish)
17 Skirt feature
21 One of the Borgias
23 Soccer superstar
31 Tempest — teapot
32 Parisian pronoun
34 TV's "The Night of Night"
35 Card collection
36 Actress Alicia
38 Deed
- 39 Shorten a slat
40 Actress Hagen
41 Tierra — Fuego
42 Connecticut campus
43 Grabbed
44 Start wool gathering
48 Mail
50 Upshot
51 Proverb
53 It'll give you a weigh
54 Jackrabbit, for one
56 O'Hara homestead
58 Settle a score
61 Go to bed
63 Peculiar
65 Make a pile
66 African actress?
68 Peculiar
70 Packuses
71 — suzette
72 Philosophy
73 Paper quantity
75 Perry's creator
78 Sib's kid
82 Trepidation
84 It may be small
88 Mindy of "The Facts of Life"
- 89 Approximately
90 Abound (with)
92 Archaic contraction
93 Compass pt.
94 Scrape by, with "out"
96 Bastille, e.g.
98 Mauna —
100 Yoko —
103 Curly Shirley
105 Stick-in-the-mud?
106 Cry of distress
107 "— Lonesome Tonight?" ('60 hit)
108 Taco
109 Topping
109 Haunted-house sounds
111 Paint layer
113 Spoken
115 Barry or Brubeck
116 Stocking mishap
118 Baseball's Slaughter
119 Unit of loudness
120 "— brillig..."
123 West of Hollywood
124 Day- —
125 Past
126 Bog



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As you can see, we're off to a great start getting more and more student cartoonists creating fresh, original work for *The All State*.

That being said...the more, the merrier!

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For more information, contact Dustin Kramer, art director:

E-mail: rd.kramer@gmail.com

Phone: 221-7376

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

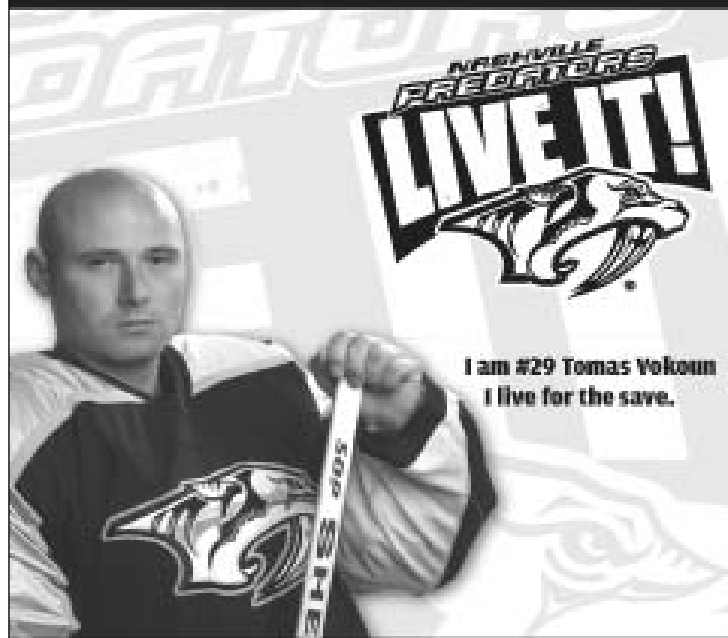
DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★ ★ ★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ HOO BOY!

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OPINION

Random Thoughts

By MICHAEL YOUNG
Senior Staff Writer

APSU Baseball: The Bat Gavs are still a mystery to me. After losing two top batters and the winningest pitcher in Ohio Valley Conference history, the table was set for the Gavs to rebuild.

But after the first weekend of the 2007 season, the Bat Gavs are undefeated (2-0) after pulling off wins over Cincinnati and Central Arkansas. Everyone expected Shawn Kelley to come out making batters crawl into the fetal position and have nightmares after his fastball singed by their swing, but Matt Reynolds? Ryne Mantooth?

