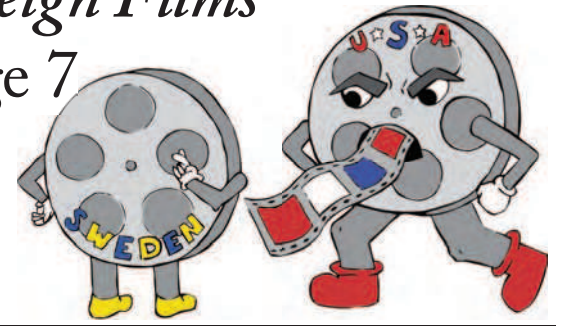




THE ARKANSAS TRAVELER

Analysts Study Impact of Foreign Films

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Amended Bill Proposes Concealed Carry on Campus



Rebekah Harvey Staff Photographer

Above Marty Cale's gun rests in his holster Tuesday afternoon while he shoots at his private gun range near Weddington Drive in Fayetteville. Cale is the owner and chief instructor of Krav Maga Self Defense.

Right Cale demonstrates how to handle a weapon at his shooting range Tuesday. Cale instructs concealed-carry courses with a classroom-style, lecture component and a hands-on training component.



Nathan Owens Staff Writer

In 2013, the UofA opted out of a law that would allow professors to carry concealed weapons on campus, but on Jan. 13, Arkansas House of Representatives Majority Leader Charlie Collins proposed an amended bill that would dismiss the university's right to opt out.

The bill would allow licensed workers employed by the UofA to conceal weapons on public universities and community-college property if the bill became active, according to House Bill 1077.

Collins wrote the bill that was presented Jan. 27 to the State House Education Committee for consideration, but is still in legislative limbo.

In defense of the bill, Collins retweeted the Crime Research Prevention Center, citing that 92% of mass public shootings in 2009-2014 were in gun-free zones.

It's best that students don't carry weapons, but professors and university officials should, said Marty Cale, the

owner and chief instructor of Krav Maga Self Defense.

"I think that every teacher, whether they're at a university, junior high or elementary school, should carry a gun," Cale said. "I think it is protection for our schools."

On the issue of attempting to carry guns on the UofA, people should be smart, Cale said.

"Concealed carry is concealed carry," Cale said. "Which means out of the public's eye. So what I'm saying is, you are responsible for your own actions."

Penny Litterell and Brandi Dickard, who are unaffiliated with the university, both took Cale's private concealed-carry class Saturday after feeling the need for self-protection in times of trouble, they said.

"My husband works late nights," Litterell said. "Someone was on my property one night, and then he showed up again a few days later. If I had a gun, I would feel more safe."

While she was babysitting, Dickard opened the door to someone who refused to leave the property, she said.

"Instead of leaving the house when I asked, he de-

ecided to come around back," Dickard said. "I don't want that to happen again."

It is not necessary to own a license for a weapon at home, but once the person steps outside, it is necessary to own a concealed-carry license, according to the 2013 Arkansas Concealed Handgun Carry License Laws.

One myth about carrying concealed weapons is that the people packing guns are going to commit crimes, Cale said.

"They are all law-abiding citizens and not going to commit a crime," Cale said. "Nobody in their right mind would shoot a bunch of kids."

While some people view concealed weapons as a safety measure against unexpected threats, others view it as unnecessary and potentially more dangerous, said Ryann Alonso, a member of Young Democrats.

Arkansas Rep. Greg Ledding is campaigning against the bill and requested public responses through Twitter on Jan. 26. While the proposed bill is circulating, more and

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School of Law Ranked Best Value, Students Recognize the Benefits

Christina Wilkerson Staff Writer

The UofA School of Law is climbing up the ranking ladder in ways that the nation and law students notice.

The UA law school ranked first in the nation for "Best Value Law Schools" in the preLaw magazine. Up from second place last year, and steady in its fourth year in the top 20.

The UA School of Law is comfortably nestled in the middle of a perfect storm of ideal conditions that are all in the best interest of the student.

"The affordability rankings, the best value rankings, measure a number of things," Andy Albertson, director of communications for the law school said.

The first factor for afford-

ability is the law school's tuition "which is low, in part, because the state legislature keeps tuition low for Arkansas," Albertson said.

"I'm from California," Donald Ung, a third year law student said. "And law schools in California tuition ranges from \$40,000 to \$50,000, but here, in-state tuition here, Arkansas, is about \$14,000."

Students' dramatically discounted tuition is "a product of being in Arkansas," Albertson said.

The Arkansas state legislature has the final say on how much the law school can charge in tuition. The legislature has them "tied to the exact same model that any undergraduate at the University of Arkansas is," Albertson said.

The students pay a little more for extra fees, but little other than that differentiates

the law school's rates from any of the other colleges at the UofA.

"I didn't see the point of going and paying some out of state tuition that would be exponentially higher than the University of Arkansas," Kayla Shirey, a third year law student said.

The low tuition and the school's national reputation were factors in Ung's decision to come to the UofA.

"Nationally it's recognized pretty well," Ung said. "Bill Clinton and Hillary Clinton were professors here and our governors from Arkansas came here."

Shirey considered going to the law school in Little Rock, Arkansas, but she was also drawn to the UofA because of its rankings and national recognition.

"That's why I chose this

school, because it has a lot more strengths," than the other schools in Arkansas for roughly the same tuition cost, Shirey said.

The law school receives a hefty endowment from the estate of alumnus Marion W. Hazel, who graduated from the law school in 1941, and his wife Mary Alice Hazel. The endowment will be dispersed among students to ease their tuition burden, on a case-by-case basis.

Though the law school offers one of the lowest tuitions in the nation, college is still hard to fund. UA law students take out loans, but "our students take on very little debt compared to their peers nationally," Albertson said.

This is likely due to the aforementioned low tuition.

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Jarrett Hobbs Staff Photographer

Andy Albertson, director of communications for the law school said that law students take on very little debt, which is due to the low tuition the school offers.

NEWS



Labs Could Face Capacity Issues

College of Engineering administrators are discussing capacity in labs before overcrowding occurs.

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FEATURES

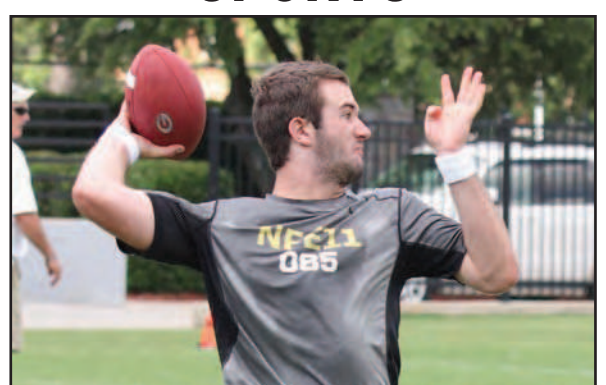


Junior Tennis Star Rocks the Court

Flavia Dechandt Araujo came to the UofA from Sao Paulo, Brazil with tennis on her mind, but has become involved with so much more on campus.

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SPORTS



Meet Arkansas' 2015 Recruiting Class

Get to know the recruits who have signed on to play with Bret Bielema and the Razorbacks.

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College of Engineering Prepares for Overcrowding

Nathan Owens
Staff Writer

As campus enrollment has increased, engineering students have filled up labs and work areas in science buildings, specifically the Mechanical Engineering Building.

The Mechanical Engineering Building has enough space for the number of students in labs and extra-curricular projects, but if 40 percent of this year's freshmen declare their sequence as mechanical, the department will need to consider other options, said Jim Leylek, the mechanical engineering department head.

"We don't want it to get to the point where we have to start turning students away from labs," Leylek said. "I don't want to say to students, 'Sorry, you cannot take Lab I, II or III because there's not enough room.'"

Anticipating a substantial increase in mechanical engineering students, Kyle Cook, the facilities manager, arranged an appointment with Wayne Brashear, the campus

fire marshal, to make sure the department wasn't breaking any fire codes.

"I got a call from Kyle Cook saying, 'Hey, we're growing pretty quick. Could you come by the building and meet with Dr. Leylek?'" Brashear said. "First thing I said was, 'Y'all's rooms are small in the basement.'"

Brashear inspected 15 labs in the building and gave Leylek projections based on enrollment estimations.

In classrooms, there needs to be 20 square feet per person. In workspaces, such as labs, there needs to be 50 square feet per person, according to the 2012 Arkansas Fire Prevention Code.

Before Brashear inspected the building, mechanical engineering department officials didn't know their occupancy numbers.

Based on the assessment, department officials are confident that they have enough space for all mechanical engineering students next semester. However, they are still exploring options to create more space if needed in the future, said John English, the dean of the College of Engineering.

"We are going to have a meeting soon where we sit



Students work in the Mechanical Engineering Building Jan. 28. Though department officials are confident there is enough space to accommodate mechanical engineering students next semester, occupancy issues are being discussed.

collectively and come up with something," Leylek said. "I don't care if they're idiotic or brilliant ideas. We know our constraints. Let's figure something out."

Overcrowding is not a problem in the Mechanical Engineering Building, but it's annoying when non-engineering classes are taught in the building because they have a smaller

class size, senior Will Fritts said. "I think there's a gender studies course that takes place in one of the classes upstairs," Fritts said. "There aren't many people in the class, so the uni-

versity puts them in the Mechanical Engineering Building because we have smaller classrooms. I mean, we could be using those rooms for mechanical engineering classes instead."

Pat Walker now Offers Weekly Meditation Classes

Sarah Edwards
Staff Writer

The Pat Walker Health Center now offers a meditation group that is available to all university students, faculty and staff.

The group, which was started by Aneeqa Ishtiaq through Counseling and Psychological Services, meets every Thursday from 3-4 p.m. in the health center.

The group met for the first time Jan. 22, Ishtiaq said. Students and staff can drop in and out each week as they please. The meditation group is free to anyone who wants to join and is open to those who are interested in developing a meditation routine.

"Meditation can help improve a person's well-being and also help people cope with challenges and difficult emotions," said Casey Maute, the assistant director for communications at Pat Walker.

The group was started to offer more wellness activities at the UofA.

Senior Camille Wildburger said she hoped the group would give her some guidance.

"Meditating allows me to think more clearly before I act or speak, to have a better understanding of myself and to have a different perspective," Wildburger said. "It really helps to improve my overall attitude toward myself and toward other people."

Eight in 10 college students

admitted to having trouble with stress, according to a mental health study by the Associated Press. There are many ways to overcome stress, and research has shown that meditation is an effective option.

"Meditation has several benefits, such as lowering high blood pressure, decreasing tension-related pain and increasing a person's energy level as they gain an inner source of energy," Maute said.

Staff at the Mayo Clinic explained that during medi-

tation, people focus their attention to eliminate jumbled thoughts that may have been crowding their mind and causing stress. The result is an enhanced physical and emotional well-being.

The emotional benefits of meditation include gaining a new perspective on stressful situations, building skills to manage stress, increasing self-awareness, focusing on the present and reducing negative emotions, according to the Mayo Clinic.

Wildburger said she would recommend the meditation group to others because it produces personal growth.

Sophomore Jessica Hedges said she had not heard of the group but thought it was a good idea.

"As a college student, I am really stressed out most of the time," Hedges said. "I would love to forget about my worries for an hour or so. I think the group could really help me."

More Lindsey Apartments Being Built in Fayetteville

Evan Moss
Staff Writer

Lindsey Management Co. Inc. is planning to build new apartments in Fayetteville as part of the second phase of their long-term plans for the city.

The new apartments will be located north of The Links at Fayetteville on West Player Lane, said Hugh Jarratt, an attorney for Lindsey Management.

"It will be a continuation of our existing development," Jarratt said.

The new buildings will be two or three stories and will resemble existing structures. However, the buildings will feature some new facades, Jarratt said.

Management does not yet know the overall construction cost or how much rent will cost, Jarratt said.

"Until we get in there and start, we have no idea," Jarratt said.

Lindsey Management officials decided to build new apartments after the success of the first phase, which was completed about five years ago.

"The Fayetteville market has been very good to us,"

Jarratt said. "We decided it was time to go on and begin the second phase."

