



What's Inside



ASU student declared genius.
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ASU Art Professor begs the question, "Is painting obsolete?"
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April 27, 2011 tornado outbreaks devastate North Alabama.
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Art Club speaks on their travel and community projects.
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Photo by Maggie Thomas

2011 Ms. Wheelchair Alabama, Shannon Roberts, shows off her tiara and sash while working at ASU.

Athens State University senior named Ms. Wheelchair Alabama

Guy McClure
Guest Writer

Shannon Roberts, a senior majoring in psychology at Athens State University, was crowned the 2011 Ms. Wheelchair Alabama at the annual pageant Saturday in Birmingham. The outgoing Ms. Wheelchair Alabama was Joanne Pearson, also an Athens State University student. In the exciting ceremony, Pearson was able to crown her own fellow student.

"I have always admitted the words of Henry Ford – 'Whether you think that you can, or that you can't, you are usually right.' – and that is how I set my mind to do something,"

remarked Roberts.

The Ms. Wheelchair Alabama pageant is sponsored by the Ms. Wheelchair Alabama Foundation. Their website states, "Ms. Wheelchair Alabama Foundation, much like Ms. Wheelchair America, will have many opportunities to help others during her reign. Making public appearances, giving interviews to the media and speaking to individuals who, like herself, utilize a wheelchair for mobility, are among some of her duties. The Ms. Wheelchair America Program participants serve as an inspiration for everyone, without regard to physical limitation."

Athens State Assistant Professor of Management Dr. Kim LaFavor was on hand to support Roberts and other students involved in the pageant. "I am so proud of these women," stated LaFavor. "To make the news even more spectacular, I learned that former Athens State graduate Amanda McBay was the 2008 recipient of this honor and I had the fortune to meet her after the program."

Roberts, who expects to graduate from Athens State in 2012, is originally from Harvest and currently works as a work-study student in Athens State's Office of Career Placement and Cooperative Education.

Athens State Community Band to honor Louise Strange Steele

Guy McClure
Guest Writer

The Athens State University Community Band will present a Spring Concert on Sunday, May 15th at 3:00 pm on the lawn of Founders Hall. This year's concert is free and open to the public. The concert is funded by the Livingston Concert Lecture Series.

The spring concert this year will be dedicated to Mrs. Louise Strange Steele, a graduate of the class of 1941. Steele is a wonderful friend to the University and a great proponent of the arts in the community.

In remarking about this year's spring line-up, director Dan

Havely says the band will perform "some of Louise's favorites. We are looking forward to a grand concert on Founders Green."

The concert will also feature the

outstanding Heritage Children's Chorale of the South under the direction of Mary Stephenson.

For more information about the concert, call 256-233-8296.



Photo courtesy of Guy McClure

The band practicing in McCandless Hall.

Editorials

The Athenian

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Submissions should focus on the issues rather than personalities. Proof of identification may be required. Submissions must be limited to 300-400 words, and may be delivered via mail, e-mail, or in person.

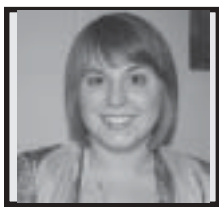
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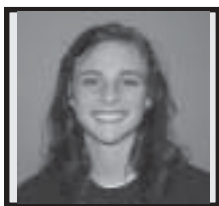


Maggie Thomas
Editor

This semester, I am enrolled in History of the English Language. This is arguably one of the most interesting classes I've ever taken. Each week we are required to read one chapter from *The Story of English* by Robert McCrum, Robert MacNeil, and William Cran, reflect on the chapter, then post that reflection on the discussion board. One chapter from this book was particularly intriguing to me. It was entitled "Black on White," and it discusses the history and influences of African English on American English.

When I started to read further into the subject of Black English, I was blown away by how much negativity is still associated with this variety of English. Several weeks have passed since I read this chapter, and I'm still a little blown away. So, I decided to address the topic once again in the form of an editorial.

In reference to the black dialect McCrum, MacNeil, and Cran state, "In the past, such use of English was often thought to be lazy, or ungrammatical, or even to suggest an inferior intelligence. Now it is gradually being recognized as just another variety of English, neither worse nor better than the way English is spoken by Scots or New Yorkers or Londoners or Sydneysiders, with as



Kara Faulk
Assitant Editor

This Saturday, I will be running the Nashville Music City Marathon. It is 26.2 miles in length and will probably take me nearly four hours to complete. I am scared to death. Last year, I ran the half marathon, only 13.1 miles in length, but it was quite an accomplishment for me. Ever since then, I've been an addict, running over six half marathons in the past year. When people ask how far I run, they are in disbelief and simply can't comprehend why something like this would be fun. I know that they think I'm a complete weirdo, but if I am, so are the other millions around the world that find long-distance running to be a release, addicts improving their health rather than destroying it.

I began running in high school. I would not, however, call it long-distance as I would call it quits after a mile, thinking that I had accomplished some miraculous feat. In January of 2009, I began to gain my "freshman fifteen" and bumped up my running to a whopping mile and a half. A girl at my gym talked me into running a 5k in June; I was

Understanding the history and cultural background behind Black English

much right to exist as any other variety of English" (209).

After living in the south for twenty-two years, it's hard for me to believe that Black English is simply recognized as another variety of English. It seems to me that there are plenty of people in this country who feel that the only type of English that should be spoken is Standard English. I have soooooo many problems with that. The people who hold these beliefs clearly don't cherish the fact that America is a melting pot. Democratic countries are melting pots. If no one spoke with a regional or cultural dialect, America just wouldn't feel like America anymore.

I always hear white people complaining about the way that black people talk. Don't they realize that part of the reason that black people talk the way they do is because of white people? Hellerrr??? Black people were not allowed to be educated for the first 150 years they were here. Whatever knowledge they did possess was passed down to the next generation, which brings me to my next point.

Of course children are going to speak like the people who are bringing them up speak. In 1979, Seymour and Seymour argued that "those responsible for molding and shaping the speech and

language skills of Black children should select models that are likely to receive fewer of our society's penalties and more of the rewards" (qtd. in Billings 69). If black people should do this with their children, then why shouldn't white southerners, or white northerners, or white mid-westerners, or any one at all with a distinct accent do the same?

