



THE ARKANSAS TRAVELER



Diversity Council
Tackles
Discrimination

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Complaints Filed Against UAPD: How police handle investigations

Meleah Perez
Senior Staff Reporter

Civilians have filed 14 complaints against UAPD officers since 2013, but the process of investigation and the outcomes do not always satisfy everyone.

Cody and Hannah Johnson, two UA graduates, said that UAPD handled their complaints after an incident at a football game.

Cody and Hannah Johnson were in the student section during the Ole Miss football game in November 2014, a week after students stormed the field at the Louisiana State University game, Hannah Johnson said.

After leaving the student section to go to the bathroom, Cody Johnson returned to an officer who told him he was not allowed back into the student section, Cody Johnson said.

"I looked back and noticed that Cody was talking with the police officer stationed next to the exit walkway," Hannah Johnson said. "I thought it was some sort of friendly exchange, which it wasn't."

The officer directed Cody Johnson to another officer

COMPLAINTS AGAINST SEC POLICE DEPARTMENTS SINCE 2013



THE NUMBERS IN THIS GRAPH WERE PROVIDED BY THE UNIVERSITIES THAT RESPONDED TO THE TRAVELER'S REQUEST REGARDING COMPLAINTS.

Elysa Barsotti News Designer

Officers have investigated each of the complaints against UAPD officers since 2013.

closer to the field, where the officer grabbed him by the arm and pretty roughly escorted him down to field level, he said.

Hannah Johnson said she approached the original officer who stopped Cody Johnson.

"I became very worried at this point and began to cry out of fear, out of injustice, out of miscommunication," Hannah Johnson said.

After seeing his wife in tears, Cody Johnson became "pretty worried and, to be honest, quite infuriated," he said. "That crosses an emotional line."

When the officers let Cody Johnson return to his seat, the couple left, the Johnsons said.

"We left immediately, completely shocked, disoriented and fearful," she said. The officer was from a lo-

cal municipality that was working the football game, however, the complaint was filed with UAPD, Cody Johnson said.

Filing a Complaint

When UAPD has complaints brought to its attention, officers take it seriously and each complaint is investigated to the fullest extent possible, Crain said.

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RIC moves to lower RA parking pass fees

Jordan Whiteley
Staff Reporter

Residents' Interhall Congress members are in the process of writing a resolution which, if approved, will encourage Transit and Parking officials to lower Resident Reserved parking fees for Resident Assistants.

The resolution is in the draft and review stages, but Director of External Affairs Kristen West said she is hopeful that it will get through.

In order to be viable UA legislation, the resolution has to be approved first by the Transit and Parking committee. Afterward, it will go through several levels of additional committees before it is given to the Board of Trustees, which will decide whether or not the resolution can be put into effect. However, if the resolution does not make it past Transit and Parking, RIC will have to negotiate with them, according to West.

There are 1,200 active Resident Reserved permits on campus, said Gary Smith, Transit and Parking director.

The Resident Reserved parking permit cost is \$611.27 per year, according

to the UA Transit and Parking website. If the resolution is approved, that cost should be cut by 25 percent, according to the draft of the resolution.

The author of the resolution is Colman Betler, an RIC representative from Yocum Hall.

"A few RAs had mentioned the outrageous pricing of Resident Reserved parking, so I looked into it," Betler said. "I thought it would be a nice way to give back to those students who take the extra step to give back to new students."

Betler originally wanted the resolution to make parking free for RAs, but he was unable to clear that with Transit and Parking. However, he said he is undeterred by the compromise.

"The resolution is important, not only at face value, but for the future," he said. "It possibly could improve RA living, and that could lead to better RA retention in the future. And branching from this resolution, many other parking resolutions could have the door opened for them."

Sophomore Jessi Balagtas, an RA in Gibson Hall, said she agrees that the resolution

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School books to fierce looks: student entertains as drag queen

Madison Lawson
Staff Reporter

The lights in the room flashed with the music. People crowded around, eagerly watching the back entrance.

"Please welcome to the stage your hostess and emcee for the evening, Taylor Madison Monroe!" a man behind the soundboard said.

The black curtains were pushed to the side and Miss Monroe emerged with unnaturally large white hair and a floor length black dress.

"How the h**l are you doing, Fayetteville?" Monroe said.

She strutted through the crowd, making her way to the middle where she could turn in circles, seeing every eager face.

She addressed the crowd, commenting on the weight of her dress and how she needs a drink. She's handed one. She proceeded to announce the guest queen just as a song begins.

Monroe does this every Sunday night at Fayetteville's C4, a club off of Dickson

Street. In addition to this job, she works other drag shows in Tulsa, Oklahoma, is in "Eurydice," a University Theatre play on campus and is a full time student at the university.

When the makeup isn't applied and the wig is sitting on her counter, Monroe is known as Jeremy Stuthard, junior at the university and long time drag queen.

Stuthard started drag in 2003. He created Taylor, who was called Medusa in the beginning, to get into a Halloween party where the guests had to come dressed as the opposite gender.

"Back when I started at the University of Arkansas in 2002, it was very hard for freshmen to get into the theater because they had a lot of grad students and that's who they cast, Stuthard said. "So I auditioned for theater and I didn't make it so one of my friends suggested I do drag."

He took the advice and has been doing drag for 12 years since.

Stuthard rushes into the dressing room, wearing jeans and no makeup, at 10:30 p.m. Forty minutes later, Monroe emerges to a crowd waiting.

Stuthard loves this job, he said, especially the opportunity to express himself.

"I really liked people getting to express themselves in a way that would generally be looked down upon," said Riley Smith, junior and frequent C4 guest.

"It was really cool to see that everyone there was excited and pumped about them doing their own thing," Smith said.

Participating in drag is an art form of expression that isn't easily found in other places, Stuthard said, and is a wonderful place to meet people.

As the hostess, he is able to meet many interesting people, and so do other workers at the club, he said.

"It's very interesting with the people that come through. You meet a lot of different people. I love meeting the people and the experiencing you have with it," said Tyler Birchfield, a junior and employee at C4.

There is a steady stream of people arriving and leaving through the night. Some order drinks, others talk on the balcony, most enjoy the show and dancing. The pace is constant,



Andre Kissel Staff Photographer

Junior Jeremy Stuthard applies makeup Jan. 25 in the dressing room at C4, a club off of Dickson Street.

matching that of the loud music.

"I like seeing the people and the pace of the job is fun," said Blake Brumbelow, senior and bartender at C4.

After the queens are fin-

ished for the night, the party continues and guests mingle with one another.

"I went to C4 because I thought it would be a good chance to meet and connect with people. I loved the drag

show. It was really entertaining and kind of out of my comfort zone because I had never been to one before," freshman Anthony Azzun said.

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NEWS

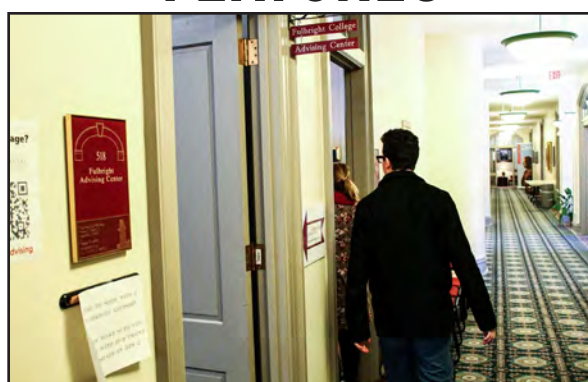


UofA Debates Adding Two Sororities

The Panhellenic Council is considering the possibility of adding two new sororities on campus.

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FEATURES



Major Does Not Limit Opportunities

Many students end up in careers that do not directly relate to their degrees.

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SPORTS



The Madness of National Signing Day

National Signing Day has become a bigger spectacle throughout the years.

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Global Campus building renovation scheduled to be completed March 1

Andrea Breckenridge
Staff Reporter

The renovation project for the Global Campus building on Center Street will improve many aspects of UA life, a Global Campus official said.

Built in 1981, the Global Campus building is home to several UA services, including support for online education. Here, online courses are developed and delivered to the proper officials. Online degree programs are also created and promoted through Global Campus, said Kay Murphy, director of communications for Global Campus.

"Many people come to Global Campus to ask questions about what degrees can be earned through our self-paced online programs," Murphy said.

Global Campus also provides workforce development training to those interested.

The building was beginning to feel outdated because of its age. Because of this, new lights, ceiling tiles, flooring and paint were added to the building's ground floor, Murphy said.

"It has that 1981 feel, so this work was necessary to make the building seem fresh," she said.

Updated areas will be seen by the public more often due to the Department of Theater's use of Global Campus auditoriums on the first and second floors of the building, she said. Keeping the public spaces up-to-date will benefit the UA reputation.

The cost of the second floor renovation is \$268,000, she said. It will be paid for by Global Campus reserve funds, which are funds saved from previous years' projects. The project began around Thanksgiving and will be complete March 1.



The Global Campus building is receiving updates to the first, second, fourth and fifth floors. The building was built in 1981.

In addition to the improved aesthetic the renovations will bring, Murphy said officials also hope that they will help with their recruitment and retention efforts. By moving some offices to the ground floor, students will have easier access to Global Campus officials. Later in the semester, the fourth and fifth floors will also be renovated to reach this end, Johnson said.

"The building has great bones, but it is over 35 years old and needs some updating," said Jamie Loftin, assistant vice provost for Distance Education Administration. "Our recruit-

ment and retention teams were relocated to the second floor office space to provide synergy between these two groups and allow easier access for students and faculty."

Senior Andy Garcia said that these efforts are valuable to the UofA.

"I think especially at large universities like the UofA, there is a problem with retaining students," he said. "Certainly our ability to keep freshmen here and engaged in their work and community needs to be something we focus on, so if this is an effort to bolster that ability I am in support."

By moving the offices to the ground floor, students will have easier access to resources, Murphy said.

Another benefit to improving the building's infrastructure is increasing sustainability, she said. By replacing old heat and air conditioning systems and installing new energy-efficient lighting, Global Campus is contributing to the UofA's goal of becoming carbon-neutral by 2040.

Although the renovation is still underway, Global Campus officials are excited to see the finished product, Loftin said.

Michael Morrison Staff Photographer

WOO PIG WEATHER

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WEDNESDAY

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THURSDAY

54 | 23

FRIDAY

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SATURDAY

40 | 29

SUNDAY

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MONDAY

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TUESDAY

Data from the National Weather Service
Graphic by Elysa Barsotti

Greek Life debates adding two sororities to campus

Wendy Echeverria
Contributing Reporter

About 4,000 girls have rushed since 2013, and officials are considering the addition of two new sororities on the UA campus next year, the Panhellenic Council president said.

The two new sororities that UA officials have discussed adding are Delta Gamma and Alpha Gamma Delta.

"It will give more opportunity for more women to be able to go through recruitment," said Mackenzie Lantefield, Panhellenic Council president.

Representatives of the two sororities will be on campus next week to meet with the Panhellenic Council, said Parice Bowser, director of Greek Life.

Delta Gamma, a sorority that had a chapter at the UofA until 1992, will make a case to return during a Feb. 15 session, Bowser said.

The second potential sorority, Alpha Gamma Delta, will be on campus Feb. 17. Both presentations are open to the public, Bowser said.

"We are hopeful for these two organizations and looking forward to hearing their presentations on next week," Bowser said.

Some students support an expansion.

"We definitely need more sororities," said Vanessa Nimmo, a member of Alpha Chi Omega. "Greek Life is growing every year at the UofA, so we need more sororities so more girls rushing can receive bids."

