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The weather...

Tues	Wed	Thurs
		
20/12	25/10	22/10

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The University Leader

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Movie review

Amy and Ryan review
the movie "Happy
Gilmore" for
Movie Adven-
tures.

3



Volume 90 Number 40

Fort Hays State University

February 27, 1996

FHSU Tigers are no. 1!!

Amy Bruntz
Feature and Entertainment
Editor

With two wins over the weekend, the men's Tiger basketball team finished regular season play with the nation's best Division II record at 26-0.

Now, as the team moves into the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Tournament, Tiger fans are encouraged to help celebrate and cheer on the team during the "March to the '96 Championships."

Tonight, both the men's and women's basketball teams will play in the first round of the RMAC Tournament. The women (15-11) will take on Western State University at 6 and the men will play Fort Lewis at 8 in Gross Memorial Coliseum.

Today has been declared "Tiger Basketball Day" by Mayor Sharon Liekam.

According to Bob Lowen, director of University Relations, this is a time for celebration. "We want everyone to wear black and gold."

"We want to encourage everyone to come out, have a good time, and cheer on the teams," Lowen said.

University Relations is sponsoring a decorating contest and encouraging all offices and departments on campus to show Tiger spirit. Lowen said there has been a great response and encourages everyone to check out the decorations.

together a pep rally for the Tigers.

The pep rally will be at 4 p.m. tomorrow in the Union Pacific Park, 10th and Main. The men and women basketball players will be introduced as well as the Tiger wrestling team.

enthusiasm among the students and the community," Lowen said.

Lowen said this team is a once in a lifetime experience. "It's a great time to be a student or faculty member at FHSU," Lowen said.

As for post RMAC Tournament, Spicer said no matter how the men's team does in the RMAC Tournament, they will be in the regional play-offs.

However, they do not yet know where the first round of regional play-offs will be. Spicer said they are hoping FHSU will host the first round, but game locations will not be announced until Sunday night at 5:10.

Gary Garner, head men's basketball coach, said the team members are taking all of this attention very business-like. "They can't get caught up in all this hoopla," Garner said.

According to Garner, the team members have to remember what got them where they are right now. "Hard work and togetherness have been the No. 1 factors that have got this team here," Garner said.

Spicer is excited about the basketball teams and the "March to the '96 Championships," and said, "I think it's a special situation that anyone associated with the university will remember for a long time."

RMAC tournament first round games

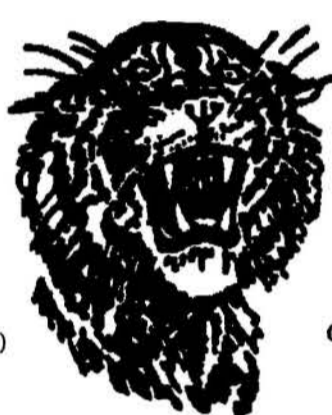
Men

Fort Hays State (26-0)
vs.
Fort Lewis (8-17)

Mesa State (12-12)
vs.
Western State (17-12)

Colorado Mines (12-14)
vs.
Adams State (12-13)

Chadron State (10-16)
vs.
Nebraska-Kearney (22-7)



Women

Fort Hays State (15-11)
vs.
Western State (8-17)

Fort Lewis (5-20)
vs.
Nebraska-Kearney (22-4)

Colorado Mines (11-15)
vs.
Mesa State (15-10)

Chadron State (12-13)
vs.
New Mexico Highlands (15-11)

Some of the participants include: Admissions, Career Development and Placement, Student Health, Forsyth Library, and Student Affairs.

According to Lowen, local businesses are getting involved in the Tiger spirit as well. The downtown businesses have put

In case of inclement weather, the pep rally will be moved to Gross Memorial Coliseum.

Lowen said they have come up with slogan "March to the '96 Championships" to help create some excitement. "We decided we needed to generate some

According to Tom Spicer, athletic director, if the Tigers win tonight, they will advance to the next round of the tournament in Denver, Colo. If the women win, they will play at 2 p.m. on Friday. If the men win, they will play at 8 p.m. on Friday.

Grassfire begins in Oklahoma, spreads through southern Kansas

HARDTNER, Kan. (AP) High winds Saturday blew life back into a grass fire that had consumed thousands of acres of land in southern Kansas.

Firefighters on Friday battled the blaze that began in Oklahoma and spread across the state line into Kansas, spewing ashes into the air and covering the area with a thick cloud of smoke.

The fire was contained about 1 a.m. Saturday, but Barber County Undersheriff Dave Probst said firefighters were trying to keep several hot spots under control as high winds began blowing. He estimated the fire had burned about 35 square miles.