The only explanation is that head coach Gary McClure spent the off-season praying to the baseball gods for them to send something resembling a replacement of some of the best players in the OVC the team lost after last season. Either way, the season should be interesting.

OVC Bracketbusted: Austin Peay State University's men's basketball team spent their Saturday night getting manhandled by Akron, 74-57. The Gavs' loss was the worse pounding since falling to No. 9 Memphis before the meat of the OVC schedule came rolling in.

The Gavs were just one of eight teams from the OVC that added another mark to their loss column by an average of 11 points while the conference overall went 3-8 in Bracketbuster games. The conference combined for a 3-8 record during Bracketbuster to show that the OVC is low on the totem pole of even mid-major college basketball.

The Gavs at least hold the bragging rights of being No. 1, but it all comes down to the OVC tournament. The team who wins the tournament, even if it is the Gavs, will never get above a No. 14 seed in the NCAA tournament where they might catch a break and be paired up with a Kentucky or even a Vanderbilt. That's always better than a Florida or a Ohio State.

Volleyball coach needs name boost: Just glancing at her starts, new APSU volleyball coach Jenny Hazelwood is far from impressive to the untrained eye. The magic numbers are 58-187, as in Hazelwood's career record as a volleyball coach at Division III Mississippi College and Division I Centenary College, the nation's smallest DI school.

To anyone who glances at the numbers briefly, it makes you wonder what the athletic department was doing when they hired Hazelwood. But the numbers can be deceiving. Hazelwood, while recruiting at MC, recruited three straight Southwest Conference East Division Newcomers of the Year before earning Independent Coach of the Year honors in 2002.

So what does this say to me? It says Hazelwood has potential. A former SEC volleyball player for Mississippi State, she inherited two programs that didn't know what a volleyball was and produced positive direction. The situation will almost be the same when she takes over the Lady Gavs program. The only exception is that she will be expected to win from the start since the Lady Gavs have a history of excellence. My advice to Hazelwood: don't worry; your job is secure after the former Lady Gavs coach's train wreck came through the Dunn Center. ♦



LOIS JONES/SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

The Gavs were successful in their opening weekend play against Cincinnati and Central Arkansas.

Gavs win in opening weekend play

By MARLON SCOTT
Senior Staff Writer

Dedicated fans dressed warmly and huddled together on long, cold aluminum benches in Raymond C. Hand Park to watch the Austin Peay State University Governors begin the baseball season with a double-header on Sunday and another game Monday afternoon.

The Gavs gave the fans a lot of reasons to cheer by winning both games on Sunday, first against the Central Arkansas Bears 10-2, then against the Cincinnati Bearcats 4-3.

"We played with a lot of energy, which you expect your first day playing even though it was really cold," said head coach Gary McClure. "I think we are the kind of team that is going to do that. We play with a lot of energy, a lot of spark."

The first game began at noon Sunday. Senior pitcher Shawn Kelley started wildly, allowing runs in the first and second innings. Kelley eventually calmed down and allowed only four base runners in the next five innings.

He pitched a solid seven innings in which he struck out four and limited Central Arkansas to only six hits. APSU exploded in the second inning. With the bases loaded, junior shortstop Levi Cheshire hit a two-run single through the third baseman's glove. Two batters later, senior first baseman Jake Lane hit a triple that rolled to the outfield wall with two runners on that gave the Gavs a 5-2 lead.

The Gavs continued to hit well in the third inning and won the game 10-2.

After the game Lane said, "It felt good to be outside again and actually play against somebody other than your teammates. The weather wasn't that great, but we made do and got the game in, and were fortunate enough to get a W"

Errors by Cincinnati in the first inning of the second

game gave the Gavs an early run. Good defense and strong pitching from senior pitcher Matt Reynolds helped the Gavs keep the lead until the fifth inning when the Bearcats took advantage of an error and tied the game.

Junior second baseman Josh Meeker helped the Gavs score two runs in the sixth inning with an RBI single. After both teams produced runs in the seventh inning, APSU led 4-2.

