

Voicing Our Views

Board plans several surprises

The administration is patient. And wise. It will wait until students and faculty are gone to make the most important decisions.

Plans are already underway by administrators to meet with the Board of Trustees on May 10 to settle some of the burning issues that have been hotly debated on campus.

They will decide whether to change tuition into athletic fees. The administration has been strongly opposed by both faculty and students on this issue.

By scheduling the meeting on graduation day, the administration knows that few of the students or faculty will even bother to show up.

The board has met on the last day of the spring term in the past four years and either raised student fees, raised tuition, approved building construction, or changed the add/drop policies. How a meeting so important to the welfare of ASU could be overlooked by students and faculty is an important question.

Administrators argue that the lack of attendance at these meetings is a sign of apathy on the part of students and faculty.

Instead it represents the total disregard the administration has for the views and opinions of the faculty and students. To orchestrate circumstances so that those directly affected are not involved is bad administrative policy and highly questionable.

Voicing Your Views

Every issue, The Herald editorial board and staff voice their opinions in the editorial above. Here's a chance for others to put in their 2 cents. The question this issue is:

What is the most important thing that has happened on campus?



"Sara Weddington coming to campus."

— **Carole McNeely** is a junior criminology major of McGehee.



"The panel about athletics versus academics."

— **Jodi Velasquez** is a junior history major of Newark.



"With women's issues as such an important topic, Sara Weddington was very important."

— **Donna Bullington** is a junior English major of Poplar Bluff, Mo.



"The Convocation of Scholars Week and the Black Student Association Conference."

— **Jeremy Brown** is a freshman nursing major of Gosnell.



"The big uproar about the budgeting at ASU."

— **Alex Castillo** is a senior physical education major of McGehee.



"The Toughman contest."

— **Jesse Beal** is a freshman MIS major of Blytheville.

— **By Elizabeth Fiala**

It's Blastakacham!

by Jonathan Stanley



Zero-tolerance policy only choice for Pope

Jerrica's Juncture



By Jerrica Hutchison

I am a Catholic, and come from a long line of Catholics before me.

However, recent developments in the church have caused me to reconsider my beliefs and religion.

The debated issue in the news today concerning Roman Catholics involves the many priests who have sexually molested children.

Although all Catholics admit that the sexual abuse was wrong, many are divided on whether or not priests who have only committed this sin once should be removed from the priesthood.

In Pope John Paul II's speech to the American Cardinals Tuesday, he stressed that this abuse was wrong, and said there was no room in the priesthood "for those who would harm the young." The Pope also said these men had committed a "crime by society and an appalling

sin in the eyes of God."

This led many people, including myself, to believe that the Pope is trying to enact a "zero-tolerance" policy for priests who commit acts of sexual misconduct.

Cardinal Theodore McCarrick of Washington said this was clearly a one-strike-and-you're-out policy, although this would only apply to future cases. Church leaders are presently trying to find a way to release serial offenders, although the issue of one-time offenders will not come up until June.

This is preposterous. How can anyone be certain that these select few who have only molested a child once will not choose to molest again?

These priests also did something that is against the law in the United States, yet they may get off Scott-free. Any other person would be condemned for their actions, but nothing is happening to these men.

The Pope himself is undecided on this issue, because he is "sensitive to the misuse of the administrative process," referring to his life in communist Poland. He said there was still concern for the rights of the

accused.

While I understand the need to be fair to the defendants, I don't see or understand why more concern is not given to the abused. The person raped or molested must live with the horror for the remainder of their lives, wondering if it will happen again or blaming themselves for what happened.

Is it right to let the perpetrators of this heinous crime remain free?

Am I going to feel safe going to a church that has not only pardoned past members of their sexual offenses, but also has refused to punish one-time offenders?

I do respect the Pope, but I cannot respect a decision that is irrevocably wrong. If his future decision is to let the one-time offenses slide, I don't know if I can still consider myself a Catholic. Although it may have only been one time for that priest, and he may have asked forgiveness for it, it is still a lifetime of horror for that particular victim.

Jerrica Hutchison is a sophomore journalism major of Little Rock. E-mail her at jerrica_h@hotmail.com.

'Tessie's' offers down-home cooking

Brings new 'soul-utions' for troubled Jonesboro community

Down Home



By Grover Welch

Jonesboro's Huntington Avenue is the neighborhood many students try to avoid, because historically it is a high crime area. When Tessie Scales went looking for a place to put a restaurant she decided Huntington was just where she needed to be.

Scales has opened a restaurant dedicated to offering home cooked meals and home cooked service.

With a strong Christian attitude, Scales knows that the secret to every heart is a full stomach and an open mind.

"I just want to see the community grow and develop in a better direction," Scales said.

Scales moved to the area after helping her husband manage a popular restaurant in Cash called 'Mack's Place'.

Huntington offered a new challenge for the couple.

"The community had some serious problems with the prostitution and drugs," Scales said. "We want to try and bring more of the neighborhood feeling back."

Scales worked hard at bringing back the community spirit as well. She offers a daily dose of down-home cooking for just \$5.80 that makes anyone feel like they are at grandma's house.

She has also begun working for the community by helping to bring attention to the neighborhood's problems and possibilities. She is hosting a series of free breakfasts and lunches featuring candidates in this year's election. By making them open to the public and hosting them

in her restaurant Scales hopes to highlight the issues that will help better the community and reshape the future of its residents.