Lindsey Management officials are confident that the new complex will be used and appreciated by Fayetteville residents.

"We're confident that the growth in Fayetteville will continue," Jarratt said. "Fayetteville is a great town, and we want to be a part of that."

The apartments will be home to college students, as well as Fayetteville residents.

"A lot of what you find near campus is just straight student-housing properties," Jarratt said. "While we do have a lot of students who live with us, we're planning on serving a larger market. Fayetteville has grown, so we have a little different model than those guys who are building right now by campus. We'll have a lot of students, but we'll also have a lot of regular folks from the community. Our decision to build is based on more than the university, although the university is a big part of it."

Construction should take a little over a year to complete once it begins, Jarratt said.

"We like to say that once we start, it takes us about a unit a day," Jarratt said.

Construction will begin as

soon as a superintendent becomes available from Lindsey Management's construction company. One will likely be available after construction on a similar project in Bentonville is completed within the next few months, Jarratt said.

UA students said they would welcome additional apartment complexes in Fayetteville where affordable housing can be hard to find.

"It's definitely more affordable to find somewhere off campus," senior Kevin Duvan said. "Campus can get pretty pricey."

Other students agreed that off-campus housing is easier on the wallet.

"From what I've seen, because I'm looking to live off campus next semester, it's more affordable for me," sophomore Teresa Gallo said. "I'm looking at cheaper apartments than what my friends pay at other colleges."

Finding affordable housing can be difficult for students, especially those who want to live near campus.

"It really depends on how deep you dig," freshman Lauren Backus said. "You can find some good deals, but a lot of the closer ones are pricey. I'm looking to go farther out just because it's cheaper."

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UA Grad Wins Research Award



Graduate student Corey Thompson is the founder and chief technical officer of Fayetteville-based tech startup, WattGlass. Recently, WattGlass received a \$150,000 research grant from the National Science Foundation to continue developing a nano-particle coating that makes glass anti-reflective, cleaner and more transparent.

Gabby Mellott
Staff Writer

WattGlass, a company founded by a UA graduate, received a \$150,000 grant from the National Science Foundation for further research.

WattGlass was awarded a grant designated for innovative research in small businesses.

Corey Thompson, the chief technology officer at WattGlass, defended his dissertation in August and graduated in December with a doctorate in microelectronics-photonics.

"The company was founded to commercialize a novel nanoparticle glass coating developed at the University of Arkansas," according to the WattGlass website.

WattGlass is developing technology that makes glass

self-cleaning, highly transparent and anti-reflective.

"There's two metrics that we have to establish for the coating, and that is durability and scalability," Thompson said.

In the lab, microscopic lenses are the main testing materials. With the grant money, WattGlass workers have to prove that the coating can withstand the conditions of solar panels and that the technology can be effective on large surfaces, Thompson said.

The goal of the project is to prove that the coating is durable when exposed to heat, dust, dirt and other desert elements. If successful, the company may be awarded an additional \$750,000.

The grant is the first substantial capital WattGlass has received, and with it, workers may be able to make real progress, Thompson said.

The UofA has been a huge help to the WattGlass team, Thompson said.

"We wouldn't be in business if it wasn't for the support we had from the UofA," he said.

There are a few other competitors in the market for this kind of glass coating, but WattGlass workers think they have something special to bring to the table.

WattGlass can produce a coating with better performance, but at a much lower cost. The company also uses more environmentally friendly processes and products.

"A lot of our competitors use really toxic chemicals or need clean-room processors to put down their coating," Thompson said. "We're able to do that with just a normal production environment. All of the coating is water based, and it's nontoxic and a lot nicer to deal with."

Will Purdy Staff Photographer

Proposed Bill Could Allow Concealed Carry

continued from page 1

more users have responded. "Allowing guns on campus puts UAPD and us in danger, impedes ability to quickly ID perpetrators," Leding tweeted. "I am a gun owner with a concealed carry. I say NO!"

Having guns on campus would do more harm than good, said Emily Carson, the president of Young Democrats.

"I don't want to be sitting in class and ask my teacher if they're packing or not," Carson said.

People in favor of the bill are more optimistic about workers' willingness to carry a gun on campus and view it

as a right to protect personal freedoms, said Jace Motley, the chairman for the Arkansas Federation of College Republicans.

"This same bill was introduced two years ago and was a highly contested issue among student representatives in ASG," Motley said. "I think that any attempt to protect personal freedoms is the right move, but in this particular instance, it's critical to get more student feedback."

Students, parents and faculty who want their voices heard can tweet with the hashtags #ARLeg and #HB1077.



It's Legal. It's Safe. It's Anonymous.

Safe Haven is a law designed to protect babies.

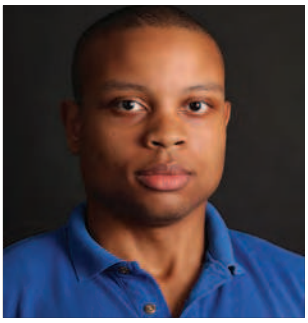
What is Safe Haven? In Arkansas, the Safe Haven law allows a parent to give up an infant anonymously. The purpose of Safe Haven is to prevent babies from being hurt or killed by unsafe abandonment. Unsafely abandoning a baby puts the infant in extreme danger that can result in the baby's death. It also is illegal, with severe consequences.



There is an option. Don't abandon your baby.



Feminist Super Bowl ad Disempowers Women



David Wilson
Opinion Editor

This prior Super Bowl Sunday, a commercial for *Always* feminine hygiene products aired an ad which criticized the pejorative “like a girl”, taking aim at those who perpetuated the stereotype that women were athletically inferior to men.

Now I’m going to say something very controversial — the average woman is not as athletic as the average man. Furthermore, the average athletic woman, isn’t athletic as the average athletic man.

Many feminists mistakenly believe that the term “equality” means devoid from criticism, but a more accurate interpretation is that it means everyone is criticized equally—whether man or woman.

Procter and Gamble spent \$4 million on a 60 second commercial which will realistically change no one’s mind on the way the average girl runs or throws, when that money could have easily gone to groups which actually teach young women how to improve these perceived deficiencies.

It is also my opinion that this commercial actually perpetuates the negative societal restraints on women by showing a victim’s mentality rather than that of a strong minded, independent thinking woman.

Rather than saying that men should not stereotype how women run or throw, why not tell these young girls that it doesn’t matter what people’s opinions of you are either way?

As evident by this column, everyone has an opinion.

Everyone has something to say. But in the long run an opinion someone has of you

and how you go about your business means nothing.

Do you think Venus and Serena Williams care if you say they hit like girls? How about the UFC superstar Ronda Rousey? Do you think Brittney Griner cares if anyone says she can’t shoot a basketball?

No, because these hard-working individuals care more about the stories they tell themselves, than those which are told about them and try to limit them.

There are so many powerful female role models out there for little girls to be exposed to who have faced adversity and ultimately triumphed in their respective field, yet this company chose to spend millions of dollars to portray a message of victimhood and disempowerment.

Ultimately, viewers should not be swayed by appeals to emotion by these multi-billion dollar corporations.

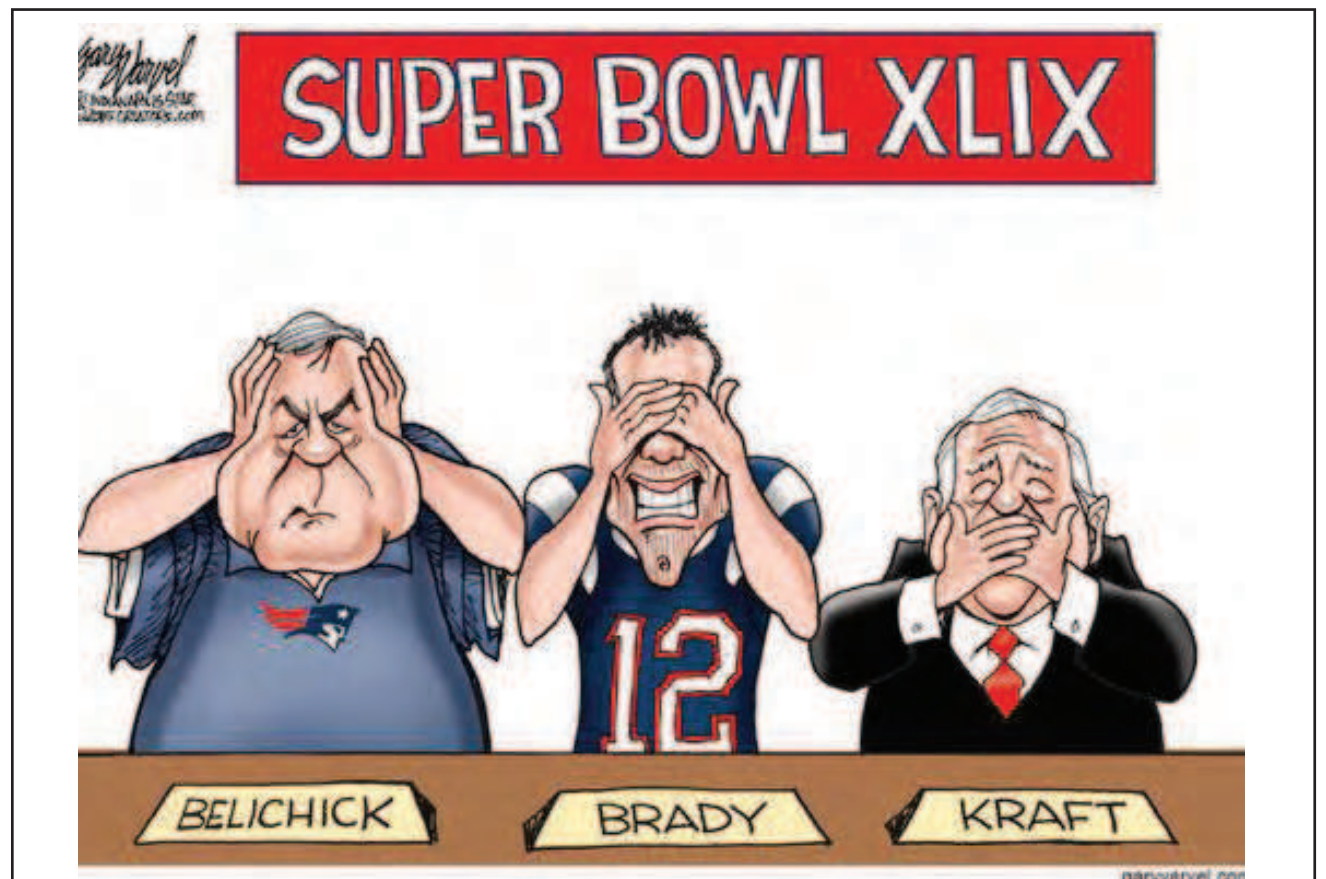
Procter and Gamble doesn’t market to women out of a desire to promote any sort of pure feminine ideals, but with the goal of getting a return on their investment.

Women represent 46 percent of the Super Bowl viewing audience and out-tweet and out use other social media at an 8 percent higher rate than their male counterparts. Smart marketers know this, hence #likeagirl being emphasized so strongly in the commercial.

According to studies from She-conomy (a female centric marketing firm), women control 51 percent of private wealth in the United States, and they represent 85 percent of all consumer purchases which include everything from healthcare to automobiles.

The idea that corporations are using feminism to fuel consumerism should be far more offensive to those who are champions of equality than your common juvenile insult.

David Wilson is a junior finance major, political science minor and the Opinion editor of the Traveler. You can e-mail him at dew004@uark.edu.



Joe Heller, Hellertoon.com

Smaller Sports at the University of Arkansas Deserve More Recognition from Students



T.J. Stallbaumer
Senior Staff Writer

Here in the South, there exists a strong tradition of being proud fans. As Razorbacks, it is our job, nay, our calling, to cheer on those Hogs.

For without the community brought together through a simple love of the game, we may lack a common bond.

Being a Razorback sports fan, for many, is only a part-time job. It involves little thought on any weekend when neither the football nor the basketball teams are playing.

But if I could have it my way, being a fan of the Hogs would be a full-time job.

