

The Georgia State University Signal

Student Newspaper

gsusignal.com



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Dr. Cornel West preaches on Socratic questioning

By SABRINA BUCKWALTER
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On Friday, Feb. 25, the University Speakers Series sponsored their first lecturer, Dr. Cornel West who presented in the Speakers Auditorium to a total crowd of over 600 people. The line for auditorium seating had already reached capacity before the event even started, sparking the mass surplus of students and attendees to watch Dr. West on close-captioned television projected in the closed-off overflow section of the State Ballroom in the Student Center.

Created with the collaboration of many including the SGA, the Division of Student Services and the Spotlight Programs Board, the newly formed Speakers Series aims to attract

well-known speakers, who often present instead at neighboring institutions, to Georgia State University.

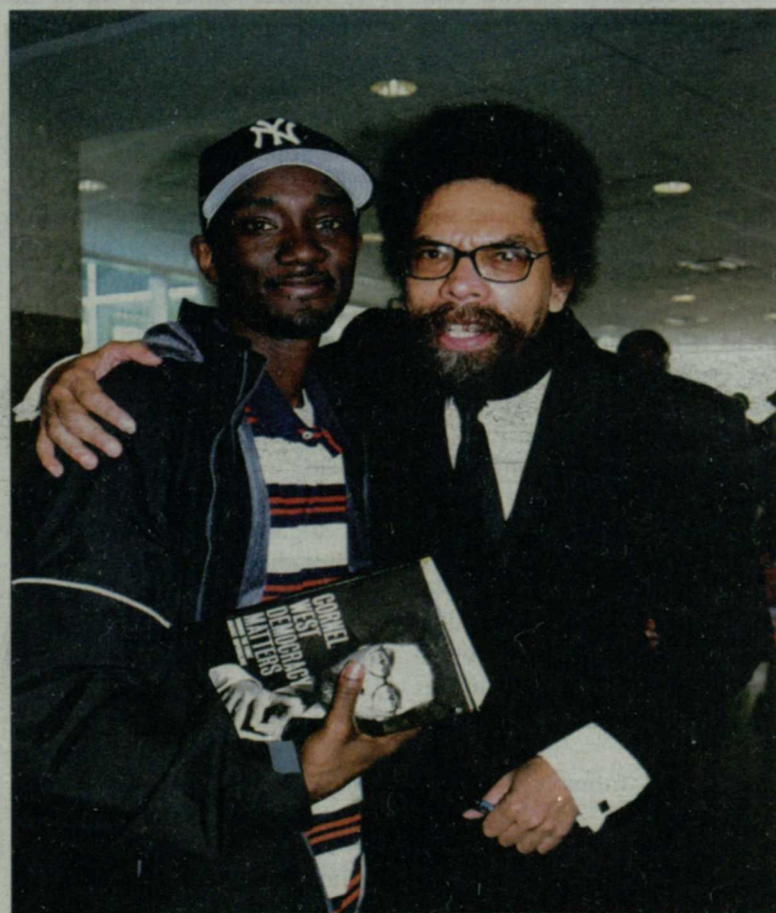
Speaking and analyzing the topic of "Democracy and Politics," Dr. West emphasized the importance of starting from a point of Socratic questioning, asserting the famous quote from Socrates: "The unexamined life is not worth living." Giving current meaning to that idea, he shared, "Malcolm X adds, the examined life is painful."

He advocates self-examination because, "When you're well adjusted to injustice you need to be awakened, you need some unsettling. It is impossible to talk about democracy and politics without then beginning with this Socratic note, which raises the terrifying question about

who we are."

Looking at ourselves deeper, he asks, "Look at America, who is America really? We are a community, we are a world community. [But] who are we when we take off the mask, not simply enacting a social role performing the social function? Who do you really see when you look at yourself in the mirror beyond simply a phenotype and appearance? Quality of your soul, character, virtue? I'm talking about integrity. Socratic note has to do with the quest for intellectual integrity, how you mustered the courage to think critically for yourself outside the box against the grain? William Butler Yeats used to say that it takes more courage to dig deeper in the dark

See WESTI Page 7



Brandon Wiggins | Signal

Dr. Cornel West educates students on democracy and politics in a lecture held at the State Ballroom.

University of Georgia defends use of 'Nigger'

By RHONDA BARNETT
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The quote, "Make way for the nigger," unveiled on Jan. 19, has sparked irreconcilable controversy amongst students and faculty at the University of Georgia.

The controversy comes at a time when the university struggles to increase black student enrollment that has decreased since last year.

The conflict surrounds a display built in Myers residence hall that is dedicated to the first black woman to desegregate the University of Georgia, Charlayne Hunter-Gault, that says, "Make way for the nigger," close to one of her pictures.

According to The Red and Black, the University of Georgia's newsletter Web site, the glass display case houses predominately photos and various memorabilia narrating the events of the Civil Rights Movement and the desegregation of the University.

"It [is] a glimpse of a win-



The display in honor of Charlayne Hunter-Gault, the first African-American female enrolled at the University of Georgia caused racial controversy amongst students.

dow of time into the desegregation of the University of Georgia," said Rick Gibson, Director of Residence Hall Education and Services.

Hunter-Gault, now a CNN bureau chief in Johannesburg, South Africa, endured the racial

slurs shouted by fellow white students as she walked under the huge arch for the first time in 1961. However, the phrase and many similar to it revisited Hunter-Gault the third night she resided on campus. Myers Hall became the platform for an angry

protest by a furious mob in front of the building that lasted until the police arrived.

The Red and Black reported that Hunter-Gault supports the display in its entirety. "I would hope that having raised the issue and sparked the debated, they

[black students] will be a part of a solution that will allow those words to stand as a reminder, however painful, that they are the heirs to a legacy of struggle, but also of victory over bigotry," wrote Hunter-Gault.

Several students at the University of Georgia disagree. "I've been called a nigger, and I've been egged at night," said Renee Ford, a junior at the university. "I don't think we're ready for this on campus. With such a little black community, we're not ready."

Several members of the university chapter of the NAACP voiced outrage as well. Tiffany Chatman, the president of the chapter, said that she cannot speak for the whole chapter, but "I personally feel like the quote should be removed."

Chiquita Melvin, the chapter's vice president, said, "They're not giving people a choice. Myers residents have to walk by it."

Jim Day, Executive Director

See 'NIGGER' | Page 6

Hispanic students uncertain about the future of the Office of Recruitment and Retention

By ALEJANDRO LEAL
aleal@gsusignal.com

Last February, Mike King, the former Public Editor for the Atlanta Journal Constitution wrote a column that generated a lot of controversy. Yet Mike was not at the heart of the debate, he was simply another opinionated outsider chipping his two cents from the periphery.

"Frank talk on illegal immigrants" was the title of this particular piece and as it suggested, it spoke openly about an issue that has been delicate here in Georgia, and in any other state. In his column, King offered "frank" talk on the details regarding the issue of illegal immigration, but the one about education and overcrowding because of immigrant children, touched a soft spot on the local Hispanic community.

King's column outlined a stark reality that many school officials face every day, an issue that takes greater caliber when the students in question are close to graduation. His column, though, was not the only controversial comment on the matter; it was simply one of the latest at that point.

In the following weeks, King's column addressed the issue of undocumented students and began to be openly debated in the local Hispanic press. His column paralleled a bill introduced by state senator Chip Rogers against allowing undocumented students access to Georgia universities. At the same time, Charles Asensio, the director for the state-sponsored Latino Commission for a New Georgia, spoke against allowing students without visas to get access to Georgia's colleges and universities.

The outcry that followed was slightly put off by another members' disagreement. Jose Israel Cortez, the only Mexican-American working in the Commission, told Mundo Hispánico, the largest Hispanic paper in Georgia, that he thought all students, documented or not, have a right to be educated.

The issue has been steadily gaining attention due to the mixed efforts by local, and national, politicians to introduce bills against or protecting undocumented immigrants access to services. President Bush's plan to offer worker permits to Mexican immigrants has been widely criticized and Georgia legislators are against opening the states' departments, such as driver's licensing and education, to them.

Out of all the colleges in the state, Georgia State University is one of the schools that "allow" undocumented students to gain entry. Students do not need to pro-

vide legal proof of residency as long they can pay for out-of-state tuition. In order to help such students, the school has worked with the Goizueta Foundation to provide scholarships and payment flexibility plans. The thinking goes that allowing Latino youth to go to college after high school prevents them from engaging in gang activity or crime.