Even though students have stated that they think the UofA needs more sororities, the university already has one of the highest sorority retention rates, 92 percent, in the country, Bowser said.



Devynne Diaz Staff Photographer

Alpha Chi Omega and Phi Mu are the two newest sororities at the UofA. The Panhellenic Council is considering adding two new sororities on campus.

Although the expansion would create more room for Greek Life at the UofA, there are students who may still not be able to be a part of it. There is a fee to join fraternities and sororities, as well as regular dues.

"For me, paying extra than what I am already paying for tuition is a waste of money," sophomore Iris Aquino said. "Activities should be free for the students. There should not be a cost."

Delta Gamma has 145 university chapters, including one at the UofA at Fort Smith, according to the sorority's website. The sorority's letters were chosen to signify Do Good.

If accepted, this will be Alpha Gamma Delta's first time on campus. The sorority's mission is to inspire women and to impact the world, according to the group's website.

"The Extension Committee will make a recommendation to the Panhellenic Council as to who we should select and/or bring to campus for fall 2016 (and) fall 2018," Bowser said. "Once the committee makes a decision, we will also share this information with the administration to get their support and vote of confidence and hopefully move forward with the process to make it a success."



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Graduate Student Congress works to increase graduate student stipends

Shelby Evans
Senior Staff Reporter

The Graduate Student Congress released a statement Jan. 27 regarding the increase in the University of Missouri's graduate assistant stipend offerings.

Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin of the University of Missouri announced plans to raise the minimum stipend for graduate doctoral students 25 percent in summer 2016 and 20 percent in 2017, according to the statement.

The stipend amounts will raise from \$12,000 to \$15,000 in summer 2016, and \$18,000 in 2017, according to the statement.

In response, GSC members said they hope the UofA will do the same, according to the statement.

"The average UA graduate student stipend is about \$9,000, which will be almost half of Mizzou's," GSC Speaker Scout Johnson said.

Graduate student stipends are a fixed regular sum paid as a monthly salary, and are awarded to students working towards a master's or doctorate who also work with the university a certain amount of hours a week.

"There are two levels," Johnson said. "There are grad students who work full time and part time."

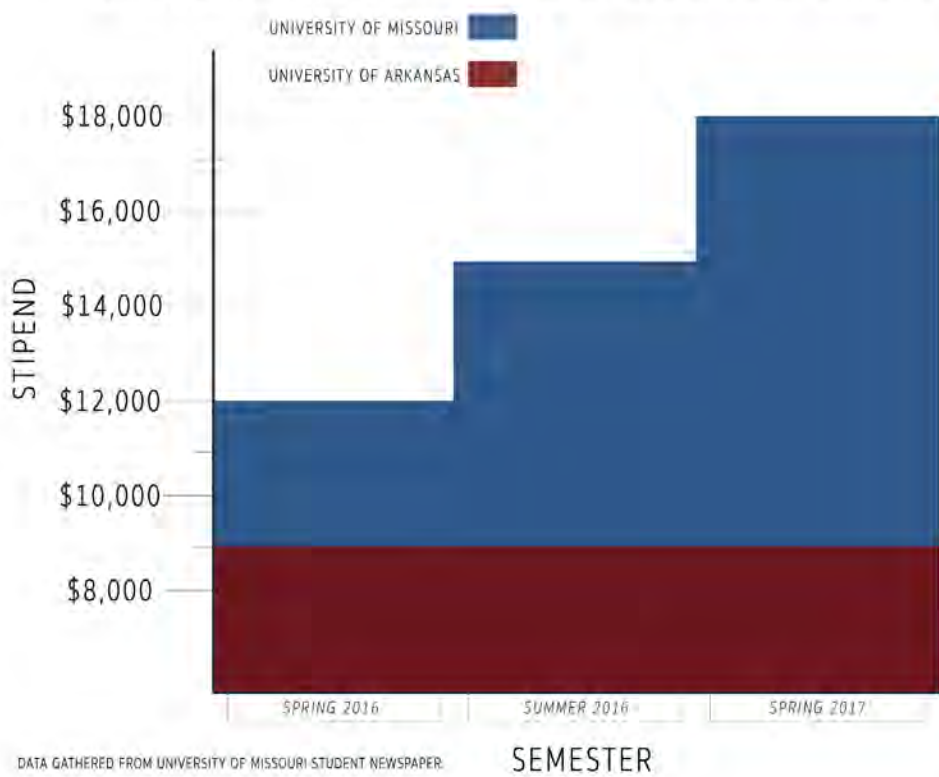
Graduate students who work full time must work at least 20 hours, and part-time students must work at least 10, Johnson said.

Dustin Jones is a graduate student studying toward a Master of Music and Instrument Conducting. He works full time at the university.

"I have to work about 16 hours a week and help out different professors," Jones said. "I usually work way over, but it's well worth it."

The process for a graduate

GRADUATE STUDENT STIPENDS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI AND THE UOFA



DATA GATHERED FROM UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI STUDENT NEWSPAPER.

University of Missouri officials plan to raise the average graduate stipend to \$15,000 this summer and then \$18,000, while the UofA's average graduate stipend is \$9,000.

student to receive a stipend is a several-tiered process, Jones said.

"I had to be accepted to the graduate school and then have several interviews and auditions," Jones said. "But nowhere else offered nearly as much financial support."

The Department of Music waived all tuition and Jones gets \$1,200 a month.

Not every graduate student receives as much as Jones.

"Only about 40 percent of graduate students receive stipends," Johnson said. "And it's different with each department. Some only offer stipends to students studying to get their Ph.D., where others give to students studying towards their masters."

Brittany Race is a psychology student studying towards her Ph.D.

"I work as a Teaching Assistant, instruct my own classes and keep office hours," Race said. "And I get \$900 a month plus health insurance."

The amount of stipend varies with each department as well, Johnson said.

"We had a graduate student in the Walton Business College receiving \$26,500 last year," Jones said.

Johnson said this is because the university can favor science, technology, engineering and math degrees over humanities.

"We would like to see a bit more equity," Johnson said.

Elysa Barsotti News Designer

"But we know there isn't just a pot of money out there."

Johnson said that GSC does not want to "lower the ceiling," but rather "raise the floor" and bring the bottom tier up.

The GSC has been a legislative body for two years and has worked on a variety of issues, Johnson said.

"Our goal is not to point out problems, but to show what we would like to see happen," Johnson said.

Johnson said she is hopeful to hear from the UA chancellor soon regarding increased stipends.

"It's a tough decision, but I know Chancellor Steinmetz values our graduate students," Johnson said. "I look forward to working with him."

RIC encourages officials to lower parking prices for Resident Assistants

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would be helpful in helping RAs with their work.

"We have to find this balance between taking interest in our residents and allowing them to feel like they can utilize us as a resource, while maintaining our own studies," Balagtas said. "We're here for school, we're here to get our degrees and do our work. So, it is a challenge to find that balance, and it is more than just being a student."

The resolution, while still in an early stage, is already stirring up discussion among RIC members and RAs on campus.

"There isn't a debate yet, because we're still working on it," West said. "I don't think there will be much debated about it."

Balagtas said she was unsure about how the resolution would go over with the students.

"I can see where there's going to be some backlash, but there probably won't be much, because RAs do have to deal with a lot of stuff," she said. "If it goes through, it'll be nice, but if it doesn't go through, I don't think it's unfair."

West said she was adamant in her support for the resolution.

"I think it's a good setup, because if I was an RA, I would love reduced Resident Reserved," West said. "Everyone gets really upset, because they get free housing and free meals, but they also give up weekends and weeknights. They give up parts of their life that we still have."



Andre Kissel Staff Photographer
Kristen West, director of External Affairs, updates RIC members about upcoming events, Monday, Feb. 8.

UA students unlikely to vote in Arkansas primaries

Research shows that young people are unlikely to be involved in the voting process

Richard Pellegrino
Staff Reporter

Despite the pervasiveness of politics and election coverage, college-aged people are not likely to vote in the upcoming Arkansas primary elections, a voting researcher said.

The turnout of voters between the ages of 18 and 24 was 38 percent in 2012, which was at least 20 percentage points lower than any other age group, according to a voting trends report by the U.S. Census Bureau.

For a person to make it to the polls, it takes knowledge about the positions, the issues and where and when to vote, political science professor Janine Parry said.

The closest polling station to campus will be at the Central United Methodist Church on Dickson Street.

"They lack the knowledge, the practice and the information," Parry said. "They always have. That's why the voter participation rate plummeted when we lowered the age to 18 from 21."

Voters who registered by Feb. 1 will be able to vote in the presidential primaries March 1, according to the election calendar provided by the Arkansas Secretary of State's Office.

Full-time students are allowed to vote in Washington County, said Ryann Alonso, the president of the UA chapter of the Young Democrats, but most of them do not because of voter efficacy and the inconvenience of getting to a polling station.

In every presidential election since 1964, young voters between the ages of 18 and 24 have consistently voted at lower rates than all other age groups, although young-adult voting rates have fluctuated from one election to another, according to the report.

The typical college student does not vote because there is no perception of an immediate effect on



Courtesy of Jace Motley

Jace Motley is the former state chairman of the College Republicans. Motley said that College Republicans will begin to do voter drives once voters choose a Republican primary candidate.

them, College Republicans Chair Brock Hyland said.

"A lot of the times we can feel that our vote doesn't count," Alonso said.

A polling station on campus would help with the problem of student voting, Alonso said.

Placing a polling station on campus would probably lead to a slight increase in participation, but not to the degree anticipated by its proponents, Parry said.

"It's just really hard to get young people to participate," she said. "They lack the knowledge, the practice and the information."

Higher education is not a perfect

solution, but it is "a reliable predictor of political behavior for people at any age: the more education you have, the more likely you are to participate," Parry said.

Student groups do not usually organize pushes for voter registration during the primaries, said Scott Flanagan, the executive director of communications for Student Affairs.

"We usually do voter drives, but it is important to note that the College Republicans are not allowed to endorse a particular candidate during the primary," said Jace Motley, the former state chairman of the organization.



Megan Sebeck Staff Photographer

Ryann Alonso is the president of the Young Democrats, an organization that works to involve people in the democratic process. Alonso is working with sororities to encourage members to vote in primaries.

The Young Democrats are not allowed to endorse a candidate either, but they will put their members in touch with ones they like, Alonso said.

Neither organization keeps track of how many of their members vote or how many students they register, Alonso and Brock said.

The UA Young Democrats are not running campaigns to sign students up for primary voting, but Alonso said she is planning on working with sororities to promote voter registration for the general election at their chapter meetings.

Members of Bernie Sanders' campaign will be working hard to get stu-

dents to vote in the primaries, said Peyton Olsen, a field organizer for the Sanders campaign in Fayetteville.

Voting and registration rates are historically higher in years with presidential elections, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, which is corroborated by an increase of more than 40 percent in the Washington County voter turnout during the general election as opposed to the primary election.

It takes information and time to vote, and that is something that younger people have always struggled with, Parry said.

The presidential election will be Nov. 8.

Civilians have filed 14 complaints against UAPD officers over three years

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"The investigation of the complaint determines if the facts presented are valid and if the action was justified or not," Crain said.

The measures taken when an officer has had more than one complaint depends on the situation, UAPD Capt. Gary Crain said.

"Corrective measures can range from verbal counseling, remedial training, reprimand, suspension and even termination," Crain said. "It is unlikely an officer would make the same mistake repeatedly, but if one does the measures would progress up the scale."

Sometimes there may not be enough information or evidence to draw a conclusion, Crain said.

The full complaint procedures are on the UAPD website.