By Saturday afternoon, at least three fire lines had sprung back to

life, encouraged by 20- and 30-mph wind gusts, said Richard Becker, a Barber County volunteer fireman and part-time police officer for the city of Medicine Lodge.

The problem, Becker said, was that the fire was in a remote section of the county with only three or four access roads and many small canyons.

"It's nothing but miles and miles of grassland and ravines," he said, adding that most of the land was privately owned.

The fire started Thursday morning near Camp Houston, Okla., a few dozen miles south of the Kansas-Oklahoma border. Connie Holton, an office deputy at the Woods County Sheriff's

Department in Oklahoma, said the fire began when a utility vehicle ignited dry grass Thursday afternoon.

Becker said the fire burned mostly in the southwest corner of Kansas' Barber County, although Friday it had spread into surrounding counties.

Several barns and small buildings were consumed, but no homes or businesses were damaged. The fire had claimed no lives in Kansas.

The only injury reported was smoke inhalation involving a firefighter.

White smoke and fluttering orange embers made several roads temporarily impassable. Three county roads near Aetna were

closed; several bridges were marked unsafe for passage. At some points, telephone boxes for emergency calls were melted.

Precipitation was not forecast until Sunday night.

"If we don't get any rain, it's going to keep going," Becker said of the fire.

City and county fire departments from all over south-central Kansas and northern Oklahoma sent crews to the scene Friday, and almost every volunteer fire department in Barber County was out on Saturday, Becker said.

"They (the firefighters) are just watching them to make sure they don't jump over canyons and break loose again," he said, referring to Saturday's fire lines.

Some people were packing up belongings on Friday, just in case their homes were threatened.

In Hardtner, the Walgamott family stuffed clothing, boots, hats and trash bags into boxes and quickly carted them out to a truck backed up to their porch on Friday.

Outside the Walgamott home, firefighters from Jet, Okla., watched the fire from the back of a truck.

They had put out parts of it at least three times in 18 hours, then watched helplessly as it roared back to life.

"It just looked like miles and miles of fire," said Kim Humphrey.

Every time they made progress,

the wind changed.

"It's hard enough fighting a fire at night, but when the wind shifts, the fire is suddenly coming at you, encircling you," said Larry Cochran. "You get disoriented."

Twenty miles west of Hardtner, Randy and Tracy Lohmann watched 8,000 acres of their land go up in flames on Friday.

"It's all gone," Randy Lohmann said quietly, shaking his head.

Sue Zann Shahan, manager of Clark's Service Station in Hardtner, said the air was still hazy Saturday, but people were in good spirits.

"They're just glad they've been able to save homes," she said.

Cold weather produces problems with locks, pipes

Voraluk Sirivallop
Staff Writer

On Dec. 30, 1995, at approximately 2 p.m. in front of McMindes Hall, Issarin Sengpaibow, Bangkok special student, experienced a typical winter difficulty. She had frozen locks on her car door.

Sengpaibow had never even thought about her car doors freezing shut. In her native country, Thailand, this problem doesn't exist.

Ice had formed on her door locks during the heavy snowfall the night before.

Sengpaibow inserted the key into the lock on the driver's side door, but she could not turn the key, because the lock was frozen completely. She tried the passenger door lock, but it too was frozen solid.

Finally, a friend, who had the same problem before, told Sengpaibow to pour warm water on the frozen locks and around the key edges.

According to Leon Breit, a mechanic from James Motor company, 108 E. 13th, the problem of frozen car locks is difficult to avoid, especially if a car must be parked outside.

"I think she did the right thing to solve the problem, because it is the most important thing for people to help themselves

when this problem occurs," Breit said.

He added that a hair dryer could also have been used to thaw the ice, but should be used with care, because too much heat and a sudden change in temperature could damage windows. As a last resort, any local repair shop could be called.

Another problem that people face during cold weather is frozen water pipes. It is relatively easy to avoid frozen pipes by keeping the house warm at all times during the cold months.

According to Vicky Auman, the secretary of Auman Co. Inc. Plumbing, 311 E. 11th St., the furnace should be left on when a person leaves for the weekend or a longer period of time.

Auman also recommended that the faucets in the house be left dripping all through the night in cold weather. Water will be constantly moving through the pipe and will not freeze.

Using heat tape is also a suggestion given by Auman. Heat tape, which can be purchased at any hardware or discount store, can be wrapped around exposed pipes.

Also, simply leaving the cabinet doors open in the kitchen will allow warm air to circulate around the water pipes.

If the weather should drop below freezing again this week, be sure to follow the above suggestions.