I don't see the harm in talking the way your parents or grandparents talk. In fact, I'm pretty sure that's what most kids do until they start school and learn there is a proper way to arrange verbs and nouns. But even then, they should not discard the dialect that they have grown up using.

Most people are aware that there is a proper time and place to use a particular speech. I feel that instead of enforcing the use of Standard English, we should merely encourage its use in the appropriate situations (like job interviews, or the work place in general). Many studies have shown that Black English speakers are rated as less credible than Standard English speakers, but Labov found that Black English serves all communication functions, both linguistically and functionally (Billings 68). If that is indeed the case, then there is no need to demand the use of Standard English.

The beauty and benefits of long-distance running

confident in my ability to bump my running to three miles, but it did not come easily. I trained for two months and still had trouble. After this difficulty, I was so motivated to become more successful, and I began to train hard running three to four miles everyday. The following January I decided that I would run the Nashville Half Marathon in April of that year. I followed the Fleet Feet training program and nutrition plan, and when I crossed that finish line a feeling of accomplishment came over me that I have never known.

Cardio respiratory fitness is the ability of your heart to pump stronger and more efficiently to your muscles in order to use oxygen more efficiently. As you become more physically fit, your heart will pump more blood and oxygen with each beat, and your muscles begin to extract more oxygen. That is why long-distance running does not come naturally for those that can run in short, quick bounds. It is an art, a skill that has to be trained and acquired over time. Elite long-distance runners can be as much as three times more efficient at consuming oxygen than sedentary individuals. Many people began running, strictly to lose weight. For those, it seems

to be a daily chore that must be endured at a painful price. For me and for many others, it is a hobby, a getaway even. I love turning my phone off and my ipod on and putting tennis shoe to pavement. If I miss a day, I feel sluggish, and I can't explain it. It is proven, however, that in running and many other physical activities, endorphins are released sending the body into a sort of "high" that makes a runner feel a sense of happiness and relaxation. This has been known to improve depression and other psychological problems. While many feel exhausted after a short run, long-distance running actually helps the body to feel less fatigued, tired, and tense throughout the day. A combination of running and exercise is the way to reach best results; the body burns about 100 calories per running mile. It also helps your body to burn more calories doing everyday activities because it puts the metabolism into overdrive.

I am so nervous about embarking on a 26.2 mile run that, a year ago, seemed impossible. Something about running makes me want to always take the next step. It's an obsession, an

Please see *Running* page 4

Editorials



Kind hearts found at Athens State: This writer expresses her eternal gratitude

Erin Minor
Assistant Editor

I am tremendously excited about my future. I have been accepted into the school of my dreams, feel confident in what I want to do with my life, and have every intention of chasing after those dreams. However, it saddens me to think about leaving Athens State University. I have loved every second of the time I have been here. I want to tell you why: kindness! Every professor, faculty and staff member, and student demonstrates authentic kindness. I would like to point out the people who have had a positive influence on my life. They deserve to be recognized. I want the kindness of these people to go down in Athens's history.

After changing my major five times, I felt God had called me into children/youth ministry in my second semester. So I changed my major for a sixth time to Religious Studies with the help of my advisor, Dr. Robert White.

This campus is blessed to have Dr. White. He gives confidence to his students, treats them as equals, and encourages them to keep asking the hard questions. There were many days I would feel very discouraged about my future, but Dr. White's kind smile and gentle voice always encouraged me to keep going. Dr. White helped me get into Southern Seminary (a.k.a., the school of my dreams), encouraged me when I had personal problems, and I believe he prayed for me with a sincere heart. Dr. White defined my dream of becoming a children's minister. I would not have made it through school without him. I will never forget the impact he has had on my life.

I was also taking psychology classes at the time which is where I met Dr. Mark Durm. I won't lie, at first he kind of scared me; he is a passionate teacher. Dr. Durm is a truly fair man, and that is hard to find today. It took a while before I could truly comprehend his kindness.

He called the newspaper office one day and wanted to talk about having an article about the new Student United Way club included. He wants to help people more than anyone I have ever met. As Student United Way became a reality, Dr. Durm poured more of his time and resources into the members and the cause. Dr. Durm has taught me that time is truly the most important gift you can give people.

In Dr. Durm's class, I met Maggie Thomas, the editor of *The Athenian*. It was Maggie who introduced me to Mrs. Tena Bullington, the Student Activities Director. Mrs. Tena is always smiling. She helps the students who work hard to make the campus what it is. It was Mrs. Tena who asked me to be the assistant editor of the newspaper and offered me a scholarship. The most valuable lesson that I have learned while working for Mrs. Tena is that God's grace is sufficient. She is the living example of 2 Corinthians 12:9, "But he

said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me."

There are simply too many kind people for me to mention all of them. There are some people I have just met in passing and couldn't tell you their names if I had to. The ladies who clean the Classroom building, coffee shop baristas, and professors I've never had a class with have all shown me kindness. And of course, there is Mr. Joe Davis. His wisdom shines through his eyes. Mr. Joe proves the existence of angels.

It is the unity and kindness of the people on campus that makes us so unique. As I get ready to graduate I am reminded of what makes this campus, these professors, this staff, and my classmates so special... its harmony and kindheartedness. I am so grateful and am eternally indebted to this University.

Speech is not free anywhere: Realizing universal deceit and truth as a revolutionary act

Grady Anderson
Staff Writer

Internationally acclaimed Chinese artist, Ai Weiwei was detained Sunday, April 3rd, at an airport in Beijing. He was trying to board a flight to Hong Kong when he was taken away by border police. Weiwei seems to be joining a growing list of people whose activism has come to the attention of the Chinese Government. He has been allowed no contact and his cell phone is turned off. Weiwei has come under the eyes of the Government before but has evaded harsh punishment, largely because he is son of the famed communist poet, Ai Qing. That is, up to now.