When a UAPD employee receives a complaint, anonymous or not, it is directed to supervisory personnel immediately, according to the UAPD website.

Then, it is assigned to the employee's supervisor or division commander in instances of complaints involving harassment, complaints on demeanor and violations of lesser rules and regulations unless it involves criminal activity, according to the website.

An internal affairs investigator handles complaints involving command personnel, sexual harassment, incidents involving the discharge of firearms and allegations of excessive use of force, according to the website.

If the complaint is extremely serious in nature, the director or designate is notified immediately, according to the website.

This could include complaints involving criminal activity, complaints against command personnel or complaints of excessive use of force, according to the website.

Complaints Against UAPD

Many of the complaints filed with UAPD since 2013 accused officers of acting unprofessionally or inappropriately, according to UAPD records obtained by the Traveler.

Specific complaints listed includ-



Emma Schock Staff Photographer

A UAPD officer works in the campus substation located in Reid Hall. There have been 14 complaints against UAPD since 2013. Both students and people not affiliated with the university have filed complaints.

ed abuse of authority, biased-based profiling, harassment, rudeness and mishandled call for service.

"A person may not appreciate being contacted, interrupted or detained by law enforcement and may consider the act an abuse of authority," Crain said.

Despite this, UAPD and the administration "will not tolerate inappropriate actions on the part of employees," Crain said.

UAPD "did an okay job," handling the complaint at the football game, Hannah Johnson said.

Though UAPD made sure the officer was chastised for using excessive force, it did not help the emotional trauma the couple went through, Hannah Johnson said.

"It was quite a while before we heard back," Cody Johnson said. "We never actually got an apology."

The Johnsons said their view of police changed because of it.

"I got a bitter taste of adrenaline every time I saw an officer," Cody Johnson said. "It's not a great way to go about your life and society in general amidst all the police violence."

Because police officers have the safety of society in their hands, it is worrying that they may not be able

to stay emotionally detached from an incident, Hannah Johnson said.

Cody and Hannah Johnson are not the first people who have been disappointed with how UAPD handles a situation.

Police pulled over senior Tom Brown for not having his headlights on.

"I was like, 'Why . . . is this guy pulling me over,'" Brown said. "It wasn't even sunset yet."

The officer blocked Brown's car in a parking spot "like I was going to run away or something," Brown said.

The entire process took a long time because he waited for the officer to finish processing the license and "sat through a lecture about not having my headlights on," Brown said.

Eventually, three cops ended up at the scene, though one of them was there on different business, Brown said.

Though he did not get a ticket, Brown filed a complaint, but the department deemed his complaint unfounded, Brown said.

This means the information found during the investigation revealed the proposed misconduct did not occur, did not involve the

employee named or was untrue, according to the UAPD website.

"They never told me what unfounded meant," Brown said.

However, not all students are critical of UAPD.

"I like UAPD," senior Clark Daniels said. "I've never had a problem with them."

The police or security officers are everywhere, so students cannot go more than a couple of hours without seeing them, Daniels said.

"Their presence is definitely felt on campus," Daniels said. "So, for me, it makes me feel secure."

UAPD needs to be restructured, and those who have had more than one complaint should be put on trial by everyone who goes to school at the UofA, Brown said.

"Multiple reports indicate a systematic abuse of their role on campus," Hannah Johnson said.

How Other SEC Universities Compare

UAPD is not the only police department in the SEC to face complaints.

The University of Mississippi has had six complaints filed since 2013, said Tim Potts, the director of uni-

versity police and campus safety of the University of Mississippi.

Texas A&M University has had 16 complaints filed since 2013, according to the university's public records.

The University of Alabama has had 25 complaints since 2013, said Chris Bryant, the interim director of media relations, research communications director and assistant director of media relations for the University of Alabama.

The University of Florida has had 12 complaints since 2013, Public Information Officer Wayne Clark said.

"There have been too many incidents in the recent past of abuses of authority to think the cases are isolated," Hannah Johnson said. "The police system needs to be reexamined from the ground up."

Police officers can provide stability and security if they take their power with a healthy dose of reality, Hannah Johnson said.

"They're only human," she said. "They can make mistakes, and their power only works when there are no abuses."

News Editor Ginny Monk and Features Editor Alex Golden contributed to this report.

Young Progressives support candidate

Shelby Evans

Senior Staff Reporter

As the 2016 presidential primaries approach, students are beginning to campaign in support of their presidential hopefuls.

Jaden Atkins, president of the Young Progressives, a UA Registered Student Organization, conducts weekly phone banks for Bernie Sanders.

The Young Progressives is a branch off of the Young Democrats at the UofA, Atkins said.

"The Young Democrats cannot show endorse a candidate until they are the Democrat nominee," Atkins said. "By founding the Young Progressives, supporters of Bernie are able to help out with his campaign during the primaries."

The Young Progressives was founded in October 2015 and have had weekly meetings since, Atkins said.

"We meet at 5:30 p.m. on Mondays and have a 30-minute meeting," Atkins said.

"Then we spend two hours making phone calls."

The Young Progressives use a program called VAN, which helps them contact people who may be currently undecided on who they're voting for, Atkins said.

VAN, also known as "Voter Activation Network," is the leading technology provider to the Democratic and progressive campaigns and organizations, and provides information on all registered voters, according to the VAN website.

Freshman Faith Freeman said she dislikes phone banking.

"I like Bernie Sanders and I support him," Freeman said. "But I don't like phone banking. It's annoying no matter who it's about."

It is important to be informed about political issues, Freeman said.

Along with phone banking, Atkins' RSO also works alongside Arkansas for Bernie Sanders.

"We're trying to get Bernie to come speak here in Fayetteville," Atkins said.

While there has not been a confirma-

tion on whether or not Sanders plans to speak in Arkansas, it is likely he will, Atkins said.

"Right now the best we can do is show Bernie it's worth it," Atkins said. "We have to get volunteer and voter numbers high enough to show him we're working for it."

Sophomore Ryan Bishop said he is hesitant about Sanders.

"I like some of his solutions to his issues," Bishop said. "But not all of them. Some of them are reaching too far."

Atkins has also helped organize a march for Sanders.

The march will be Feb. 27 and start on campus. It will go down Dickson Street and end at the Sanders campaign office off of Dickson, Atkins said.

The Young Progressives focus is Bernie Sanders' campaign, and nothing else, Atkins said.

"We haven't really started pushing the RSO yet," Atkins said. "I made this because I wanted to have a way to get students to work for Bernie Sanders, and I needed an RSO to do that."

Governor names two members to Board of Trustees

Alex Gladden

Asst. News Editor

The Arkansas Governor named two new members to the UA Board of Trustees, the president of the board said.

Gov. Asa Hutchinson named Kelly Eichler and Sheffield Nelson to the Board of Trustees Monday, said Don Bobbitt, president of the UA System. Their terms will begin March 1.

"We welcome both Ms. Eichler and Mr. Nelson. Both are very experienced leaders and will bring valuable knowledge and perspective to their roles as trustees," said Steve Voorhies, the manager of media relations. "We are confident they will work in the best interests of our students, faculty and staff, of higher education in the state and of all Arkansans."

Between now and March 1, board members will be meeting with Eichler and Nelson to prepare them for serving on the board. Once their terms start, they will be able to vote at meetings and will join one of the seven standing committees on the Board of Trustees, Bobbitt said.

The seven standing committees are the Agriculture, Building and Grounds, Audit and Fiscal Responsibilities, Joint Hospital, Two-Year Colleges and Technical Schools and Distance Education Policy and Technical committees, according to the UA System website.

There are only 10 board members, so members are expected to participate in multiple committees, Bobbitt said.

Nelson is replacing Jim von Gremp, while Eichler is filling Jane Rogers' position, Bobbitt said.

Board members serve 10-year terms, and terms are usually staggered so that there is only one new board member each year, Bobbitt said. But there are two new members this year because von Gremp is going to work on the coordinating board of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education after completing one year of his 10-year term. Rogers completed her term this year.

"The trustees have the very important duty of setting the direction of the UA System . . ."

Steve Voorhies
Manager of Media Relations

Eichler will serve until 2026, Bobbitt said. Nelson will serve until 2025, a nine-year term, because his predecessor, von Gremp, already completed a year of the term.

"The trustees have the very important duty of setting the direction of the UA System and overseeing and approving the operations of all the schools in the system, including the UofA," Voorhies said.



Michael Morrison Staff Photographer

Junior Drew Smith poses while holding a sign to support Bernie Sanders on Monday Feb. 8 outside Kimpel Hall.

When Donald Trump Says What He Means

TJ Stallbaumer
Opinion Editor



I was involved in a conversation this week about politics, in the worst place one can be involved in a conversation about politics – I was at work. The topic of our conversation was Donald Trump, someone I greatly enjoy talking about. The Donald may not get my vote come election season, but he's a magnate, and he's certainly a political anomaly, and so sometimes it amuses me to listen to people attempt to justify him.

My interlocutor was convinced that the Donald represented a rare truth in Washington, and kept telling me that, if nothing else, I had to respect the Donald for consistently saying what he means.

I do respect people who

say what they mean, I conceded, at some point in the conversation. But then it occurred to me that one could respect people for saying what they mean, but that one ought never respect Donald Trump for saying what he means – unless that respect is based on his capacity to do a thing, and not the way he has actually done that thing.

Let me explain.

Respecting Trump for saying what he means is respecting Trump for calling Mexicans rapists, suggesting women ought not be moderating debates because they bleed from places, proposing a ban on Muslims entering the U.S., and lest we forget that time Trump said what he meant about John McCain: "I prefer people who didn't get captured."

I appreciate people who say what they mean. It's a rare quality we could probably use in Washington. But if you appreciate Trump for that quality, you may be racist, sexist, and generally bigoted.

Letter to the Editor: A Case for Candidate Bernie Sanders

Bernie Sanders wants to make healthcare available for everyone as a right, so neither you or your employer will have to pay health insurance directly, it's just provided for everyone as a human right through a small tax that will replace your current health insurance payments. His plan will end up saving the U.S. \$6 billion in the next decade compared to what we currently spend on health care and will actually save the average household about \$5,000 every year and the average business about \$10,000 a year. We are the only major country in the world that doesn't provide health care for their people as a right.

He wants to make sure all women get at least 12-weeks of medical leave after having a baby so they can get to know their new child and learn to be a mom (this plan will only cost americans \$1.61 a week) and he wants pay equality for women.