Senior pitcher Ben Wilshire earned the save by allowing Cincinnati only one run in the eighth inning. Wilshire had two strikeouts and no hits in his three innings pitched.

At the end of a long Sunday, freshman catcher Tyler Bullock reflected on his college debut.

"It was really intense," said Bullock. "It is a lot different than high school ball. The pitchers are a lot better and you see a lot more competition."

Monday, Cincinnati got their revenge. At the bottom of the second inning it looked as if APSU had the Bearcats packing their bags early as they hit every pitch starting sophomore pitcher Dan Osterbrock was throwing to generate four runs.

However, Cincinnati returned the favor at the top of the third inning with three runs to make the score 4-4.

The hitting slowed down after a pitching change by both teams until the fifth inning. At the top of the fifth, the Bearcats rallied to score 4 runs.

Bearcats sophomore pitcher Michael Hill put on a pitching clinic to keep APSU behind for three innings, allowing no hits and throwing six strikeouts.

The Gavs failed to convert late scoring opportunities and lost the game 9-7.

"You've got to pitch with a lead and shut somebody down and give yourself a chance to hit again with the lead," said McClure. "I thought it was a good weekend overall. I would have liked to have won all three and I think that we had a chance to do that." ♦

VB gets new coach

By MANDY ROGERS
Editor in Chief

After a dismal 4-24 2006 campaign — which also marked the first time in 21 years the Lady Gavs volleyball team did not qualify for the Ohio Valley Conference tournament — Austin Peay State University has hired a new head coach. Former head coach Corey Carlin resigned in December.

Jenny Hazelwood hails from the nation's smallest Division I school, Centenary College, where she led the ladies program for five years and compiled a 48-138 (.259) record. She was named the 2002 Independent Coach of the Year, producing a 12-win season after inheriting a team with only two players on the roster.

The All State caught up with Hazelwood, who began work at Austin Peay State University on Monday.

TAS: What do you think will be your biggest challenge at APSU?

JH: We're going to have a lot of new girls on the team. We'll have six returners, and at least six — if not seven or eight — new players. So I think the biggest challenge will be people getting used to each other, a new coach and a new system.

TAS: What are you most looking forward to in coming to APSU?

JH: I've really enjoyed meeting people all across campus so far — everyone has been so nice. I'm also looking forward to getting to know all the girls on the team and getting them on the court to see them play.

TAS: What is your top priority in the short term for the volleyball program?

JH: Just getting the girls here to learn what I expect from them is my top priority. When the new players come in, I want the returners to be on the same page with me. Recruiting is also a top priority. We've got four girls right now we're looking at signing.

TAS: The long term?

JH: This program has been successful in the past, competing in conference championships. There has been a strong tradition in volleyball, and I look forward to bringing that back.

TAS: What strengths do you believe you will bring to the program?

JH: I am a players' coach. I care about them off the court, and girls who have played for me in the past know that I'll push them hard — maybe getting more out of them than they ever imagined possible. I expect a lot out of them, but I expect a lot out of myself, too.

TAS: What's your philosophy in regards to volleyball?

JH: Team chemistry is important. The girls need to get along and be on the same page with one another. If we want to be competitive, we've got to train hard.

TAS: In regards to life?

JH: I'm a pretty happy person. I enjoy talking to people and meeting people. I'm easy to get along with. I also believe things happen for a reason, so not a lot will rock my boat. Stuff happens, and you've got to deal with it.

TAS: What do you believe is your biggest professional accomplishment?

JH: I think my biggest accomplishment is the program I just left [at Centenary College]. The program was severely under-funded compared with all the teams we competed with. Some people may not consider it an accomplishment because we weren't getting 20-plus win seasons, but we got a lot from a very little. Players were breaking school records and we were the only program to improve its win percentage over the last four years. With the resources here and the way APSU cares about athletics and volleyball, we should be in a good position to improve our program.

TAS: Your biggest personal accomplishment?