The New York Times reported: With this in mind, the Chinese government asked Mr. Ai to collaborate with the Swiss architectural firm Herzog & de Meuron on the design for the Olympic stadium, known the Bird's Nest. He did so. The result was a triumph. Then something startling happened: He denounced the Olympics as a feel-good whitewash on China's repressive, market-hungry government. And after the Sichuan earthquake in May 2008, which killed thousands of children who were crushed when their shoddily built schools collapsed, he became an intrepid antiestablishment activist.

Rights advocates say the detentions are an ominous sign that the Communist Party's six-week crackdown on rights lawyers, bloggers and dissidents is spreading to the upper

reaches of Chinese society.

An article from Associated Press said: Jennifer Ng, an assistant who accompanied Mr. Ai on Sunday morning, said he was taken away by uniformed officers as the two of them passed through customs at Beijing International Airport. Ms. Ng said she was told to board the plane alone because Mr. Ai "had other business" to attend. She said Mr. Ai was planning to spend a day in Hong Kong before flying to Taiwan for a meeting about a possible exhibition. Ai has supported Liu Xiaobo, the political prisoner who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize last year; demanded democracy for China; and criticized the government for the death of schoolchildren in the 2008 Sichuan earthquake. The Chinese government has certainly been keeping watch on Ai. As he told the German TV station ARD on Friday: "There are two surveillance cameras at my gate entrance, my phone is tapped, and every message I send on my micro-blog is censored by them. Obviously, I am not free."

It seems that the Chinese don't care about the truth either, at least when it is against their interest. Weiwei was beaten so badly by police in 2009 that he had to have surgery for a cerebral hemorrhage. The same year, his blog was shut down, presumably by the government. Selections from it have just been published by MIT Press as a book, "Ai Weiwei's Blog: Writings, Interviews, and Digital Rants (2006-2009)," edited and translated by Lee Ambrozy. In 2010 he was put

under house arrest in Beijing while a newly built studio in Shanghai was razed by city authorities on the pretext of having been built without proper permits, the Times reported. On the evening of 11 January 2011, Ai's studio was demolished in a surprise move by the local government.

In a world of mass media and social networking it is becoming harder and harder for these hard-line Governments to keep secrets. When news travels as fast as a click on a keyboard, no Government can silence the people who are tired of living under oppressive regimes. We have seen it though out the Middle East and other parts of the world. It is a growing revulsion to the powers that be, and The United States is not immune to this. Speech is not free in most countries, including the U.S. You can be imprisoned for speaking out against atrocities committed by Government agencies and their cronies, as we have seen firsthand, in the case

of Private First Class -Bradley Manning and Wikileaks.

We live in a time when it is looked down upon to tell the truth and stand up for right. There can be no corruption, no unbridled killings, no hidden secret agendas poised at the interest of the elite when there are people willing to stand up for what is right. That's what all world Governments are afraid of.

I wonder if novelist George Orwell knew how prophetic his statement would become when he said "In a time of universal deceit, telling the truth is a revolutionary act."

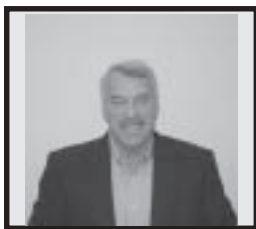
Ai Weiwei did nothing wrong except express himself with his art and his speech, and now he has lost his freedom over it. With China being one of the most oppressive countries in the world with regard to human rights, hopefully he won't lose his life over it.

Be well Ai Weiwei, I for one am behind you. Stand for truth, free speech will follow.



Ai Weiwei was taken taken captive at Beijing airport. Photo from Internet

Columns



Comforting the afflicted, afflicting the comfortable

Dr. Mark Durm
Professor of Psychology

Today the Christian religion celebrates Easter, the resurrection of Christ on the third day after his crucifixion. The early church, however, may have believed the Spirit of Jesus was very active during his forty hours of burial. Remember, it was Jewish custom to count any part of a day as a whole day. Thus the last part of Friday was the first day, Saturday was the second day, and the first part of Sunday was the third day. Thus, Jesus was buried approximately forty hours.

This activity of Jesus' spirit may be explained in part by an obscure passage in the Gospel of Matthew. It relates that Jesus was not the only one to be resurrected in this three day period during Passover. In my entire life, I have neither heard a sermon nor read a Sunday school lesson about this passage.

In the Gospel of Matthew, which is the most Jewish gospel in the New Testament, in chapter 27 verses 51 through 53, there are four events recorded. After Jesus gave up the spirit on that Friday, the first three instances that happened were: 1. the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to

bottom; 2. the earth shook and the rocks split; and 3. the tombs broke open and the bodies of many holy people were resurrected from death. Thus, according to the Bible, these holy people were also resurrected. The fourth occurrence in these verses did not occur until Sunday when Jesus himself arose. Verse 53 relates these risen holy people went into Jerusalem and appeared to many people. Strangely, these resurrected holy people were never heard from again in Matthew and are not, to the best of my knowledge, ever mentioned anywhere else in the entire New Testament. Why?

Why would the author of the gospel of Matthew include this but none of the other gospels? Well, remember Matthew is the most Jewish gospel and the Jewish community, the sect called the "way" which was the forerunner of Christianity, would have been familiar with "The Book of Enoch". Even though Enoch is not in the Bible, it was considered "scriptural" in this community. One good example, among others, is verses 14 and 15 in the Letter of Jude in the New Testament; they are almost a word for word quote from Enoch. Most scholars

date Enoch to the second century before Christ. Fragments of ten separate manuals of this book were found among the Dead Sea scrolls at Qumran, thus predating Christ. Enoch is still being read today in certain Coptic Christian Churches in Ethiopia. Joseph B. Lumpkin in his book "The Lost Book of Enoch" writes "...there are over one hundred comments in the New Testament which finds precedence in the Book of Enoch."

Let me now quote from Enoch (Richard Laurence and R. H. Charles translations) chapter 51, verses 1 and 2:

And in those days shall the earth also give back that which Has been entrusted to it, and Sheol (the grave) also shall give back

That which it has received, and hell shall give back that which It owes. For in those days the elect one shall arise, and he shall

Choose the righteous and holy from among them. For the day Has drawn near that they should be saved.

Thus, in my opinion, to fulfill Enoch's prophecy, Matthew writes of resurrections occurring in addition to the one of Christ.