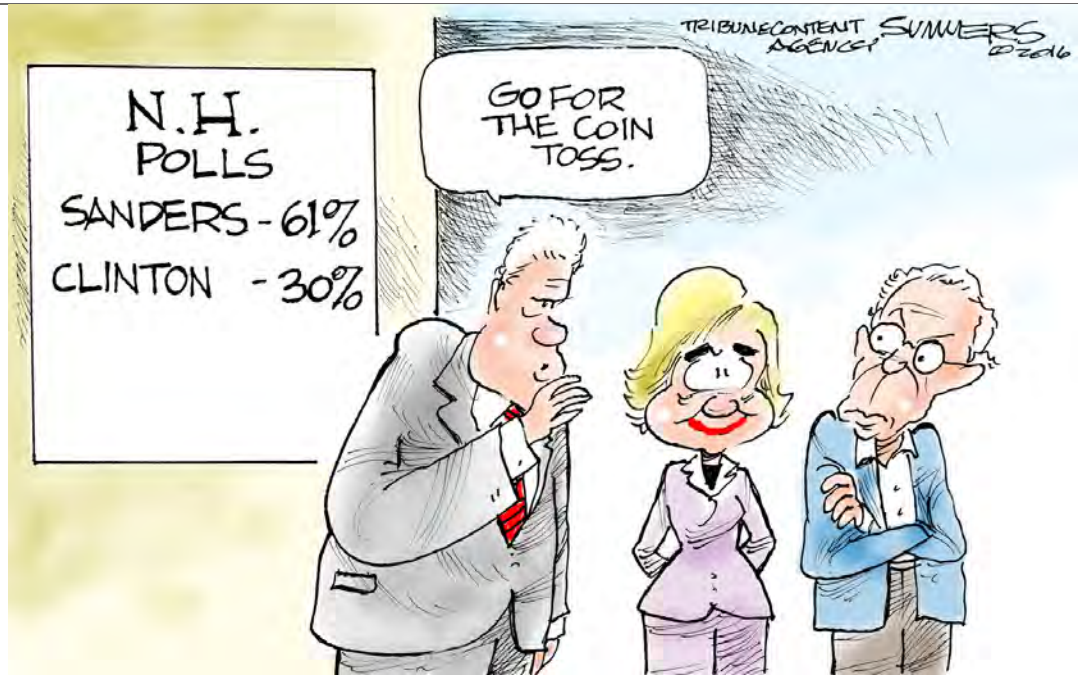
He wants to give students the ability to refinance their student loans at a lower percentage rate and he acknowledges that a college degree is the same as a high school diploma in today's world and he feels that nobody should be deprived of an education because of their income or inability to pay off loans so he wants to make public colleges and universities tuition-free, this will be paid for through

a tax on wall street speculation (high-risk investments). He wants to break up "too big to fail" banks to prevent another financial collapse. He also wants to put those that caused the financial collapse in jail. He argues that a kid can go to jail for years and have their life and record ruined for smoking marijuana but the crooks on wall street that destroyed the lives of billions of people all over the world with their reckless behavior and greed just got a \$700 billion bailout and a slap on the wrist.

He wants to end loopholes that save companies like Walmart \$6 billion last year, which pushes their employees to sign up for government assistance. He also wants to end loopholes that allow companies to keep their money stashed in "tax haven" countries.

Today, 62 people own half of the world's wealth. Five years ago that number was 388. Sanders cares about people like you and I. He's literally received more individual contributions (\$27 average) than any presidential candidate ever at this point in the race. The remaining serious presidential candidates are funded by the same people that are turning America into a place where only the rich and powerful have a voice.

Jordan Sherar is a senior communications major.



A lesson in physics and its collegiate applications

Summer Stallbaumer
Staff Reporter

Place a glass full of water on a table and push it. What happens? When you push on the glass hard enough it falls over. It's a very simple concept my physics and human affairs professor literally lectured on for two days (super challenging class). Inanimate objects are easy to predict; if you push them hard enough they will fall over.

People seem like they should be harder to read, but physics applies to us as well. When met with a force larger than our own we will fall over. As most concepts in physics do, this concept goes so much deeper than actually falling over when a

drunk fraternity boy with a dad body falls into you.

College greets us with the freedom to enjoy our happiness by ourselves for the first time. It's our first taste at making our own happiness with no assistance from our parents. This is why when we have fun it seems better than before-it's our fun.

The same can be said about hard times.

Independence falls upon us whether we are in the best of times or not. When you wake up on your cardboard dorm bed, for which you pay \$700 a month, and nothing seems to go your way it may feel lonelier than you remember. No one is here to pick you back up or carry you to your room

when you fall asleep on the couch watching T.V. anymore.

Push a glass too hard and it will fall over. Push somebody too hard and they will take a tumble too. Everyone has a tipping point and sometime in these next four years at the UofA we will all get knocked down.

Inanimate objects are incapable of getting back up when they are knocked down. We, however, are much stronger than that (it also helps that we have arms and stuff). Face your stumbles with a smile and know however far you fall there is always a way to get back up (even if a drunk frat guy with a dad bod is lying on top of you). Look at rock bottom as a solid

foundation on which you can rebuild your life. I know you may be thinking my last sentence was amazing and super deep, but it's definitely a J.K. Rowling quote.

College is too great to stay down when you fall. Resilience is a virtue, and the UofA is known for being uncommonly resilient (especially in sports). So, go Hogs, stop being sad, and I wrote this at three in the morning, which may explain how emotional it is. I just don't have a curfew anymore so I was feeling kind of rebellious.

Summer Stallbaumer is a freshman business major and a staff reporter for The Arkansas Traveler.

Millennials deserve to be treated like equals, not babies

Darby Guinn
Staff Reporter

More or less, we're all adults here. We came from different places, we watched different television and we had different day-to-day life experiences. We grew up speaking different languages, dialects and memes. We went through life having fun when we could and stressing about first kisses. Our parents seem to tell the same stories of love and strife and give us advice to live by about all of it. As products of Generation X and the Baby Boomers, we've been dubbed "the millennials." And they've been stressed out about us since we were playing t-ball as toddlers.

It was a bit nerve-racking to hear the debate about the "trophy generation" going on over our heads as kids when my soccer team lost just about every game we played in the rec league. Teachers, parents, news anchors and Facebook headlines mention it incessantly, almost as if being a millennial is some sort of disease, and it's either a problem no one has fixed or some study has just shown that there's some over arching reason the kids are messed up. The latest that made everyone angriest was the real-

ization that college costs an absurd amount of money and the economy can't support all the budding businessmen with \$50,000 in college loans that they have to start paying off right about... now.

The economy has changed, college costs more, jobs are scarce and we're all flailing, but life is always in flux. I was on some absurdly long road trip last year, and I passed an inspirational billboard that said, "Anticipate Change." It stuck with me. It gives words to the lesson that millennials had to learn early on: adapt. Yes, college and the status of my post-graduation employment opportunities may look bleak, but one thing, one thread that's managed to weave its way into the constant talk about millennials is the fact that we have always lived in this state of flux and we're striving.

Think about it: the iPod and iTunes was first released in 2001, AOL showed up in 2005 and now each person has a handheld, touch-screen supercomputer within five feet of his or her person 24/7 by the time they turn eight. I called to pay a bill the other day, and the automated voice prompted me to enter my password, and then press the hashtag. That happened. We went from flip phones

to full keyboards to touch-screens over the course of a couple years, huge shifts in the way we interact with technology, and we helped our parents trouble shoot simple things all the time. We grew up on the teachings of our parents who lived through the Civil Rights and Feminist movements. We grew up living through and learning about change. So no, don't worry about us. We'll be ok.

The discussion surrounding millennials has done what it's going to do to kids. There's no taking back all those "kids these days" curses or generalizations about a whole class of people.

However, the push to have more understanding about millennials has left another significant group in the dark. Unemployment does affect millennials quite a bit, and as UofA students about to enter the workforce, I'm sure we're all aware of that fact. Older generations, Gen X and the Baby Boomers, also face the highly competitive work space but lack skills that we grew up attaining.

Think about the elderly man working at KFC whose boss is a 23-year-old who gets frustrated with him when he pushes on the touchscreen too hard. In the era of swiftly advancing tech, the young

have an advantage that we all often overlook. Being "up to date" is fashionable amongst the young, and workplaces have come to expect interviewees to have strong social media presence. The number of "followers" and "friends" has always been important to millennials, since MySpace hit the stage years ago, but for older generations, they have trouble understanding its importance.

So, let's stop just talking about millennials like they're some infected subgroup. In fact, labelling the generations at all seems foolish.

There are the straight edge millennials and the hippie Baby Boomers, and vice versa. The only difference is the number we put in the age section at the doctor's office. We all are facing this crazy, fast world together, so let's choose to not be divisive.

Let's choose to cast off the labels and recognize that we're all in debt and educated. The experience of childhood is never the same, generation to generation, especially now, but it's time to stop seeing us as "trophy kids" and instead, recognize us as colleagues.

Darby Guinn is a junior journalism major and a staff reporter for the Arkansas Traveler.

Traveler Quote of the Day

"We would like to see a bit more equity. But we know there isn't just a pot of money out there."

Scout Johnson, Graduate Student Congress speaker

Graduate Student Congress works to increase graduate student stipends, pg. 3

THE ARKANSAS TRAVELER

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The Arkansas Traveler welcomes letters to the editor from all interested readers. Letters should be at most 300 words and should include your name, student classification and major or title with the university and a day-time telephone number for verification. Letters should be sent to traveler@uark.edu.

Why evil could win the war in Syria without international help

JP Gairhan
Staff Reporter

Since the onset of its civil war in 2011, Syria has been a catastrophe in every sense of the word. "President" Bashar Al-Assad has held an iron grip on the country for the past 15 years and it seems that his power is growing further. He continues to commit war crimes against his own rebellious citizens. The rise of the Islamic State in the eastern portion of the country adds to the displacement of Syrians caught in-between all of the violence. Al-Assad reigns over all of the chaos still and he does so looking toward the future.

The government regime has been under a U.N. in-

vestigation for human rights violations coupled with accusations that they used chemical weapons against their own people.

From a global perspective, Syria has few friends of any sort. For the past two years, Al-Assad has leaned heavily on his close relationships with Vladimir Putin and Russia. Russia holds a warm water port in the Syrian city Tartus, and has a vested geopolitical stake in the current regime staying in power.

The Russians recently deployed air strikes in the area against the Islamic State, but it was quickly announced by U.S. Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter that those very same strikes were against western backed "moderate" militants. The anti-govern-

ment groups are considered terrorists by the Russian state.

Their standard definition of terrorism only involves those directly opposed to a government. In the eyes of an authoritarian like Putin, terror can only come from those in opposition to the status quo. He's a man who consistently fails to consider that the status quo could in fact be responsible for terrorism.

The partnership between the two countries goes back as far as the Cold War, with both establishing strong economic and social connections.

Al-Assad's continued refusal to combat the Islamic State has only strengthened terrorist organization. He believes that ISIS poses less of a threat to his regime than the Free Syrian Army opposing

his government. This has allowed the terrorists to seek refuge in Syria and further complicate the entire conflict.

With the Syrian regime still in power, and western attempts at opposing Al-Assad flailing, it seems entirely likely that the momentum is on the side of his regime.

Unless the international community is open and willing to make a strong stance against Al-Assad's disrespect for human decency, the bad guys will continue to keep winning the little battles and may likely win the war in the end.

JP Gairhan is a freshman political science major and a staff reporter for The Arkansas Traveler.

MAJOR DOES NOT LIMIT CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Lauren Randall
Staff Reporter

The preparation is endless. Suits are purchased, resumes are printed and interview questions are practiced for that dream job every college student is striving for. When college begins, picking a major seems like the most

important part of any college career, and it feels like it determines everyone's fate. Yet, college graduates' majors might not be the most important quality when beginning the search for a job.

Skills and experience are some of the most important qualities students need when searching for a job and for many occupations major doesn't matter. s" That major

is going to help you with your position out of school, and your experience is going to help more than what you majored in school," said Miranda Frye, a project specialist and college recruiter for Tyson Foods Incorporated.

Tyson Foods Incorporated is one example of a company that looks for college graduates in all types of majors. One employee of its Human

Resources department is an apparel studies major, Frye said. Former college graduates and employees have majors from all different areas including corporate ranging from business, journalism and agriculture.

"I don't think degree gears everything," Frye said. "I will say that some jobs are more specific in what they are looking for, it just depends on how specialized the positions you are looking for is."

Majors are effective to jobs that are major specific such as accounting or an engineer, but for the most part the skills learned from students' majors that are applicable in the real world are more important, said George Winter, a career counselor at the Career Development Center.