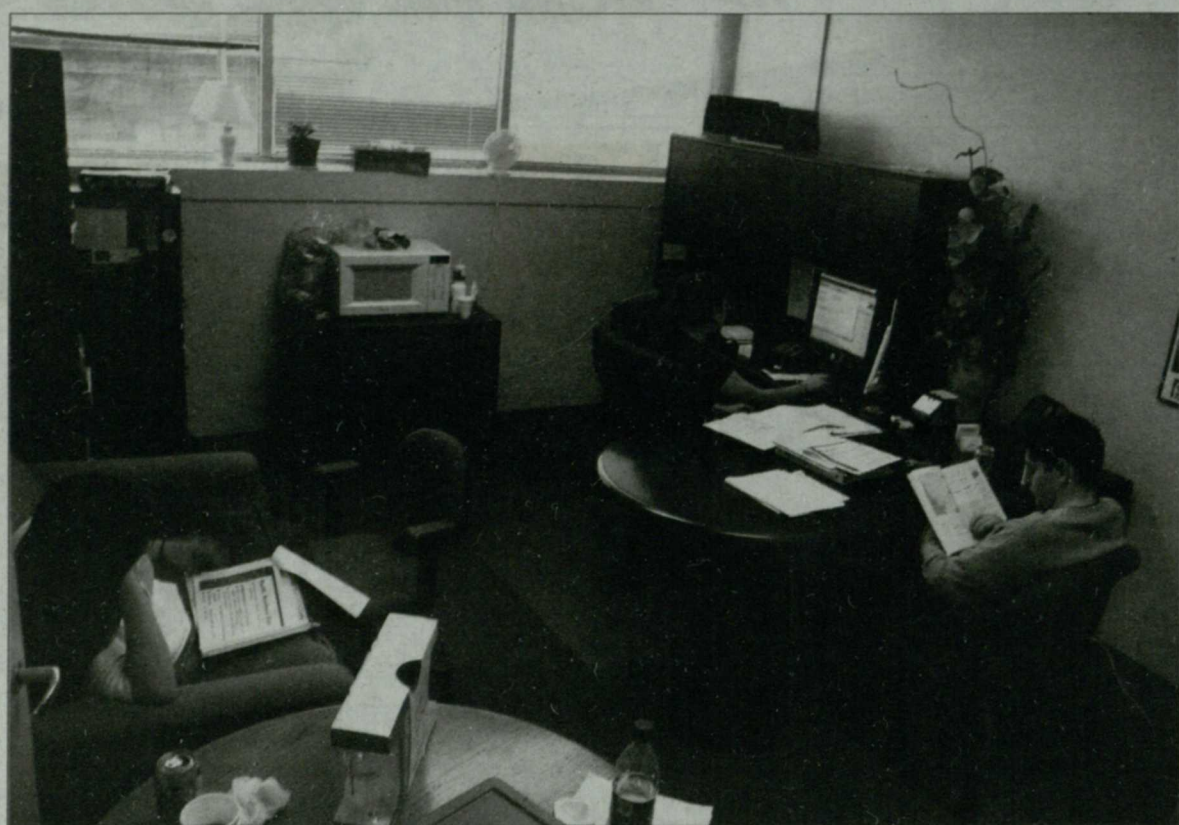
Andrés Patiño was one of the three recipients of the Goizueta scholarship in 2003. He graduated from Berkmar High School among the top 11 students in his class. Sitting in the living room of his university loft apartment, paid for by the scholarship, he says that students need to go to school in order to integrate into general society, especially Hispanic students. "When people like us come to America, its easy for [us] to become a number. To get lost in the shuffle and not get noticed," he said.

His college-hunting process was slightly different from what other traditional high school graduates go through. When his parents moved from Colombia, the idea was for him to stay in the United States to pursue a college education. It made no sense to go back, he says, but at times, it was something he had to consider due to the uncertainty of his future.

He speaks in a reserved tone, at times looking out of the corner of his eye, but he is direct. Like many Hispanic students, he was unsure when he spoke to his high school counselor. Since high schools are not allowed to question students' immigrant status, councilors sometimes do not know what options the Hispanic student has. "In my (high) school, I would let the councilors know what my status was and they would always tell me that I couldn't apply for any scholarship," he says.

He remembers a college fair that took place in his high school's gym. There were representatives of many schools offering all types of degrees and programs that caught his attention. "But we always went straight to the point," he says. "We asked if they offered any financial aid to students like me and the response was always 'no, no, sorry.'"

With the thought of returning to Colombia, he was almost out of hope, until he reached Georgia State's table. There he met Alicia Fosse, the former officer for Student Recruitment and Retention. "Alicia is a person to whom I owe a lot," he said. "At first she told us that there was no possibility." That is, until Patiño made sure to let her know that he was among the top students of his class. "That's when she told us 'well, there is this possibility,' which was the Goizueta scholar-



Special | Signal

The Office of Recruitment and Retention aids Hispanics with future educational plans.

ship" he said.

Even though Patiño is one out of 50 students that were applying for three scholarships in 2003, the money is running out. "This year, there was only one (recipient)" says Patiño.

The problem, though, may not be the lack of funds, but the lack of administrative structure. Alicia Fosse left Georgia State for a position in the Gwinnett County School Board, opening a huge void in an office that has had a positive impact on the Hispanic community.

The office is currently being "run" by student volunteers, mainly those that participate in the High School Outreach program. Michele Morales is the "undesignated" office representative. "We don't really know what is going to become of the office. Alicia was like our MLK of the Latino students at Georgia State. Now that she left, we are just waiting around to see what happens," she said. Although she is a student, she has taken upon herself to try to make some sense of what the current status of the office is.

She has spoken to officials at the Undergraduate Services office to let them know how important it is to have someone that knows the community well. "They know perfectly that everything, from events, to organizations, to leadership, connections, revolved around Alicia and that without someone like her to help us everything can potentially just fall apart," she said.

Like Michelle, other students come and go through the office, trying to maintain the sense of community that was felt when Fosse was around. On a recent

afternoon, three business majors studying for their hospitality management class occupied the office. Morales worked quietly on one computer, while the rest of the students tried to study without being distracted from random conversation topics that sprung up.

Morales says that the Office of Admissions and Undergraduate Services plans to hire someone new for next semester. "The problem with waiting until next semester to fill in the position is that most of the students in the 'leadership team' are leaving or graduating. Therefore, if this new person is not hired until next semester, he or she would have to begin from scratch and all the progress that Alicia made for the past two years would possibly go to waste," she said.

With the uncertainty facing the office, it would seem that the program was not generating results. One of the requirements of the Goizueta scholarship was that students be placed in what Georgia State calls Freshman Learning Communities. Currently, there are two FLC groups targeting Hispanic students. "The Fall 2004 group was extremely energetic," said Angela Hall-Godsey, the English professor for the Hispanic and Latino American FLC. "I feel the main difference between this group and other FLCs is the sense of community. Like the African-American Studies FLC, this group was able to pull from their own personal experiences and get to the root of issues that are germane to the life experience of Latino Americans," she said.

Hall-Godsey speaks well of

the Freshmen Learning Communities, she says that her previous students have kept contact with her and have integrated successfully to the general student body.

When asked if the FLCs helped promote diversity on campus, she thought for a second and concluded, "I guess the real issue here is whether or not lumping Latino students together eliminates the process of emersion with other cultures on campus. [In essence] this is logically correct, but I do believe that the students are forward-thinking enough to make friends outside of the classroom setting."

There are many distinct voices when it comes to immigration policy, particularly, when it involves taxpayer money that is intended to fund the collegiate careers of those who legally live or where born here.

Does Michelle Morales believe everyone should be able to go to college? "Yes!" she exclaimed. "Undocumented students are still people, right? I'm glad you are not using the words 'illegal aliens' to desensitize the fact that these kids are real people," she said.

"I think sometimes we lose concept of that, and we see them as mere numbers and statistics". With a tone of sarcasm, she concluded, "I'm not sure how it would help society though, since most of the 'undocumented students' give up their dreams of higher education and drop out of high school to take crappy jobs that no one wants. Suppressing 'undocumented' students and impeding their higher education just ensures a lower working class; does that help society?"

calendar of events

March 1, 12:00 P.M.

Rally for the basic rights of farm workers!

There will be 50-60 farm workers attending, in addition to students. After 1:00 p.m. the rally will proceed to Taco Bell on Broad Street, located near the Aderhold Learning Center. Location: In front of the Student Center; then at Taco Bell near the Aderhold. Time: From 12 p.m. on. Contact: Janvieve Williams at 404.588.4761 or the Greens of GA State

March 2, 12:30 P.M.

Georgia State University Toastmasters Meeting

Activities include giving impromptu speeches and presenting prepared speeches. The audience will offer constructive evaluation. Every prepared speaker is assigned an evaluator who points out speech strengths and offers suggestions for improvement.

Time: 12:30pm-1:15, meetings every Wednesday

Location: Room 609 Classroom South
Admission: free, apply at the first meeting
Contact: Tony Yeung at
mr.tony.yeung@gmail.com or go to
www.gsu.edu/gsutoastmasters

March 4, 10:00 A.M.

Terrorism and Natural Disasters: Challenges for and Responses of the Modern Police Crime Lab

The Department of Criminal Justice Georgia International Law Enforcement Exchange (GILEE) presents the briefing which will be given by Brigadier General Dr. Elazar Zadok, head of the Division of Identification and Forensic Science for the Israel Police. Dr.

Zadok will share the experience and expertise accumulated by Israeli forensic experts in frequent terrorism atrocities and in the identification process of the Asian tsunami victims.

Time: Friday March 4 from 10:00-11:30 A.M.

Location: Speakers Auditorium

Admission: Free to all GA State students, faculty and staff

Contact: Angela Arnold 404.651.1835

Public Relations Coordinator for the College of Health and Human Sciences

March 16, 12:00 P.M.

Weight Management Makeovers

A lunch and lecture series by Georgia State University's Department of Nutrition. The first lecture will be Dissect Popular Diets presented by Sherry Shipskie, graduate student. Bring your lunch and join us each week as you learn to reshape your diet for long-term weight control. Arrive on time for a door prize drawing. Later lectures will include Downsize Your Diet with Portion Control and Sort Through Dietary Supplements.

Time: 12:00 pm-1:00pm

Location: 480-485 University Center

Admission: Open to anyone

Contact: Sherry Shipskie at

sshipskie@student.gsu.edu for more information

March 14-17, 12:00 P.M.

International Education Week

The Association of International Students of the College of Education is having events all week to celebrate and discuss international education.

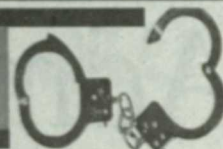
Time: 12:00pm-1:00pm

Location: The College of Education

Admission: Open to anyone

Contact: Yesmin Ozbarlas@aol.com for more information

campus crime



Robbery/Recovery

Forsyth St at Luckie St

A Recovered Property report was filed by an officer. The officer observed a vehicle that had been illegally parked since 02/14/05. The officer conducted a vehicle history check on 02/16/05 at 9:45 am with positive results for a stolen vehicle out of Atlanta. APD was notified.