Moreover, a question to be asked

is what did the early church believe the spirit of Jesus was doing during the approximate forty hours his body was buried? According to 1 Peter 3:18-20, He descended into hell. It reads in part "...He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit, through whom also he went and preached to the spirits in prison who disobeyed long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built..."(NIV).

In addition, in the Catholic's Apostles Creed it reads in part "...Jesus Christ... born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead..." Many Protestant churches, however, have omitted the phrase "he descended into hell" from their Apostles Creed.

The belief that He descended into hell was necessary again, in my opinion, to fulfill Enoch's prophecy in chapter 51 "...hell shall give back that which it owes...the Elect One shall rise and he shall choose the righteous and holy from among them." And thus Matthew writes "The tombs broke open and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life."

Today the Christian religion celebrates Easter, the resurrection of Christ on the third day after his crucifixion. But, we do not celebrate, as the early church did, his activities during those three days.



One pair of tickets available to the first student with the correct answer.

Movie Trivia

The film "Water for Elephants" is based on a novel by what author?

All movie passes courtesy of Cinemagic Theatre Athens, AL



Submit answers to the Student Activities Office room 217.

Campus Events

May 7 50 Year Club Luncheon

May 9 State of the City Address by Mayor Marks

May 12 Annual Alumni Golf Classic

May 14 Spring 2011 Commencement Ceremonies

May 15 ASU Community Band Spring Concert

Running

Continued from page 2

adrenaline rush that leaves you with the greatest sense of completion at the cross of every finish line. It's honestly not about winning anymore. It's about knowing that I did something that someone else can't

do, that I just ran for four hours, and I'm somehow standing. When people look at me in disbelief, I can never find a way to explain it. It's like Forrest Gump said, "I just felt like running."

Opinion

Assistant editor challenges the young adults of Athens State University to think objectively

Erin Minor
Assistant Editor

As young adults we sometimes don't pay attention to the news. We feel like it doesn't apply to us, and I am talking about myself as well. It's hard because we all have opinions and young adults are the ones who let their opinions be made known. I know that asking us to remove our opinions is difficult; it is hard for me to write objectively. Opinions are important, but even more important are the facts. It is my goal to remind us that we can and should learn to think objectively.

Perhaps the first step in this process is to truly understand what thinking objectively really means. The word "thinking" refers to anything that goes on in our minds; it therefore has a very extensive definition. We can't help thinking; as long as we are conscious, we are thinking. Thinking is a particular kind of mental activity, the kind involved in getting to the bottom of a problem, studying for a test, or defending your position on controversial issues.

When thinking objectively we have to keep in mind that our thinking is different from our feelings. People often presuppose this means that a person

with strong emotions is irrational or that commonsensical people are unemotional. This is not the case. We all think AND we all feel. We can have clear logical minds AND passionate feelings. Keeping that in mind we need to comprehend that thinking and feelings do have different roles to fulfill. Thinking is something we have to do, and nearly everyone chooses to think with some measure of effort. Thinking is a skill that everyone has and that everyone can improve.

Now, we must establish what objectivity means. It merely means staying in touch with the facts. We already know that thinking is something we do whether we want to or not; objectivity is an option. If we want to think objectively, we have to choose not to indulge in wishful thinking. In addition, we cannot allow predisposition or intolerance to twist our judgment. Objectivity, like thinking, also involves skill. It is nearly impossible for us to be fully objective. When we learn to evaluate the arguments we hear, how to steer clear of ambiguity, and how to keep away from vagueness in the words we use,

we can begin to think objectively. Objectivity also has a social facet. It means not merely presenting your own ideas rationally, but also listening to what others have to say. Objectivity does not require you to be dispassionate, nonpartisan, or unresponsive to the issue. It does require an effort on our part to look at the matter from the other person's point of view. Even if your view is right, it is rare that any single viewpoint makes known the complete truth.

Thinking objectively is the capacity to step back from our train of thought and scrutinize it critically. It truly is a virtue because it is the ONLY way to avoid jumping to conclusions, the ONLY way to ensure the results of our thinking, the ONLY way to make sure that we are in the touch with the facts.

We must remember that there is not a book of life that has the answers in it. There is no way to know your opinion is the right one. Good thinking is a self-directed, self-correcting progression and you are the only person who is responsible for your opinions. Objectivity requires that you give a reasonable hearing to the

substantiation and arguments for the other side. Even if you reject another person's stance, in the end knowing why you disagree with them will give you an even more enhanced understanding of your own position.

Thinking objectively is the ability to step back from our own thinking, so that we can see it significantly, through the eyes of someone who does not share our outlook, our inclinations, and our idiosyncrasies. All that we can rationally ask of our audience is the ability to follow our logical connections. In this respect, logic, and language, is a shared framework without which we could not communicate. I encourage you to begin trying to think objectively. I am tired of turning on the news (whatever the station) and hearing everyone's opinion. I tend to watch the news for the purpose of obtaining facts. The saddest part of all, is that opinion based news is beginning to alter the way we debate and even think. I want to let you know that you ARE allowed to think before you speak, nothing bad will happen; I can promise nothing bad will happen if you do take the time to think about what you are saying.

*You can also check out The Athenian online at
www.athens.edu!*

The transfer from school to school: This future educator reflects on the making the transition from student to teacher

Kara Faulk
Assistant Editor

As a prospective graduate and hopeful educator, I often wonder what my life will be like in the transfer. Today, I work a full-time job, write for this newspaper, and subject myself to fifteen hours of Athens State courses. I find, however, that when I put all of these responsibilities aside and focus on my Field Experience hours, that is when I find myself most exhausted. I believe that it is due to the fact that I observe teachers that pour nothing short of everything that they have into their career, and I want to do the same. My mother once said that, "Teachers are trained to make everyone else think that they have a lot less going on than they actually do." This terrifies me because if she has any more going on in her classroom and after hours than it seems, I wonder how in the world I will ever keep up!

