

Inside SPORTS



From fruit flies to Catamounts

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OPINION



Last chance for ASU to go to the dance

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ENTERTAINMENT



'Man of the House' out of happy faces

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IN FOCUS



Taking a dip in the pond

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- ◆ Men and women sweep track titles
- ◆ Charter Cable raises fees in Boone
- ◆ Polar Plunge slide show

WEATHER



Snow
High 24° F
Low 13° F

Your detailed forecast, Page 2

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School's out ... for the winter



Jonathan Williams | The Appalachian

Shane Messer from Fayetteville snowboards over student John S. Briody on the hill behind Broyhill Music Building Monday afternoon. Classes were cancelled Monday after 7-11" of snow was dumped on the High Country over night.

Mountaineers lose regular season finale, first-round bye

CHRIS ZALUSKI
Staff Writer

Though it came down to the final shot, Elon University was able to outlast the Appalachian State men's basketball team Saturday, 58-55.

With only 0:08 remaining on the clock and the score tied at 55, an ASU miscommunication left Elon sophomore Chris Chalko open to make a three-pointer.

The Mountaineers tried to answer as Noah Brown drove the lane and passed it to an open Nathan Cranford waiting behind the arc.

The three-point attempt looked on target, but rimmed out as the buzzer sounded to signal the Appalachian defeat.

The loss at Elon, coupled with the University of North Carolina at Greensboro's win against Western Carolina University, ensured that ASU will not get first round bye for the Conference Tourna-

ment.

"It's unfortunate, but it's over with," ASU head coach Houston Fancher said.

"We can't do anything to change what's happened in the past, all we can do is look at what's in front of us."

The Mountaineers will hope to take the game's experience with them into the upcoming Southern Conference Tournament.

In the first half, the Phoenix were able to mount an early lead off of two Chalko three-pointers.

Appalachian slowly fought back from the small deficit with the help of a fast paced defense.

The defensive play made up for a first half offensive performance that saw ASU shoot 33 percent from the field.

Fancher said he believed that there were too many missed opportunities in the first half that came back to hurt the team at the end of the game.

"I thought we were a little tentative and a little hesitant on the shots in the first half," Fancher said. "I thought we had a couple [shots] right around the goal that we didn't finish."

Both teams went back and forth trading baskets for the rest of the half as Appalachian went into halftime with a small 21-19 lead.

After the break, it looked as though the Mountaineers might pull away with the lead.

A three-pointer by Douglas McLaughlin-Williams gave ASU a six-point cushion and some needed offensive confidence.

Elon evened up the score midway through the half and maintained a close distance from the lead. Every time the Mountaineers would make a big play, Elon responded with a decisive play of their own.

Appalachian's inability to gain a substantial lead came

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Town of Boone suspends larger housing projects

Decision not expected to affect campus in short-term

JUSTIN BOULMAY
Senior Staff Writer
JENNIFER SCHNEIDER
Staff Writer

The Boone Town Council addressed two possible moratoriums recently regarding housing development in Boone.

Only one moratorium, which suspends building apartment complexes with 24 or more units, was passed. The other proposal, which would have halted the construction of steep slope projects, was not approved.

Both proposals called for a 12-month suspension period.

"At present, while we are planning for several different possibilities in buildings ... we do not have funding

for those at the moment, so none of that can be done in the next 12 months," Vice Chancellor for Student Development Cindy A. Wallace said.

Appalachian State University Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs Jane P. Helm said the two moratoriums should not have any short-term impact for students.

"Typically, residence halls are built on university property," she said. "It really doesn't affect us right now."

If the moratorium lasted for longer than expected, the university could feel the strain.

"If the university were to continue to grow ... it would create a housing shortage," Helm said.

Appalachian's long-term plan includes tearing down East Residence Hall and Coffey Residence Hall and replacing them with new buildings.

East Hall could be the future site of the new Reich College of Education building, Helm said. Coffey Hall would be replaced with a new residence hall, she said.

Wallace said any plans for renovating residence halls or current non-residential construction would not be effected by the moratorium.

"We are very interested in partnering with the town," she said. "We are very concerned with these issues, but none of our projects during the time of their moratorium will be adversely affected."



Trey Allman | The Appalachian

Head coach Houston Fancher (far right) and his assistants Ahmad Smith, Tony Pujol and Matt McMahon (l-r) discuss strategy during a time-out of Saturday's 58-55 loss to Elon.

