

# Ashe memorial statue dedicated

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — The city that barred young Arthur Ashe from its whites-only tennis courts dedicated a monument to him Wednesday on a boulevard lined with statues of Confederate heroes.

The 12-foot bronze statue of the first black man to win Wimbledon was unveiled on Monument Avenue after more than a year of racially divisive bickering in the former capital of the Confederacy.

"Arthur Ashe Jr. is a true Virginia hero, and he belongs," Ashe's brother, Johnnie Ashe of Atlanta, told about 1,500 people at the ceremony.

Ashe left his segregated hometown as a teenager. He died in 1993 of AIDS, contracted from a

blood transfusion he received during heart surgery.

Plans to honor Ashe with a statue on Monument Avenue drew bitter opposition from people who said the street should be reserved for leaders of the Confederacy.

"We're not going to allow this to happen without some sort of protest," said Ron Doggett, who held up one end of a protest banner at the unveiling. Doggett said he had no problem with honoring Ashe, but felt Monument Avenue was the wrong place.

The statue's creator, Paul DiPasquale, disagreed. "Isn't it for monuments? Isn't it for heroes? No one questions that Arthur Ashe was a hero," DiPasquale said.

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# People-watching allows us to find humor and lessons in life

Oooh man, it's summer and most of us have a little extra time on our hands. So what the heck are we supposed to do with ourselves (after we, like, study or something)? A poor college student's choices are pretty limited.

Let's see, we could sit around and watch the typical reruns of every decent show there is. Boring. We could all go rollerblading or biking. No, that involves money and road rash. Or we could just go out and drink more. Maybe, but hangovers and bounced checks get old fast.

I guess we could just sit around and stare at people... wait, yeah that's it, the sport of people-watching. Think about it — we all do it anyway, unless you walk around staring at the ground. So why can't we make it more fun?

Come to think of it, I think it should get a cubicle in the Student Activities Office. Better yet, the Olympic Games in Atlanta should consider it a new exhibition sport. Thousands of people will be people-watching there anyway.

It's an art form really. You see, the cool thing about this sport is that it doesn't discriminate. Whether you're a freako, a non-freako, a two-strapper, or a one-strapper, black, white, green, purple, short, tall, male or female, anyone who can read this silly column can be a people-watcher.

But, like any sport you have to have to lay down some ground rules.

First, you have to establish your playing field. You must be in the presence of at least five people you don't know.

Watching your roommate stand in the middle of the room, pick his or her nose and eat it doesn't count.

This can be done in virtually any public place: sitting on a bench outside, in the MSC Flag Room, in class during a boring lecture or at our ever-popular Student Recreation Center.

Of course, as in any sport, you have to keep score. You get points for watching someone do something odd or disgusting.

Here's the breakdown. Five points if you catch someone singing (ten if they're really jammin' out), 20 points for watching someone pick their nose (30 if they do something nasty



DAVID BOLDT  
COLUMNIST

with what they find), 50 points for someone scratching themselves, 50 points for a very large person wearing a very small bathing suit, and of course all points are doubled if the person is over 40 years old — tripled if it's a professor or administrator.

Any other odd or disgusting act you witness can be assigned points at your discretion according to how funny it is. Of course, you get 50 points for staring at a very good-looking girl or guy, but use extreme caution — you lose 100 points if he or she catch you staring — a good way to screw up a good score.

Remember, making fun of people where they can hear it is not cool. If you get caught laughing at a football player's girlfriend and get a fat lip — suck it up, it's your own fault.

So is people-watching a stupid ploy from all the snobs in Aggieland to gain new members? Of course not. It doesn't make you a snob. Everyone does it, anyway. Making a sport of it only makes it more fun.

Anyone can do it, and anyone can be a victim. What goes around comes around. That's the beauty of it.

Personally, my favorite spot to people-watch is the outdoor pool at the Student Recreation Center. It's a great place to do some people-watching and get a tan at the same time.

Plus, the potential for points is incredible. The people parked on those rafts and lounge chairs seem to think they have a shell around them.

How many times does a girl have to adjust her bathing suit in a five-minute period? One provisional freshman (provie) I saw set the record at six.