Skills that employers tend to look for are skills that can be applied to jobs across the board. While they might not be specific skills such as learning how to solve an equation, edit a video broadcast or create an advertisement, they are skills that have most likely been learned over time. Transferrable skills are some of the most important skills any college graduate can have when looking in the job market these include leadership roles, extracurricular roles, multi-tasking, computer and communication skills, Frye said.

"Employers pay for not degrees, but skills so we encourage students to look at the skills they develop in their major when looking for jobs," Winter said.

For students who are looking to be ahead of the search game when it comes time to

apply for a job, internships are a great tool to provide experience that companies will be looking for. An internship opportunity is a chance for a company to interview students and for the students to interview the company, and this could possibly lead to future employment, Frye said.

Winter also agreed that the chances of getting a job are increased with the more experience a student can have, he said. Students have the opportunity to gain experience through campus activities, and internships on and off campus.

There is also the Career Development Center which specializes in helping students succeed in life after graduation. Students have the opportunity to work with specialists on things like writing and reviewing resumes, cover letters and have networking opportunities. Most who have utilized the program have become more successful with the job market, Winter said.

"Don't look solely where the jobs are or what's the major right now, who knows what will happen right now, the market is changing, and with technology we don't know what is going to happen," Winter said.

UA alumnus Dallas McCullough is working in a job completely different from where he originally thought he was going. McCullough graduated from the UofA in May 2015. He is originally from Camden, but now lives in Indianola, Mississippi. McCullough studied kinesiology while in school because of his combined interest in science and how the human

body functions. He is now a fourth and fifth grade science teacher, but originally applied for graduate school and jobs in kinesiology.

"I'm doing Teach for America, a company based on the idea that one day every child in America will have access to equally great education," McCullough said. "They recruit people who may not have a teaching degree and place them in communities or other areas that need highly qualified teachers, even though many of us didn't go to school to become to teachers."

Even though this wasn't what McCullough had originally planned to do with his life or his major, it was an opportunity that he couldn't turn away, he said. The program is for a minimum of two years, and he said he will probably apply for grad schools and look for kinesiology jobs again when he is finished, he said. Majors do matter, McCullough said, but whatever job students find do not have to fit specifically to their majors.

"Once companies and grad schools see you went to school and are dedicated, I think many places are acknowledging the effort you put forth for that," McCullough said.

McCullough's advice to students looking for jobs now is to start applying for jobs as early as possible, and to apply for them as often as they can, he said.

The best way for students to better market themselves is to be proactive and research positions before they speak with companies, Frye said.



Andre Kissel Staff Photographer

Advising centers on campus guide students to what classes to take for their majors and graduate with their intended degrees, but those majors are not always the deciding factors on what their future careers will be.

NEW DIVERSITY COUNCIL TACKLES DISCRIMINATION

Brittany Williams
Staff Reporter

When Raven Ray came to the UofA, she experienced a culture shock. Not because she had to wake up for an early lab session or do her own laundry, she experienced racism just for being black on campus.

Raven Ray, who grew up in a predominately white neighborhood, was shocked when Caucasians in the UA community were not as friendly as her friends in Conway, she said.

"In my African-American studies class, my teacher said, 'There's a day you realize you're black and a day you realize it's a problem.' When I got here, I realized I was black," Raven Ray said.

"We were at this party and these girls on the third floor (of Hill Place) were like 'You two n*****', and said 'You two b*****', and 'You two n*****' again," she said. "That's when it hit me."

From that moment on, Raven Ray came to the realization that even white millennials can be culturally insensitive, she said.

"It's 2015 and that's the way it is," the African-American studies and theater student said.

The "Black on Campus" subject sprung into international prominence as a Twitter hashtag.

Concerned Student 1950, a group of racial justice advocates at the University of Missouri, created the hashtag after recent protests to give African-American students and alumni a platform to sound-off and tell their experiences as marginalized students.

The hashtag exposed problems with racism and racial prejudice on college campuses, particularly at predominantly white institutions like the UofA and University of Missouri.

Raven Ray and two other African-American students told their stories of racism

and prejudice after a campus solidarity rally Nov. 12.

Sierra Ray, who was there with Raven Ray during her experience, had her own story to tell of her second day on campus when she was walking with a friend.

"I'm mixed, but we're both black. A passing car (filled with people) called us n***** as we were walking," Sierra Ray said.

Sierra Ray rode an emotional rollercoaster after being called a racial slur during her walk.

"Firstly, you feel violated, scared, unsafe and then you feel enraged because you had worked all your life to make sure you are bettering yourself and the black community by going to a university," Sierra Ray said.

The pre-med/biology student explained that this was just a reminder of how the color of her skin can hinder others' perception of her and other African-Americans.

"They try set you back in that place and remind you that even if you're at an institution where everyone is supposed to welcome ... you are nothing more to them than what they see you as. To them, you could be a rocket scientist, but first you're still black and they like reminding you of that," Sierra Ray said.

Sierra Ray and Raven Ray did not report these incidents to police or the UA student conduct office.

"When Sierra and I got called n***** at Hill Place we did not call the police. I guess personally at the time I felt like calling the police wouldn't make a difference," Raven Ray said.

"In my head I truly thought that if we called the police, one, the officer wouldn't hear it. Two, the white girls were drunk so they could say they couldn't control what they were saying. Three, I didn't want to come off as another loud, dramatic black girl," she continued.

UAPD Capt. Gary Crain encourages students to report

on and off campus incidents to police.

"Racism may not be a criminal act, and those (incidents) may need to be reported to Student Standards and Conduct, or Housing officials of something happens in a residence hall, or a professor or department head if something happens in a classroom," Crain said.

"If a crime occurs off campus it must be reported to city police. The university can provide support for the student. If the offending person is a student, the Office of Student Standards and Conduct can still give sanctions for off-campus behavior," he said.

Crain detailed the importance of reporting instances of racial prejudice or any suspected crime to police.

"It is important to report crime to police," he said. "Failure to do so allows community to suffer and go down in standard of living. Nothing will be resolved if issues are not addressed, that's for sure. Individuals can't afford to let that happen."

Senior Lionel Davis II has always felt welcome at the UofA, he said, but has suggestions for the Associated Student Government and UA administration.

"The steps that the Associated Student Government and the administration could continue to take is to acknowledge any injustices or insensitivities happening on campus and reminding our student body that we at the university have a set group of morals," Davis said.

Overall, ASG could create a more culturally aware university, he said.

Student leaders like ASG president Tanner Bone recognize the need for cultural inclusiveness and understanding. In response to the Mizzou protests, Bone and other ASG members accelerated efforts toward a culturally aware institution.

"We want to make sure we educate ourselves, our ASG members, first. That way when we're advocating on the be-



Devynne Diaz Staff Photographer

ASG Campus Diversity Director Taylor Farr along with ASG president Tanner Bone (not pictured) created a Diversity Leadership Council to address diversity issues.

half of our constituents, we're doing so not from a stance of ignorance, but from a stance of education and knowledge," Bone said.

A new way ASG will encourage cultural inclusiveness is the inception of a new diversity council.

"In light of the recent University of Missouri events, we're creating a council full of student leaders from a variety of registered student organizations to really discuss the everyday lives of members of their organizations so we can have a really clear idea of the campus climate," the ASG president said.

Bone announced the plan to create the council during his State of the Students address last month.

"I am proud to announce that we will be creating the Diversity Leadership Council for the spring semester. This students-only council will be charged to address the con-

cerns of students on issues specifically regarding diversity and inclusion," he said during his State of the Students address Dec. 1.

Bone and the ASG Campus Diversity Director Taylor Farr are leading efforts to put this council together. One thing they have done so far is reach out to RSOs like these as well as RSOs that cater to other diverse populations around campus.

"Right now, we've compiled a list of different RSOs that we think would be interested ... and explain the idea in more detail for them and get feedback. The idea is to get this rolling at the end of February, early March," Bone said.

Creating this council takes time, part of the process is structuring it in a way that reduces the stigma of politicized leadership.

"We're constantly thinking politics and it's hard to get out of that sometimes because we

still deal with a very bureaucratic university system," Farr said.

The organization's council for international leadership is a model Farr thinks the diversity council should follow.

"People from Korea are completely different from people from like Puerto Rico. It was really cool to see how they worked together, how they networked better and the different issues they were having ... After we saw how that worked and how we were able to solve some of those issues, we wanted to take that to a broader scale," Farr said.

Being black on campus may be tough for the 1,334 African-American students who attend the UofA. While ASG is at work building its diversity council, black students at the UofA are encouraged to report their grievances to student leaders like Taylor Farr and join RSOs such as Black Student Association and NAACP.

WEEKENDER

BLUNT FORCE, "MAMMA MIA!" AND LANIER

Brittany Williams
Staff Reporter



Courtesy Photo

Blunt Force will perform 10 p.m. Saturday at Ryleigh's on Dickson Street.

Music

Two electronic dance music acts will mix music live at a popular Dickson Street venue.

Austin based duo Blunt Force specializes in funk and hip-hop influenced dance music. Brian Gustafson and Deniz Baykal use live instruments and computer programs to create a high energy atmosphere.

Shreveport artist Ryan Viser is opening up for Blunt Force. Viser, who has performed at Wakarusa, plays trumpet and mixes music live.

Music is set to kick off at 10 p.m. Saturday at Ryleigh's. Admission to the Blunt Force show is \$5 for music lovers 21 years and older.



Courtesy Photo

Crystal Bridges Museum in Bentonville will host its Artinfusion's Black Hearts Ball 9 p.m. Saturday.

Art and Theater

Broadway classic "Mamma Mia!" is in Northwest Arkansas just in time for Valentine's Day.

"Mamma Mia!" is an energetic blast from the past surrounded around classic hits from Swedish group ABBA. ABBA is known for songs like "Dancing Queen" and "Take a Chance on Me." The musical tells the story of a future bride who travels to find her father before her wedding.

Northwest Arkansans can see performances of "Mamma Mia!" until Sunday at Walton Arts Center. For showtimes or to purchase tickets ranging \$25-68 before fees, students can visit the Walton Arts Center website.

Crystal Bridges is continuing its Artinfusion series with its fourth annual Black Hearts Ball.

Artinfusion events are geared toward art lovers 21-49 years old. At the Black Hearts Ball, patrons can enjoy performance art by Fayetteville's Paradise Explored Theater Company. Paradise Explored will bring early American artwork to life throughout the night. Music will be provided by The Curtis Harding Band and DJ Jumbii.

Artinfusion's fourth annual Black Hearts Ball will start 9 p.m. Saturday at Eleven Restaurant in Bentonville. Admission to the ball is \$35, but Artfusion members get in free. Patrons can register for the ball by phone or on the museum's website.



Courtesy Photo

Carlotta Walls LaNier will speak 6:30 p.m. Thursday in the Union Ballroom.

Fun On Campus

A civil rights figure National Women's Hall of Fame with Arkansas ties will be at the UofA this week.

Carlotta Walls LaNier will speak during an event titled "A Mighty Long Way," after her book of the same name. LaNier is best known as the youngest member of the Little Rock Nine, a group of young African Americans who were the first to attend Little Rock Central High School after desegregation.

LaNier will talk about her experiences at Central High School and today's state of race relations. The lecture will begin at 6:30 p.m. Thursday in the Union Ballroom.

SCHOOL BOOKS TO FIERCE LOOKS

continued from page 1

Monroe lip synced to Taylor Swift, dancing with the music and occasionally accepting dollar bills from crowd members. She scanned the audience, soon making eye contact with Azzun. Monroe smiled, walking up to Azzun and grabbing his hand, pulling him to the middle of the dance floor and welcoming him into her routine.