Next stop: March Madness

Who: Appalachian State vs. The Citadel
When: Tomorrow, approximately 8:30 p.m.
On the air: ASN broadcast on WATA-AM 1450 in Boone;
WASU broadcast streamed online at wasurocks.com

SGA Election 2005: Three campaigns promising best for students

Artman/Radford

JENNIFER SCHNEIDER
Staff Writer



Senior interdisciplinary studies major John B. Artman and junior philosophy and religion major Jason S. Radford plan to add more diversity to the Student Government Association's presidential and vice-presidential candidates.

Radford, who has been an SGA senator since last semester, is currently SGA's director of external affairs.

"Working in SGA I have come to understand the true capability of SGA to make positive improvements to student's lives," Radford said.

Although Artman has no prior student government experience the duo does not believe it will hurt them in the election.

"John offers a realistic sensibility that will bring a refreshing voice to the SGA and provide a balance in leadership between the students and their government," Radford said.

Appalachian's future remains Radford and Artman's biggest issue.

"Our concern lies in the harmonization of the daily lives of students with the

greater High Country," Radford said.

Other platform goals include streamlining, empowering and exposing SGA, increasing student involvement in regional issues and ensuring a legacy for Appalachian. If elected, Artman and Radford are planning to continue working on a variety of SGA policies.

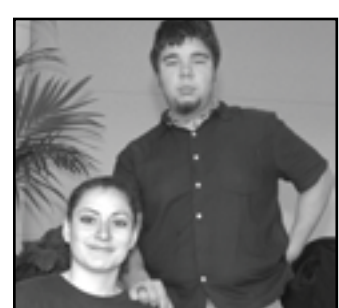
"We will focus on being accessible so that students can express their concerns and know who we are," Radford said.

"We are not running because we like power or we want the acclaim of being president and vice president," Radford said. "We genuinely care about the welfare of students and the future of Appalachian State University."

"It is within our grasp and in our hearts to greatly improve the lives of students. Our future is big. We want to make it bright."

Hunt/Diaz

ANNA OAKES
Senior Staff Writer



Appalachian State University students Chelsea M. Hunt and Benjamin "Rico" Diaz hope to bring something different to this year's student body presidential election.

"We don't want power," Hunt said. "We're doing this to give people another option."

Hunt said she had no plans of running until the day before she declared. Friends told her she should run after passing by a contact table about elections in Plemmons Student Union, she said.

Neither Hunt nor Diaz have any previous SGA experience. Hunt said she does not believe this will hinder her if she becomes SGA president.

"Actually, it might help," Diaz said. "We bring a completely fresh perspective to student government."

"We won't be involved for the politics," Diaz said. "We're in it for the students."

Hunt said she and Diaz are still talking to students and working on a platform, but several issues warrant

attention.

The textbook rental system is a major issue, Hunt said. Hardly any students are in favor of discontinuing it, she said.

Diaz said another issue is academic departments without enough faculty.

Hunt also wants to look into the housing lottery and getting an all-you-can-eat meal plan at Appalachian.

"I think there are a lot of growing pains on campus that need to be looked at," she said.

Diaz said he wants to do everything he can while in college and running for SGA vice president sounded like fun. Diaz, originally from Costa Rica, said he also feels Latinos are underrepresented on campus.

"We're different; we represent the other side," Diaz said.

Watkins/Pereira

JUSTIN BOULMAY
Senior Staff Writer



Among this year's Student Government Association presidential contenders, presidential candidate Jud Watkins and his running mate Christopher R. Pereira have served in SGA the longest.

Both candidates started off as senators two years ago and moved up to cabinet positions. Pereira has served as the SGA Rules Committee Chair since spring semester 2003 and Watkins served as the SGA Director of External Affairs until last fall.

Watkins said they want to focus on making SGA about students, not politics.

"It's not Chris and my student government. It's not the senators' student government. It's every single student at Appalachian State University's student government," Watkins said.

The two running mates said their campaign would focus on tuition, parking and convincing administrators to keep the textbook rental system.

"Zero tolerance for campus-based tuition increases," Watkins said. "I know we're in hard times in budget,

I'm fully understanding of that. I'm fully aware of the process."

Watkins cited last year's reduction of Appalachian's tuition proposal and this year's tuition freeze as positive steps.

The two candidates also said the textbook rental system needs to be retained at Appalachian State University.

"The chancellor's motto is 'Students first, quality in all.' I think we can achieve quality in all by keeping the textbook rental system, and I think that the faculty is not putting students first," Watkins said.

Pereira said he hopes to address parking issues on campus, something he added will only get worse over time. He said one solution that was addressed by the Parking and Traffic committee was selling half-day passes.