JH: I have a 23-month-old little girl who's very special to me. I love being a mom. I think balancing being a mother and a head volleyball coach is my biggest personal accomplishment. The support of my husband is wonderful. I've never wanted to have a job that adversely affected my family life, and I don't think I've let it. ♦



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Head football coach McCray resigns

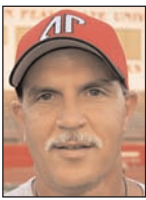
Austin Peay Sports Information

Austin Peay State University head football coach Carroll McCray announced his resignation, Monday, effective immediately.

McCray finished his fourth season as the Governors head coach in 2006, leading APSU to a 3-8 mark as a NCAA Football Championship Subdivision Independent.

APSU's football team will rejoin the Ohio Valley Conference in 2007, completing a return to scholarship football initiated during McCray's tenure.

"I was disappointed to hear that Coach McCray would be leaving," said athletics director Dave Loos.



McCray

"The timing of this is critical in that we are entering our first season back in the OVC. I want to thank Coach McCray for his contributions to our football program. I believe that our football program is in the best shape it has been for some time. I wish him the best in his future endeavors."

McCray officially became the Gobs head coach — his first head coaching position — in January 2003, becoming the 16th head coach in program history. He

led the Gobs to a 4-7 overall mark in his first season, including a 1-2 record in the non-scholarship Pioneer Football League. Back-to-back 2-9 seasons followed that campaign before 2006's 3-8 record. He leaves APSU with an 11-33 overall record.

APSU recently completed its 2007 signing period with 20 recruits for the upcoming campaign.

That group will join a talented core of returnees, including returnees Mark Cunningham, at quarterback, and Chris Fletcher, at running back, who will enter their respective senior seasons and junior wide receiver Lanis Frederick.

"We will begin an immediate search for a successor," said Loos. "My concerns are for

his staff, our players and recruits and, of course, our fans. I want to assure all of them we will be moving forward with our football program."

Carroll McCray's comment:

"This move was a family decision which will allow us to move closer to our immediate families in the Carolinas," said McCray.

"I would like thank Dr. Hoppe and Coach Loos for their support and encouragement and for allowing me to direct Austin Peay's football program the last four years.

It is my hope that we have moved this

program forward and put it in a position to move into the OVC in a competitive way. I also would like to thank the Governors Club and the friends we have made in Clarksville that have been great supporters of our program."

Austin Peay President Sherry Hoppe's comment:

"I was very surprised to hear about Coach McCray's decision to leave Austin Peay, and I regret he is leaving at such a crucial time," said APSU President Sherry Hoppe.

"However, I am confident that we will have excellent candidates and will move quickly to get the right person in place." ♦

Anderson is Lady Gobs flame

By MICHAEL YOUNG

Senior Staff Writer

Every team, no matter the sport, needs someone to be a leader or a light that illuminates the path to success. For the Austin Peay State University softball team, senior hurler Natasha Anderson is the flame the Lady Gobs need to burn their way into contention in 2007.

Previously known as a talented but quiet player, Anderson underwent a makeover during the off-season with her leadership skills.

"Along with all of our seniors this year, Natasha has really stepped up her leadership role on the team," softball head coach Jim Perrin said. "Initially, she didn't want to say too much because she's a very calm person and not very pushy."

"She wasn't sure if she could be a leader but she finally came around and stepped it up."

Anderson, who the Lady Gobs have relied on heavily for the last three years, served as the team's ace last season, posting a 12-14 record while posting a team-best 2.37 ERA. The senior also recorded 20 complete games, three shutouts and 238 strikeouts, all while holding opponents to a .214 batting average per contest. Needless to say, Anderson's statistics precedes her already stellar reputation around the league.

"It's going to help us out and it's going to help the younger players out to have somebody as talented (Natasha) to be their mentor and to help them out," senior outfielder Amy Bush said. "Her talent can bring everyone up to another level because it is going to motivate



LOIS JONES/SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Natasha Anderson is looking to her new role as a leader this season. Anderson posted a 12-14 record last season.

them to be as good as her."