Broad St

A Robbery/Recovery report was filed by a non-Georgia State individual. The officer observed several individuals chasing an individual who had stolen the complainant's purse on 02/24/05 at 12:50 pm. The officer pursued the subject and made contact. A criminal history check was conducted with negative results. The subject was arrested, processed and transported to Fulton County Jail. The purse was recovered and returned to the complainant.

Entering Auto

5 Points Garage

An Entering Auto report was filed by a faculty member. The complainant stated that he parked his vehicle on 02/23/05 at 7:10 am. When he returned at 3:10 pm his vehicle had been broken into. Nothing was taken from the vehicle. The area was searched with negative results.

Traffic Violation

Decatur St at Pryor St

A Traffic Violation report was filed by an officer. The officer observed the subject traveling

the wrong way on a one way and initiated a traffic stop on 02/15/05 at 9:00 pm. The officer conducted a driver's history check with positive results for a suspended license. The subject was arrested, processed and transported to Fulton County Jail.

Possession

Upper Wall St at Peachtree St

A Possession of Marijuana report was filed by an officer. The officer observed a non-Georgia State subject to be in possession of marijuana on 02/15/05 at 4:21 pm. The officer conducted a criminal history check on the individual with negative results. The subject was arrested, processed and released on a copy of charges. The subject also received medical treatment from Grady EMS resulting of a complaint of headaches and chest pain.

University Village, Olympia

A Possession of Drug Paraphernalia report was filed by a staff member. The complainant observed two students smoking cigarettes on the roof on 02/17/05. The officer and complainant made contact with the subjects and escorted them to their rooms for questioning. Drug paraphernalia was noticed upon entering the room. The paraphernalia was confiscated and turned over to investigations. The case will be handled by University Housing.

The Exclamation!

Global Warming is fine by me in the winter.

If woman can't get an abortion legally, what's next? Are we going to lose our right to vote? To drive?

If another person asks me who Hunter S. Thompson was I will totally lose it.

Every century historically switches between a faith-based culture and a science-based culture. In other words, hearing about "Christian values" and "Jihads" is not going to stop for a long, long time.

Nothing can ruin a day quite so well as an overdraft fee.

Hanson is on a mission: To get respect. Unfortunately, signs point to no.

What is this??? Are you guys trying to put together a newspaper or are you just appealing to the lowest common denominator? If it has to do with the Vagina Monologues, I think you might have worded it incorrectly. If it was attempt at humor, which I'm sure it was, it failed miserably...

(In response to: "Vaginas open up at Ga. State")

Note to reader: Relax! Vagina is not a dirty word or a dirty body part. That's the whole point.

Notable Quotables

The true revolutionary is guided by a feeling of love.
-Unknown

One hundred thousand lemmings can't be wrong.
-Grafitto

The harder you work, the harder it is to surrender.
-Vince Lombardi

I don't get high, but sometimes I wish I did. That way, when I messed up in life I would have an excuse. But right now there's no rehab for stupidity.
-Chris Rock

To exaggerate is to weaken.
-Jean Francois de la Harpe

Ninety percent of everything is crap.
-Theodore Sturgeon

There is a frozen sea within us. Philosophy is an ax.
-Unknown

If you have information for the calendar of events, exclamation, crime reports or ampersand please e-mail them to jtoothman@gsusignal.com.

Administration seeks out student feedback

By DOMINIQUE HUFF
dhuff@gsusignal.com

Students complain and gripe all the time, but how often are these issues addressed by the administration? Recently, the administration gave students a chance to let air their concerns and complaints. Over the past two weeks, randomly selected students were e-mailed a request to participate in a survey to evaluate their Georgia State experience.

Various departments such as the Police Department, Spotlight Programs Board, and University Library have surveyed students to seek feedback and ideas.

"We wanted students to take time out to let us know what they thought," said Hazel Scott, Vice

President for Student Services.

"Based on our analysis, we look at the responses to see what the current needs of students are."

The university is using this opportunity to review assumptions, priorities, and programs as a student community service. The survey asked students questions relating to student life, amount of hours spent on campus, type of campus housing they reside in, and other items about their college experience. Students also had the chance to rate the current services on campus.

This is the first time in five years students have participated in such an activity. "A five year cycle is good for Georgia State. We don't want to over survey," Scott said.

A consulting firm assisted the

university in making the survey.

Initially, they offered to administer a survey that other schools have used. However, the administration thought differently. "We think Georgia State is unique, so we designed the survey to get the information we need to serve our students better," Scott said. "A lot

of these questions are in the format that is used in national surveying."

According to Scott, the data will be "cut in different ways." The data is based on age, race, and gender.

Student participation was sought via ads in the *Signal* and e-mail reminders during the period. "The data is only as good as the people who respond. We hope to get a significant response," said Scott. "We've tried very hard to get students to complete it."

Students who took the opportunity to participate had the opportunity to register for prize drawings. Similar to the survey

offered by the Police Department recently, participants' contact information is not linked to responses. Students had a chance to win prizes such as Panther Cash, an Apple iPod and gift certificates to the bookstore.

The survey will serve as a gauge to make any necessary changes or enhancements in student services. "Some [changes] could be immediate but we have to see what the results show," Scott mentioned.

"Students are our most important constituents," Scott concluded.

The *Signal* will report the analysis of the survey in a future issue once it is available.

"We think Georgia State is unique, so we designed the survey to get the information we need to serve our students better"

University hosts financial workshop



Adam Nathan | *Signal*
Lois Scott helps students with financial aid.

By QUATEESE KNOX
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Georgia State University's Financial Aid office hosted a workshop this past week in the Urban Life Building to prepare students applying for aid in the upcoming 2005-2006 academic year.

Representatives from the Financial Aid office and various lending companies were on hand to answer questions and inform students about their borrowing options. Financial aid applications for federal aid were also available. The priority deadline for aid is April 1.

Even with refreshments served and the opportunity to win a scholarship as incentive for attending, turnout for the event was sparse. Felicia Riles, a freshman finance major, thinks she has an advantage over those who did not attend.

"That was my first thought," Riles said. "I'm just here getting an early start."

For those students who missed the workshop, Louis Scott, Associate Director of Financial Aid, had a few words of advice.

"Get the application in as soon as you can. The sooner you do, the sooner you get the money," Scott said.

If for any reason a student runs into problems receiving aid, there are options. Students whose costs exceed the amount of their award can apply for a National Education Preferred Loan (NEPL), an alternative loan that supplies both undergraduate and graduate students supplemental money to cover any outstanding costs.

Students also have the option of seeking alternative loans from private lenders. Chase Bank and Citibank both offer low interest student loans for undergraduate and graduate students. To qualify for either of these loans you must meet credit requirements.

Whichever route students decide to take, they should heed Scott's advice.

"Apply early so you don't have to wait in line."

For more information about financial aid, students should check these websites:

NEPL: (www.nationaleducation.com);

Chase Bank: (www.chasestudentloans.com);

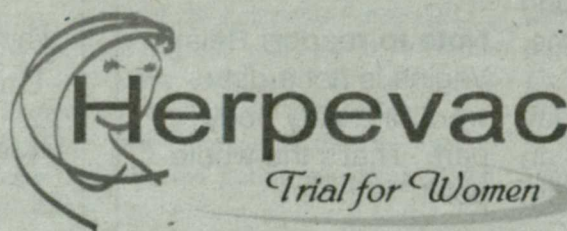
Citibank: (www.studentloans.com).

EMORY HEALTHCARE

Herpes Vaccine Research Study

Emory University is recruiting healthy 18-30 year old female volunteers for a study of an investigational herpes vaccine to determine if it will prevent genital herpes infection in women. An initial screening visit will be conducted to determine eligibility for the study. For those who are eligible, there will be at least 8 study visits over a 20 month period, along with periodic telephone contacts. Volunteers will receive reimbursement for time and travel related to the study.

For more information,
please call (404) 727-4044.



Culture sharing at Georgia State

By **BRYAN ALPER**
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At Georgia State University, various races, denominations and cultures interact amongst one another to make up the most demographically diverse university in the University of Georgia system.

A combined student enrollment of 16,473 females and 10,794 males, listed on www.gsu.edu records 27,267 Fall, 2004, graduate and undergraduate students as the following:

- 14,723 White
- 7,634 Black
- 845 Hispanic
- 2,997 Asian
- 62 American Indian
- 1,006 Mixed/Other

Overseeing cultural interaction is the sole purpose of the Office of Student Life and Leadership/Intercultural Relations (known as Diversity Education Programs before 2003). This program accomplishes this through programming and peer education.

Assistant Director of the program, Nia Haydel explained, "We want to promote opportunities for students to interact across cultural lines because it doesn't do us any good at Georgia State to say we have the most diverse population if we don't allow people avenues to talk about it. If a student leaves and didn't talk to anybody who is different than they are, his or her cultural competency wasn't increased."

Many students don't make the effort to meet new people while on campus. They simply go to class and leave, keeping to themselves. "Sometimes we ignore each other because of how different we are," says Haydel. "Many students don't realize how much of their interests may be similar to other students despite their apparent differences."

For example, three international students may walk right past each other in the Library Plaza, but what if they played on the same indoor soccer team? Wouldn't their passion for soccer unite them fairly quickly? Intramural sports are just one way of broadening cross-cultural awareness through activities.

Senior An Do wonders why he doesn't see more opportunity for students to get together and share their cultures. He said, "The only time was when I saw international students march around school with their nation's flag. It's not enough."