Playing golf

Chris Norris, Hays freshman, plays frisbee golf Thursday evening in Frontier Park.

MARK BOWERS / University Leader

In my opinion...

Fort Hays State students, faculty, alumni and staff have a lot to be proud of right now. There are so many groups, people and teams accomplishing great things this semester.

For example, the Talking Tiger debate team been raking in the trophies this semester. One of its two member teams is currently ranked 7th in the nation.

Also, the Tiger wrestlers are expecting to send several wrestlers to nationals this year.

The FHSU Jazz Ensemble recently represented the university at the Kansas Music Educators Association Convention. They were one of two jazz bands chosen to perform and received a standing ovation after their performance.

The women's Tiger basketball team has a winning record of 15-11. They are currently ranked second in the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference.

Five professors in the art department have paintings, etchings, lithographs and graphic designs featured in the Kansas Board of Regents Office in Topeka.

And last but certainly not least, the men's Tiger basketball team is ranked No. 1 in the nation and has a 26-0 record. They are the only team in Division I or Division II in the nation with a perfect, undefeated record.

This list of Tiger accomplishments could go on and on and fill the Leader pages a hundred times. We should all be proud of the many talented and successful groups, teams and individuals at FHSU.

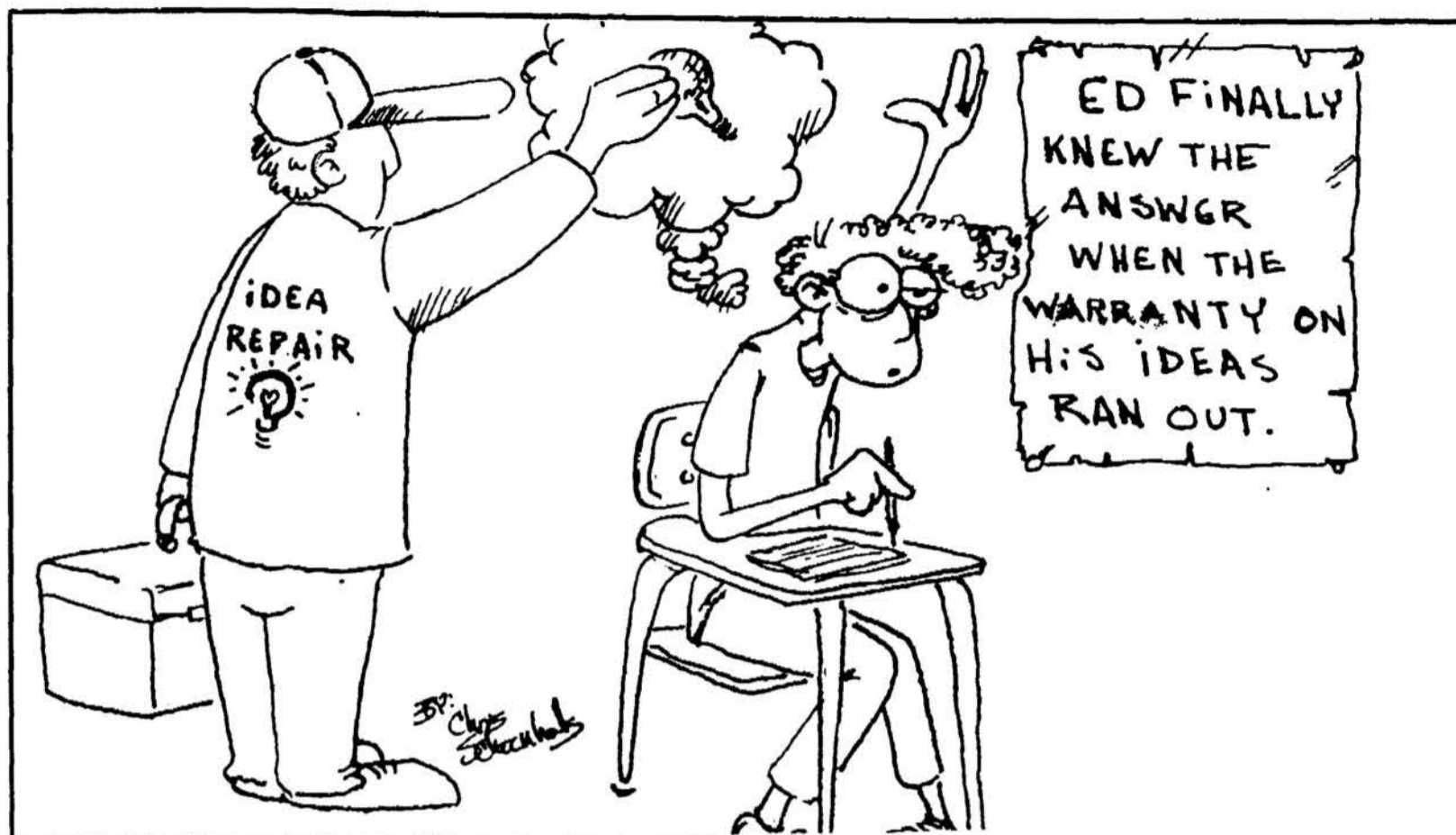
Of course, the men's basketball team is receiving a huge amount of attention this week and rightly so. They have worked hard, and this team deserves to be honored and recognized.