Two of my very dear friends, Jessica Aguirre and Brooke Norton, are just ahead of me in this so-called "transfer." Norton graduated in December of 2006 and is currently teaching 6th, 7th, and 8th grade English at East Limestone High School. Aguirre graduated in December of 2010 and acquired an English teaching position at Hazel Green

High School. I was with both of these girls when they found out that they would be given these opportunities, and I knew from the ecstatic look on their faces that this was the sense of accomplishment that I could not wait to feel. These girls inspire me to press forward as they speak about their love for their lives and the passion and fulfillment that they find in their careers. During our weekly coffee meetings, these ladies tell me about the education field and how it differs from my expectations. While I feel that the educators at Athens State University are highly qualified and excellent in every aspect of the word, it would be impossible to fully prepare a student for all of the situations to be faced in the school system. The girls explained to me that even field experience falls short of preparing you for the education field.

Brooke and Jessica always have interesting stories to tell, things that I wouldn't expect to occur without hearing straight from them, some positive and some not-so-positive. The problem with the classes I'm taking in order to be a certified teacher is that

Please see Transfer page 8



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Healthy is in the eye of someone who gets regular checkups.
Experience the latest technology in eye exams – the Optomap™ Retinal Exam – painlessly producing the most comprehensive image of your retina available, helping us detect disease and prevent vision loss and blindness. Visit our website to learn more about this as well as our Guaranteed Contact Lens Success Program; Comprehensive Disease Testing and Vision Therapy for Vision and Learning Disorders.
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Campus News

Adam Keller: Could he be the best Social Sciences major Athens State has ever produced?

Erin Minor and
Maggie Thomas
Best newspaper staff ever?

Adam Keller, a social sciences major here at Athens State, has made a huge accomplishment. Dr. Harry Joiner contacted our office to applaud the effort of an exceptional student. We were informed that Keller scored a 198 out of 200 on the Social Sciences Praxis. According to Dr. Joiner, students at Harvard and Yale do not score as high as Keller did last summer.

During the interview with Keller we instantly noted his humble attitude. He insisted that he didn't deserve the credit Dr. Joiner had given him. "I don't think I am an exceptional student, I just love what I am studying," Keller told *The*

Athenian. He also returned compliments to Dr. Joiner expressing how much he respected his professor, "I could not have made that score without him."

Keller is not only intelligent beyond comprehension; he is also a motivated and caring person. We asked what his career plans were, to which he replied "I just want to teach." He desires to educate his future students, but even more than that he wants to be able to make a difference in the lives of teens. "If I can do it, so can they," said Keller.

Keller made Athens State proud and we celebrate with him in his accomplishment.



Photo by Maggie Thomas

Adam Keller, the Hulk Hogan of Social Sciences majors, recently scored a 198 on the Praxis.

ASU's Phi Theta Kappa holds its annual induction and inducts eighteen new members

Danielle Dutcher
Guest Writer

On April 1, 2011 in the Chapel of Founders Hall, Phi Theta Kappa held their annual induction ceremony. This year eighteen new members were inducted including: Elizabeth Brackine, Amy Conger, Corey Flanagan, Jerry Free, Hannah Kilpatrick, Norma Malone, Miranda Mitchell, Jennifer Rogers, Joy Shuster, Brian North, Patricia Umphrey, Joanne Pearson, Jon-Thomas Willett, John Murphy, Marie Osborn, Bobby Walker and Sara McGraw.

Phi Theta Kappa has been working on leadership, scholarship and service projects throughout the school

year. The organization has provided induction fee scholarships to eight surrounding chapters at local community colleges. At the Regional Convention



Photo courtesy of Danielle Dutcher

PTK's officers from L-R: Jeremy Wilt, Hannah Kilpatrick, Jennifer Rogers, Shannon Roberts, Joanne Pearson, Lilly Parker, and Amy Conger.

held at Northwest Shoals Community College in March, Athens State Phi Theta Kappa Chapter was awarded the Alumni Outstanding Service Award for the Alabama Region. The chapter will be going to Seattle, Washington in April to participate in the annual Phi Theta Kappa International Convention. The chapter has many projects lined up, including a yard sale on April 30 at Athens State University. If you have any questions or would like to be a part of Phi Theta Kappa, contact faculty advisor Dr. Kim Lafavor at Kim.Lafavor@athens.edu.

SGA Spring Cookout



Courtesy photo

IMA provides dessert and information about their club at the cookout.



Courtesy photo

Jim Minor, Alumni Board Member, and Andrea Martin, secretary for the Alumni Office, participated in the cookout.



Courtesy photo

Andrea Martin made ice cream sundaes at this year's cookout.

Campus News

Is painting obsolete?: Professor of Art asks if painting is an archaic form of expression

Pamela Keller
Guest Writer

We could all name a recent piece of music that has had not only an effect upon us but also upon countless other people who have heard it. We could all name a recent movie or a television show that has also had an effect on of large numbers of viewers. Who could name a recent still image that has had an effect on a large number of people? Granted, occasionally a photographic image will appear that captivates an audience. It hasn't happened recently. When a still image does capture the attention of many, it is generally a photograph that freezes a split second of a dramatic time to allow us to take our time visually examining a particular moment of an event. For example, the *V-J Day in Times Square* photograph by Alfred Eisenstaedt that portrays an American sailor kissing a young nurse in a white dress on V-J Day in Times Square on August 14, 1945, or the picture from the Vietnam war by Eddie Adams showing South Vietnamese General Nguyen Ngoc Loan executing a Viet Cong officer with a single shot to the head or the photographs from Abu Ghraib showing military personnel appearing to torture and abuse prisoners have all garnered public attention and reaction. Yet, what painting in recent years has done so? Can a painting affect a large number of people or is painting an archaic form of expression and communication in today's world?

For centuries, painting has been able to express ideas, show meaning, create decoration, and serve as a tool for learning. Many people throughout history have depended on painting to communicate

ideas, to stimulate ideas, and to understand ideas. Painting used to connect people as a common language. Other media does that for us now. So what's a painting to do? Simply be decorative? Act only as a means of expression for a painter, with

no real hope of communicating to a wide audience? Cease to continue as an art form?

Painting has been given up for dead many times, yet artists continue to want to do it. Painting is what I prefer to do when in the studio. I know that the art

forms like Iphone aps, CGI animation, video, installation, digital photography, and performance art are more popular. I know that I'm not making my living as a painter. In fact, I rarely even exhibit my paintings, let alone sell them.