Another senior, Craig Johnson, sees interaction among Georgia State students as "not necessarily racially segregated, but with little cliques that are ethnically defined." He feels it's mainly because of the cultural activities people are involved in. "The key to promoting a diverse campus is through a legitimate program like affirmative action."

Intercultural Relations has several programs underneath

its umbrella. The Evolving Experience Dialogue Series is designed to provide students with opportunities to engage in sustained dialogue over a period of six weeks. "The time commitment is extensive because they must attend a Saturday retreat and then four weekly meetings that are 1.5 hours each," explained Haydel. Each discussion is focused on a cultural topic.

Students (graduate and undergraduate) split up into groups and are assigned topic questions by faculty and staff facilitators. Interactive discussion may lead to a

question like "Why do you wear a turban?" This process is intended to allow open discussion that will in turn dismantle stereotypes and bring students together who might not otherwise take steps to learn about each other.

Intercultural Relations targets a few groups at a time for certain activities. For example, the NAACP, Greek chapters and religious organizations have collaborated in the past to work on programs which provided opportunities for these members to broaden their perception of culture and to work with different students.

Haydel mentioned her appreciation of Intercultural Relations' strong student support. "We have 268 chartered organizations to work with," she said. This excludes a student-organized, intercultural paraprofessional organization known as the Intercultural Ambassadors.

The Ambassadors impact on the Intercultural Relations Program by assisting in facilitating intercultural discussions; assisting in the provision of developmental programs for paraprofessional and student organizations; conceptualizing, planning and implementing

annual Intercultural Week activities; and supporting diversity education opportunities

The Ambassadors are students from all across the spectrum that are given the opportunity to apply learned concepts through their affiliation with Intercultural Relations. These students are a small percentage of the approximate 27,000 enrolled that make up the most diverse university in Georgia.

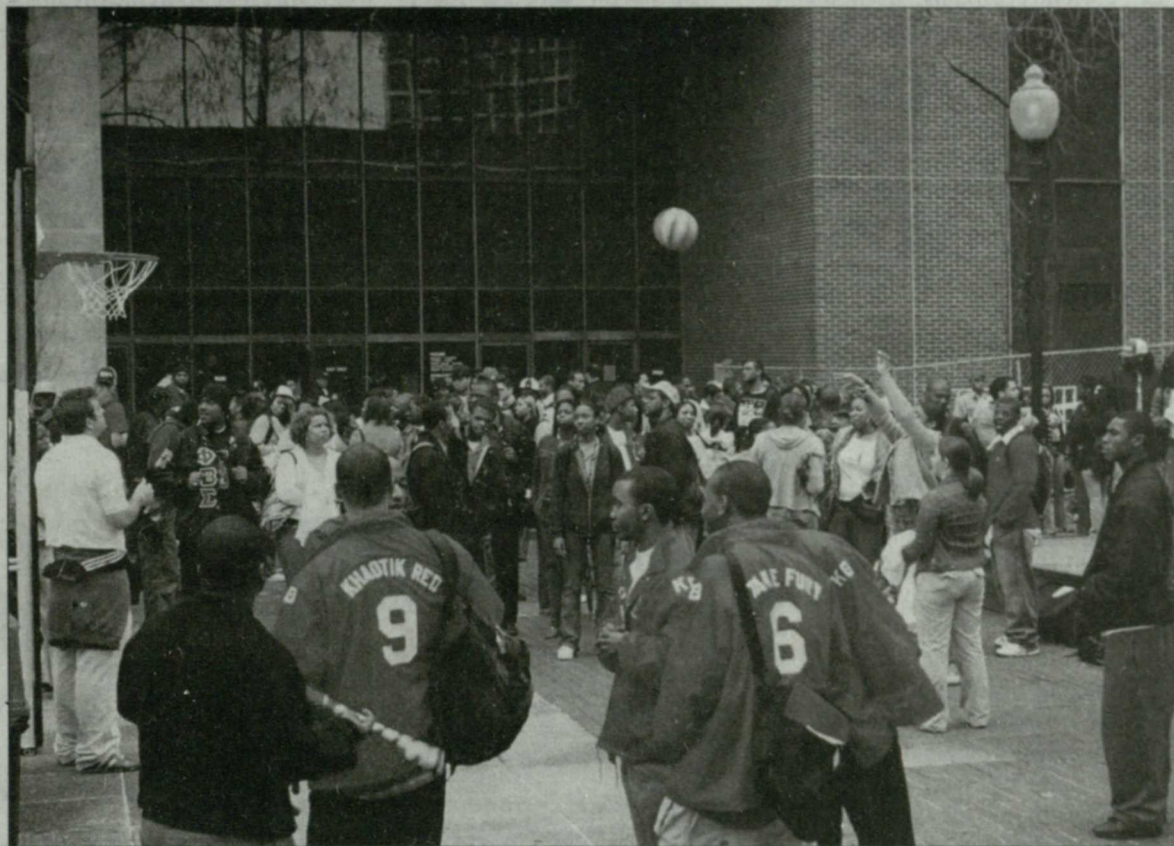
"Who you are is so much more than your race," said Haydel. "My goal is to assist students and the Georgia State University community to begin to think of culture beyond race and ethnicity. I want people to realize that it is a compilation of all of their social identities (gender, religion, socio-economic status, sexual orientation) that shapes how they view and interact in the world."

Intercultural Relations also assists student organizations and academic departments with bringing speakers on campus and with special activities.

Their calendar of events for February and March includes:

- Tuesday, March 15, 6 p.m.: 4th Annual Diverse Wedding Seminar (Speaker's Auditorium)
- Wednesday, March 16, Noon-1 p.m.: Feed Your Senses (Rialto Center for the Performing Arts)
- Monday - Friday, Feb. 28-March 4: 4th Annual Intercultural Week
- Wednesday, March 30, 7:30 p.m.: Celebrating A World of Rhythm and Dance IV (Rialto Center for the Performing Arts)

For more information, contact Nia Haydel at nhaydel@gsu.edu or 404-463-9031. For ticket information visit www.rialtocenter.org.



Adam Nathan | Signal

Diverse students share their cultures in the Georgia State University plaza.

Michael Chertoff selected for Secretary of Homeland Security

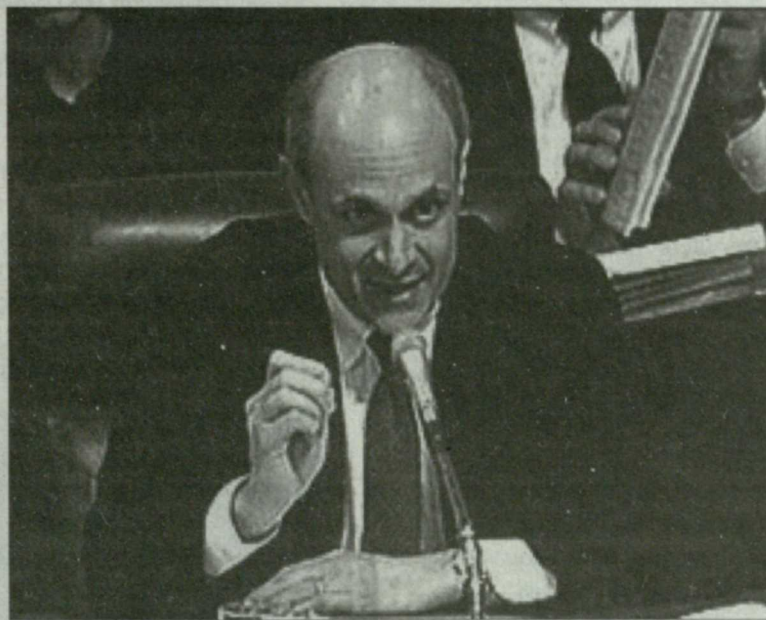
By **KIMBERLY HILLMAN**
khillman@gsusignal.com

President Bush selected Michael Chertoff as the new Secretary of Homeland Security at the White House Tuesday, Feb. 15 to replace former Secretary Tom Ridge.

Chertoff, a federal appeals court judge and former Asst. Attorney General for the United States Department of Justice, has little political experience, but Bush is confident in his dedication to the country's security.

"He has shown a deep commitment to the cause of justice," Bush said in his announcement of Chertoff's nomination.

Though Chertoff is not well-known to many Americans, in an interview with CNN, Bush praised his career and his involvement in the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, saying that he played a key role in linking the counter



Special | Signal

Michael Chertoff counters questions at Senate hearing for cabinet position.

attacks on al Qaeda.

Chertoff's selection is second to that of former New York Police

Commissioner Bernard Kerik who declined his Dec. 3, 2004, nomination upon discovery of possible

problems with the immigration status of a former household employee. Kerik's position as head of the New York Police Department was also questioned with regard to his alleged misuse of resources.

Current Secretary of Homeland Security Tom Ridge left office Feb. 1, as one of the nine members of Bush's cabinet who have already or who plan to resign shortly following his reelection.

Chertoff's nomination has yet to be confirmed by the Senate upon Bush's second inauguration, though Bush is confident of their decision. He said in his nomination announcement, "When Mike is confirmed by the Senate, the Department of Homeland Security will be led by a practical organizer, a skilled manager and a brilliant thinker."

'Nigger'

from page 1
of University Housing, planned the dedication display during the renovation of Myers Hall that was completed in the fall of 2003. Day "recognized the need to commemorate the importance of the residence hall in the historical desegregation of the University of Georgia." The display recognizes Hunter-Gault's role in desegregation and her achievements both at the university and beyond.

Gibson stated, "The exhibit also could be used for campus visitors and also for students to learn about their history."

"The word 'nigger' is something we are still dealing with. It is still used. It's not history," stated Melvin.

Melvin suggests that the display would have been just as powerful without the quote.