I know there are those of you with objections — and I am sure some of them have merit. But most of us are simply too lazy to learn —

whether that be the rules of a new sport, or even the times at which they play, compete or perform, an argument could be made for the inherent value of every one in one succinct sentence. They’re all Razorbacks.

The UA men’s track and field team has won more than 40 national titles.

We are ranked third in the nation, as I sit here typing these words.

Now, I will concede something — not every single event at a track meet is going to be a glorious event for spectating. But a vast majority of them will be!

Things get jumped over, people race. There’s no learning curve, and no shortage of things to shout for. These guys are good — and they deserve our support.

Also worth watching is the UA hockey team. That’s right folks, we have a hockey team. And they play in Springdale — like a lot. If you have never seriously watched a game of hockey, you’re missing out big time.

It’s a truly fantastic sport characterized by a fast pace and the awesome likelihood of a full on fistfight.

It’s also worth noting that the Hogs are second in the

SEC West — and if you’re worried about their skill set, here’s a fact for you — they scored 29 points on Auburn. That’s a lot of points people.

Though the Razorbacks don’t return to home ice until after the SEC playoffs, they’ll face Kansas in Springdale on Valentine’s Day.

Make a romantic evening out of supporting the Hogs, and your woman will love you forever.

If you’re like me, your experience with rugby came only from watching that movie “Invictus,” wherein Morgan Freeman and Matt Damon put on exceptional performances telling Americans about two things they originally care very little for — Africa and rugby.

But unbeknownst to many of my wonderful readers, the You of A cares so much about your needs, that they’ve established teams for everything.

The UA rugby team is the longest tenured sports club on campus, according to their website.

And beyond that, rugby is kind of like a purer form of football, but without forward passes.

It’s a very interesting game, and it’s being played by

Arkansas Razorbacks. The volleyball team is fun to watch in more ways than one. The way they use those shorts — code for “short pass,” is truly incredible.

One sport that I never tire of watching is gymnastics. Every time I accidentally end up watching gymnastics, I am incredibly amazed at the things these women and men manage to do with their bodies.

They look like bullets, fired from a gun, tumbling through the air — but with absolute precision, and perfect timing, like Angelina Jolie did in “Wanted.”

Look you guys, the moral of the story is this: some of us don’t have long left to take advantage of wonderful student pricing and unlimited, always appropriate wearing of Razorback gear. Make it a point to make other sports. It’s more intimate.

It’s often more interesting, and it never hurts to learn. This semester, be a well rounded Razorback, a faithful fan and connoisseur of concessions. Go watch some sports — all of them.

T.J. Stallbaumer is a senior and a senior staff writer for the Arkansas Traveler.

Traveler Quote of the Day

“As a college student, I am really stressed out most of the time,” Hedges said. “I would love to forget about my worries for an hour or so. I think the group could really help me.”

Jessica Hedges
Sophomore

“Pat Walker Now Offers Weekly Meditation Classes”

Pg. 3



THE ARKANSAS

TRAVELER

Editorial Board

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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.

‘American Sniper’ Film Addresses Important Social Issues, Veteran Treatment and PTSD

Laura Quinonez
Senior Staff Writer

“American Sniper” has brought in more than \$248.9 million in revenue since its release six weeks ago and for good reason.

The number one movie in America depicts the full story of a true veteran and family man.

Bradley Cooper plays the role of Chris Kyle, a former Navy SEAL who has been labeled the deadliest sniper in U.S. military history.

Although the movie has gained recognition from several celebrities and has been nominated for six Academy Awards, including best picture and best actor, not all of the attention has created positive feedback.

The movie has been harshly criticized for glorifying murder and serving as propaganda for war by many of its viewers but these individuals are missing the overall message of the movie.

Witnessing a veteran walk out of the movie theaters because watching it was a lot to handle made me view the

film in an extremely different light.

As an individual who hasn’t been personally affected by the life of a soldier, watching this movie helped me empathize with not only the individuals who have had to endure the hard times over seas but also with the family and friends of those who have.

It helps Americans understand and view our veterans as people who struggle and overcome obstacles.

This movie doesn’t portray Kyle as a victim or super hero but as a human being dealing with real life issues.

It’s been more than 10 years since the war in Iraq started and more than 2.6 million soldiers have been able to return home safely.

About 48 percent of veterans who used VA care were diagnosed with mental health problems, however many of them have not used the services as a result of fear, according to the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs.

Some of the main concerns they stated were that they didn’t want to be seen as weak or they didn’t want to be treated differently.

Many also fear that people will lose confidence in them or that the treatments won’t be effective.

It’s important to understand that they do not seek our pity but rather our support.

Michelle Obama made an effort last week to speak up about this issue with Bradley Cooper.

She said that most people have a “rough sketch” idea of veterans and that they are seen “as the broken down-trodden vet who is homeless or on drugs or has such PTSD he can’t function” but that those are just caricatures that don’t reflect the complexity of our veterans’ lives.

She also talked about a program designed to recognize film and TV content that accurately portrays veterans and military families called 6 Certified, which is a part of a national campaign called Got Your 6.

To be approved the film must showcase a veteran, tell a veteran’s story, have a story written by a vet or use vet resources.

She said that “American Sniper” was a prime example of a successful film that has done just that.

Despite the criticism the film has received, Taya Kyle, Chris’ widow says that the success of it has made her proud and that she knows he would have been in awe.

Even Republican Gov. Greg Abbott of Texas showed his support by naming Feb. 2 Chris Kyle Day in Texas.

One thing we must remember about Hollywood films is that they are meant to make you feel.

Sure, it could have addressed the war and its cause but it’s okay that it didn’t.

The movie is about the individuals who have served and understanding the transition of returning from such extreme conditions to everyday life.

A great amount of pressure is applied to veterans.

They’re viewed as heroes who ruthlessly execute their jobs but they struggle with it too — they’re normal people.

Without films like this and news coverage, many Americans wouldn’t feel the patriotism for our country that we like to take so much pride in.

Laura Quinonez is a senior staff writer for the Arkansas Traveler.

FLÁVIA DECHANDT ARAÚJO TENNIS STAR ROCKS COURT WITH SKILLS AND SELFLESS ATTITUDE

Rebekah Harvey
Staff Writer

When Flávia Dechandt Araújo stepped foot onto the UA campus her freshman year, she had no idea of the impact she would have at this university. Tennis was on the forefront of Araújo’s mind when she traveled more than 5,000 miles from Sao Paulo, Brazil to the city of Fayetteville, Arkansas.

Not only has Araújo impacted the women’s tennis team with her positive spirit and intense work ethic, she has impacted hundreds of students on campus with her involvement in other programs.

Araújo is a junior in athletics and a senior in academics, majoring in business management with a minor in retail marketing. She has mastered the art of achieving excellence in school along with thriving in her sport and community involvement.

When it comes to her teammates’ view of her, junior Makenzie Craft said she appreciates Araújo’s presence on the team. After transferring from Baylor University, Craft said she was nervous about coming to play for the Razorbacks.

“Flávia has helped me personally just by being such a great friend. Being a transfer, it’s hard sometimes to integrate myself, but Flávia just took me right in and really helped me with that transition,” she said.

Assistant coach Luc Godin also had several positive comments about Araújo.

“Flávia demonstrates her leadership and work ethic skills through leading by example. Everybody can talk the talk, but not many can actually walk the walk. She walks that walk every day,” Godin said.

So far, Araújo said she couldn’t be happier with her experience as a Razorback tennis player.

“I came with high expectations for this school with it being in the SEC. Since being here I have been involved in a number of programs for the community. I also enjoy making an effort to be at other teams’ athletic events to show support.”

When it comes to both community involvement and work ethic on the team, Godin said, “She has the most important quality of all when it comes to being a leader – she is selfless.”

Araújo said she did not expect to become the founder of a new Registered Student Organization when coming to the UofA. She is the president and founder of the Brazilian Student Organization.

“When I came to campus there were a lot of Brazilians, so I wanted to try and get everyone involved and together.”

This is the new RSO’s second semester. They had a big event last semester, and are making plans for more this spring. Araújo found a way to bring hundreds of students from a different country together.

Araújo is also the vice president of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, and a voting member of the Dean Student Advisory Board, the ASG Council of International Leadership, and the Hispanic Scholarship Fund.

With the multitude of responsibilities on her plate, one has to wonder how on earth she makes it work.

“There’s never a day I’m going to miss practice or weights. I also dedicate my free time to school and studying. When it comes to the committees, none of the meetings for them are weekly, so it’s just about staying on top of my schedule to make it work,” Araújo said.

She said she also makes sure to set aside free time for herself.

“That’s definitely important,” she said.

Araújo and the entire tennis team have goals of making it to the NCAA championships this year.

“We have the team and talent,” Araújo said.

When it comes to the end of season in April and May, Araújo said she is confident that the team will be in a position to qualify.

“We’ve been playing really well,” she said.

In order to make it to the NCAA championships, the team has to place in the top 43 in the country.



Rebekah Harvey Staff Photographer
Flávia Dechandt Araújo is a junior tennis player for the UofA. She is majoring in business and looks forward to helping the women’s tennis team get to the NCAA championship this spring.

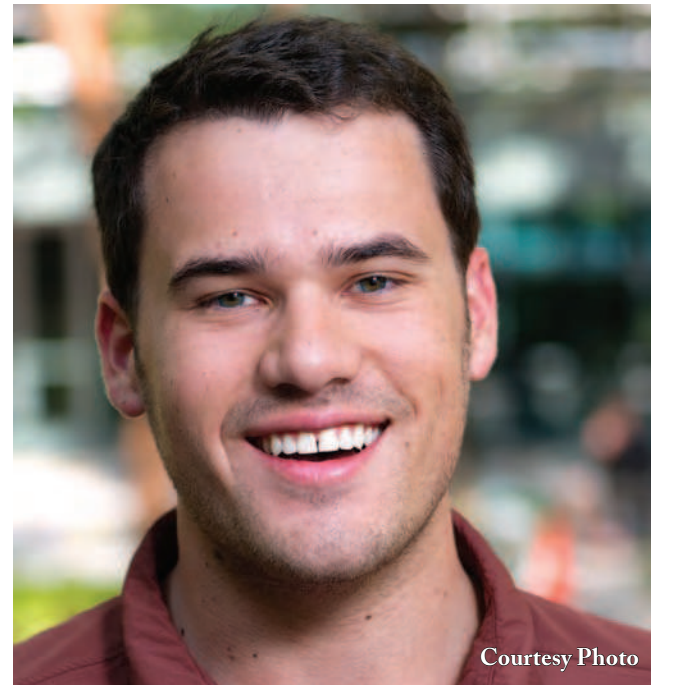
STUDENTS AND ALUMNI CONSIDER POST-GRADUATION OPTIONS



Hope Mather Staff Photographer



Hope Mather Staff Photographer



Courtesy Photo

While some students may see a clear-cut path in front of them when it comes to jobs after college, others are torn with post-graduation options. Senior Susan Jilg, pictured left, is a criminal justice and sociology combined major and said she plans on going into crime scene investigation. Melissa Zielinski, pictured in the middle, went straight into grad school after her undergrad for psychology research. Alex March, pictured right, moved to Austin, Texas directly after graduating to accept a job as a software consultant.

Alex Golden
Staff Writer

Students, especially seniors, have responding to questions like, “What are you going to do after college?” down to a fine art, but, in reality, what will happen after graduation can be up in the air.

“I remember walking out of Bud Walton and thinking, ‘Well, I’m unemployed now,’” said Alex March, a UA alumnus who graduated with degrees in economics and Latin American studies in May 2014.

While some students may see a clear-cut path in front of them, others are torn between going to grad school, getting an internship, jumping straight into their career or maybe even taking some time off.

Senior Susan Jilg applied for different grad schools weeks ago, but wanted to keep her options open, she said.

“I’m a planner. I like to have my bases covered, so I’m applying to jobs also,” Jilg said.

Jilg is a criminal justice and sociol-

ogy combined major and although she ultimately plans to go into crime scene investigation, having all her bases covered meant studying for both the GRE and the police entrance exam.

Some of the dilemmas and stress of being a senior can be avoided, students and staff said.

The Career Development Center, located on the sixth floor inside the Union, provides career counseling for students who are unsure of what path to take after graduation, or who need help finding a job or internship.