But let's try to remember the other accomplishments and honors and recognize them as well. Take note of and take pride in all of the successes.

And tonight, dress in your black and gold, and come support the Tiger basketball teams as they play in the first round of the RMAC Tournament.

Good luck Tigers!

Amy Bruntz
A&E Editor



Questioning the norm

Quantity of entertainment questioned



Laurie Bean

Columnist

If the intensity of the crowd at Sip-'N-Spin this weekend is any evidence, I would say many others agree with me.

There are several local bands that are willing to play live. In addition, there are bars and a coliseum available for bands to play live.

What's going on in Hays that a college student can't expect to go hear a live band at least once a month? I say once a month because to expect a live band once a week would be such a

stretch that I'm laughing as I write this column.

What I find ridiculous is that there are 12 bars located in Hays. Even more perplexing is that six of these bars have offered live bands in the past. Why not more often, or even, dare I say it, on a regular basis?

Why should a student, or anyone for that matter, have to drive three to five hours to see a live band? The closest cities offering live bands are Wichita, Lawrence, and Manhattan.

I wonder if the local bar owners have considered the impact of providing live entertainment on a regular basis.

I understand the cost and responsibility that a bar would be forced to shoulder. But once a bar begins bringing in reputable bands on a regular basis, the crowd will follow. And once

you've got the crowd, money is being earned by the bars.

I mention my opinion on this subject because this weekend I watched four bands playing at the Sip-'N-Spin. Two of these bands, Hostility and Dead Orchestra, were nationally known bands out of Wichita.

The intensity of these bands was incredible! Their performances were packed with adrenaline.

I hadn't seen Hostility perform in about three years. I was extremely impressed with their stage presence. They really knew how to work the crowd into a fury.

The crowd finally worked itself into mass confusion during Dead Orchestra's performance. If a mosh pit says anything about a band's energy then Dead Orchestra's energy was aggressive and intense.

sive and intense.

Dead Orchestra also had a great stage presence. The whole band worked strong and tight to provide an electric, fire-bomb of a performance.

I was a little disappointed that Gryn didn't play more of their original songs. I am, however, impressed in the changes that Gryn has been making in their music. They keep getting better every time I hear them.

And, of course, I have to thank Gryn profusely for inviting Hostility and Dead Orchestra to play in Hays. They couldn't have chosen two better bands to perform with, in my opinion.

I only hope that local bars can work with local bands to bring these bands and others into Hays in the future. Do I hear any corresponding nods of approval?



Reader Feedback

I read the recent editorial written by Matthew Shepker and chuckled how students, while deciding to come to Fort Hays State still wish they were somewhere else. The grass, it seems, always appears greener on the other side of the fence.

I realize that four words cannot totally capture the essence and focus of FHSU's implementation of its "high tech, high touch" environment. First, you must understand that "high tech" does not refer only to computers on campus, but rather, the utilization and exposure that our students receive from all forms of technology.

I applaud Shepker's recognitions of the progress made in enrollment, on-line search in the library, and the recent implementation of the University Card. Each of these represents a significant step forward for the university. However, you missed the following list of recent accomplishments:

- beginning of our fifth year of servicing of our 44-county service area with interactive television. We deliver more ITV courses than any other institutions in the state;
- interactive voice processing to support outreach education, quiz applications, the modern language lab (which won a national award), and voice mail for faculty, staff, and students;
- state-of-the-art English CAI lab with 30 new microcomputers available to students (all having Netscape access to the World Wide Web);
- availability of six mediated classrooms (incidentally, these were the first fully integrated classrooms in the Regents system. Visitors for K-State commented that they traveled to universities all over the country to find a model of how to accomplish this, only to find it within the state);
- development of the first lab in the state devoted to helping faculty learn how to use the various instructional technologies;
- installation of two Pentium and one Macintosh computer lab in Tomanek Hall, making 75 more microcomputers available to students (all with WWW access);
- installation of sophisticated chemistry workstations, complete with individualized hoods and integrated desktop computers with automated sensors;
- availability of a beautiful videoconference room in the State Room of the Memorial Union which allows our students, faculty, and administration to confer electronically;
- installation of a new mainframe computer on campus;
- installation of a new digital telephone switch with ISDN capability on the campus;
- application of the first ISDN telephone line in western Kansas to the Vistium desktop videoconferencing pilot project with the department of philosophy's course taught in collaboration with Georgetown, Texas A&M,

and Colorado State universities;