Still, I continue to paint. Some artists continue to paint because they believe that painting can capture the zeitgeist of our times. I am less high minded. I do it for me. I do it knowing my audience may be very limited. I do it having personally been to many estate auctions where elderly, deceased artist's art work is sold in boxes, often for less than a dollar a canvas. I think that asking whether a painting in recent years has affected a large number of people in the way of other media isn't the right question. Asking if painting is an archaic form of expression and communication in today's world isn't the right question. Let's ask instead if the painter found the painting materially sensual. Let's ask if the painter figured things out for herself and enjoyed taking some 'breaking-the-art-rules' risks in the piece. Let's ask if the painter experienced the challenge of craftsmanship. I paint as evidence of my concerns, my passions, my thinking, and my observations. It's an act completely subjective and full of sensual pleasure. I know it has value when I loved doing it and still want to look at it once it's finished. Let me just add that the art department teaches several painting courses that have no prerequisites if you are interested in figuring out why you might need to paint!



Painting by Pamela Keller

This painting is entitled "Adoption--My mother stood in line 16 years to get me."

Psi Chi Induction



Photo courtesy of Cynthia Robbins
Above are the newly inducted Psi Chi members.



Photo courtesy of Cynthia Robbins
Dr. Durm with Psi Chi officers: Alicia Longmore, Jeanna Blicher, Bridget Kelley, and Tami Shoenberger.



Photo courtesy of Cynthia Robbins
Dr. Janet Dorning was presented with a certificate of appreciation for her past work with Psi Chi by Dr. Durm.



Photo courtesy of Cynthia Robbins
Spring 2011 graduating seniors: Cynthia Robbins, Jeanna Blicher, Clarissa Williams, Tami Shoenberger, Timothy Wallace, and Valerie Hayes.

Campus News

April 27, 2011: Deadliest tornado outbreak in over forty years devastates southern area

Kara Faulk
Assitant Editor

April 27, 2011 is a day that will never be forgotten in North Alabama. It's odd that when such traumatic events occur, we don't realize the reality, or the severity, of the disaster right away. On that dreadful Wednesday morning, I rolled out of the bed, ate breakfast, and put on my new rain boots, just excited that I would have this opportunity to wear them. My grandparents gave me the usual, "watch the weather because it's supposed to be nasty," to which I laughed, chalking them up to the worry warts that they are. Maggie Thomas and I were laying out this edition of the newspaper when we were called to take precautions for the tornado warning. I must admit that, at first, I was sincerely peeved about the situation. As a child reared in Alabama, I have stuck many a hardback book over my head in the hallway only to return to the classroom with time wasted and no storm damage to be found. Don't get me wrong, I am terrified of storms, but I felt that these tornado warnings had become synonymous with the boy who cried wolf, and didn't they know that Maggie and I were on a roll!

Maggie and I waited patiently in the hallway, and when we returned to see what was going on, reality began to sink in. We watched the news and waited for a break in the storms; when one

presented itself, we made a break for it. I made it home, not without several minor panic attacks as my Camry hydroplaned the entire way. Once I realized this storm meant business, I was not leaving the security of my basement. We watched the news and heard the terrible stories about what had happened in Tuscaloosa, Alabama and other southern states; still, the news didn't seem real to us. I made my rounds, calling all of my friends and family members making sure that everyone was okay. I lost cell phone reception; then the power flickered and was gone. I swear I felt like a star in the movie, *Twister*. Hours passed. When the coast was supposedly clear, we walked outside to access the damage. Trees snapped, power lines strewn across the streets, wrecked cars lined the median, and the power was out for as far as I could see. Driving down Highway 72, we found Bethel Church of Christ was gone, and houses, even neighborhoods, no longer existed. East Limestone Road and the entire Tanner community were left with nothing but destruction. I absolutely could not believe my eyes; houses were leveled, businesses were demolished, trees snapped, and items were strewn everywhere. Seeing this gave me flashbacks of the time that I spent in Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina hit, and in that moment I realized that we were going to make history. It's so strange to me that these historical

moments go flying by before we even realize that we're actually living this natural disaster. Up until this point we've only seen this type of thing on CNN, sympathizing with those "poor people," though we have no inkling of an idea what they are experiencing.

My mother lives in Harvest, Alabama. My childhood best friend lives only blocks from the rubble that was once Tuscaloosa, Alabama, now seeming more like a warzone. Lives can be destroyed in a matter of seconds. While we were hiding in our safe places, everything around us was being taken away and destroyed. Towns like Hackleburg, Phil Campbell, and Tuscaloosa are nearly lost altogether. Power has been gone for three days and not expected to be returned for at least four more. Businesses are shut down.

The city of Huntsville is inoperable. Heaven help us, Wal*Mart is closed! Many have no way of seeing or hearing about the wreckage and still do not know the severity of the situation. Houses were leveled, and whole neighborhoods wiped away. Complaints have been made about lack of cable television, while many have lost everything that they own. 297 people have lost their lives across the southern states in the nation's deadliest tornado outbreak in over forty years, over two-thirds of that toll from Alabama. Firefighters, police officers, and other crews are surveying the damage, and the count is rising daily. Our hearts go out to all of those affected by the storms. I encourage everyone to forget about power and television, using this time to help those in need, those that have lost all that they once had.



Photo from Internet

This photo was captured Wednesday in Cleveland, Tennessee.

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Transfer

Continued from page 5

they can not adequately prepare you for the difficulties and the various situations to be faced. I know that I can make a lesson plan, and I know, or at least hope, that I can manage a classroom. I do not know how I will handle the pressure of unexpected situations that are bound to arise. Brooke did say once, though, that, "the satisfaction that you feel at the end of semester knowing that you changed lives in a big way makes all of the stress

well worth it." She also told me that even the smallest of things that the students do to show that she is making a difference give her a huge attitude adjustment, reminding her that education is her life calling. I also know that these girls put in many late nights and weekend hours because they are so dedicated to their jobs. I know that being a college student isn't easy but the hours that I put into my education do not hold a candle to the time that they put into the education of others. That's what being a teacher is about! At least as a student, I'm only responsible for my education. I am anxious and nervous to know that I will be responsible for someone else's, much less hundreds of them.