In response to Melvin's quote, William O'Hara, a junior at the University of Georgia, said, "Ms. Melvin, instead of trying to get one phrase removed that is used in historical context, you and your chapter should be addressing the larger issue at hand—the double standard use of the word."

Other students, including some from the university chapter of the NAACP, said that the quote should stay as a reminder of history.

"It did happen in this hall. It is amazing how much things have changed," said Andy Osburn, a Myers Hall resident and sophomore at the University of Georgia.

"Because the school is old and real traditional, people associate that with racism," said Sean Baily, a sophomore football player at the university from Milton High School.

According to The Red and Black, "There has to be a balance between accurate historical accounts and what some people find offensive," said university president Michael Adams. "The offending epithet is not one I would use and is best left to history. I think there is a legitimate question for a historical portrayal and what offends someone. There is a balance we have to seek."

The quote has been covered since Feb. 4. The university is taking all options into consideration concerning that portion of the display.

Day said that a "deliberative process" will take place to discuss the quote, but it has not been decided who would be involved in the process, and what the process will entail.

Hunter-Gault proposed a solution to the controversy, which she posted on the RedandBlack.com Web site. "What I have proposed is that the excerpt from my book, *In My Place*, referring to the controversial quote in the exhibit be put into the exhibit on one side of the picture and an excerpt from my initial letter to The Red and Black be posted on the other side," Hunter-Gault suggested in her e-mail.



Charlayne Hunter-Gault deal with racial slurs throughout her time at the University of Georgia in 1961.

She believes that the book excerpts should "provide the context currently missing from the exhibit that some students have sought."

Some students disagree with Hunter-Gault's proposal.

"I really think we as students should have the final say because we attend the university, and we are the ones who have to see it," stated Chatman. "We are here; she is in South Africa."

The Red and Black reported that many students worried that prospective students would find it offensive.

"In an environment where diversity is an issue, you can't take a chance on offending people," said Toni Pinson, a senior student at the University of Georgia. "If you're trying to get black people here, you can't take a chance on offending people." Thomas Heard, a senior at Georgia State, originally from Athens, said, "They are so big on the slave stuff, but they need to be concerned about increasing enrollment."

The federal appeals court barred the University of Georgia from using affirmative action approximately two years ago. Since then, the university has struggled to increase black enrollment.

According to Black Issues in Higher Education, only 200 of the 4,500 freshmen enrolled at the university this past fall were black. Black students accounted for 5.3 percent of the population.

According to CNN.com, the university has taken several steps to attract black students to the campus, such as placing "recruiters in offices in mostly black Atlanta and in southern Georgia. It has bought a database of 12,000 minority sophomores and juniors in the Southeast who have at least a 3.3 grade-point average."

Personal phone calls and lots of direct e-mail helped the university to gain the interest of black juniors and seniors.

The university also instituted "Georgia Daze," a three-day visit that 25 high school seniors attended for early-accepted black students.

The potential students sat in classes, ate in the dining halls and went to various activities such as the National Pan-Hellenic

Council's All Greek Step Show and Dawgs After Dark.

"The people here are really friendly. They are really trying to get me to come here," said Ashley Elam, a prospective student.

"It shows them different aspects of university life," said Rufin Tshinanga, a student involved in Georgia Daze. "The students seemed impressed with the program."

The introductory program

only invited students from metro Atlanta, but it hopes to expand to the rest of the state.

Colony Canady, a prospective student, said she thought a lot of people have a false impression of the university before visiting the campus. "You have to get here and see everything," she said.

"At the University of Georgia, you barely saw any blacks on campus," Heard, a native of Athens said. "Downtown is catered completely to white people, all the bars and clubs."

"At the University of Georgia, they try to have a welcoming environment, but it's still a big culture shock," said Kortney Rule, a high school senior. "We come from mostly black schools, and it's just not the same. You're treated like a number."

Omari Christie, a high school senior, said, "It has good academics, good athletics, it's good all around. She said she looked for "overall goodness," rather than diversity, when looking for schools.

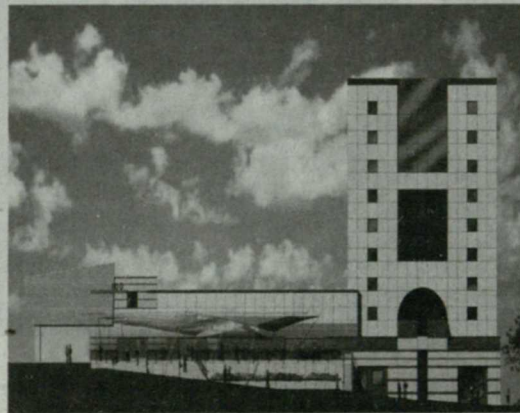
Others prospective students had different reasons for choosing other schools.

"I had a 'B' average and did not get in," said Heard. "I went to a junior college then in order to try and get in again." The average freshman at the university has a 1215 SAT score out of 1600.

Another problem black students posed is financial aid.

"It comes down to where students can get the course of study they want, and where they can get the best financial aid package," said Tom Jackson, school spokesman. "The University of Georgia sometimes loses out on that financial package. We want to recruit better, we want to put more resources to recruitment, and we want to prepare more students to go to college."

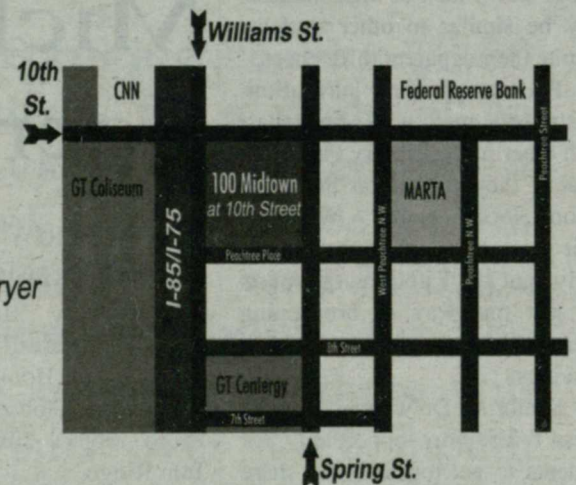
"I do think we've got to continue to be aggressive about minority recruitment," said Adams. "I'm very concerned, almost distressed, by the freshman numbers this year and particularly the plight of African American males in this state."



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New public relations firm offers free services for university organizations

By SABRINA BUCKWALTER
sbuckwalter@gsusignal.com

Georgia State University's chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America announced Feb. 1 the launch of Premier, the campus' first public relations firm.

Premier will offer free services to student organizations, university offices and academic departments such as strategic communication plans, special events planning, news releases for media outlets, marketing, and Web site development and graphic design.

As the firm continues to grow, services will eventually be offered to non-profit organizations, other university groups and to individual students with public relations needs.

Premier is currently staffed with 10 students, with more to be added as university clients partner with the firm. There will be a Director of Public Relations, Account Executives and Account Coordinators.

Latoya Cooper, Vice President of Chapter Development for PRSSA, said that, "Building good

"Building good relationships with students, other campus groups, and all members of the university community, as well as within the organization itself, are vital to the success of that organization."

relationships with students, other campus groups, and all members of the university community, as well as within the organization itself, are vital to the success of that organization."

She also added, "Often campus organizations fail to see the importance of public relations."

With over 200 student organizations on campus and only a handful in the public spectrum, PREMIER will fill a big gap in publicizing and educating the campus community about the widespread activities of these groups.

Public relations is a tool that helps create awareness, build relationships, intelligently advertise and strategically plan the goals and tasks needed to carry out an idea/product/business/organization effectively. Where print/media advertising drops the ball in marketing, public relations picks it up to educate the public about what is behind the image.

Premier hopes to use its tools to help campus organizations build such relationships while promoting their causes and highlighting events; they will work with organization leaders to determine the

group's goals and the communication-based strategies and tactics needed to achieve those goals.

After a slow year organizationally, PRSSA experienced rejuvenation this semester which brought forth the origination of Premier. PRSSA now boasts monthly activities as well as the opportunity for students to get involved with Premier.

Students interested in enhancing their classroom knowledge with real public relations experience are encouraged to apply. There is no academic major requirement, but those who wish to hold leadership positions must be members of PRSSA.

In addition, student organizations, university offices and academic departments are invited to inquire about the various services available to them.

Starting in mid-March, there will be informational meetings that will provide helpful information for interested students and various campus entities.

For dates and times of meetings, as well as all other general inquiries, please contact Latoya Cooper at prssa_gsu@hotmail.com.

West

from page 1

corners of your own soul than it does for a soldier [to dig ditches] in a battle field."

His hour-long speech ended with a question and answer period of which audience members readily took advantage. A particularly engaged audience member originally from Jamaica stole the show and the mic by preaching impassioned views and heartfelt convictions prompting Dr. West to inquire, "Do you have a question? Oh, you do have a question?" Laughing his response, Dr. West added, "I like your passion and impact." However, what this man was confused about and posed to Dr. West, after examining the similar history of Jamaica and America, was simply, "What happened here?" Bringing the house down, Dr. West could only respond, "Oh, Lord, this brother...this brother wants, you want a seminar man!"

Dr. Cornel West, a Class of 1943 University Professor of Religion at Princeton University, author of best selling, *Race Matters*, and most recently *Democracy Matters* is in town for a series of lectures and events to celebrate Black History Month. He has also added recording artist to the list of titles he has under his belt with the release of his first CD, *Sketches of My Culture*, a spoken word CD released in 2001.

Georgia University system creates textbook task force

By KATIE HAWKINS
khawkins@gsusignal.com

In response to rising costs and a greater number of complaints from students, campus bookstores and publishers are working together to find ways to lower the price of textbooks.

The University System's first forum on textbook pricing was held at Georgia State University's Student Center last week. According to Wade Douglas, the manager of Georgia State's bookstore, textbook publishers and bookstore employees were present, but only a handful of students and faculty members attended the event.