“I think one of the biggest misconceptions that students have when it comes to applying for jobs is that one resume will work for every job. That’s just not the case,” CDC associate director KayLee Simmons said.

Students who tailor their resume for the specific position they’re applying for are more likely to get an interview, she said.

Not only is there the CDC on campus, which reviews resumes and does mock interviews among other services, but there are other resources like Razorback Careerlink (careerlink-

uark.edu). Careerlink posts jobs and internships for students.

There are walking resources all over campus, even in classrooms.

“Talking to your professors is so helpful,” Jilg said. “They are so much wiser. They’ve been through so much more than us and can help guide you in the path you want to go.”

Planning internships ahead of time and doing them early can be beneficial, she said. Sometimes, an internship can teach students that what they thought they would like is not for them.

March spent most of his senior year stressing over what he was going to do after graduation, he said, and wishes he had trusted himself a little more.

“I really didn’t want to go to grad school. I knew I wanted to take a break,” March said. “I didn’t want to spend a ton of money to find out I hated something.”

For March, location really mattered. “I wanted to be somewhere where it’s fun to be a young person,” he said.

March turned down a job in Con-

way, Arkansas, a city much closer to his hometown of Rogers, Arkansas than Austin, Texas, where he accepted a job at a software consulting company.

March moved away from his whole network of friends and family in Northwest Arkansas with one friend to Austin. The move turned out to be a good decision, though it wasn’t easy and didn’t feel like a good decision at the time. Moving away taught him so much about himself, March said.

For UA grad student Melissa Zielinski, coming to grad school directly after undergrad was the right decision, she said. She knew she wanted to continue to do research in psychology, but considering the workload of grad school and what it can cost, she said taking some time to make sure it’s the right path would be smart for someone who is unsure.

For some, getting handed a diploma is the farthest thing from getting handed a road map. Mason Hankins began as a biology major and graduated with a degree in economics in December 2013. As he

wrapped up undergrad, he began dabbling in theater and sketch comedy and started realizing that the jobs in his field were not a good fit for him, he said.

Hankins moved to Los Angeles to pursue comedy and stayed with friends until he was able to get his own place.

He went through Upright Citizens Brigade Comedy, took improv classes, made friends and did various gigs for money, such as commercials.

Hankins began an internship with BuzzFeed in January, where he helps produce videos, which entails research, video editing, writing and being in front of the camera.

“I get to do whatever I want, which most people work their whole lives to do, and I get to do it immediately,” he said.

In an age when comedians do not have to luck out and score a TV show to get their names out there, the sky is the limit for Hankins.

“It’s a dream come true, but it’s a dream I never thought I had,” Hankins said.

The Arkansas Traveler Newspaper

WEEKENDER

THE ODDS, PLAYWRITING PROJECT & BULLDOGS

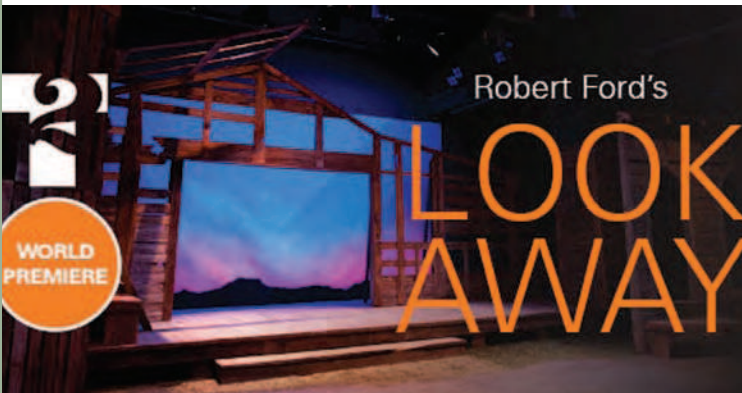
Ashton Eley
Staff Writer



Music

George's Majestic Lounge will welcome the multi-award winning Northwest Arkansas group The Odds in the lounge Friday 7-9 p.m. The late show in the garden will feature five bands: Galaxy Tour Guides, Vintage Pistol, Crazy Neighbor, Irie Lions and Move Orchestra. On Saturday, The Schwag and Friends of the Phamily will rock starting at 9 p.m. and tickets are \$12 each. More information and tickets can be found at georgesmajesticlounge.com.

At Smoke & Barrel, the central Arkansas rock band Comfortable Brother and the Ozark Orchestra will be performing Friday night. For more details visit smokeandbarrel.com.



Theater

"Look Away" a world premiere by Robert Ford will continue to run through Feb. 22 at both TheatreSquared and the Walton Arts Center. The play is based on true events during the summer of 1936 in Wilson, Arkansas where two young black men accused of a crime they did not commit had to run through dark fields away from a crazed mob. Ticket prices vary and for more information visit waltonartscenter.org and theatre2.org.

The public will have the chance to hear four new plays written by local undergraduate students at the Walton Arts Center Saturday. Each play is based on the theme "Gods and Monsters" and explores humanity at its breaking point. "Wedding Day Drama" by Nick Bailey (NWACC) explores an explosive relationship between mother and son that comes to its final breaking point on his wedding day. "Watcher/Cipher" by Jesus Rivera (UofA) gives a look into a post-apocalyptic view of what will become of our humanity as technology advances. "Vincent" by Genevieve Ryan Olson (NWACC) places the audience in the middle of a power play between patient and psychiatrist. "Take My Heart" by Katie-Beth Thomas (UofA) will be the feature film of the night. The play compels the audience to face how they deal with the various callings in their lives even if that calling could put their lives in danger.

The night will begin at 6:30 p.m. and general admission costs \$5 per person. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit waltonartscenter.org.



Art

The UA Department of Art presents "Radcliffe Bailey: Storm at Sea" from Jan. 26 - Feb. 20 in the Fine Arts Center Gallery. This found-object installation explores concepts of ancestry, race, slavery and memory. The artists will give a lecture on the work and its topics Feb. 19 at 5:30 p.m. in room 206 in Hillside Auditorium.



Sports

The Razorbacks will play against the Mississippi Bulldogs 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 7 at Bud Walton Arena. The Bulldogs are ranked 10th in the SEC.

ANALYSTS STUDY IMPACT OF FOREIGN FILMS

Ashton Eley
Staff Writer

International films are more accessible than ever, but the U.S. box office for the top five foreign-language films has declined by 61 percent in the last seven years, according to Box Office Mojo.

One no longer has to go to an indie movie theater or hunt down a hard copy to be able to view a foreign film. Many online movie and television services offer a growing range of foreign films, and with one click anyone can test out a movie made in France, Italy or Japan without having to commit to sitting in a theater the duration or shelling out extra cash.

Even in countries where services like Netflix are unavailable, it is still quite easy to access international film, said Ryan Sajder, visiting assistant professor at the UofA.

"In some places, like Italy, things like Netflix do not exist, but streaming exists in the sense that they steal - and Italians are the best - they find copies online all the time and download them," Sajder said. "Netflix, Amazon streaming have all made it easier for international films to be distributed, absolutely."

However, one of the main difficulties foreign films face in America and around the world, Sajder said, lodges strong barriers within the industry.

"But it is still lacking, international film. Why? Because of the concept of distribution," Sajder said. "A movie has to have an American distributor to enter the market here, legally. It is the same with any other country."

Another struggle is not one of business but one from the viewers' side, said Frank Scheide, UA communications professor and film expert.

"Most of us want to take the easy way out. Silent films were universal because you could stick in interludes in any language, but with the coming of sound real complication ensued," Scheide said. "People don't want to read subtitles, so consequently finding a market and working around those language barriers tend to be an issue. If you have a really great film people will see it no

matter what, but it is hard to make that movie."

Many think Americans' aversion to subtitles is dwindling. Last year, Scott Foundas, chief film critic for the show-business magazine Variety wrote an article called, "U.S. Audiences Are More Comfortable With Subtitles Than Ever."

His claim can be illustrated by the wide-release of movies such as "Slumdog Millionaire," "Inglourious Basterds" and "The Passion of the Christ." Yet to be fair, some would argue that these successes had much to do with the fact they are U.S.-originated productions and had substantial financial support.

Others, like Scheide, are still not convinced that Americans have embraced subtitles and the fact that the foreign-language box office has shown a steady decline supports these skeptics.

In 2007, the top five foreign-language releases earned a cumulative \$38 million. In 2013 the take-away was just \$15 million, according to boxofficemojo.com.

These facts focus on box office sales but many films, especially indie and international films, gain followings through festivals and online access. Many Americans are tired of the Hollywood formulaic movies, Scheide said.

As a result, many viewers have cultured a taste for something unique alongside their fill of Hollywood blockbusters. At the UofA there are several international movie viewings throughout each semester and foreign film Registered Student Organizations that feed this craving for diversity.

UA film student Jacob Pearlman said he has seen a number of Swedish and Italian films and a few South Korean and Japanese films that he has enjoyed and said he does not have a problem with subtitles. He listed the Swedish film "Persona" in his top five movies he would recommend to anyone.

"You can find many classic, and new, foreign films along with American classics available online," Pearlman said. "They are also accessible in terms of 'easy to understand or relate to.' That's the great thing about

film. Even if they are speaking in a different language, they are still dealing with a broad spectrum of human emotion. Plus subtitles help."

Another concern for international film arises with this seemingly good trend of accessibility. In many ways, viewers are not seeing the same diversity there was in the past even in international film, said David Hunt, UA film graduate and film editor and director.

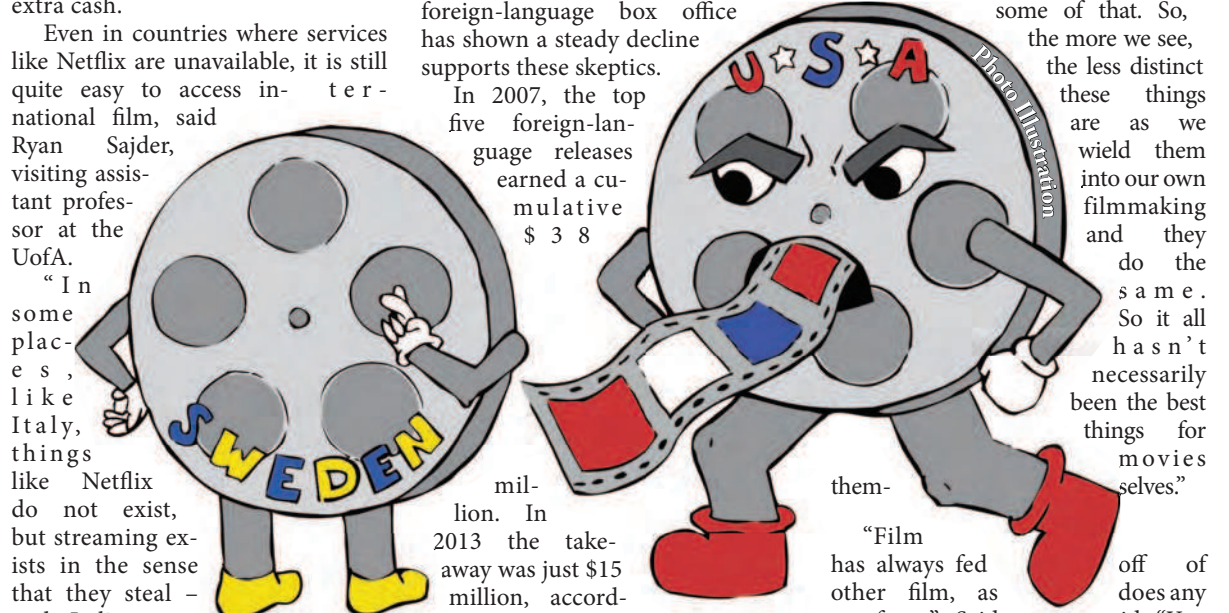
"Starting in '95, we saw an increased access to foreign film and this has had a great impact on the industry. We have seen a kind of flattening of film technique and style," Hunt said. "I've been very influenced by international films over the years, but in terms of what these films say and the uniqueness of them, the exposure has served to stifle some of that. So, the more we see, the less distinct these things are as we wield them into our own filmmaking and they do the same. So it all hasn't necessarily been the best things for movies selves."