Anderson's talents, however, are not limited to the mound. Last season, Anderson was the team's No. 2 slugger behind home-run-hitting machine Brianna Venable with seven home runs and seven doubles to accompany her

"It's really big for me to win 30 or more games,"

— Natasha Anderson, on what she wants from her team

.253 batting average.

"I love hitting," Anderson said. "I think that everybody can say that because hitting is the most fun part of the game so I really can't complain about that from last year."

After such a strong 2006 season, Anderson's goals and expectations for 2007 have only risen to a level that could rival that of any Lady Gov softball player in the history of the school. When it is all said and done, Anderson could be in the remembered by the multiple records she has the potential to break this season, mainly for career strikeouts recorded.

"I want to improve in everything," she said. "I want to win more games, have a better batting average and strike out more people."

It's really big for me to see this program win 30 or more games or even have an overall winning record. So, of course, that's always right there up front."

If the Lady Gobs expect to meet their goals in 2007, the road must be paved through Anderson's strong pitching and leadership of a young pitching staff as well as her production at the plate.

The Lady Gobs will need the senior's flaming arm to ignite their fiery path to winning. ♦

2007 Lady Gobs softball preview



LOIS JONES/SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Head coach Jim Perrin believes depth, athleticism, and attitude have all improved the Lady Gobs this season.

Lady Gobs look to seniors

By MICHAEL KELLUM

Sports Editor

Coming into the new season for the Austin Peay State University softball team, they look to follow the footsteps of this year's Gobs basketball team. The Gobs were picked to finish sixth in the OVC, but ended up becoming the conference champions. Like the Gobs, the softball team was picked to finish tied for seventh place with Samford. "We are using that as extra motivation," said head coach Jim Perrin.

"I see that as a challenge. When someone tells me I can't do something, it just makes me work harder." Depth would probably be the best word to describe the Lady Gobs this year.

"We are two or three deep at every position," said head coach Jim Perrin. "We've done a lot in the off season to try and get better. Our athleticism, depth and attitude are all better this year. After finishing in seventh place last season, Perrin knew that he had to do some different things to try and get his team closer to the top of the OVC. One thing he did to fix that was to get some heavy recruiting done."

Perrin signed six freshmen this year, including three — Ashley Taylor, Daniella Hooper and Ryann Musick — who earned All State honors last year and will try and make their way into the starting lineup.

"We've had two good freshmen classes in a row, and I think this year's freshmen will be a big impact," Perrin said. "This class is going to push some of our upperclassmen to work harder because they know their job could be on the line."

The Lady Gobs have to deal with the loss of former player Brianna Venable who was the first Lady Gov in history to record three straight doubl- digit home run seasons and is the all time home runs leader in Lady Gov history. "Natasha Anderson will be a big person on this team," said Perrin.



LOIS JONES/SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

The Lady Gobs want to show they're better than their seventh place preseason rank with their seniors leading the way.

"Right now she is our pitcher with the most experience, and we will be depending on her a lot. All of our seniors are going to be an important part of this team. They have been really good leaders, pushing their teammates and acting like big sisters."

Besides Anderson, the Lady Gobs have three other seniors Ami Bush, Nikki Garrett, and Fallon Felts to help lead this team. Besides the OVC teams, the Lady Gobs also face a tough out of conference schedule. They play such teams as Tennessee, Mississippi State, Memphis and Lipscomb. "One of our

goals is to get to the OVC championship" said Perrin. "I think it's an attainable goal, and we just want to get better everyday. We have a 1 percent rule, meaning we get 1 percent better every day. By the end of the week, you are 5 percent better, and after two or three months you should be very good."

Though Perrin is looking forward to this season, he is already making plans for next season.