The forum was part of a response to the growing criticism and attention given to the inflated costs of textbooks.

Georgia Southern University and the University of Georgia also held forums last week.

Information gathered from the events will help create a task force report on textbook pricing to be presented to the Board of Regents this spring.

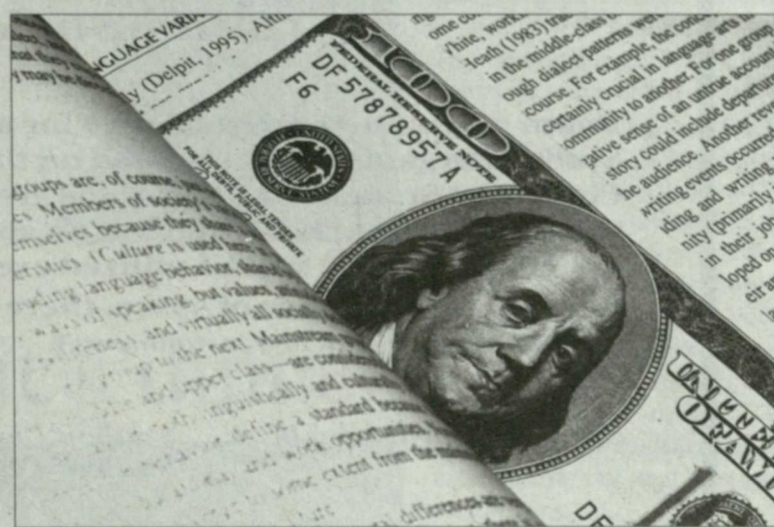
"Textbook pricing is a hot topic right now," said Douglas.

He believes that the best way to keep prices down is to sell as many used books as possible. For that to happen, he explained, faculty members and publishers need to collaborate. "If the bookstore cooperates with the faculty and publishers, then we may get more used books and keep prices down," Douglas said.

Most students try to buy used textbooks, but many discover that they are hard to find or unavailable at campus bookstores. Douglas explained that when publishers release new editions of a textbook, and faculty chooses to use that version, the bookstore can no longer sell used copies of the old edition.

Jessi Adams, an anthropology major and sophomore at Georgia State, spent \$400 on textbooks this semester. "I wouldn't dream of buying new ones," she said, adding that used books are expensive enough.

Like many students, Adams does not understand why books cost so much. "I don't know whom to blame," she said. "I don't know who makes the decision to sell the books at such a high price."



Brandon Wiggins | Signal

The University system works to lower the cost of textbooks.

Publishers have begun to look for alternatives to expensive textbooks and have explored the option of "Web books." The books would be accessible online and offer the same features—such as full text and definitions—as textbooks, in addition to links to interactive sites.

By using Web books, publishers expect to lower the amount that students pay for books by as much as 50 percent. Publishing companies explain that such a drastic decrease would be possible because they could cut the costs of shipping,

distribution, and bookstore markup.

The idea of Web books is relatively new, generating mixed reactions from students and faculty members nationwide.

Douglas has not used the online textbooks, but feels that it would be difficult to study for a course online. "I don't see that as the wave of the future," he said.

Adams disagrees. "I would definitely use them," she said. "I can't think of a downside [to them] because it would cut down so much on costs."

Getting a grip on community involvement

By DOMINIQUE HUFF
dhuff@gsusignal.com

Tighter Grip hit the ground running last fall when they debuted on campus. The organization has served both Georgia State students and high school students from various schools. Tighter Group focuses on mentorship and community service.

"Community service goes beyond just planting trees," stated Jarrett Williams, President of Tighter Grip. "It involves serving others to the best of your ability."

Last fall, the organization held a voter registration drive in the plaza. This fall the focus will be on student activism, student

awareness and freshmen involvement. "We are going to step it up for the next school year," said Williams. "We are working for the betterment of the Georgia State community and the African American community"

Members of Tighter Grip are diverse. A member can range from an athlete, Greek, or traditional student to a commuter student or nontraditional student. "Everyone is equally important. We are all equal. There is no room for egos in our organization," stated Williams. The organization currently has 45 active members and is growing.

Two of their members, Christopher Bruce and Justin Babino, have received recogni-

tion from the African American Alumni Association for their community service and student achievement. "We are definitely proud of these guys, as they are setting the example," said Williams. Members have also volunteered for coronation, the Homecoming concert, Panther

Prowl and other events. "Our guys are always working on something," he added.

The street team consists of Sean Gleason and Bruno Polk. "They have done a good job to promote positive and academic events, a hard task to do," said Williams. Our recruitment chair,

Sola Lambert, has brought in several new people." Lambert also serves as the Concerts Director for the Spotlight Programs Board.

Currently, the organization has several projects underway. The Best of All Worlds, a programming collaborating with

"We are working for the betterment of the Georgia State community and the African American community."

Announcement.....

A Student Organization Room Available for Chartered Student Organizations (In The Student Center)

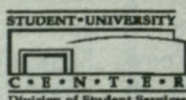
Room 384 is currently available for assignment to Chartered Student Organizations (located on the 3rd floor of the Student Center). Chartered Student Organizations are eligible for consideration and those interested should submit an application by March 2, 2005. Once assigned, room(s) will be utilized exclusively for the student organization. For this exclusive use of space, there is an annual charge of \$1,100 per year (payable in two installments).

**Applications available at: Student Center Information Desk
Student Center Administration Office SC 360
OR**

Online at www.gsu.edu/studentcenter.....

Note: Completed Applications are due March 2, 2005

**For more information, contact the Student/University Center
Administrative Office, Suite 360 Student Center**



several student organizations, will run through the entire month. They also have community service projects going on at Parklane Elementary in East Point, Jumpstart and the Youth Detention Center. There will be a forum for black males to be held on Mar. 26. "Our guys have been working hard on this," said Williams. "We want to address the issues of black males on campus."

Williams thinks the forum will be something like no other. "We want to make sure that all black males who attend are well-equipped to make some changes with themselves, on campus and in their academics," he mentioned. "We are going to take it to the next level."

For the women, there is a spin-off group called Softer Touch under the leadership of Chazia Merriweather and Jahleeka Morris. The group will focus on programs with a female perspective. "They, along with the other executive board members, are working hard to get the organization off the ground," Williams stated. "By next fall, Softer Touch will be in full swing."

Softer Touch will be having a pageant for 10 young women who have done a significant turnaround at the Youth Detention Center.

"These young women have rehabilitated themselves to the best of their ability, and now they want to help others in the community and at the center," stated Williams. "We are extremely proud of Softer Touch for the progress they have made thus far."

"We can't do everything, but we are going to try. We are going to do the best in what we do," Williams concluded.

For more information about Tighter Grip or Softer Touch, contact Jarrett Williams at 404-463-9065.

Living Editor:
Erica Meyers

**A Monthly Look
at College Living**

College Living

Blessings come unexpected

By MARTELL WALKER
Guest Writer

Teenage pregnancy threatens many adolescents these days with poverty, low income and dropping out of school. Jata Jackson never let those obstacles get in the way of her happiness. Jata is 25 years-old and will be graduating with a degree in accounting from Georgia State University in May. She is also the mother of eight-year-old Jordan and 6-year-old Reagan.

When Jata found out she was pregnant she was both excited and afraid, "Everyone was against me when I told them, saying that I should get an abortion, I felt that notion was absurd, this was my child and I could not wait until she arrived."

Jata was only sixteen years old and in the tenth grade, earning a 3.5 grade point average. She received little moral support from the teenage father. She still has not received any support from the father of her first child.

"When he ran out on me I knew this world would be a hard road to travel, but I had to do it," she said.

Even though she felt alone at times, she knew she had some support. Especially from her mother, Barbara Jackson.

"I will admit, when she first told me she was pregnant I was very disappointed," Barbara said. "But when my granddaughter was born I saw my daughter take a strong initiative in raising her."

Two years later, during her senior year in high school, Jata would receive another "blessing," her youngest child Reagan.

"I saw it as another blessing, not a hindrance," she said.

Jata knew she would have to make a serious decision after graduating high school. She chose to achieve a higher education in order to better care for her children.

"I always wanted to go to college and live on campus, I knew that was not an option, but that did not mean I could not attend a college or university," she said.

She also knew that it was time to leave her mother's home, get a full time job, and an apartment. She decided to go get a job working at an accounting firm.

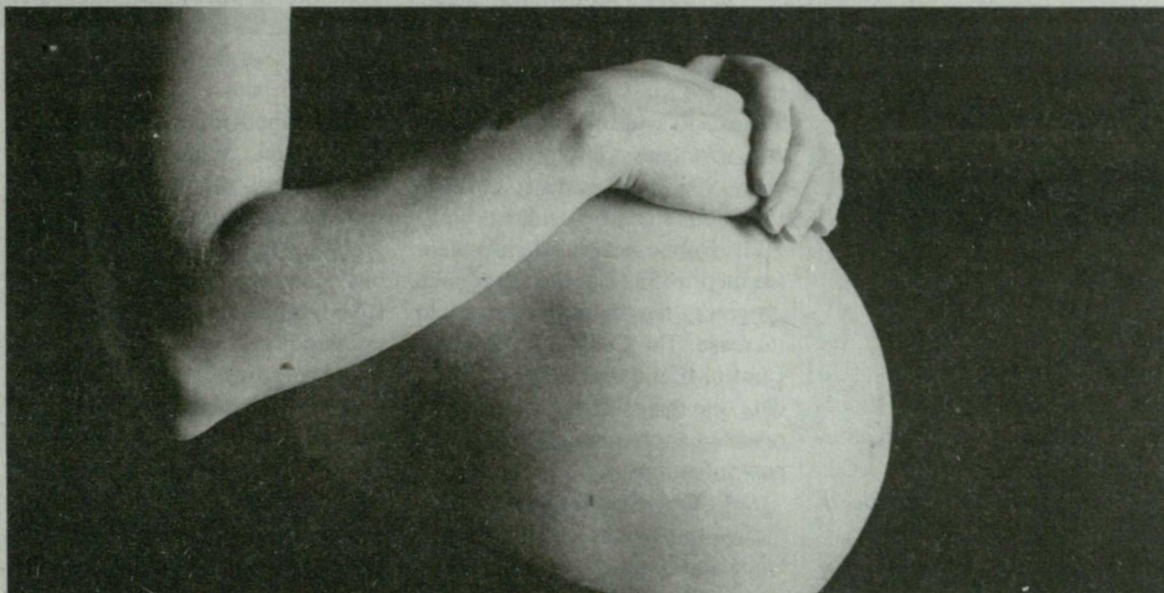
"I have been working a full time job and been a full time student since I left high school. It gets exhausting, but I know there are great rewards in the end," she said.