"Film has always fed off of other film, as does any art form," Sajder said. "You have different schools of thought in film. Of course there is Hollywood, then in Italy you have neorealism and in French film there is film noir that some say comes out of Italian film. So nothing, as they say, is new under the sun. In Asian cultures you have anime which doesn't exist in the western world, but has influenced American cartoons. Things evolve out of other things. That's what makes it fun."

It is this blending of cultures that Pearlman said he finds most fascinating about international film and film in general.

"I enjoy film as an art form. I wouldn't say I am particularly interested in one genre more than another," Pearlman said. "If I had to pick a genre I find the most aesthetically pleasing, it would no doubt be film noir, but I tend to enjoy a movie more when the lines of genres are blurred a bit. It's the most fun when a film doesn't fit into any particular category or at least plays with the conventions of a category."

The future for foreign film is perhaps unclear but, Scheide said, there will always be those who seek out good film, no matter from what part of the world it originates.



Courtesy Photos

"That1Guy" Mike Silverman created his own instrument, the Magic Pipe for his self-described "Earth-shaking, future funk sound."

ONE-MAN BAND "THAT1GUY" IS COMING TO GEORGE'S

Leigha Van Sickle
Staff Writer

Bringing his unique melodic fusion and passion for music, the one-man band Mike Silverman, also known as That1Guy, will be coming to George's Majestic Lounge in Fayetteville Feb. 5.

Silverman started playing instruments when he was 10 years old, he said. His father played bass and that's how Silverman started on upright bass. He said that he felt like he started early on an instrument that not a lot of people would have access to. Through the years, he said that he continued to find a love for music.

"I started initially playing in bands as a full-time bass player. Then I had the idea to be a one-man band which is hard for a bass player to do but I thought I would try it," Silverman said.

He said that it was a mid-'90s experiment and that he thought a funny name for himself would be "That1Guy." He said that the whole process was best described as "very experimental."

Silverman said that there was no overnight fame fairytale and that it was a slow-evolving process. At the end of the '90s, he created his one-of-a-kind instrument the Magic Pipe.

"It's a string instrument with

just two strings. The strings are on a pipe apparatus that I made and I can use my hands and feet and there are electronics. It can do just about anything. I can make it sound like an orchestra, rock band, drum bugle core," Silverman said.

After he developed his signature instrument, Silverman said that he decided to put everything into making his music his career. He said that he quit everything else that he was doing and decided to tour.

"I left no room to do anything else and then it became a slowly building career," Silverman said.

Since then, That1Guy has released albums from his 1996 cassette "Let's Hear That1Guy" to his 2007 "The Moon is Disgusting" album to his 2008 collaboration album "Bolt on Neck" with guitarist Buckethead.

He said that he has played everything under the sun and all over the world. He has played styles such as jazz, rock, hippie and electronic and played at venues that were hole-in-the-wall bars, 3,000 seat theaters and even festivals such as Wakarusa.

"I still do it all - amazing theaters, festivals and bars. I love playing to 20 people and to thousands of people," Silverman said.

Silverman described his music as funky with a heavy modern, classi-

cal tone to it. He also threw in descriptions of traditional and modern music as well as Appalachian folk band sounds.

"Earth-shaking, future funk. There is an industrial rock vibe and it is very jazz influenced," Silverman said.

Silverman said that he thinks that performing is the most important thing a musician can do to connect with a live audience. He described how he loved going to concerts and seeing all the artists that he loved and that each time he sees an artist in their element, it makes him want to run back home and create something.

"Anybody that has a unique vision in their own field that does it at a really high level, I find it inspiring," Silverman said.

Silverman said that he also performs magic and that he often does some magic at his shows. He said that he is excited to get back to playing at George's and that he loves the energy there. Silverman played at George's in January 2011. He said that he has some new magic, and that if fans want to see some magic, then they can sign up at his website to experience it before the show.

Dickson Street will be electrified by the sounds of the Magic Pipe and That1Guy at George's Majestic Lounge Feb. 5.

The Arkansas Traveler Newspaper

GOING THROUGH A MEAT-FREE LIFE WITH KATIE FERRAN: Q&A WITH A VEGETARIAN

Pheben Gebrehiwot
Staff Writer

In the early times, animal consumption would mark the victory of wars, politics and sports. For example, in 45 B.C. Julius Caesar celebrated his victory into Rome by feeding his guests meat, poultry and other wonderful things, according to Time's "Will We Still Eat Meat?"

In modern times, the idea of having an animal-free diet is fairly popular around the world. Countries like India, Jamaica, Belgium and the U.S. are amongst the 8 most vegetarian-friendly countries in the world.

People choose to go the vegetarian or vegan route for different reasons. Some do it to become healthier, to help the environment, ethical reasons or because of global food shortages, according to Natural News' "Four Reasons Why People Become Vegetarian." Also, religions such as Rastafarianism and Hinduism have dietary guidelines that restrict people from eating meat.

Longtime-vegetarian, sophomore Katie Ferran, talked to The Traveler about her vegetarian lifestyle:

WHAT KIND OF VEGETARIAN ARE YOU?

I am ovo-lacto vegetarian, so I do eat eggs and I do eat dairy products. There are some vegetarians who do not like eating seeds or nuts and stuff,

but I am okay with that. I am kind of a "classic vegetarian." Oh, and I also do not eat fish.

WHAT MADE YOU BECOME A VEGETARIAN AND HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN ONE?

I have been a vegetarian since I was 9. When I was 9, my favorite animal was a cow and my favorite food was steak, and at some point, I sort of realized that there was a problem with that. I was one of those kids who was all about animals. That was like my weird little-kid-obsession thing. Now, I do it for the environmental impact.

WHERE DO YOU GET YOUR PROTEIN?

Cheese and egg-based things are important. So, lots of eggs. It is good to go out and get Asian food a lot because there is always tofu in everything. You also have to like beans. Initially, when I was a kid, I did not like beans and I had to ease my way into it. There is a huge market of fake meats, like Morning Star, and it is good to investigate those. Some brands are awful, so you really have to find the brand that you want. And drink a lot of milk.

DOES IT COST MORE OR LESS, LIVING THE VEGETARIAN LIFESTYLE?

Overall, it costs more. It is important for people to understand that vegetarianism is kind of a socio-economic privilege. It is kind of hard for the average person to afford a vegetarian lifestyle. I get that, so that is why I do not

tell everyone, "you need to be doing this." For me, it costs about the same as other students with meal plans. There are vegetarian options available to me, via our dining halls. I do not think it costs me much but in general, it can be more expensive.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE VEGETARIAN FOOD?

There is this one brand of meat called Gardein – garden and protein. They make these fake chicken nuggets, that are the best thing on the planet. I am also a big fan of Thai food that has tofu in it – like good Thai food, you know?

WHAT STEPS CAN PEOPLE TAKE TO BECOME A VEGETARIAN?

What I did was start off with swearing off one of kind of meat. I stopped eating red meat for a very long time and just started limiting myself to turkey and chicken. Another way to do it is doing like specific days of the week, where you just choose to not eat meat. Then you just slowly siphon it out of your diet altogether.

The idea of giving up meat from one's diet can be daunting to some, especially if you live in the South where barbecue and steak houses are at every corner. For those who celebrate Easter and are still contemplating on what to give up, try giving up meat. It will be beneficial in the long run.



Adams Pryor Staff Photographer

Katie Ferran has been a vegetarian for the last 10 years of her life. Ferran said that the hardest part of being a vegetarian is ensuring that she has enough protein in her diet.

SCHOOL OF LAW RANKED BEST VALUE

continued from page 1



Jarrett Hobbs Staff Photographer

After graduating, law students find that the Northwest Arkansas economy helps law school graduates find jobs. This stability is keeping UA graduates employed and helping them pay off debt.

"Some people have trouble getting loans for the bar application fee because they're already in so much debt, in other states," Shirey said.

The UA law school ranks second on the list of best value law schools in the nation, according to The National Jurist. The UA law school has a debt below \$60,000 when the national average is usually hovering around \$100,000 and beyond.

"I'm taking out loans," Shirey said. "I was fortunate enough to receive enough scholarships in my undergraduate that I left undergraduate debt free, which was wonderful, but I'm paying for this with loans."

"You have to spend money to make money," she said.

Ung got scholarships from the university, but he's surviving on student loans.

Shirey said that some UA students have parents who can pay their way

through school, but hers "aren't in the financial position to do that, but at the same time, its worth going into debt for."

UA law school graduates typically find it easy to pay off student debt because they are employed within nine months after graduation. The nine-month break gives them time to take and pass the bar exam, Albertson said.

"Our graduates get jobs at a really good clip," Albertson said.

"Most of our graduates work in the state of Arkansas," Albertson said. "Right around two-thirds of our students stay in Arkansas."

The Northwest Arkansas economic climate helps law school graduates find jobs.

"The legal profession, nationwide, has seen a retraction," Albertson said.

"It's been tough for a lot of students and graduates at other schools to find

jobs nine months after graduation, but we haven't experienced that."

"The fact that the state of Arkansas in general doesn't have the same highs and lows that the rest of the country does when you talk about recessions or boom times, our students find a pretty constant supply of opportunities."

This economic stability, combined with plentiful corporate jobs, is keeping UA graduates employed, and helping them pay off student debt.

"Most of them go on to get jobs that require a law degree, or jobs that strongly prefer a Juris Doctorate," Albertson said.

Jobs in this area that are a good fit for graduating lawyers are jobs in compliance and ethics.

"Wal-Mart has a gigantic compliance department, and you don't necessarily have to be lawyer to work in that, but it helps," Albertson said.

UA SUPPORTS SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT

Alex Gladden
Staff Writer

The Survivors' Chat Group is a support system designed to help women who have been victims of sexual assault.

For now, the Survivors' Chat Group is limited to include only women. However, men who need to seek professional help for issues such as sexual assault should contact the Pat Walker Health Center. The Survivors' Chat Group meets Tuesdays at 3 p.m., according to the Arkansas Newswire.

The Survivors' Chat Group was initiated through STAR Central. STAR Central is the Office of Support, Training, Advocacy, & Resources on Sexual Assault and Relationship Violence, and it is connected with the Pat Walker Health Center. There is no charge for any of the services offered through STAR Central, according to the Pat Walker Health Center website.

STAR Central has organized several events to promote awareness about sexual assault. The "Take Back the Night" event is an annual march to advocate for the freedom from sexual abuse. Many cities in the United States and around the world have participated in "Take Back the Night" marches. Last year was the university's 12th year to be involved, according to the Arkansas Newswire.

"Take Back the Night" serves as a venue for community members to come together in a unified voice to speak out against sexual violence, be a catalyst for change and bring an end to sexual violence," Mary Wyandt-Hiebert, the director of STAR Central said.

The RESPECT program, which was started at the UofA in 1999, is another resource for learning about and helping to prevent sexual abuse. RESPECT stands for Rape Education Services by Peers Encouraging Conscious Thought, Wyandt-Hiebert said.

"Violence is a community issue that

requires a community response advocating for cultural change," Wyandt-Hiebert said.

The RESPECT program teaches students about sexual assault in an effort to dispel the rape culture that society has become permeated in, according to the RESPECT program's website. The program typically hires 10 interns who each serve one academic year, Wyandt-Hiebert said. The interns go through immense training in order to be able to teach students about the consequences of rape culture. The interns reach students through "While the Professor is Away" and invited classroom presentations, Wyandt-Hiebert said.

"While the Professor is Away" is a program that is available as an alternative to cancelling class when a professor has to miss class. During the class when the professor is absent, the interns from the RESPECT program give a presentation about sexual assault and other related issues, according to the RESPECT website.

KEEP THE LIGHTBULB ON: TEST TIPS

Leigha Van Sickle
Staff Writer

Congratulations to everyone for surviving the first few weeks of school, but now is when the true test of sanity comes to play. The first round of essay exams, papers and tests are upon us.

Whether your teacher divides the tests into three or four units or you have a class full of papers, chances are that February will bring the first round of stress to your life. There are ways to start now and make things easier in the future.