On a serious note, the world and especially America is a wonderful place because of the people who live here and all their interesting differences. Our funny little behavioral quirks are part of what gives each of us our identity. It probably would be cool if occasionally we all took the time to meet some of these people we are looking at.

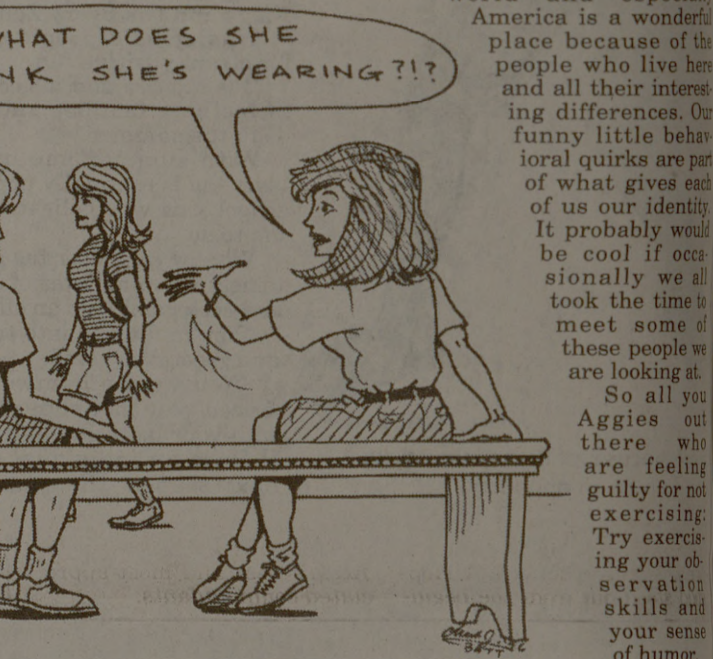
So all you Aggies out there who are feeling guilty for not exercising: Try exercising your observation skills and your sense of humor.

For people-watching is definitely a sport — a sport for all who look and laugh.

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For people-watching is definitely a sport — a sport for all who look and laugh.



David Boldt is a Class of '97 marketing major

# Ingram brings Texas folk back to Bryan

By Michael Cordova  
THE BATTALION

With a wholesome folk sound and his Taylor 810 guitar, Jack Ingram has forged his niche in the country music scene and captured a unique country sound. Ingram, and the Beat Up Ford band will ride into the Dixie Theater Saturday night to continue their journey into the hearts of their fans.

Ingram, a regular for several years in the Bryan-College Station area, said he enjoys coming to College Station.

"I love coming back to A&M because they were the first ones who took us in," he said. "They didn't judge us and just let us play. They helped us play at the places where we play now."

Before his following began, Ingram made his amateur debut at Adair's Saloon while attending Southern Methodist University. He said he learned a few songs, invited his roommates and friends, and began a Tuesday night tradition at the popular Dallas bar.

"After a while, more and more people started to come and the music got better," he said. "It was good for me. I wasn't going anywhere, just playing in my room."

Since his amateur solo debut, Ingram has gained notoriety for his straightforward lyrics and Texas folk sound.

The Fort Worth Star-Telegram describes his music as, "post-outlaw modern country with a salty, dance-all-night roadhouse spunk."

As a foundation for his songs, Ingram said he uses sounds from his music heroes. His influences include country legends Willie Nelson, Jerry Jeff Walker and Merle Haggard.

"I listened to their music because it was simple and strong," he said. "They have the kind of music that you can just turn out the lights and listen to."

Ingram himself has a simple sound that has endeared Texan audiences since the release of his self-titled debut album in 1993. Ingram said he finds inspiration for his songs in everyday life.

"I just see something that moves me to write," he said. "Seeing people on the side of the road or people just hanging around inspire me."

Apparently, Ingram's music has drawn quite a following. His second album *Lonesome Questions* and debut album has sold over 20,000 copies.

He said he hopes his newest album, *Live at Adair's*, the success of his third album will follow the same path. But more importantly, Ingram just envisions playing good music.

"I just want to make good records and write good songs," Ingram said. "The rest takes care of itself."

After his show in Bryan, Ingram and the Beat Up Ford band will travel west to play in Colorado and California. However, Ingram will return to Luckenbach to team up with Jerry Jeff Walker on Labor Day.

"I'm excited about coming back," Ingram said. "I was there last year and it rocked."

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