Jata's best friend Rhonda Turner said Jata is every woman. "I am a full time student, and I do not have any kids and I could not imagine having to work full time and carry a full load of classes with two kids, I would not survive."

Jata currently maintains a 3.2 grade point average. With all the admiration she has earned, Jata says sometimes all she wants to do is take a long nap. Her days are quite hectic. She wakes up at six in the morning, gets herself and the kids dressed, cooks breakfast, drops the kids off at school and head to work by 8:30 a.m. After leaving work at four she gets the kids from school by 4:30 p.m. and takes them to her mom's house. She heads to class by six and doesn't leave until eleven at night.

Barbara said, "I don't mind helping my daughter when I know she is trying to help herself for my grandkids."

See BLESSING | Page 11



Special Signal

Young mothers face many obstacles.

Cheryl Meis Presents: Poof, it's dinner

Like Rueben sandwiches? Here's a snack that you can nibble on while studying, serve as a zesty side-dish, or as a party dip. It's quick and tasty.

Ingredients:

- 3 cups chopped pastrami or corned beef. I used turkey pastrami slices from Sam's Club.
- 1 cups kraut. Any variety from the grocery store
- 1 cup shredded sharp cheddar (the sharper, the better)
- 1 cup brown mustard or Thousand Island dressing (to taste)

Stir to mix the ingredients.

Microwave until the cheese melts.

Serve with Rye bread, Pumpernickel, or any type of cracker.

Total time of preparation: 7 minutes.



Nick Meis | Signal

Vector Scam

By TYLER JONES
tjones@gsusignal.com

You see them on the walls of college campuses across the nation. From signs offering "Part-Time work for students! Great Pay!" to postings promising great fortune at the bottoms of stuffed envelopes. Multi-level pyramid schemes are plaguing university halls throughout the country, and Georgia State is not immune.

One stroll through the General Classroom Building brings one face to face with a barrage of flyers offering "student jobs" that are nothing more than cheap variations on classic scams. There are numerous forms of these frauds lurking along the bulletin boards of campus. But perhaps the most well known to college students around the country is the Vector Marketing scam.

The fraudulent practices of this so-called company have been exposed by several collegiate student newspapers across the country including Louisiana State University's The Reveille. There is also an active online campaign lead by a student organized group called SAVE (Students Against Vector Exploitation) that works to inform college students of the shady practices of firms such as Vector. An online petition by SAVE seeking to ban Vector Marketing from public schools throughout the country has already garnered thousands of signatures from students alleging to be victims of the company's false claims.

Further research found that Vector Marketing and CUTCO knives (the product marketed by Vector) have had legal trouble in Wisconsin, Arizona, Oregon and Australia over fraudulent business practices over the years.

David Tatar, a Wisconsin consumer protection investigator, says they surveyed 940 Vector recruits in 1992 and found that almost half either earned nothing or lost money working for Vector and that workers in that state earned less than \$3 a day on average selling cutlery for Vector.

Those hired were required to attend two to three days of training that lasted nearly six hours

See VECTOR Page 10

U.S. relaxes rules for foreign students studying 'sensitive' subjects

By CHRISTIAN DANIELSEN
The California Aggie
U. California-Davis

(U-WIRE) DAVIS, Calif. - The U.S. departments of Homeland Security and State announced in January that they will ease rules for individuals coming to the United States to study and do research.

Seeking to streamline a special security process, certain international students and scholars will now be allowed to stay in the United States for the duration of their study or work periods, instead of having to reapply every time their visas expire.

Students with F1 and J1 visas can now stay as long as four years on the same clearance, as long as their agreed study programs do not change. The State Department cautioned that it reserved the right to make exceptions on a case-by-case basis, however.

"We've extended freedom of travel for students for the duration of their programs or commitments in the U.S.," said Lou Fintor, State Department spokesperson. "We wanted to streamline the process, reduce the waiting time, and make it easier for them."

When applying for their visas, some international students and scholars are flagged for further background checks because of their planned work in sensitive areas like chemistry and physics. The system is designed to prevent the illegal exportation of U.S. technology to other countries by screening out people the department determines are security risks. According to State Department statistics, almost 75 percent of visas Mantis checks are performed on applicants coming from China, Russia and Ukraine. The department processed more than 560,000 student visa applications in 2004, approving approximately 85 per-

cent of them.

After Sept. 11, 2001, many such students complained that the Visa Mantis system sometimes took months to approve them. The U.S. Government Accountability Office reported to Congress in mid-2003 that a Visa Mantis clearance took an average of 67 days.

In an updated report released this month, the GAO said the State Department and the Department of Homeland Security reduced that number to 14 days by November 2004.

Fintor credited increased staffing, improved technology and better coordination between other agencies for the improvements.

The relaxed rules and increased efficiency come as a welcome relief to advocates for foreign students studying in the United States, who feared that the hassle and inconvenience, combined with higher education improvements in other countries, caused them to consider studying elsewhere.

"All the surveys I've seen say it definitely affects foreign students' perceptions of the U.S. as a friendly place to study," said Wesley Young, director of the UCD Services for International Students and Scholars.

Before the reform, Young recalled, a Chinese scholar at UCD went home in order to care for her ailing mother for two weeks, but was unable to return for three months while waiting for a security clearance renewal.

He noted that attracting academic talent from abroad is important for the United States in a number of ways.

"Some of the smartest folks in the world just aren't U.S. citizens," he said. "The U.S. also gets goodwill when international students have a good experience in the U.S. and go back to their countries."

HIV isn't someone else's disease

By ASHLEY HINK
Technician
North Carolina State Unit.

(U-WIRE) RALEIGH, N.C. - Joe was tired of worrying about the possibility. With a little fear and loss of pride, he sucked it up and took the plunge. He got tested for HIV and other STDs. The senior in microbiology knew he had to do it.

"I got drunk one night and got a little too friendly with a girl," he recalled. "I didn't think she had anything [STDs], but I still had doubts in the back of my mind; so I got tested."

"I mean, it doesn't matter who you are, no one is immune," he said.

Immune, he isn't, but lucky he is. Joe tested negative for everything and is able to admit his momentary lack of responsibility.

"When I'm sober, I'm not that stupid," he said. "If I hadn't been drunk, I probably wouldn't have hooked up with her in the first place. And I definitely would have used a condom."

At the age of 23, Joe experienced his first brush with the fear of infection. Joe, however, is far from alone.

In fact, more and more, younger people are flirting with the danger of contracting HIV, the incurable virus that causes AIDS. Thanks to widespread prevention and awareness initiatives in the early 90s, the incidents of HIV infection steadily declined until 2001. Public health officials were stunned to find out that after such progress, the incidents began to increase. The Centers for Disease Control found that based on 2001 data, the under-25 population represented approximately half of the new infections.

As the generation to grow-up during the height of HIV prevalence and widespread public concern in the late 80s and early 90s, many don't understand why the numbers are again rising.

However, public health officials know why.

"They are complacent," Marianne Turnbull, head of Health Promotions at the Student Health Center, said.

Anthony Hannah, an HIV prevention and education coordinator at the Alliance of AIDS Services-Carolina who does programs at NCSU and other college campuses, reflected her feelings. "[College students] approach HIV like 'This isn't going to happen to me; this isn't my disease,'" he said.

Rachel Simpson, a senior in biochemistry said she has heard similar statements among her peers at NCSU.

"It makes people comfortable to put the problem on others, to be in denial," she said.

Part of this sentiment is due to the demographic stereotyping of those infected with the virus. In the 80s, the then-mysterious and minimally understood disease affected mostly Caucasian, homosexual men and intravenous drug users. It was commonly referred to as the "gay man's disease."

"I've heard it called that before," Brett Roberson, a freshman in landscape technology and agricultural business management, said. "I'm sure some people still think of it like that. But, I know it's not. You're going to catch it whether you're in a certain demographic or not." Since then, the incidents have trickled over into other demographic groups, shattering previous stereotyping of the disease. Like Roberson said, no demographic is safe.

According to the North Carolina Division of Health and Human Services, of the 1,692 new cases of HIV reported in 2002, 44.4 percent were black males, 24.5 percent were black females and 19.5 percent were white, non-Hispanic males.

Of those infected in 2002, the CDC reports that of the men

infected, 55 percent contracted the virus through male-to-male sex, 22 percent through intravenous drug use and 16 percent through heterosexual sex. Of the women infected, however, 68 percent contracted the virus through heterosexual sex and 29 percent did so through intravenous drug use.

While homosexual men -- and now, blacks -- are disproportionately affected by HIV, the reasons for so are far more dynamic than most imagine.