Many students will spend hundreds of dollars on textbooks that they'll never open, but there was probably a reason the professor suggested the book. Skimming through it will likely help a student understand the material.

A good way to go through a textbook is to look for headings and subheadings. If a professor teaches from the textbook, chances are their lecture outlines will follow the book. This is a good resource to use to go back and reread something you did not understand in class or find a deeper explanation.

Reading the book before lectures could also help. By taking notes as you read you'll have more time in class to digest the information and ask more specific questions.

If a unit still is not clear, then the Enhanced Learning Center at the UofA is a great resource for students. Students can attend their Supplemented Instruction classes through the ELC or get a tutor for their class.

The ELC website also offers many resources for managing time, stress and for finding more study tips.

Preparing for the first test of the semester can be a little intimidating

because it can be hard to determine the style of a professor's testing. It can be helpful to look over the material quickly every night to keep it fresh in the mind.

Some people may not be worried about their tests because they are too overwhelmed by the amount of papers they have to write. Papers can take a long time to develop, so it's a good idea to begin gathering information as soon as the prompt for the paper is announced.

With many steps such as researching, making an argument, gathering evidence, outlining, drafting, writing and editing, the information can quickly become a jumbled mess. Staying organized can be the key to staying sane during a research paper.

When gathering quotes and other outside source materials, a helpful tip is to write the quote or information on a notecard with the citation. When it comes to outlining, you can simply rearrange the notecards and then fill in with your own words and the citation is already there.

The Quality Writing Center on campus can edit students' papers online or face-to-face. Students can make appointments on the QWC website and set up a time with a tutor.

Essay exams can seem daunting but with a good study group, the exams are more than doable. If you are given a review with questions before a test, a good way to prepare is to write outlines for each of the questions. Doing this with a study group will make the process more efficient because someone else may have grasped a concept better.

Tests and papers can be stressful but with the correct preparation, students can get a head start on the grade they want in May, which means less cramming at the end of the semester.

NWA BIENNIAL CENSUS RESULTS TO COME

Justin Lloyd
Staff Writer

Every couple of years, researchers from the UofA and volunteers conduct a homeless census in Northwest Arkansas, counting the number of those in shelters, soup kitchens and in other areas in Washington and Benton County. The goal of this census is to know the kind of people that are homeless or impoverished, so that agencies and organizations in the area can provide the needed assistance to help them. This census is conducted by the UofA Community and Family Institute.

Preparation for the census began with a short training session for volunteers Monday evening at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. The census ran for 24 hours from 11 a.m. Jan. 29 to 11 a.m. Jan. 30.

Local organizations who participate in the data analysis and provide assistance to the homeless population are LifeSource International, Seven Hills Homeless Center, and The Salvation Army. After gathering the numbers of homeless people in the area, these organizations are able to apply for grants and other funds. These organizations are then able to use those funds to buy the appropriate supplies to have readily available to those who need them.

Most homeless people in Northwest Arkansas are veterans, women with children and young people under the age of 18, said Kevin Fitzpatrick, sociology professor and director of the Community and Family Institute.

Results of the previous census conducted in 2013, according to the UofA Community and Family Institute, found 2,429 homeless in Northwest Arkansas. This number is more than double the amount of homeless in the 2007 census, which was the year Fitzpatrick began managing the surveys. The 2007 homeless count was 1,170. The number of homeless in Northwest Arkansas is increasing with each census.

"Not everyone who's homeless wants to be saved," said Eulalia Griffith, senior.

Griffith spent 10 years living out of her van, so she understands the struggle of homelessness to an extent, she said.

"There's some people who are perfectly fine with not having a home. Like people who couch surf. But couchsurfing is just the same as being homeless. You don't have four walls around you to call your own," Griffith said.

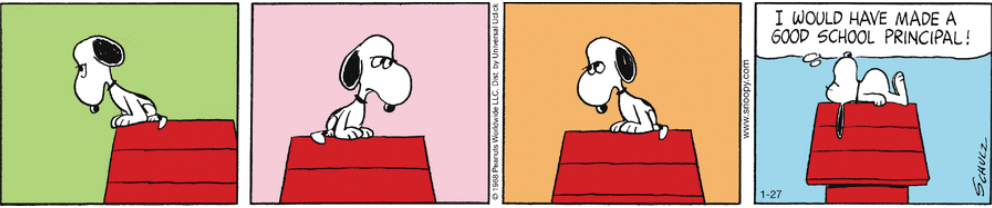
The official results of the 2015 homeless census will take a couple weeks to process and get the numbers calculated for Washington and Benton County.

DOWNTIME

Comics

Peanuts

Charles Schulz



Garfield

Jim Davis



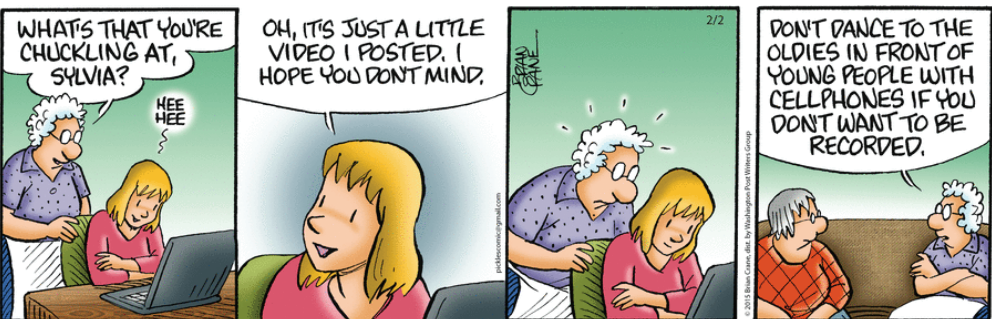
Calvin and Hobbes

Bill Watterson



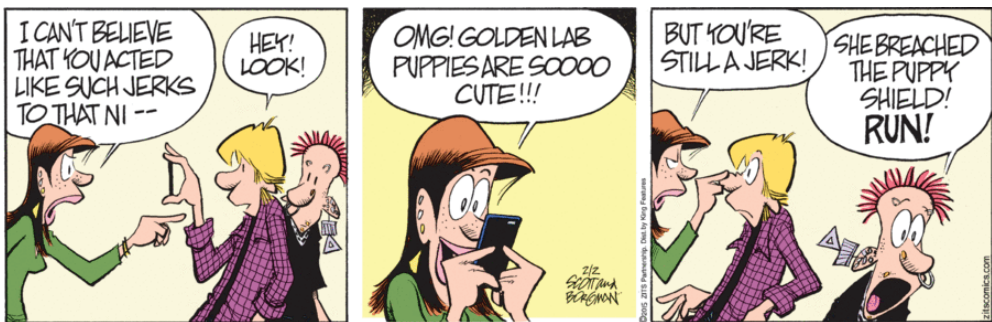
Pickles

Brian Crane



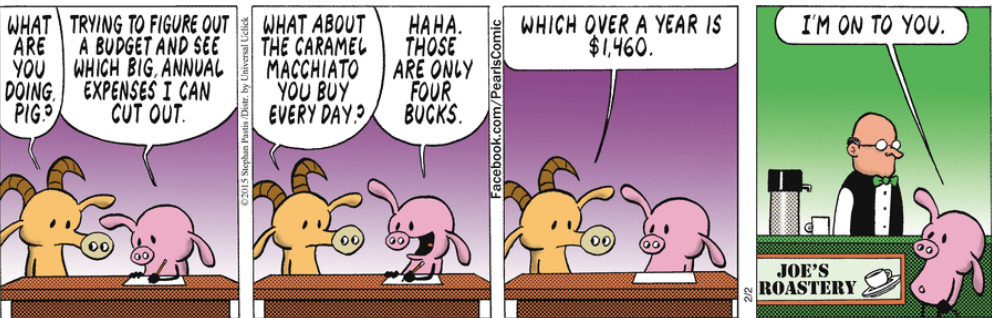
Zits

Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman



Pearls Before Swine

Stephan Pastis



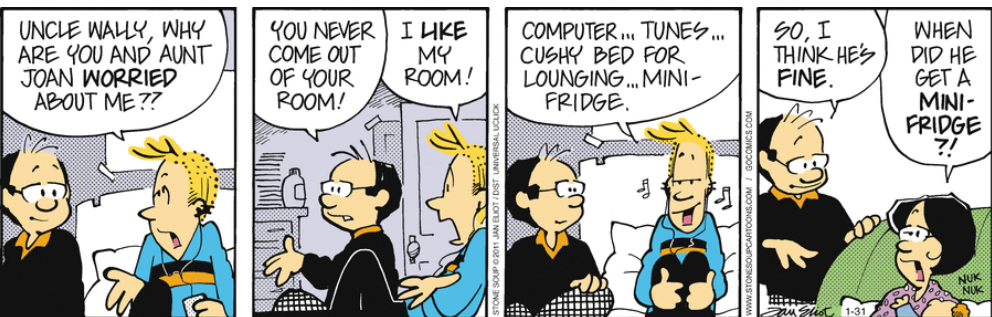
F Minus

Tony Carrillo



Stone Soup

Jan Eliot



Sudoku

by Crosswords Ltd, www.sudoku.org.uk
Printed in the LA Times Sudoku

A		1			6	4			
B					4				3
C		8	4		7		6	5	
D			1		2				6
E	5								1
F	4				9		3		
G		4	9		5		2	6	
H	2				8				
J			8	4				7	

Crossword

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
17						18					19			
20				21							22			
			23						24					
	25	26				27	28	29				30	31	
32						33						34		35
36						37						38		
39				40								41		
	42		43						44					
			45						46					
47	48	49				50	51	52				53	54	55
56						57						58		
59						60						61		
62						63						64		

By Bernice Gordon

- Across
- 1 David Copperfield's forte
 - 6 High-ranking Indian
 - 10 Like the Sahara
 - 14 Last new Olds
 - 15 Alike, in Lourdes
 - 16 Madcap
 - 17 Main idea, as of an argument
 - 20 "___ Pinafore"
 - 21 Handy bags
 - 22 Inventor Howe
 - 23 Candy in a wrapper
 - 24 WSW's opposite
 - 25 Stick to a strict budget
 - 32 Beauty parlor
 - 33 Saying to remember
 - 34 Tool for a lumberjack
 - 36 Cultivate the soil
 - 37 Car pedal
 - 38 Needed a Band-Aid
 - 39 Till now
 - 40 ___ fatale
 - 41 Town near the tip of Cape Cod
 - 42 To the point
 - 45 Notes after mis
 - 46 Contents of a cruet
 - 47 Saltwater candy
 - 50 Rested (against)
 - 53 ___ Beta Kappa
 - 56 Burnout cause
 - 59 Part of USA: Abbr.
 - 60 Like dedicated fans
 - 61 18th-century Swiss mathematician
 - 62 Goes bad
 - 63 High roller's rolls
 - 64 Baseball's Pee Wee
- Down
- 1 Sitcom set in Korea
 - 2 Homecoming visitor
 - 3 Jeweler's inventory
 - 4 401(k) alternative, briefly
 - 5 Have inside
 - 6 Take a break
 - 7 Flu-like symptoms
 - 8 Pokes
 - 9 Three racing Unsers
 - 10 Colorful garden shrub
 - 11 Wife of a 6-Across
 - 12 Ancient Peruvian
 - 13 Turns blue, perhaps
 - 18 Campus residence
 - 19 Like someone pacing back and forth
 - 23 Forehead
 - 24 Rim
 - 25 Comical Soupy
 - 26 Material
 - 27 Cheese city in northeast Italy
 - 28 End of Rhett's sentence that begins "Frankly, my dear"
 - 29 Like a newborn
 - 30 Relative worth
 - 31 Put forth, as effort
 - 32 Le Carré character
 - 35 Tokyo's former name
 - 37 Puts money (on)
 - 38 Songwriter Jacques
 - 40 Wears at the edges
 - 41 Social network for short messages
 - 43 Bids
 - 44 Male offspring
 - 47 Old Russian monarch
 - 48 Prefix with sphere
 - 49 Guitar ridge
 - 50 Volcanic output
 - 51 City west of Tulsa
 - 52 Does some sums
 - 53 Ashen
 - 54 Hurries
 - 55 Legal memo opener
 - 57 Carpentry tool
 - 58 Feel bad about

NATIONAL SIGNING DAY

Who's who in the Razorback Recruiting Class

Kendyl Dawson
Staff Writer

Twenty-one high school seniors have committed to playing football at the UofA in the fall, and their talent has put the Razorbacks as the No. 20 recruiting class of 2015, according to Rivals.