"I think that with God's help we will see that things are changing, and I hope some of that is because of what we are doing here," Scales said.



Scales will host a free dinner with Jerry Allison on Thursday at 5 p.m.

Scales' food is also changing things in Jonesboro. She offers home style food such as meat loaf and fried chicken, and serves it up along with some homemade banana pudding.

To top it all off you can get a thick slice of strawberry cake or stove top made banana pudding. Tessie's offers free delivery to the Jonesboro area and even offers catering.

With all the food Scales serves up for lunch and breakfast it is easy to wonder how she keeps up. Those college students looking for a quick lunch or breakfast might find it well worth the trip to Huntington for "Tessie's Country Kitchen."

Grover Welch is a senior journalism major of Cynthia, Ky. E-mail him at groveblue@yahoo.com

Parking garage still an issue for many good reasons

Dear Editor,

ASU has spent all this money, which was raised by raising tuition, to build this parking garage that no one uses. Maybe we should take a look at a few of the reasons why it isn't used like the administration thought it would be.

First of all, it is too far away from class buildings. Being behind the Ring Center, the only buildings the garage is close to is Chickasaw, the Nursing building, and the dorms. Chickasaw, as we all know, is an administrative office building. The nursing students are able to park in the garage and it is a benefit.

The International Education Center is the only one relatively close to the garage, and that is still quite a walk.

If students wanted to walk a long distance to class, they wouldn't gripe about the parking we had to

begin with. If we could find a space, it was a mile from our classes and we were late. The garage did not solve this problem in the least. Sure, there are more spaces now, but they are still really far from class, especially with the Student Union construction going on.

Another issue is the \$1 charge to park there. Personally, since I have already paid for the parking permit, I do not want to have to pay for the concrete I park on.

Some students choose to pay for reserved parking and that's fine, but some of us don't. The meters are bad enough. At least they can be avoided if you get here early enough.

Dr. Marburger's letter brought to attention the issue of the Business building parking lot being changed into reserved parking. This is not fair! I know there is a waiting list

for reserved parking spaces, but that doesn't mean you should take the free ones away from those of us who do not want to pay for a space.

This is ridiculous! With all the green, blue, yellow and reserved spaces we have now, there aren't many places we can park. Now you want to take more away.

Being a business major, this affects me greatly. I am entering my Senior year here at ASU and now I am going to have to park a mile away so those who want to pay \$400 or so can have my space? How fair is that?

I know why administration wants to do this: to motivate students to park in the garage. It isn't going to happen. There will just be more griping and more students late to class.

The garage didn't help our parking problems because the adminis-

tration didn't think of how its placement would affect the students. Now they want to do another thoughtless act to the Business majors. What next, turning the HPESS parking lot into a training field for ROTC? I'm not saying anything bad about any student group or organization on campus, we all have our rights to have a place to park. The administration is trying to take that away from us.

Soon, no matter where you go, you will have a charge to park there, whether it is at a meter, in the garage, or a reserved spot. If they keep this up, there will be no more "free" spots on campus. Leave us alone and let us park our cars! Don't make us walk any more than we already have to.

Ashley McWilliams is a junior MIS major of Newport.

Letter misses point of issue

Dear Editor,

My letter is in response to the letter by Kris Higdon in the April 25 issue of the Herald.

While I do appreciate Mr. Higdon's opinions, I believe that he has missed the point of the heated debate on the athletic budget.

The debate is not about winning or losing games, it is about neglecting academic programs while pouring millions of dollars into the sink-hole of athletics.

I would like to point out to Mr. Higdon that the purpose of any university is not to have an athletic program.

The purpose of a university is to provide quality education to students.

At Arkansas State University that focus has become lost.

The administration cannot continue to rescue athletics while leaving academic programs to suffer.

Mr. Higdon stated in his letter, "Athletics is not the cause of the problems at ASU, it is the only viable avenue to solve them."

If that is the case, then maybe we should convert from a university into an arena football team.

At the rate we are going, academics won't be able to continue to operate, so we might as well make use of the athletic facilities we have.

No, athletics is not the cause of the problem, but it does hinder what little progress the academic community at ASU is trying to make.

I believe that ASU should shift its focus from being a winning athletic institution, to becoming a first class academic institution.

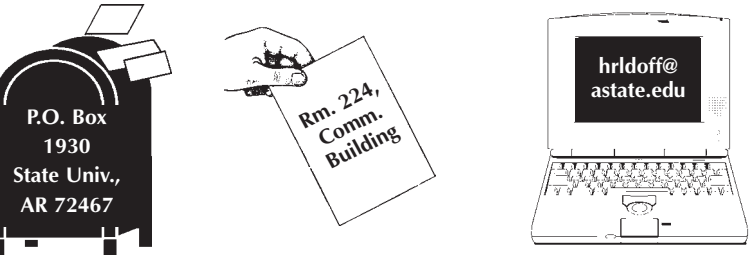
We should start paying our professors a decent amount.

We should make sure that each department has the funds to operate throughout the year.

After that is done, then we should take care of athletics.

Beth Ephlin is a senior political science major of Luxora.

Send a Letter-to-the-Editor



The purpose of the opinions page is to provide a forum for all Arkansas State University students, faculty and staff to express their views. Any student, faculty or staff member may submit a letter-to-the-editor.

- All letters must be:
 - Typed
 - Double-spaced
 - No longer than two pages
 - Include your name, major, classification and hometown
 - Include phone number for letter verification.

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