- computer lab in mathematics, making 31 more microcomputers available to students;
- application of ISDN-based PictureTel desktop videoconferencing to teach five courses this semester over the Kansas TeleNet 2 system. Work is currently on-going on the following projects:
- installation of the first classrooms designed to function as both a mediated and an interactive television (ITV) classroom;
- expansion of the ITV networks connected to FHSU via fiber optics from 34 locations to over 58;
- design and installation of four additional mediated classrooms, slated for completion before the end of the year;
- installation of a fiber-optic based video switch, allowing us to connect any of our six origination sites to any of our 80-plus potential delivery sites;
- expansion of the Ethernet to three more buildings on campus, as well as to the dormitories;
- connection of a new UNIX World Wide Web server to a new T1 line, offering both faster Web access and about 27 times the bandwidth we currently have;
- beginning of a new academic major, called Information Networking and Telecommunications—the first in the country at the baccalaureate level—focused on the use of information technologies;
- beginning of the Informational Enterprise Institute, a clearinghouse for information-related services and research;
- beginning of the Master of Instructional Technology program, to teach teachers how to use instructional technology, and
- a significant library upgrade which promises to dramatically increase the number of on-line resources available.

The campus at FHSU has undergone a major change in its use of technologies to do its business more effectively. However, most of the technological change has been transparent (as most technology should be). In addition, much of the technology is not related to just computerization, as Shepker may have suggested. That is why institutions like K-State, Salina, KU, Wichita State, and Washburn have come to FHSU—to learn how we have successfully integrated instructional and support technologies, while maintaining a low student-to-teacher ratio which allows us to keep the human touch in our instructional approach.

High tech, high touch—yes, I chuckle sometimes too, amazed at how we manage to do it all and do it well.

Rudolfo Arévalo
Provost

The University Leader

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For more information, contact the Office of Public Relations at 435-4301.

Briefs

Psi Chi

Psi Chi will be having a general meeting for members and instructors at 5 p.m. today in Wiest 304. Pizza will be served. Bring your \$10 chapter dues.

Pilot Award

Nominations are being accepted for the Pilot Award. Graduating seniors are eligible to nominate an outstanding faculty member for this award.

Nomination forms are available in the Alumni Office.

Black History Month

The Black Student Union will present the Buffalo Soldiers at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday in the Pioneer Lounge in the Memorial Union.

For more information, call the Kelly Center at 628-4401.

Photo contest

The Biology Club is sponsoring a nature photography contest. The contest is open to everyone. Winners will be published in a calendar and prizes will be awarded. Deadline is April 10.

Applications can be picked up in the biology department and art department offices.

Crucifixion

The Comeau Catholic Campus Center will hold a free enactment of a crucifixion at 7:30 Thursday at the center.

For more information, call the center at 625-7396.

Auditions

Auditions will be held for the FHSU Players' production of "Prelude to a Kiss" at 7 p.m. March 4-5 in Felten-Start Theatre. Scripts are available in Malloy 102.

SPURS

SPURS will hold a meeting at 7 p.m. Wednesday in the Sunflower Room of the Memorial Union.

For more information, call Carol Solko at 628-4276.

Communication club

The Communication club will have a meeting at 4:30 p.m. today in Malloy 112.

For more information, call Mahboub Hashem at 628-4337.

Campus Brown Bag

The Campus Brown Bag A.A. group will meet at noon today in Picken 311D, and at 11:30 a.m. Friday in the Picken third floor conference room.

For more information, call Beth Kufner at 628-4330.

Acrobats come to campus

Laurie Bean
Copy Editor

Tomorrow night, bend your schedule and fly over to Beach-Schmidt Performing Arts Center. The Peking Acrobats are scheduled to perform at 7:30 p.m.

"It's kind of like a circus but not exactly. It's colorful, fast-paced, it's a good cultural experience for students," I.B. Dent, coordinator of special events, said.

"The Peking Acrobats are from the People's Republic of China. There are 30 men and women. This is their 10th tour of the United States," Dent said.