The group is led by 10 four-star recruits who play a wide variety of positions to round out the class, according to ESPN. Nine prospects are from Arkansas, five are from Florida and three are from Texas. Georgia, California, Kansas and Oklahoma contributed one each.

Hjalte Froholdt - Defensive Tackle - Bradenton, Florida

This four-star recruit played in Ohio and Florida as a foreign exchange student. Though the Denmark native has only played two seasons of football in America, it only took six games for him to be recognized as an elite athlete by the Bleacher Report.

C.J. O'Grady - Tight End - Fayetteville, Arkansas

O'Grady was born and raised in the Razorbacks' backyard, which made his commitment to the university all the more special. He is a four-star tight end who, in his first year at the position, caught 45 passes for 884 yards and 14 touchdowns.

Will Gragg - Tight End - Dumas, Arkansas

This four-star recruit was the top tight end prospect in the nation. With 32 scholarship offers, he reeled in more offers than any other in-state player in history, and he chose his home state Razorbacks. Gragg is the younger brother of former Razorback and current Buffalo Bill, Chris Gragg. Gragg enrolled at the UofA in January.

Jalen Merrick - Offensive Guard - New Smyrna Beach, Florida



Courtesy Photo

Razorbacks quarterback signee Ty Storey is one of the most decorated high school prospects in the nation as a four-star recruit.

Merrick is a whopping 6-foot-5-inch, 295-pound athlete who also played basketball in high school. In fact, he didn't take up football until his junior year. However, he still managed to be the No. 13 guard in the nation and a four-star recruit, according to 247Sports.

Jamario Bell - Defensive End - Junction City, Arkansas

Bell will continue the talent pipeline from Junction City High School and join a much improved Arkansas defense this fall. The four-star, two-sport athlete is quick and powerful, and he is most well-known for shattering a backboard in a basketball game last year with a powerful dunk.

Ty Storey - Quarterback - Charleston, Arkansas

OTHER NEW RAZORBACKS

Josh Allen - Offensive Guard - Jacksonville, Florida

Austin Cantrell - Tight End - Roland, Oklahoma

Nate Dalton - Safety - Houston

Daytrion Dean - Defensive Tackle - Fort Smith

Derrick Graham - Outside Linebacker - Wauchula, Florida

Dre Greenlaw - Safety - Fayetteville

Colton Jackson - Offensive Tackle - Conway

Blake Johnson - Kicker - Los Alamitos, California

La'Michael Pettway - Wide Receiver - Nashville

Ryan Pulley - Cornerback - Fort Myers, Florida

Zach Rogers - Center - Carrollton, Texas

T.J. Smith - Defensive End - Moultrie, Georgia

Deon Stewart - Wide Receiver - Hardy

Rawleigh Williams III - Running Back - Dallas

Hjalte Froholdt - Defensive Tackle - Bradenton, Florida

C.J. O'Grady - Tight End - Fayetteville

Will Gragg - Tight End - Dumas

Jalen Merrick - Offensive Guard - New Smyrna Beach, Florida

Jamario Bell - Defensive End - Junction City

Ty Storey - Quarterback - Charleston

Jeremiah Ledbetter - Defensive Tackle - Hutchinson

The four-star quarterback was the first in this year's class to commit to Arkansas, and he set the bar high. He is the fifth-best pro-style quarterback in the nation and the top prospect in the state, according to Rivals. He enters as one of the most decorated and heralded quarterbacks to ever come out of Arkansas.

Jeremiah Ledbetter - Defensive Tackle - Hutchinson, Kansas

This four-star recruit will have two years of eligibility at Arkansas following his stint at Hutchinson Community College. The heavily recruited 6-foot-3-inch, 280-pound pass rusher will bring leadership and experience to this year's recruiting class.

Names to Know on National Signing Day 2015

Chandler Carson
Staff Writer

DEFENSE

OFFENSE

Tye Richardson
Staff Writer

With National Signing Day taking place across the country, it's time to examine the recruiting class that head coach Bret Bielema and his staff have assembled for 2015.

Arkansas will need recruits on the defensive side of the ball. The Razorbacks will be replacing stars Trey Flowers, Martrell Spaight and Darius Philon, who all have a chance of getting drafted into the NFL this spring.

However, there isn't much defensive talent in this class. The Razorbacks have loaded up with offensive weapons instead. However, there are a few players who are exactly what Arkansas needs on defense.

These are the players who can make an immediate impact at Arkansas:

The highest-rated prospect in the Razorbacks' class is four-star Hjalte Froholdt. Froholdt is the No. 98 overall prospect in the country and the No. 13 defensive tackle in the 2015 class.

If he wins the starting job, he could make an immediate impact by replacing Philon. Froholdt is a product of IMG Academy in Florida and is the ideal size to wear out opposing linemen with his 6-foot-4-inch, 285-pounds frame.

Scouts love his potential because Froholdt is fairly new to playing football. He hails from Denmark and did not play his first season of football until his sophomore year when he came to the United States.

Another defensive tackle to watch for is junior-college transfer Jeremiah Ledbetter. Ledbetter, who originally committed to Oklahoma State, is a junior college top-50 prospect who brings versatility to the Razorbacks' defensive line with the ability to play defensive end as well.

Ledbetter comes in at 6 feet 3 inches and 280 pounds. Scouts rave about his ability to use his hands out of a three-point technique to get leverage against his man.

Four-star defensive end Jamario Bell is the last prospect who could make an immediate impact by replacing Flowers.

Bell is from Junction City and is an ESPN top-300 prospect. Bell is an intimidating player, standing at 6 feet 5 inches and 228 pounds, but he will need to hit the weights and bulk up in order to make a true impact in his freshman season.

Bell is another football prospect to come from a high school in Union County. Safety Alan Turner and former defensive tackle Byran Jones also came to Fayetteville by way of Junction City.

If Bell can get up to the 245- to 250-pound range, which shouldn't be a problem once he runs through strength coach Ben Herbert's program, his size and ability to run through linemen will get him playing time from the very beginning.

Additional players to watch for are safety Nate Dalton, outside linebacker Derrick Graham and Fayetteville High School safety Dre Greenlaw.

The Arkansas Razorbacks need to recruit talented players to take the next step and win the Southeastern Conference. They will recruit the top-caliber players that Nick Saban or Les Miles get, but they must be a close step behind. The 2015 Arkansas football recruiting class looks promising.

Most recruiting websites rank the Razorback class as No. 21 or No. 22, which is respectable. A couple recruits have stood out as those who can make an immediate impact as freshmen.

Bret Bielema and offensive line coach Sam Pittman have always done a wonderful job recruiting offensive linemen. Jalen Merrick is tremendous and should flourish wearing Razorback red.



At 6 feet 5 inches and 295 pounds, Merrick is a wrecking ball. He has incred-

ible run-blocking ability and abused his opponents at the high school level. It was a

pleasant surprise that Merrick chose Arkansas over staying at home and attending a Florida school.

The Rivals recruiting website ranked him as the 14th best offensive lineman in the country. He is big enough to play tackle and quick enough to play guard. Merrick has already signed his letter of intent to play with the Razorbacks, and his impact should be immediate. Dan Enos and Pittman are going to run behind him in the future.

C.J. O'Grady may be the most versatile recruit Arkansas will sign. Bielema refused to let him leave the state. With AJ Derby graduated, the Razorbacks need to fill another tight end position. O'Grady is the ideal fit to play alongside Hunter Henry in Bielema's two tight end system.

O'Grady is a matchup nightmare at 6 feet 5 inches and 230 pounds. A safety is too small, and a linebacker is too slow to contain him. The Fayetteville athlete runs a 40-yard dash in 4.8 seconds and can make plays in space.

The former Bulldog averaged 19 yards a catch his senior year and added 11 touchdowns. With O'Grady, another weapon will be added to Brandon Allen's arsenal.

The biggest question mark on National Signing Day is North Little Rock's K.J. Hill. Ohio State head coach Urban Meyer, coming off a national championship, flew to North Little Rock to meet with him.

Hill is special. There is no doubt about that. He doesn't blow scouts away with his 4.59-second 40-yard dash or his 6-foot frame. That is relatively slow and small for a wide receiver. However, the former Charging Wildcat makes defensive backs look foolish.

Hill has an uncanny ability to make opponents miss on short and deep throws. Saban, Meyer, Bielema and a handful of other coaches want the North Little Rock native.

Fans were outraged when he announced his decommitment from Arkansas, but don't be surprised if he signs with the Razorbacks.

If Hill decides to sign with the Razorbacks, he will see instant playing time that he may not get at another school. Arkansas desperately needs a playmaker of his caliber.

COMMENTARY

Tweeting at Recruits: Don't Do it



Scottie Bordelon
Sports Editor

National Signing Day is supposed to be one of the more exciting moments of a young student-athlete's life. It's the culmination of a student-athlete's hard work, determination and careful consideration.

It's also supposed to be an enjoyable moment and one of relief. But the truth is, once recruits have made their decision, they're most likely excited that the entire process is over and that they can begin the next chapter of their lives at the universities they chose.

The signing-day experience and the rigorous recruitment process is something most people will never understand. The letters, the phone calls and the never-ending judgement from recruiting services and coaches is a lot for a teenager to handle.

And as ridiculous and sad as it is, fans and the so-called "die-hards" of each program often show more immaturity than recruits during the process.

Every program has them, but this problem seems to be more prevalent in the Southeastern Conference because of the mystique, importance and undeniable significance of college football in the South.

In the past, the bad-mouthing chatter regarding recruits stayed within the confines of message boards, but with the advent of Twitter, it is now possible for fans to interact with recruits.

Twitter allows people to create anonymous profiles, so they cannot be held accountable for their tweets. This leads to fans following recruits' every thought.

Twitter has also become a realm in which recruits announce their life-changing decisions. Sadly, this is where the nasty side of recruiting occurs.

Fans can make a profile and follow whomever they want, so a lot of times, it means their sole purpose is to follow the recruits their school is targeting to get a sense of what they're thinking. Fans also make sure to let recruits know just how much their school "needs them."

Another gross part of the whole process comes when recruits announce via Twitter that they will not be attending a fan's school. This situation occurred at Arkansas when K.J. Hill decommitted.

Twitter allows 140 characters per tweet, no matter how loaded with ignorance it may be. Some fans, who have nothing better to do with their time, bash recruits and fill their notifications with hate-filled garbage.

Surely fans have something better to do than criticize a teenager's decision. If not, then it's probably time to re-evaluate their priorities.

My message is simple: Just don't do it. Don't tweet them.

There are still ways to support kids without directly tweeting them. It's also possible, believe it or not, for fans to be upset with recruits and not tweet them their displeasure.

Fans shouldn't tweet recruits and tell them, "We didn't need you anyway," when they would have done backflips had they chosen their school. It's sad, pathetic and just not called for.

Just follow recruits on the field and be a fan. Fans shouldn't get involved in an 18-year-old kid's life unless they work for a recruiting service.