Campus News

Athens State University Alumni Golf Classic is just around the corner

Guy McClure
Guest Writer

Registration and sponsorships are now under way for the Annual ASU Alumni Golf Classic scholarship fundraiser.

The four-man scramble is scheduled for May 12th with a shotgun start at 1 p.m. at Canebrake Golf Club in Athens. The cost is \$100 per person or \$400 per team and includes green fees, cart, refreshments, two mulligans, a noon lunch, hospitality gifts and skill prizes. Sponsorships include a \$100 shared hole, \$250 quarter hole, \$500 half hole and \$1000 full hole with a sign or banner.

McClary Ford has donated four hole-in-one prizes- 2011 Ford Focus, TV, set of golf clubs and a \$500 Visa gift card and JJ and Dottie Donahue have



Photo courtesy of Guy McClure

Jim McClary and Mickey Smith of McClary Ford, Golf Classic Chair JJ Donahue, and Alumni Director Trish DiLullo.

donated a \$10,000 hole-in-one prize. HealthSource of Athens will also be available for consultations and will donate a free pair of custom orthotics (\$300 value).

Proceeds from the tournament go directly to student scholarships for the next academic year. Alumni Director Trish Di Lullo states, "This event has always proven to be not only the largest fundraiser for the Alumni Association but also the most fun."

To register or to become a sponsor, contact the Office of Alumni Affairs at 256-233-8185 or email trish.dilullo@athens.edu.

Yale University's Dr. David Blight speaks about the Civil War and America's interest in it

Zach Jones
Guest Writer

What is it that draws us to the bloody and horrific event that is the American Civil War? This was the question posed in rhetoric by Yale University's Dr. David Blight during his lecture on the campus of Athens State University on the evening of March 25, 2011. Blight intrigued his audience with insight and reason as to what the Civil War was in essence, its effect on our nation, and what it meant to the nation as a historical event. He posed interesting, thought provoking questions about why we are so attracted to the event, how the nation felt and feels about the war, and even specifically how the south incorporates

the war into its own identity.

Dr. Blight joined the staff at Yale in 2003 and as of June, 2004, he is Director of the Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition. He is considered one of the upmost authorities on the American Civil War, slavery, and abolition, and was elected as a member of the Society of American Historians in 2002. Blight has published several award winning books, among these is his latest accomplishment: *A Slave No More: Two Men Who Escaped to Freedom, Including Their Narratives of Emancipation*, (Harcourt, 2007). This

book is based on two newly found accounts written by the two slaves that act as the subject. Upon asking Blight about this book, he said, "It was my favorite to write, but also the most challenging." He went on to say that he had to reconstruct the lives of two men that had been unknown prior to the discovery of their narrative accounts. *A Slave No More* won three awards and honors, and received raving reviews from *Washington Post*, *Chicago Tribune*, *New York Post*, *Boston Globe* and many more.

Blight can be heard in Raleigh, North Carolina on May 28, 2011. After

that, he will be speaking in Jerusalem, Israel; New York City, New York; Litchfield, Connecticut; and San Antonio, California. One can expect to hear about his experiences at Yale University, the creation of his works, and his insights on the occurrences of the Civil War. More information on David Blight can be found on his faculty page at: <http://www.yale.edu/history/faculty/blight.html>. He also has a personal website including information on his calendar, books, and press. This information, along with his contact details, can be found at <http://www.davidwblight.com>

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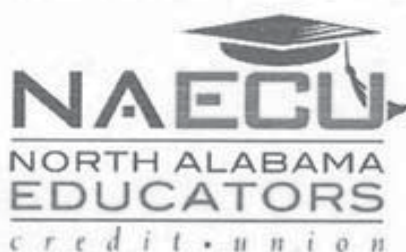
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All funds are federally insured by the NCUA up to \$250,000.

Campus News

Athens State's Art Club keeps busy by volunteering in the community and visiting museums

Gail Bergeron
Guest Writer

The Athens State Art Club has been busy this semester working on community projects and visiting museums.

The "Chili Challenge" is a major fundraiser for Hospice of Limestone County, and this year the ASU Art Club made a paper mache long horned bull, by request, for the table of the winning chili, of our very own computer science professor, Dr. Amos Confer. Amos has a long history of winning public cooking events, and if you want to talk good food, talk to Amos Confer.

The art club painted the "Founders Pride" rooster for The Carnegie Arts Trail, a fundraiser for the Carnegie Visual Arts Center in Decatur, Alabama. A silhouette of Founders Hall dormers and a bright blue sky run diagonally along each side of the metal sculpture, which proudly faces the future building of the North Alabama Center for the Arts.

Leah Pierce, the art teacher at James L. Cowart Elementary School, designed a mosaic as part of the mission of becoming a "lighthouse" school, which reflects the teachings of author, Stephen Covey. Mr. Covey is scheduled to visit the school in late April. The Art Club used mosaic tiles to mirror that positive vision and it is now on permanent display in the school entrance way.

On April 7th, the Art Club collaborated with the Athens State University Student Government Association in setting up a booth to

create clay bowls for an "Empty Bowls" event in May. With the help of students, faculty, and friends, eighteen bowls were produced for this upcoming event.

In our April club meeting, Dr. Amos Confer presented us with a slide show and discussion on the production of "Generative Art" which combines programming and graphic art in an unconventional manner. This presentation was engaging and certainly a new avenue for our art students to consider in this ever changing digital technology.

On April 9th, we made a trip to the Birmingham Museum of Art to see their fabulous permanent collection, and the current Darkroom exhibit featuring works on South Africa and the Apartheid Movement. This was not the kind of exhibit that we felt joyous about, but it brought us to a sudden reality of how fortunate we are to be on the outside and not on the inside of that photograph. A trip to a nearby art store and lunch were the next two stops, before heading back to campus.

The next weekend brought us to

The Frist Art Center in Nashville, Tennessee, where Vishnu, Hinduism's Blue-Skinned Savior, was on view. Most works referenced the religious beliefs involving reincarnation and deities Vishnu the Preserver; Shiva the Destroyer; and Devi the Great Goddess. The show included clay and metal sculpture as well as large photographs and paintings.