Dent said there will be a lot of balancing and acrobatics. For example, they stack chairs on top of chairs and balance on those Dent said.

Along with the acrobatics, the Peking Acrobats are also musicians.

Tickets are available at the Student Service Center, Memorial Union. Reserved student tickets cost \$7, unserved tickets are \$3.

Tickets will also be available at the door. For more information call the Student Service Center at 628-5306.

"If anyone hasn't seen it, you certainly should, it's amazing what they do. This is a great thing to take a date to," Dent said.

Band to give post-tour concert

The Fort Hays State Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band will present a concert at 8 p.m. Thursday, in Beach-Schmidt Performing Arts Center.

According to Ron Scott, director of bands, the Wind Ensemble toured

high schools around the Hutchinson and Salina areas on Feb. 15 and 16.

This group will perform four of the pieces they played on tour. Then the larger Symphonic Band will finish the concert with four more selections.

I'M A TIGER FAN



Coach Gary Garner

GO TIGERS!

For the latest information visit our web site at <http://www.fhsu.edu/htmlpages/athletics/menhh.html> or call FHSU Athletics at 628-4050

Show your TIGER spirit:
Wear black and gold on game days!

SIP & WIN
"We Make Legends" by Joe

Tuesday
Foosball Tourny

Wednesday
\$3 Pitchers

Thursday Night Ladies Night Special

"Wine Me, Dine Me, \$6.99 Me!"

*Drinks \$6.99
\$1 Cover for guys

Amy & Ryan's movie adventures

'Happy Gilmore'



(if you count golf club beatings)



Amy Bruntz
Entertainment Editor



Rating System	
♥	for Romance
🔪	for Action
😊😊😊	for Comedy

Ryan Burrows
Staff Writer

If you're a person who can't stand watching golf, thinking it's a "rich man's game" with stuffy etiquette and rules, you need to see Adam Sandler in "Happy Gilmore."

This hockey lover can't make a hockey team but is great at hockey "beatings" and rumbles. Imagine a hockey player in a golf tournament, and you've got Happy.

There are some extremely outrageous and unrealistic scenes that I could have done without. But I fell in love with Happy. How could you not love a guy who on the first date, arrange for "Endless Love" to be played over the speaker of the hockey rink where they go to skate?

His complete devotion to his dear old grandma makes him even more lovable and sincere.

Now I could have done without the incredible miracle golf shot, Happy killing a crocodile with his bare hands, and Abe Lincoln appearing in the sky at the end of the show, but the true to life comedy made up for it.

Bob Barker even makes his golf course appearance. Of course, due to technical difficulties, we didn't have sound for most of this segment, but it looked really funny.

The movie was also filled with a great selection of music with tunes ranging from "Wully Bully" to "We've Only Just Begun."

Granted, this was not a deep, philosophical movie, but if you need a study break, "Happy Gilmore" offers some comical moments and pokes great fun at the sometimes "upity man's" game of golf.

Happy Gilmore, starring Adam Sandler of Saturday Night Live fame, is a "Revenge of the Nerds"-meets-"Dudley DoRight"-meets-Mel Brooks film about pro (short here for proletariat) golf. Yet oddly enough, the protagonist Happy, wants only to play hockey.

Through an erratic chain of events, enmeshed in Happy's grandma's eviction via the malicious IRS, Happy becomes a pro golfer by utilizing the potency and precision he had learned on the ice (despite the fact that he couldn't skate) to save the day.

Along the way, Happy is subjected to a Bergen-Belsen style rest home where he works for endless hours on quilts for a profiteering orthodontist. Happy engages an amputee ex-golf star coach whom he later accidentally kills. A beautiful woman in public relations falls in love with Happy.

Bob Barker beats Happy to a pulp at a celebrity tournament, and Happy single-handedly transforms golf from its stereotypical dullness into a media event on a par with a Grateful Dead concert.

In the final scenes, blue-collar workers, bikers and hippies cheer as Happy finally defeats his elitist arch-rival by fantasizing of his new love (dressed in lingerie, spread on a chaise lounge, and holding two pitchers of draft beer). Happy gets Granny's house back, gets the girl, and subverts an ingrained system of social stratification in less than two hours.

It takes more than Coleridge's "willing suspension of disbelief" to stomach this feel-good (and I would argue no-good) movie. If you plan to attend, I recommend, for your viewing satisfaction, popcorn and a full frontal lobotomy.