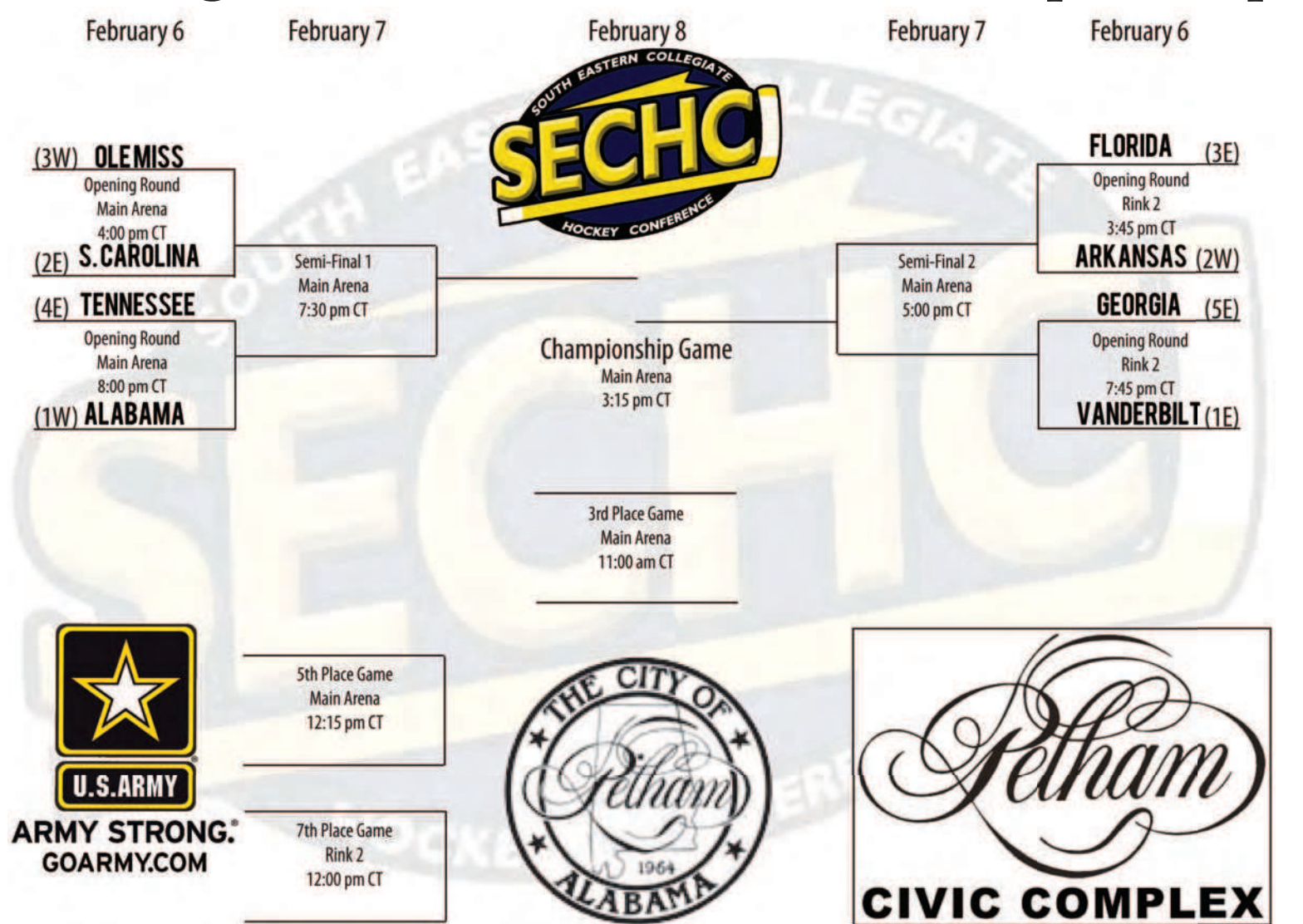
It's that simple. If fans want to follow recruits, that's fine, but don't directly message or personally tweet them. The extent of the interaction fans should have with recruits is either retweeting or favoriting a tweet.

Just remember this on National Signing Day: These recruits don't know you or care about you, and they certainly don't care what negative trash you have to say about them. They're doing something with their lives, and by tweeting them negative trash, fans publicly show they don't have anything going in theirs.

Save the ignorance for something else.

HOCKEY

Ice Hogs Seek 5th Consecutive Championship



Tyler Hartney
Staff Writer

The Arkansas men's hockey team will travel to Pelham, Alabama, to compete in the Southeastern Collegiate Hockey Conference Playoffs on Feb. 6-8.

The Razorbacks will play the Florida Gators in the first round Friday. The Gators are 9-10-1 overall and 3-5 in SEC play.

The Gators have not played as many games this season as the Razorbacks, and Florida has not won by large margins.

The Razorbacks sit in second place in the Pacific Region rankings while rival Alabama comes in at second place in the South Region rankings.

The top two teams in each region automatically receive bids to Nationals. The SECHC Playoffs are the only games left to be played before the final rankings are released.

The Ice Hogs will look to win their third consecutive SECHC championship and fifth in program history.

This season, Arkansas is 23-8-2 overall and 2-2 against conference rivals. They have set themselves up nicely for a postseason run.

During the Razorbacks' first SECHC meet-

ing, Arkansas defeated Auburn 29-0 and forced the Tigers to forfeit the second game on the weekend doubleheader. However, because Auburn is a new provisional program, the wins are not recorded in the official conference record.

In the next SECHC games, Arkansas played at Ole Miss in Olive Branch, Mississippi, and the Razorbacks claimed an 8-2 and 3-1 victory.

Following two weeks off, Arkansas traveled to Pelham, Alabama, to play the Frozen Tide, and they were defeated twice by narrow margins. Alabama won the first match 6-5 and the second match 5-4 in an overtime shootout.

Alabama is Arkansas' biggest rival, Arkansas head coach Brian Gallini said.

In last season's playoffs, Arkansas beat Alabama 2-1. The win came a year after Arkansas took down Alabama 8-0 in the 2013 SECHC Playoffs.

The two teams could end up playing for an SECHC championship for a third straight season.

The Frozen Tide will enter the playoffs with 20-3-2 overall record and 4-1 record against SECHC teams.

Before the playoffs, the Razorbacks received the news that they will be playing in Division I next season.

"As an organization, we can't help but be ex-

cited about the move to Division I," said sophomore forward James Haddock. "Our goals are to win another SEC banner and win a national championship."

Senior forward Forest Mudgett said the focus will continue to be on winning the the 2014-2015 national championship.

When it comes to the playoffs, the team has to remain calm under pressure, Mudgett said.

Coach Gallini and his staff have created a mindset using the motto "Every shift matters." This motto is something the players always have in the back of their minds, Haddock said.

"The team that has faced the most adversity and knows how to handle it, will be the most prepared team," Haddock said. "Our coaching staff has prepared us tremendously."

Coach Gallini said the primary concern he has is getting the team peaked at the right part of the season.

"This year, our focus is making sure that we don't peak during the regular season, but rather continue to improve on a daily basis," Gallini said.

The first round of the SECHC Playoffs will begin Feb. 6 and will be broadcast online. To view the broadcast, students can visit the Razorback Hockey Facebook page on the day of the game.

FOLLOW RAZORBACK SPORTS ON TWITTER @UATRANSPORTS

BASKETBALL

Hogs in Good Shape for March

Adams Pryor Staff Photographer
Michael Qualls drives to the basket against Tennessee Jan. 27 in a 69-64 win in Bud Walton Arena.

Leonce DeLoch

Staff Writer

Men's basketball head coach Mike Anderson has the Razorbacks on the verge of making a tournament appearance for the first time since the 2008 season.

Since then, the Razorbacks have been unfortunate in their endeavors to put together a good enough resumé to make the Big Dance. This season, the team has a very good chance of ending the tournament drought.

Arkansas has a 16-5 record, which is three games better than last season's team that many assumed would make the tournament before a meltdown at the end of the season. They have lost key games this season, but they have also won key games on the road to balance it out.

There are other opportunities for the Razorbacks to build their resumé before Selection Sunday.

Suffering from a heartbreaking 57-56 loss on the road against Florida, the Razorbacks missed another opportunity to build their already decent tournament resumé. Their next matchup at home against South Carolina should allow

them to make up for this lost opportunity. The Razorbacks face a South Carolina squad that has an 11-9 record, but the Gamecocks have had quality wins this season, including a win at Iowa State.

The Gamecocks defeated nationally ranked Iowa State and Clemson while the Razorbacks were unsuccessful in defeating both of those squads. A win over South Carolina, followed by a win against Mississippi State on Saturday, will be good for the Razorbacks when it's time to see who will be in the tournament.

Road tests at Ole Miss and Kentucky will be challenging matchups for the Hogs in the future. The Ole Miss Rebels came to Bud Walton Arena in January and blew out Arkansas in an extremely rare home loss. Expect Arkansas to return the favor on Feb. 14.

Two weeks after their matchup against Ole Miss, the Razorbacks will take a trip to Rupp Arena and battle undefeated Kentucky. No. 1 Kentucky has seemed unstoppable so far this season. The Wildcats have played well on both ends of the floor, but the Razorbacks were Kentucky's kryptonite last year. The Hogs have defeated the Wildcats in each of the last three matchups.

This will be the toughest test Arkan-

sas will have all season, but perhaps the Razorbacks will spoil Kentucky's party this year, as they have done the past two seasons.

A March 7 matchup against Louisiana State University will mark the end of the regular season and the Razorbacks' last chance to make a statement on their resumé. LSU has been a very solid team this season, excluding its loss at Missouri, and the Tigers have earned a 16-5 record.

The Razorbacks have the Tigers at home this season, which should give Arkansas an advantage. Expect a close matchup, but Arkansas should walk away from the last game of the regular season with a win.

If the Hogs can go the rest of the season without losing more than two games, they have a great shot at getting that elusive tournament bid and receiving a good seed.

If the Razorbacks aren't convincing enough at the end the regular season, the Southeastern Conference tournament could also give the Razorbacks quality wins.

Finishing the season strong isn't a far-fetched idea for the Razorbacks. Start making plans to watch them on the big stage in March.

BASKETBALL

Around the SEC: Beating the National Perception

Eric Harris

Staff Writer

For all of the dominant talk Southeastern Conference football gets, fans know SEC basketball has the opposite perception.

Last season, only three SEC teams made the NCAA tournament. SEC basketball has certainly gone through a tough stretch in the past five seasons.

The decline of traditional powers, such as Arkansas and Louisiana State University, have really hurt the depth of the conference. The two schools have combined for 10 Final Four appearances, but neither team has made the Big Dance since 2009.

This season, SEC basketball teams have been fighting an uphill battle against the rest of the country. Kentucky head coach John Calipari even addressed the problem in a January press conference. The coaches in this conference know the league is becoming deeper and more competitive, and it is starting to show.

ESPN college basketball analyst Joe Lunardi predicts six SEC teams will be in the tournament. Teams that were once bound for the National Invitation Tournament are now quality NCAA tournament teams.

In the last week of January, SEC teams proved they are improving in terms of overall quality and parity. Only six of the 14 SEC games ended in double-digit wins, and two of those were Kentucky blowouts. In addition, three games were decided by fewer than five points. In the Big Ten, seven of the 12 games were decided by double digits.

Parity across the conference shows that a select group of teams are not just running away with the conference, except Kentucky.

Six teams are tied for third place with a 5-3 conference record, and all of them have NCAA tournament aspirations. The depth of

tournament-quality teams was not there four years ago, and now teams have to prove on the big stage that the conference has improved.

Team of the Week:

G Alex Caruso - Texas A&M

After an 0-2 conference start, the Aggies are alone in second place with a 6-2 record. Caruso led Texas A&M to wins over Auburn and Vanderbilt. Against the Commodores, he was just two rebounds away from a triple double with 14 points, 10 assists and eight rebounds.

G Aaron Harrison - Kentucky

It's hard to choose Kentucky players because they spread the wealth, but Harrison has been very consistent for the Wildcats. He has reached double figures in scoring and has had at least two steals in the past four games for the Wildcats.

F Armani Moore - Tennessee

Bruce Pearl returned to Knoxville, Tennessee, but Moore made sure it wasn't a happy one. He had 19 points and 13 rebounds against the Auburn Tigers. Additionally, in a losing effort against the Razorbacks, he put up a solid 12 points and six rebounds.

F Jordan Mickey - LSU

Mickey wins the award for outstanding effort in a tough loss. The loss to Mississippi State will definitely scar the Tigers' tournament resumé, but Mickey did everything in his power to prevent the loss. Against the Bulldogs, he had 25 points and 20 rebounds, and he also recorded six blocks in a game against South Carolina.

F Bobby Portis - Arkansas

In a loss to Florida, the sophomore scored a game-high 21 points for the Razorbacks and nearly brought them back from the dead in Gainesville, Florida.

Against Tennessee, he poured in 17 points and grabbed eight rebounds. His shooting touch returned nicely after shooting 15-of-23 in the previous two games.

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