At ASU, clubs help students and other organizations reach their goals. One of the last events that the club assisted was the Livingston Concert Committee's presentation of the stone carver, Clift Seferlis from Washington D.C. Mr. Seferlis presented a short history of the development and application of stone carving in the United States and the connection of Athens, Alabama and Athens, Greece, by way of stone architecture. The stage was crowded with participants in the stone carving workshop after the well-attended presentation. French Mill Stone provided the materials for the event.

Our last celebration of the semester will be a gathering on the south green-space of Naylor Hall on the ASU campus grounds. It's an old building that has lost its glow, but it is a special spot for our ceramic's department. We will have a cook-out and all of the school clubs are invited on Friday, May 6 at 2:00. We hope to see other clubs join us and soon and we're here for your art experience as well as ours.



Photo courtesy of Gail Bergeron
The Art Club in Nashville, TN. From L-R: Sarah Heidtmann, Karman Sledge, Rita Wood, Rhia McAllister, Kim Weisenberger, Shannon Roberts.

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Athens State Hosts Dinner Theatre

Maggie Thomas
Editor

It's been a while since Athens State University has hosted a dinner theatre, but Director of Student Activities, Tena Bullington and Professor of English and Drama, Dr. Al Elmore are hoping to change that. On February 17, 2011, Bullington and Elmore presented the wildly funny play Greater Tuna. The play starred

Graham Roden and Michael Wood, and was directed by Ron Harris.

The event was open to the public and had a great turn out. Bullington plans to host a dinner theatre again next year, so those who missed it this year shouldn't worry. You'll get a chance to experience the fun soon!

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Campus News

Phi Theta Kappa awarded the 2011 International Alumni Association Award of Merit

Guy McClure
Guest Writer

Athens State University's Phi Theta Kappa Alumni Association traveled to Seattle, WA for the annual Phi Theta Kappa International Convention, held April 7-9. Over 3,500 Phi Theta Kappa honor students and faculty scholars and advisors were in attendance.

The Athens State chapter was awarded the 2011 International Alumni Association Award of Merit. This award recognizes an alumni association which has been exemplary in meeting the mission of Phi Theta Kappa's Alumni Association. Selection is based on a nomination that states the association's goals and objectives for the year and how these objectives were met.

As the 2011 overall winner, the Athens State University Phi Theta Kappa Alumni Association was presented this prestigious award by Dr.

Rod Risley, CEO and President of Phi Theta Kappa International and Dr. Nancy Rieves, Phi Theta Kappa Foundation Chair. The award was based on an exemplary demonstration of their willingness to go above and beyond in the areas of scholarship, leadership, fellowship and service, in their endeavors to promote these hallmarks and assisting local junior college chapters.

While there were many initiatives sponsored by the Athens State University Phi Theta Kappa Alumni Association this past year that earned them this award, the three most significant included: 1) promoting and awarding eight Phi Theta Kappa Scholarships (six to the Alabama Region and two to the Tennessee Region) and related membership initiatives to grow membership and reduce chapter costs; 2) sponsorship of a Phi Theta Kappa Honors Day event; and 3) the development, presentation, and

distribution of educational materials, including a research video production, for successfully conducting research for Honors in Action and Hallmarks Award competition for two-year community college chapters.

In addition to receiving the International Phi Theta Kappa Alumni Merit Award this month, the group was presented the Alabama Region Alumni Outstanding Service Award at the Alabama Regional Convention held at Northwest Shoals Community College in March by Dr. Humphrey Lee, President, Northwest Shoals Community College and Phi Theta Kappa Regional Director, Alabama Region.

Also this past month, the Alumni Association held their annual induction ceremony inducting 18 new members: Elizabeth Brackin, Amy Conger, Corey Flanagan, Jerry Free, Hannah Kilpatrick, Norma Malone, Miranda Mitchell, Jennifer Rofers, Joy Shuster, Brian

North, Patricia Umphrey, Joanne Pearson, Jon-Thomas Willett, John Murphy, Marie Osborn, Bobby Walker and Sara McGraw.

New officers were also installed at the ceremony for the upcoming 2011-2012 school year: Jeremy Wilt-Past President and Officer Advisor, Hannah Kilpatrick-President, Shannon Roberts-Vice-President of Leadership-, Joanne Pearson & Lillie Parker- Co Vice-Presidents of Fellowship & Service, Amy Conger & Jennifer Rogers- Co Vice-Presidents of Scholarship, and Danielle Dutcher, Vice-President of Communications.

The Alumni Association has many projects lined up to continue its initiatives to support regional community college chapters. The Alumni Association is looking forward to another year full of service, leadership, scholarship, and fellowship in helping local chapters in any way they can.

Making an impact: Making a difference when it seems that your work goes unnoticed

Kara Faulk
Assistant Editor

When I enrolled at Athens State University, my mom, a graduate of the 1988 class, told me that I just had to take every course that Dr. Al Elmore instructed. She had taken his courses as an ASU student and showed me stacks of papers on which she had written down things that Dr. Elmore had

said that she still uses in her classroom today! How can I make that kind of impact on my students and ensure that students like my mother and me will remember the things that I teach? My mom says that English was an interest of hers until Dr. Elmore turned it into a passion. What she didn't realize was that she did that for me. She set a fire in my heart for literature at an early age, and

she encouraged me to continue in that pursuit whole-heartedly. I know that the beauty of education is a chain reaction.

I know many students fall in love with education and choose a subject with which they feel most comfortable instructing. I did the opposite, fell in love with English so much that I can't help but share that. For this reason, my mother explained that many years go by

that she feels that she didn't affect anyone; however, someone always comes back to explain that she planted a seed. I think that delayed gratification plays a huge part in education. I know that if I can affect one student in the way that Dr. Elmore affected my mother, the way she affected me, these hours that I'm spending at Athens State will be well worth the time and effort.

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1. What book is required reading for the course "History of the English language?"
2. When did Kara Faulk's mother graduate from ASU?
3. What is the percentage of students who attend school full-time and work at 25 hours a week?
4. What score did Adam Keller make on his Praxis?



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