Sensory Perceptions Internet, Inc.
1111 East 30th Street Hays, KS
WORLD WIDE WEB ACCESS
(No Long Distance For Local Exchange Calls)
Hays Dial-Up Number: 825 Set Up Fee \$30 A Month
E-Mail & Newsgroups (Free With Membership)
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'Jake's Women' opens Thursday

Janella Mildrexler
Managing Editor

Does your imagination often run away with you? In the play, "Jake's Women," by Neil Simon, this is exactly the problem the main character struggles with.

"Jake's Women," directed by Lloyd Frerer, professor of communication, will be presented at 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and at 2 p.m. Sunday in Felten-Start Theatre, in Malloy Hall. Tickets are \$5 for students and \$6 for non-students.

The main character, Jake, is a writer who has quite an active imagination. As his real life becomes more chaotic, such as his separation from his wife, the women in his life appear in his imaginary world.

Edith, Jake's therapist, is played by Melissa Foster, Leawood sophomore. "He thinks me up in my analytical state to answer problems. The only real people are sometimes Maggie (Jake's current wife) and Sheila (Jake's girlfriend) at the very end.

Rena Ryberg, Salina graduate student, plays Karen, Jake's younger sister. "She's his conscience. She gets to say things other people wouldn't get away with. She is honest with him and says things he has felt all along," Ryberg said. "We think it's funny, and we are really looking forward to an audience for their reaction," Ryberg said.

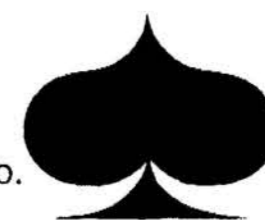
"It being a Neil Simon play, it's a lot of comedy and drama mixed together," Foster said.

For ALL you Card Sharks... The Spades Tournament is HERE!

Thursday, Feb. 29, from 6 - 10 p.m. in the Union Cafeteria.

Cash Prize to be awarded!

Call 628-6449 for more info.
Sign-up by Wed. Feb. 28.



At The Brass Rail,
Thurs. Feb. 29,
It's **Co-ed TWISTER!**
Cash prize to the winner!



Special

\$3 Monster Draws!

18 to enter

21 to drink

Summer Employment

Experienced Combination Truck Drivers needed for season wheat harvesting operation.
Employed in Hays, KS • MONTHLY PAYMENTS included
• 401(k) Plan • KS • Work based on experience
• New • Work from May 22-Aug 15
• 401(k) Plan • From Hays to Montana

Memorial Union Food Service

Cafeteria Hours, Mon. - Fri.:

Grill -- 7 a.m. until 2 p.m.
Cafe Line -- 11 a.m. until 1:30 p.m.



New Promotions



- **Wok Bar:** Every Thursday
- **Tuesday Buffet:** Feb. 27 - Carved Ham
Mar. 5 - London Broil
Mar. 12 - St. Patrick's Stout Stew
- **Specialty Bar:** 'A Taste Of India' -- March 11-15



Marc Menard
Sports
Columnist

Well, far be it from me to argue with a legend like Phil, but this time of year always gives me eternal hope

About three weeks ago, the legendary Puxatawney Phil, the over publicized groundhog icon saw his shadow, which, according to legend, means another six weeks of winter.

that spring and summer are nearly here. The weather is getting more pleasant, the days are getting longer, and yes, the definite sign that warmer days are ahead, the start of major league baseball training camps in Arizona and Florida.

Here in our region, the Kansas City Royals are rebuilding after a salary cap fire sale saw them unload infielders Wally Joyner, Greg Gagne and Gary Gaetti. The pitching staff is cemented with Kevin Appier, Mark Gubicza, Chris Haney and Tim Lincecum. The only question is, who will be the fifth man in the rotation?

On the sidelines with Maynard

Locally, we have a lot to be excited about. The Fort Hays State baseball team is currently ranked 16th in the NCAA Division II pre-season poll, and are picked to repeat as Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference champions.

The Tigers, under the coaching of Curtis Hammeke, finished 34-13 last year and won the RMAC crown with a 20-6 record. But it's cinderella season turned sour when Fort Hays State University did not get an at-large bid to the regional tournament.

"We had an unbelievable season winning the RMAC regular season and the conference tournament. We thought we're where we wanted to be, then ended the season disappointed because we didn't go to regionals," Hammeke said.

Leading the way for the Tigers is senior Brian Keck, the heavy hitting shortstop who led the Tigers in several offensive categories including batting average (.410), at bats (173), runs (55), hits (71) and RBI's (44). Also returning in the Tiger infield is

second baseman Jamie Varela and first baseman Dave Bies, both seniors.

The only question mark for Hammeke seems to be the pitching, but then pitching is something Hammeke annually worries about.