"I was kind of surprised when I was pulled to the middle of the floor," Azzun said, "I was thinking I shouldn't have made eye contact. I didn't expect as much crowd involvement as there was."

The queens danced through the crowd, interacting with guests.

"The whole layout of it was different than I was expecting," freshman Nicole Wolf said. "I was expecting more of a stage and instead they were just on the same floor we were on and they interacted a lot with the

crowd and I wasn't expecting that."

"The atmosphere in the club is light and easy. It's difficult to feel watched or judged, and you aren't odd," Smith said. "You feel normal and included, making it simple to have a fun time with friends and strangers."

C4 is an inclusive bar, Birchfield said.

"It's not just gay, it's community. Anyone is welcome and free to come to be safe and welcome. It's not exclusive at all," Birchfield said.

The show was coming to an end with just a few more performances before the queens retired for the night. Monroe took the microphone as the music was turned down.

"I'm so happy to see all your beautiful faces," Monroe said. "Now who here is a gay man?"

Several men raised their hands and shouted in agreement.

"And where are my lesbians?"

More hands and voices.

Monroe continued, asking for bi people and straight people. Each time hands were in the air, excited to be seen.

"I love getting to dance and not be stared at," junior Ann Ryker said. "I go to have a good time and not be judged. I didn't expect to be as comfortable there the first time I went as I did. But it already felt like home."

Stuthard has become the face of C4 as Monroe, hosting every Sunday night and C4's next top diva party. The most important thing is to have fun and make people feel welcome, Stuthard said.

"C4 is a place for everyone to come to feel welcome and have a good time and that's what I love about it," Stuthard said. "That's probably my greatest experience in life is the people I've met. The amount of friendships I've made doing drag and going out is the main thing."

Stuthard goes from classroom to club, moving at all hours of the day.

"You certainly have to have a mindset for it," Stuthard said, "It takes it out of you but at the same time it keeps you busy and I love being busy. Once I put on this makeup I'm ready. It's out there."

In October, 2011, Stuthard won Gay Miss United States as Monroe. He traveled America doing drag and meeting people and it was one of the best times of his life, Stuthard said. He wouldn't have had the experience if he didn't try.

"I'm not afraid to fall and if I do fall I will laugh at myself first. Don't be afraid to fail. Failing is the first step to getting it right," Stuthard said.

Stuthard sets aside his school book, applies his makeup, pulls on a gold, beaded dress and steps into heels, ready to entertain and have fun as Taylor Madison Monroe.

"Go out and get to know yourself and get to know what you like and what you want and what goals you want to set. Go out and have fun," Stuthard said.



Andre Kessel Staff Photographer

Junior Jeremy Stuthard performs as Taylor Madison Monroe on Jan. 25 at C4, a club off of Dickson Street. Stuthard has been doing drag for 12 years.

STUDENTS EXPRESS PRIDE THROUGH ART EVENT



Andre Kessel Staff Photographer

University Programs employee Eva Puga draws what she loves about Fayetteville on one of two banners Monday at the Anne Kittrell Art Gallery in the Union.

ALUMNUS PURSUES RAP

Brittany Williams
Staff Reporter

Sports photographer by day and rapper by night, a UA alumnus hopes to inspire and educate with his latest mixtape, he said.

Mike Day was raised in Arkansas's capital, where he started rapping as a hobby during his high school years.

"It was the hottest thing to do in Little Rock when you're in high school and got cut from the basketball team. (When) the girls ain't really checking you out, you rap. I came up with a song called, 'Dougie Fresh' and the whole school went nuts over it," Day said.

Prior to attending the UofA, he studied mass media at Henderson University in Arkadelphia.

"I started to pick it up during my freshman year of college when I had nothing to do. Music was getaway. My first two projects were about partying, trying to pick up a girl – the typical stuff you hear on urban radio now. That's not who I am," he said.

To chase more job prospects and get a much needed escape, Day took a risk and became a Razorback. He finished with a degree in broadcast journalism and African-American studies.

Day's African-American studies coursework spawned lyrical growth and inspired him to change his message.

"I wanted to know my culture better because they don't teach it in a public school. Now that I think about it, black history is American history ... I'm very thankful that an institution like the University of Arkansas included African-American studies," the UA graduate said.

He officially changed his message after taking several African-American studies classes in person and online.

"After taking so many African-American classes, watching how CNN and FOX bash African-Americans, (seeing) the latest Trayvon Martins, Mike Browns and Sandra Blands, I figured out a way to put it in my music in a positive way," he said.

Instead of emulating dance anthems like "Watch Me (Whip/Nae Nae)" and "Hit The Quan," Day uses projects like J. Cole's "2014 Forest Hills Drive" as a model to write rhymes for his mixtape. This redirection inspired friend and vocalist Glenn Larry to work with Day on the track "Do Your Thing."

"A lot of rap music today talks about money, women sex, power and other shallow topics," Larry said.

"His music talks about community, poverty, respect – things that we are currently missing in rap," he said.

On "Mike: The 8th Day," he addresses the degradation of African-American women, police brutality and his own black consciousness.

The tracks Day recom-

mends from the mixtape are "Black Male," "She Can Get It" and "Knock the Hustle."

"Black Male' with me and the homie Wavy J was so important because we knew we had to come together, especially after the Sandra Bland incident. We wanted to come from a male perspective and show that not every black person is against one another," he said.

Bland died in police custody after being jailed during a traffic stop in Texas.

Texas state trooper Brian Encinia stopped Bland for failing to signal while changing lanes. When issuing her warning, Encinia was disturbed by Bland's cigarette smoke and ordered her to put out the cigarette. Bland's refusal agitated the officer and led to him order her to exit the car.

In dashcam footage, the officer attempts to drag her out of her car and threatened to "light" Bland up with his taser before she finally got out. Bland attempted to record her arrest before being handcuffed and placed on the ground. She screamed, cried and complained about her inability to hear and a numb arm.

Bland was charged with assaulting a public servant and sent to Waller County Jail, where she died three days later. An initial autopsy concluded her death was a suicide and police said she used a trash bag to do so.

Civil rights activists and the Bland family called for further investigation of Waller County Jail, Encinia, Bland's arrest and death. Investigations concluded that Bland, who expressed living with depression and post-traumatic stress disorder on Facebook, should've been checked on more frequently and jailers didn't complete state mandated mental health training.

Encinia was charged with perjury last month after he falsely stated Bland was removed to further inspect her traffic violation in an affidavit. The officer could face up to a year in jail and \$4,000 fine. The Bland family filed a wrongful death suit set to begin next year against Encinia, Waller County and two jailers.

Bland's death has been the center of the #SayHerName campaign, protests against police brutality and conversations about mental health in the black community.

In the music video for "Black Male," Day and J interact with each other, talk police brutality and illustrate recent deaths by showing the birth and death dates of different victims throughout. Day, who sports a Black Lives Matter t-shirt, expresses his discontent with law enforcement and asks the question, "Am I next?"

"She Can Get It' – That's my ode to African-American women. I see a lot of twerking in music videos. I see a lot of black women being degraded by white and black males so I

wanted to do something different," Day said.

Even though it has a catchy chorus, the song could serve as a feminist anthem. In addition to degradation of black women, Day talks about colorism within the black community, sexual assault and women's independence.

The song's supporting video is a showcase of black women and latin@s, including former Miss UofA Breamin Perkins. Several characters like the college student, female athlete and professional woman are represented in the video.

"Knock the Hustle' was me putting all my feelings out there talking about the justice system (and) how I'm a poor, black man but I'm trying to get out and be a positive role model for young African-American males or anybody who needs help. No matter where you come from, you can overcome adversity if you put God first and tell the truth," he said.

There's a video for the remix of this song he shares with four other rappers, including "Black Male" collaborator Wavy J and Nathaniel "Nate 5th" Smith.

"We're all talking about different stuff in it, about young guys chasing their dreams. (My verse) is more personal. I talk about my little brother's situation, faith (and life) back home in Little Rock," Smith said.

In the "Knock the Hustle (Remix)" video, Day smashes a headlight with a piece of wood that read "Black Lives."

His collaborators had their own favorite tracks aside from the songs they featured on Day's mixtape.

"If I had to name one that I really liked, it was that 'Smile' (record). I like the vibe to it. The features added to it too," Smith said.

Larry's favorite track was the autobiographical track, "Daven Court," he said.

"It talks about how growing up in certain surrounding shouldn't depict who you turn out to be. The track is essentially speaking about where Michael grew up and how he didn't let that influence his future for the worse but actually for the better," Larry said.

Anyone could enjoy "Mike: The 8th Day," but the rapper made it with a specific audience in mind, he said.

"It's to every Caucasian person who believes in the pro-black movement, but is afraid to speak up ... If I can get a white person who understands that shooting black people is an issue or say 'We need to help black people come up and uplift their women as well,' eventually (organizations) like the KKK will start decreasing," the rapper said.

Day's mixtape could start conversations about disparities within the African-American community and race relations in America. Music lovers can check out his mixtape, "Mike: The 8th Day" on his Bandcamp account.

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Devynne Diaz Staff Photographer

UA alumnus Mike Day stands outside the Greek Theatre on campus Jan. 28. Day graduated with degrees in African-American studies and broadcast journalism and is now pursuing a career in rap music on top of sports photography.

COMMENTARY

The Madness of College Football National Signing Day

Chandler Carson
Staff Reporter

Imagine being a top high school football recruit getting ready to decide on where you're going to play during your college career.

The decision on where to play is a tough one, but it's not nearly the decision weighing heaviest on your mind as a recruit, especially in today's era of blue-chip prospects.

The real decision is how you tell everyone, especially on college football's most popular holiday, National Signing Day.

Traditionally, the first Wednesday of February, National Signing Day, has become a spectacle unlike any other. For about 10 hours, fans, players and coaches remain glued to one of many ESPN channels, Twitter and more to see where all of the top prospects will commit.

Times have most certainly changed.

Remember the days of simplicity? The days where a recruit had a few hats on the table and putting on the hat of his choosing?

On this past signing day, an Under Armour All-American safety, Deontay Anderson, committed to Ole Miss in the craziest of

ways. He decided to switch things up a little in his announcement and jump out of a plane to announce his decision. Yes, you read that correctly.

Regardless of his stunt, National Signing Day is helping these schools out with the way these kids are going all out.

Signing Day is starting to become a publicity stunt for these programs. Recruits enjoy being treated like a rock star. They enjoy hanging out with guys like Tom Brady and Derek Jeter at Michigan on signing day.

With the way schools are using their resources nowadays, it's easy to see why programs like Florida State, Alabama, Michigan and Texas are able to lure in the top recruiting classes, while programs like Arkansas are always at a disadvantage.

The top tier programs have all they need to make their school more appealing than the next one. A campus with National Championship trophies, Heisman winners and fancy training facilities courtesy of big-pocket donors is an immense help in the eyes of recruits.

A program like Arkansas is already a notch down on a recruit's list based on the fact that they don't have all of these things, like most big programs do. The program's lack of appeal does not mean it is bad by any means. The



Michael Morrison Staff Photographer

Bret Bielema shakes hands with Signing Day host Bo Mattingly before discussing the newly acquired Razorbacks Feb. 3.

average recruit may just consider that school an afterthought because Alabama is knocking on their door.

Imagine the choices offered to a top prospect from Florida. His three finalists are Florida State, Alabama and Arkansas. The first two are the cream of the crop that offer you a chance at National Championships and exposure

on the grand stage, Arkansas can't promise that.

The truth is, since the state of Arkansas has no professional teams, fans sometimes have an over-exaggerated thought about what this program is capable of doing in terms of luring in top prospects.