"We already have four kids committed for next year, and they're not bad. I think the number one thing for us is we want to be a lot better than last year." ♦

APSU lose on the road to Akron



PATRICK ARMSTRONG/SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Junior Fernandez Lockett scored 13 points against Akron in a losing effort. He also posted nine rebounds and two blocks.

Lady Gobs lose to Golden Eagles fall to seventh in OVC

By MARLON SCOTT

Senior Staff Writer

The Tennessee Tech Golden Eagles welcomed the Austin Peay State University Lady Gobs to open arms for their final regular season road game of the season. But unlike gracious hosts, they beat APSU 63-51.

Senior forward Alicia Watson returned to play after missing one game because of strep throat. She seemed more than ready to play as she made six of her first nine shots including a three-pointer that gave the Lady Gobs a 16-10 lead with 12:43 left in the first half.

Watson posted a double-double in the game with 20 points and 13 rebounds.

"We started off hot," said head coach Carrie Daniels. "Watson hit some really big baskets for us. But we didn't keep up our defense."

Sophomore guard Meagan Lyons scored the first five points in an 11-2 run for the Golden Eagles that gave them the lead 21-18.

Lyons and senior guard Kendall Cavin both had 16 points in the game

for Tennessee Tech.

After a layup by junior guard Amber Bacon to make the score 21-20 with 7:23 left in the half, the Golden Eagles would establish a lead that the Lady Gobs could only cut to nine points by halftime, 34-25.

Watson initiated a Lady Gobs offensive charge in the second half with a jumper in the paint that was all net. Bacon would end the 13-5 scoring run with her own jumper that would give the Lady Gobs the lead 40-39 with 11:36 left in the game. Bacon had 14 points and two assists in the game.

The Golden Eagles quickly regained the lead when junior center Kristina Tyler made two free throws after being fouled, hit a jumper, and then her teammate Cavin made an open shot from downtown.

Two more free throws from Tyler made the score 48-40 with 7:57 left in the game.

Bacon and senior guard Saundra Hale tried to close the gap with three-point shots, but the Lady Gobs couldn't stop Tennessee Tech from continuing to

score.

With 1:50 left in the game junior forward Marissa Hensley made a three-point shot to give the Golden Eagles a 10 point lead, 61-51.

The Lady Gobs failed to score again.

"We did not keep our focus on defense," said Daniels. "We let Tennessee Tech do what they wanted to offensively and we can't do that."

APSU now has a 9-18 overall record and an 8-10 OVC record. They are currently ranked seventh in the OVC, just one game ahead of Eastern Kentucky who they face in the Dunn Center next week.

Eastern Kentucky has already beaten APSU once this season and a win would give them the seventh spot and drop the Lady Gobs to eighth place.

Daniels does not need to be reminded of the situation.

"With two games left, we have to find a way to win. We haven't faced these two teams in a while; I think since December. Everyone is a different team at this point and they are playing to win." ♦

Three Gobs score in double figures

By MICHAEL KELLUM

Sports Editor

The Austin Peay State University Men's basketball team went to Akron last Saturday for ESPN's Bracket Buster see how they stacked up against non-conference opponent in the Akron Zags.

The results were not what they were hoping for as they lost to Akron 74-57. Junior Fernandez Lockett, sophomore Drake Reed and freshman Wes Channels each scored 13 points apiece, bringing their record to 18-8 overall.

The Gobs were hoping to get a win against a non-OVC opponent after losing to Dayton, Illinois and Memphis earlier in the season. The Gobs fell behind early, but caught

up to tie the game at 19. They stayed within four points going into the half. In the second half it was all Zags as they got their biggest lead of the game with 18.

Akron outscored APSU 42-29 in the second half and also out-rebounded them in the game 46-30.

Landon Shipley led the team in assists with five. APSU'sss bench outscored Akron's 22-16. The Gobs have two more OVC games left to play Thursday against Eastern Kentucky and Saturday against Morehead State. The Gobs are the OVC regular season champions after Samford lost last week. APSU will host a yet-to-be named OVC opponent Tuesday Feb. 27. ♦