Hammeke has given the early nod to senior Curt Von Lintel as the number one arm in his pitching rotation with Jason Jennings, Brian Moore and Jeff Neher to see plenty of action as well. Hammeke should have plenty of help in the bullpen with senior Shawn Oakland and junior Jason Goetz. Senior Todd Bashore should

also see some action for the Tigers.

The Tigers, who have won 30 win seasons in each of the last three spring campaigns are anxious to get started with the 1996 season. But more importantly, they are determined to prove they are ready to take it to the next level.

It sure looks to me like spring is near despite what the groundhogs say. After all, the Royals are rebuilding in hopes of becoming a contender once again, and the FHSU Tigers are the team to beat in the RMAC. I guess there is only one thing left to say. Play ball!

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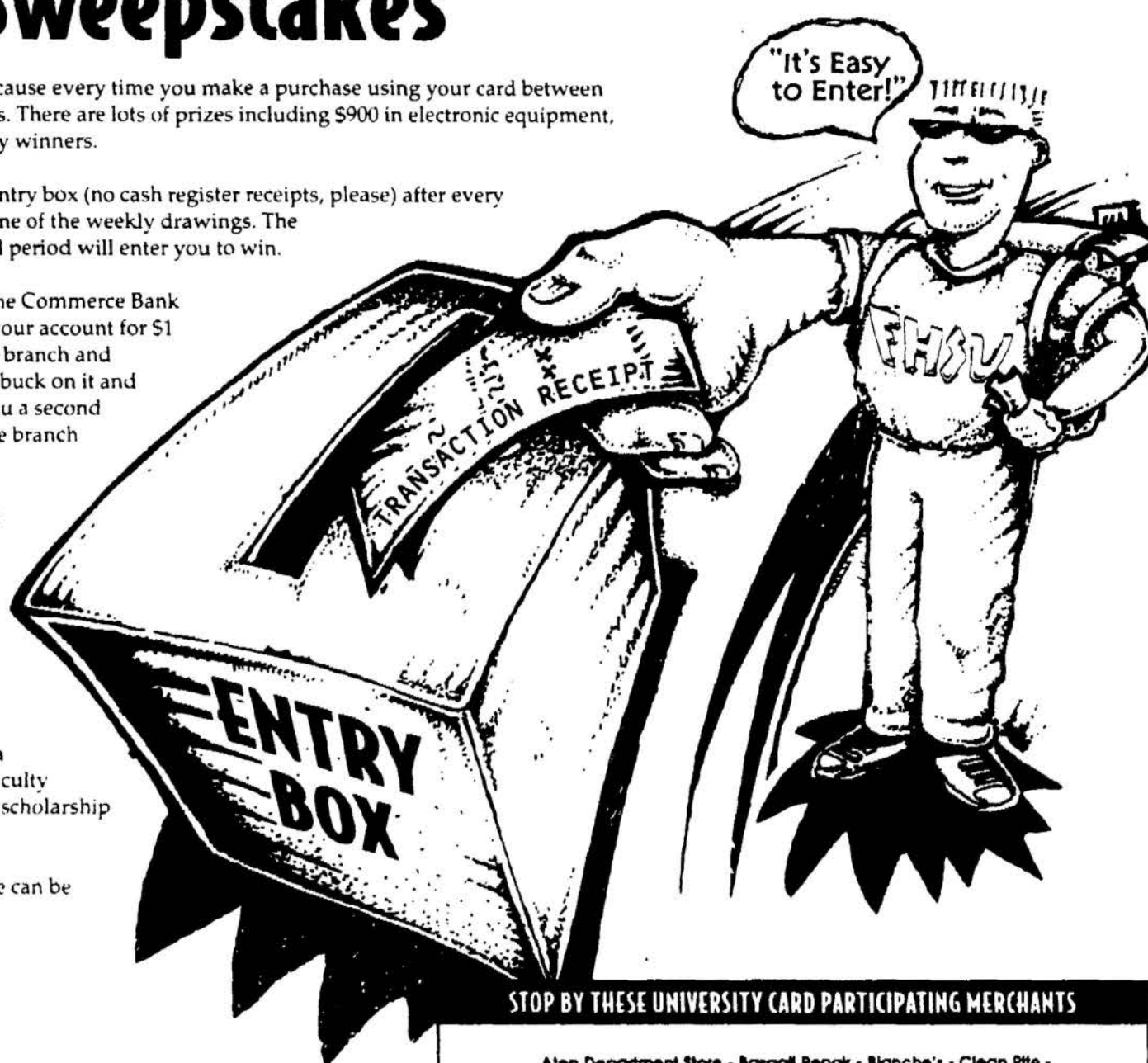
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