Yes, Arkansas is a rising SEC program under head coach Bret Bielema and will always

be in contention for high-profile recruits, especially from Arkansas. However, to think they can rack in the same amount of five-stars like Alabama is unfair to the program and to the die-hard fans' sanity.

National Signing Day, as entertaining as it can be, gives false hope to so many fans and programs. Seeing their school

as a "finalist" just sets these fans up for disappointment because most of the time, recruits just want to build suspense.

When the next National Signing Day rolls around, fans of every school should not get caught up in the craziness the day brings. It's easy to be suckered into the madness.

RANKING ARKANSAS' 2016 FOOTBALL SIGNEES

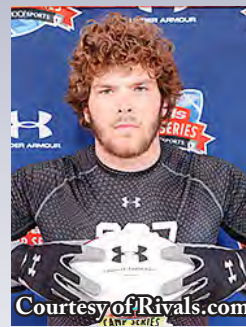
Alex Nicoll
Staff Reporter

With recruiting gaining importance for college coaches and seemingly making or breaking their jobs, Arkansas head coach Bret Bielema's 2016 recruiting class is good enough to claim a spot in the ESPN top 25. Twenty commits signed their letters of intent Feb. 3 and it's now time to evaluate the 2016 recruiting class. Seven of the 10 remaining signees are defensive players. Arkansas is ranked ninth in the Southeastern Conference with the No. 24 ranked recruiting class. The SEC has eight other teams in the top 25. The Razorbacks will begin the new football season in September.



#1 MCTELVIN AGIM
 Five-Star Defensive End
 Hometown: Hope, Ark.

Agim is strongly considered the top commit for the Razorbacks by several recruiting sources. Listed at 6 feet 2.5 inches and 268 pounds, Agim may need to add some more weight to be a more disruptive force on the line, but he should be a name that Hog fans remember for years to come.



#6 JAKE HEINRICH
 Four-Star Offensive Guard
 Hometown: Urbandale, Iowa

New offensive line coach Kurt Anderson is very high on Heinrich, saying that Urbandale native is a gym rat. Heinrich will add depth to the offensive line and has the potential to be a disruptive force by the way Anderson sang his praises.



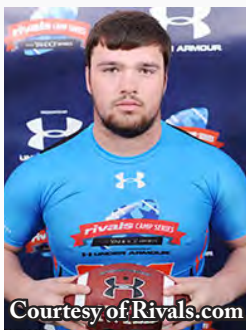
#2 DEVWAH WHALEY
 Four-Star Running Back
 Hometown: Beaumont, Texas

With the loss of Jonathan Williams and Alex Collins, Arkansas only has sixth-year senior Kody Walker and incoming sophomore Rawleigh Williams with significant playing time. Whaley should add depth and the same impact that Rawleigh made this past season.



#7 KOFI BOATENG
 Three-Star Wide Receiver
 Hometown: Arlington, Texas

Boateng is one of the top wide receiver commits that Arkansas got for 2016. He grabbed 46 passes for 782 yards and 11 touchdowns at Arlington Lamar. Boateng has the speed for the position, as he averaged 17 yards per catch in his senior season.



#3 AUSTIN CAPPS
 Four-Star Defensive Tackle
 Hometown: Star City, Ark.

Six foot 3.5 inches, 307 pounds is what Capps is listed as. Arkansas' defensive line could be one to fear in the coming years with a one-two punch of Agim and Capps. In his sophomore year of high school, Capps terrorized opposing quarterbacks with 10 sacks and two forced fumbles.



#8 JORDAN JONES
 Three-Star Wide Receiver
 Hometown: Smackover, Ark.

A dual-sport athlete, Jones picked the Hogs over SEC rivals Ole Miss and Alabama. Jones can create good separation with a defender and has good hands that could make him a favorite target for an Arkansas quarterback.



#4 T.J. HAMMONDS
 Four-Star Wide Receiver
 Hometown: Little Rock, Ark.

Hammonds is a deep threat for the Razorbacks. He runs a 4.42 in the 40-yard dash and he has great instincts in the open field. He played running back in high school as well so he may be better classified as an athlete because that is what he epitomizes.



#9 ALEXY JEAN-BAPTISTE
 Three-Star Linebacker
 Hometown: Pompano Beach, Fla.

Jean-Baptiste's three-star ranking is a little misleading. He had over 25 offers from schools before choosing Arkansas and was sought after for a good reason. His ability to play linebacker and help out in coverage will be huge for Arkansas in the coming season.



#5 BRISTON GUIDRY
 Four-Star Defensive Tackle
 Hometown: Metairie, La.

Guidry closed out his career at Archbishop Rummel High School with a total of 244 tackles and 25.5 sacks. For a Razorback front seven that struggled the past season to get to the quarterback, those numbers are a good sign for the direction Arkansas is hopefully headed towards.



#10 PAUL RAMIREZ
 Three-Star Offensive Tackle
 Hometown: San Bernardino, Calif.

Ramirez is one of two community college commits for Arkansas and has received a lot of praise from Bielema and new offensive line coach Kurt Anderson. He's listed at 6 feet 6 inches and weighs 300 pounds.

Tennis: men serve up solid wins, women struggle in singles



Andre Kissel Staff Photographer

Redshirt freshman Adam Sanjurjo returns a shot during a double header with Oklahoma State and Oral Roberts Saturday.

Lauren Krakau
Contributing Reporter

The Arkansas Razorback men's and women's tennis teams have had exceptional seasons thus far and were able to maintain their positive records.

Men's

The men's tennis team kept their momentum going, moving their record to 3-1 Sunday. The Hogs split a set of matches over the weekend against No. 17 Oklahoma State and Oral Roberts.

After a two week break from their two back-to-back wins in January, the Hogs suffered a tough 2-5 defeat in their first game of the day against No. 17 Oklahoma State.

Santiago Munoz and Johan den Toom were able to pull out the victory over the No. 53 doubles team of Lukas Finzelberg and Jurence Mendoza 6-3. The Cowboys were able to snag the No. 1 and No. 2 doubles matches and earned the day's first point.

In singles play, Adam Sanjurjo beat Tristan Meraut by a score of 6-4, 6-4 in straight sets to even the team score at 1-1. However, OSU was victorious for the next three singles matches to pull out the victory.

The last match between the Razorbacks and Cowboys was Munoz against Lucas Gerch at No. 4 singles. Gerch outlasted Munoz 7-6 (3), 3-6, 6-4 in a hard-fought matchup, and OSU finished the team competition with a 5-2 victory.

A total team effort contributed to a 5-2 win for the Arkansas men's tennis team on Sun-

day evening over visiting Oral Roberts. Giammarco Micolani recorded a 6-4, 7-6 win at No. 1 singles over Amar Saletovic to take the deciding point of the match.

Jose Salazar at No. 2 and David Herrerias at No. 4 also picked up singles wins for the Hogs, both taking victories in straight sets over their opponents. Jacob Herndon rounded out the fifth point with a comeback 4-6, 6-2, 7-5 victory over Oral Roberts' Alvaro Santamaria at No. 6 singles.

The men's tennis team will return to action Friday when they head to Oklahoma to take on Tulsa at 6 p.m.

Women's

Despite a tough effort, the Razorback women's tennis team lost 6-1 to Tulsa on Friday at Dills Indoor Courts.

In doubles, Shannon Hudson and Agne Cepelyte set the bar high, taking a 6-1 victory to kick off the day.

With a 1-0 advantage entering singles play, the Golden Hurricanes picked up back-to-back wins on courts to build their lead to 3-0.

The Razorbacks were able to snag the first set while Tulsa pulled out a 7-5 first-set win. All four courts were pushed to three-set affairs with the Razorbacks in strong position to win on three of them.

After a minor bump in the first set, Ana Oparenovic was able to claim the second set. However, Tulsa's Ksenia Laskutova held on to win 7-5, 3-6, 6-3 to clinch the overall match.

Play on the remaining courts continued after the clinch.

For their next game, the Hogs will remain at home to face Oklahoma State on Friday at 5 p.m.

ORAL ROBERTS MATCH

Court One: W

6-4, 7-6(3)

Giammarco Micolani beat Amar Saletovic

Court Two: W

6-4, 6-2

Jose Salazar beat Jan Peh nec

Court Three: L

5-7, 5-7

Juan Marino lost to Barnabas Koncz

Doubles Court One: W

6-4 William Albanese & Giammarco Micolani beat Jan Peh nec & Amar Saletovic



3-1
OVERALL

TULSA MATCH

Court One: L

6-2, 4-6, 5-7

Shannon Hudson lost to Saana Saarteinen

Court Two: L

5-7, 6-3, 3-6

Ana Oparenovic lost to Ksenia Laskutova

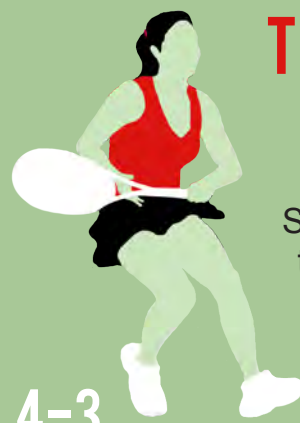
Court Three: L

7-6 (7,2), 2-6, 5-7

Makenzie Craft lost to Rongrong Leenabancho

Doubles Court Two: W

6-1 Agne Cepelyte & Shannon Hudson beat No. 46 Rongrong Leenabancho & Martha Matoula



4-3
OVERALL

Ladybacks run second at A&M Invitational

Austin Araujo
Staff Reporter

The No. 1 Arkansas women's track and field team finished in second place at the Charlie Thomas Invitational at College Station.

Texas A&M, who hosted the Invitational, finished first with 144 points while the Hogs ended the weekend with 102 points.

Six Razorbacks finished in first place, including sophomore Taliyah Brooks and senior Taylor Ellis-Watson, who both finished in first in two events. Twelve Razorbacks earned top-five finishes overall.

Brooks managed to leap over a quarter of a meter farther than the second place finisher en route to her first place finish in the long jump. Ellis-Watson just edged out the competition to stay on top of the 200-meter dash for the Hogs.

They were both on the 4x400 meter relay team who won first place in College Station over the weekend, along with Daina Harper and Brianna Swinton.

Brooks has kept up the pace she started as a freshman when she earned All-American and All-SEC Freshman honors. The sophomore phenom has excelled in multiple events similarly to last year, including her two first place finishes in long jump and joint success in the 4x400 relay.

Ellis-Watson's two first place finishes were her fourth and fifth overall wins on the season. Ellis-Watson earned All-American honors for the third time as a Razorback and finished in third for the 400-meter dash at the indoor Southeastern Conference Championships in 2015.

Oregon transfer Nikki

Hiltz finished in fourth place in the 800-meter dash at the Charlie Thomas Invitational. The redshirt sophomore has been acclimating to head coach Lance Harter's squad well by earning top-ten finishes in the mile and the distance medley.

Hiltz earned spots on the indoor All-American first team and the outdoor All-American second team during her redshirt freshman year at Oregon.

Junior Micah Dennis finished in second place in the shot-put. It is the highest finish for Dennis since the Razorback Invitational on Jan. 15. She earned a top-ten place finish at the New Mexico Invitational. Dennis finished in thirteenth place at the SEC Championships in her first season as a Razorback.

Redshirt senior Megan Zimlich was one of the six Hogs to win her event outright as she finished atop of the pole vault performers. Her height of 4.19 meters at College Station ties for her personal best and it earned a spot as one of the 20 best vaulters in college according to Razorback Athletics. Zimlich vaulted over the same height last year at the Razorback Invitational.

Zimlich's fellow pole vaulter Ariel Voskamp finished in third place in the event. Voskamp cleared a height of 3.94 meters which tied five other competitors. Ariel Lachance and Rylee Robinson also finished in the top ten.

Senior Alex Gochenour ended as runner-up in the 60-meter hurdles. Gochenour, who competes in multiple events like Brooks, has two other top-ten finishes in the same event on the season. Gochenour was given indoor All-American honors for her performances in 2015.

The Razorbacks stay in Fayetteville for the Tyson Invitational on Friday. There will not be any team scoring tallied for that meet.

BASKETBALL

Women end skid with buzzer-beater



Adams Pryor Photo Editor

Freshman guard Jordan Danberry splits two Vanderbilt defenders in a 57-56 thriller Monday.

Andrew Epperson
Staff Reporter

The Arkansas women's basketball team battled a tough four-game losing streak that included two overtime losses and two losses to ranked teams, but a buzzer-beating layup by Malica Monk gave the Hogs a victory over Vanderbilt Monday.

Monk, who is a freshman, secured an improbable rebound after her teammate Jordan Danberry missed a free-throw line jump shot with around four seconds remaining, and an attempt at a tip in caused the ball to fall to the court with a little over a second left on the clock. Monk grabbed the ball under the backboard and put it back up just in time to beat the buzzer.

After hitting the shot, Monk ran to half court pumping her

fists and celebrating while the rest of the Razorbacks ran to join her. Arkansas head coach Jimmy Dykes did not let the emotions of the game winner affect him in the heat of the moment, as the second-year coach ran out to try to corral the players back to the bench to avoid any technical fouls or injuries.

Monk's final two points of the four she scored in the game were obviously the most important, but several other Razorbacks made big contributions to the victory. Junior forward Jessica Jackson improved on what has been an impressive season by pouring in 18 points on 7-of-16 shooting before fouling out with 55.7 seconds remaining in the fourth quarter. Danberry and Devin Cospoer each scored 10 points on a combined mark of 9-18 from the floor.

The victory came as a big relief for the Hogs, who had previously been going through their second-worst stretch of the season. During the four-

game losing streak which spanned from Jan. 24 to Feb. 4, the Lady Razorbacks lost to Auburn, Florida, then-No. 13 Mississippi State and then-No. 23 Tennessee. Their worst loss of the stretch came in a 75-57 loss to the Volunteers on Feb. 4.

During the game, Arkansas' largest lead of the day was a two-point advantage with 8:49 remaining in the first quarter. The victory by Tennessee was brought on by some hot shooting. Four Volunteers scored in double digits, while only two Razorbacks were able to do so. Jackson scored 18 while Cospoer added 17. The Hogs did have a good showing from the three-point line, going an impressive 5-for-11 from behind the arc, but they unfortunately could not get the stops they needed to get a second victory over the Volunteers on the season.

The Razorbacks' game

against the Mississippi State Bulldogs on Jan. 31 was much closer, as the final score was a 65-55 loss. Earlier in the season, Arkansas was blown out 80-55 by the same Bulldogs squad, so the clear improvement from that game forward was evident in the teams' second matchup. In the game, which had an estimated attendance of 4,011 people, three Razorbacks fouled out in the fourth quarter. Jackson and Danberry were two of those players, and both were the only two Razorbacks to score in double figures. The Hogs

were able to get some key stops, but their poor 19-for-63 shooting mark was the nail in the coffin as the team was unable to secure the upset in Bud Walton Arena.

The losses to Auburn and Florida, which came just four days apart, had similar scores. The Hogs lost to Auburn on Jan. 24 by a score of 71-60 in overtime, while they fell to Florida by a score of 71-66 in overtime four days later. In both games, the Razorbacks found a lot of offense but were unable to find much defensive help. The team clearly found its offensive groove after putting up only 48 points in a victory over Louisiana State on Jan. 21.

Now that the Lady Razorbacks have some confidence under their belts after earning an emotional victory over the Volunteers in their most recent game, fans could be in for an exciting game when the Hogs take on Missouri on the road Sunday.

PRO HOGS Vol. XV

Pro Hogs: Post Super Bowl Edition

Andrew Epperson
Staff Reporter

Unfortunately for football fans, Super Bowl Sunday officially marked the end of football season. Many Razorback fans follow former Razorback athletes who play professionally in the NFL and they were in for some crazy storylines and impressive performances from past Hogs this football season.

Statistically, Dallas Cowboys running back Darren McFadden had the second-best rushing output of his career and his best season since 2010. The former Hog rushed for over 1,000 yards and became just the sixth Cowboys player to eclipse that mark in a single season. His exact rushing total was 1,089 yards and he earned an impressive 239 carries on the season. The Little Rock native's touchdown total was low, only crossing the goal line three times, but that could be attributed more to the Cowboys' lackluster offense than the running back.

Minnesota Vikings receiver Jarius Wright saw a dip in production from last season, a year in which the Warren native caught 42 passes for two touchdowns. This season, Wright caught 34 passes and had zero touchdowns and also recorded the first fumble of his professional career. The receiver did register one rush on the season and his run went for 29 yards and a first down.

Perhaps one of the wildest stories in the NFL was centered on Baltimore Ravens quarterback Ryan Mallett. The former Razorback gunslinger was the subject

of headlines when he made several questionable decisions while playing for the Houston Texans. Mallett famously overslept and missed practice in August a day after Brian Hoyer was named starting quarterback. The quarterback followed that up by missing his team's charter flight to Miami when the Texans were going to play the Dolphins and had to fly commercial to the game. The Texans released Mallett when the team returned to Houston.

Mallett finished the season on a somewhat-high note. When Ravens starting quarterback Joe Flacco got injured late in the season, the Ravens signed Mallett. The quarterback did not play in his first game as a Raven because he was still learning the plays, but he got his chance against Baltimore's biggest rival, the Pittsburgh Steelers. Who could have imagined what would take place?

Instead of crumbling under the pressure, Mallett led the Ravens to an upset victory over the Steelers and had an impressive performance. The fifth-year veteran went 28-of-41 for 274 yards and a touchdown with no interceptions. The 20-17 upset victory marked the biggest highlight for the Ravens during the season and Mallett received plenty of glory for his performance.

Kansas City Chiefs running back Knile Davis did not receive as many snaps during the regular season as many expected him to when star running back Jamaal Charles went down early, but the third-year player kicked off the playoff season with a bang. In the first game of the playoffs, a game that saw the Chiefs take on the Texans, Davis returned the opening kickoff for a touch-

down in what turned out to be a 30-0 blowout for Kansas City.

During the regular season, Davis only had 28 attempts and picked up a forgettable 72 yards. The former Hog did manage to score a touchdown and avoided any fumbles. While his regular season was not one to remember, Davis' opening kickoff return in the playoffs will be remembered for a long time.

Philadelphia Eagles tackle Jason Peters had another impactful season in what was his 12th year in the league. Arguably the most successful professional in recent memory to ever play for the UofA, Peters started all 14 games he played in. The 14-game mark was a slight drop from last season, when the eight-time Pro Bowler started 16 games. Many experts predict the Eagles to shop Peters in a potential trade during the offseason as they attempt to rebuild.

San Diego Chargers receiver Javonte Herndon made an impact for his team, playing in eight games and being targeted 33 times. The former Razorback did not make much of a mark on the Arkansas teams he was a part of, mostly because he was lost in the roster behind big-name receivers Greg Childs, Wright, Joe Adams and Cobi Hamilton. For the Chargers, Herndon played in eight games and recorded 24 catches for 195 yards. The 24-year-old also earned eight first downs for his team.

With so many of these players primed to have big returns next season, as well as some future rookies looking to make their marks early, Razorback fans will have a lot of players to cheer for when the next NFL season rolls around in the fall.

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BASKETBALL

Razorbacks win three of last four, crush Volunteers

Leonce DeLoch
Staff Reporter

Despite a tough road loss to the Florida Gators, the Arkansas Razorbacks have now won three of their last four games, with their latest victory coming Saturday against the Tennessee Volunteers 85-67 at

Bud Walton Arena. With the win, the team moves to ninth in the Southeastern Conference with a 5-5 record and 12-11 record on the season overall.

Arkansas began the game with a three-point basket from junior guard Dusty Hannahs, gaining an early lead that they would never surrender. Razorback head coach Mike Anderson saw five of his players reach dou-

ble figures against the Volunteers, including freshman Jimmy Whitt for the first time in seven games.

Whitt scored 10 points along with going a perfect two-for-two from beyond the three-point arc, a career high for the Columbia, Missouri, native.

Arkansas played well throughout the contest, turning the ball over only 10 times while holding the Vols to only 35 percent on the defensive end.

"February is the month you build on," head coach Mike Anderson said. "Tonight I thought our defense was very disruptive. Our guys stayed in the moment and we kept playing to win. Even as guys got tired, we had guys coming off the bench who lifted us up and took us to another level."

Arkansas handed Tennessee an 18-point defeat, the Vols' worst loss of the season. Their previous worst loss was a 88-74 defeat at Vanderbilt on Jan. 20.

The Razorbacks' surge at this point in the season puts them in better seeding position for the SEC Tournament, with the hardest portion of the schedule behind them. Five of the final eight coming regular season games for the Hogs are matchups in which their opponents are ranked lower than Arkansas in their conference standings.

Hannahs has lead Arkansas all season long with his stellar offensive play. The Little Rock na-

tive, who transferred from Texas Tech, averages 17 points per game as well as two rebounds per contest.

Anthlon Bell and Moses Kingsley both follow closely behind Hannahs with 16 points per game apiece. Kingsley is among the conference leaders in rebounds and blocks, ranking second among all SEC players in both, and has scored double figures in every game this season for the Hogs.

The Razorbacks have two of the top-five three-point shooters in the conference this season, with Bell placing second and Hannahs third, both holding percentages over 45 percent. Bell has knocked down a three-pointer in each game this season.

Bell, Hannahs and Kingsley will lead the team into another conference road matchup against the Mississippi State Bulldogs, who are 2-8 in conference play. The Bulldogs have gotten solid play from starters all season, led by senior big man Gavin Ware, who averages 16 points and seven boards per game.

Arkansas has a good chance to win the matchup on the road in Starkville, Mississippi, as the Bulldogs rank toward the bottom of the conference in points allowed per game with about 75. Arkansas is first in the SEC in offense with almost 82 points per game.

The Hogs are not known to perform well on the road, but the matchups remaining are manageable. All the road matchups left for Arkansas are against teams that have equal or less than the amount of wins the Razorbacks have in conference play.

Arkansas has the opportunity to further better their



Devynne Diaz Staff Photographer

Senior guard Anthlon Bell drives past Tennessee forward Admiral Schofield on his way to the basket Saturday.

SEC Tournament position by possibly running the table for the remainder of the regular season. The biggest test will come against freshman phenom Ben Simmons and the Louisiana State Tigers on Feb. 23 at Bud Walton Arena.

LSU and South Carolina are the two toughest games left on the Hogs' schedule, and both at home at Bud Walton. If the Hogs can finish with maybe one loss out of the remaining eight games left on the schedule, they can put themselves

in position to secure a decent seed in the SEC Tournament.

The best case scenario for a hot-streaking Razorback team will be a great performance in the conference tournament that could possibly lead to an NCAA Tournament bid. Likely, the Hogs will earn a berth into the National Invitation Tournament at the end of the season.

For updates on Tuesday's game against the Mississippi State Bulldogs, follow @UaTravSports on Twitter.



Devynne Diaz Staff Photographer

Senior Willy Kouassi tips in the game's first basket. The Hogs defeated the Volunteers 85-67 Saturday.

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