Hannah points out that among the homosexual and black communities, there are a number of "subgroups" that are put at risk for a number of factors. From increased crystal methamphetamine usage in the young gay population to young black women living in poor, rural areas lacking adequate health care, the reasons vary from group to group.

Among the under-25 population in college, however, what makes HIV oblivious to race, sexual orientation or gender most, is the risk behaviors and attitudes that make all students engaging in them or believing in them equally at risk.

Turnbull points out that having increased sexual partners, not using protection and the affects of alcohol on decision-making are what place most college students at risk for contracting HIV and other STDs.

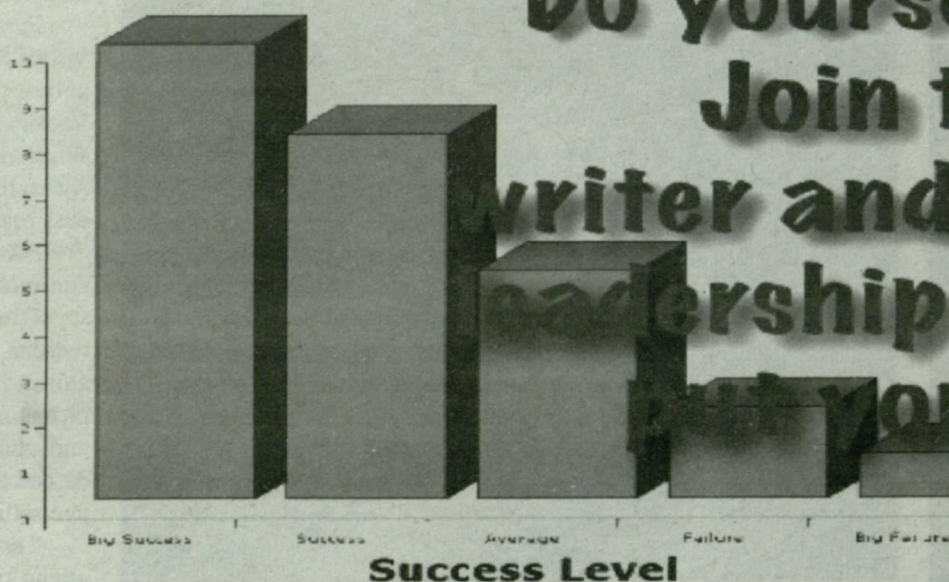
"When students come to college, some become as carefree as they've ever been about sex," Turnbull said. "When they are doing this experimenting and having multiple partners, they need to make wise choices."

As in Joe's case, alcohol consumption can become an enormous risk factor for people who typically would use protection, like condoms.

"When alcohol enters the picture, safe-sex can suddenly go out the window," Turnbull said.

Simpson pointed out that among some of her sexually

Time Spent
Leading



Success Level

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competition.

active female friends, there seems to be more emphasis placed on avoiding pregnancy rather than contracting HIV and other STDs.

"So many people use birth control now because it's so accessible and user-friendly. They aren't as concerned about protecting themselves by using condoms, too," Simpson said.

Turnbull also points out that since the advent of successful drug regimens, many have placed false faith in the effectiveness of modern medicine.

"Students see and hear about all these amazing drugs and think, 'Oh, I guess infected people must be OK. People aren't dying anymore,'" Turnbull said.

Drug therapies have certainly improved the life expectancy of people infected with HIV and have increased the time in which many develop full-blown AIDS. However, the bottom line is, they aren't a cure nor is their efficacy a sure-thing.

Just two weeks ago in New York, physicians and public health officials reported that an infected man might possibly have a rare and virulent strain of HIV that is resistant to the current drugs.

Noting that it sometimes takes extreme measures for people to recognize the threat of HIV, Turnbull said, "This might be what it takes for people to listen up again, a big scare, to realize this disease isn't going anywhere."

What it will take for sure for young populations to understand their risks is to understand the truth about HIV, Turnbull said.

"People need to realize that people are dying from HIV -- that's what it takes," she said.

Yet, while people might realize this, reinforcement of the message is key.

Roberson said he believes that while prevention efforts in school and in the public are important, children need to be educated first about it in from their parents.

"Your learning mostly comes from home. The lessons of responsibility and common sense you learn there affect your choices in life, including sex," he said.

Brian Pressley, a senior in economics and biological sciences, said he feels that the most effective education college students can get about HIV is from those that are infected and fellow peers.

"If someone HIV positive sits down and gives me their testimony about their situation, that's powerful. The key is to get students talking to other students."

Laura Jolley, a senior in biological sciences, is doing just that. Although never knowing anyone HIV positive personally before getting involved in HIV education and prevention, she is actively working with the Student Global AIDS Campaign to educate fellow students about HIV.

Reversing the "HIV isn't my disease" sentiment among young people, she said, "I was inspired to get involved because of how HIV affects certain groups of people. It doesn't so much affect my demographic group. But, whether or not it's my socio-economic, ethnic group or gender, I shouldn't feel like I don't have to work or that it's not my problem."

Blessing

from page 9

That is why on the weekends, Jata makes it a priority to spend quality time with her children either going to the movies, video arcade or just out to dinner.

"I always let them know things will get better in the long run, just bare with me," she reminds her children.

Jata's older brother T.J. says that even though he is the oldest brother, he looks at her as a role model, "I look at her as an inspiration; I see all the sacrifices she

Vector

from page 9

per day without compensation. In order to begin working for Vector as an independent contractor, workers were required to pay a \$150 deposit fee for the trial knife set used to demonstrate the products to potential customers. Employees were told that they would receive a refund for their deposit at the time of their departure from the company, but most former employees reported never receiving their money. Furthermore, the company's website states that the refunds cannot be retrieved from the local office branch located in the employee's home city, but rather the "main office" in an entirely different state. Former employees testify that this made it easier for managers in the local offices to ignore their demands and it was nearly impossible to reach the main branch for a refund.

In addition to the security deposit, there are also several mandatory conferences for employees to attend. These conferences usually charge a fee for entrance; another example of how the company makes money off of its employees.

has made to raise my nieces and I just adore that about her."

Through this ordeal, Jata said the one thing she has learned is nothing good comes without struggle, "I know that my kids are here for a reason and they have made me a stronger person."

She hopes to land an accountant position at the law firm where she works after she gets her degree.

"I am so blessed, finally I will make great money and can provide for my children, the way I want to," she said. "I just want to be a role model for my children and show them what hard work really means."

New Poet Spotlight

Minority

A reflection of self

Found through unspoken words

A river of emotions not felt but heard

A confession of knowledge poured out from
the soul

The tales of the loved

Of the scared

And the old

Its when a smile slips past a strangers lips

A story that's told through soft fingertips

A poem that flows off the tip of a tongue

It's another child lost,

A life stolen to young

It's a vision of perfection sought through a
blade

Memories not sacred

But now torn and stained

It's a motherless child from a motherless mom

A story of our family tree that's gotten to long

It's another statistic that's what we've become

Just one more young mother raising fatherless
young

This is where we stand now,

With shame in our eyes

This is our minority

These are our lives

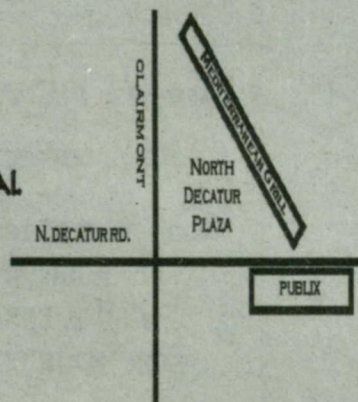
--Anastasia Thomas, age 17

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This Week in Fashion

Photos by
Brandon Wiggins

Beautiful models in flashy designer fashions graced the runways of Georgia State this past weekend. The African Student Association and Infinite Appeal both hosted fashion shows that were filled with a variety of musical performances, native and hip hop dancing, and designs from up and coming designers. All of the participating models were students of Georgia State. These are just a few of the many eclectic styles that strutted the runways.



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Sports

They Might be Giants

By **BOBBY MCMILLIN**
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They've taken eerily similar paths to get where they are, but there's no denying the impact that April Clyburn and Sylvester Morgan have had on Georgia State basketball. Neither team would be the same without their senior big men – well, big people.

Sly and Cly, both Georgia natives, always had a slight height advantage over the other kids. In middle school, they started to use that edge on the basketball court, and their lives have been markedly different since.

"We had been interested in her in high school," said Coach Lea Henry of her best rebounder. "We offered her a scholarship, but I think she just needed to go away and go to Hampton."

And that's where the fifth-year senior spent her first two years of collegiate basketball, but 'twas not meant to be.

"I just didn't like the program at Hampton. Our styles just didn't mesh; plus

I was too far from home. My biggest regret is just not coming to Georgia State in the first place," vented Clyburn.

Morgan didn't play either of his first two collegiate seasons

as a Panther either.

"It wasn't that we didn't want him out of high school, but he had to prove some things academically

first," said Coach Mike Perry.

Morgan did just that playing for Atlanta Metro Community College and finishing with over a 3.0. "I did a lot of my growing there," said Morgan. "It opened a lot of doors

for me."

Both players have played their final games at Georgia State Arena, but they had different sentiments entering their Senior Nights. "I've been thinking about it real hard lately," spoke Morgan. "It really bothers me because this is the last chance I have to avoid regret."

"Yeah I'm sad about it. I took it for granted, and I'm just starting to realize that," lamented Clyburn. "But I don't think it's really even hit me yet."

The sunset on their collegiate careers has changed the way they lead as well. Perry and Henry both described their players as the silent, lead-by-example type.

During this stretch run, both have become more hands-on. "We asked her to be more vocal in this

See GIANTS | Page 16

Women clinch tournament berth Saturday

By **MATT SIMMONS**
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The four seniors led the way in their final home game on Senior Day at the Georgia State Sports Arena, avenging an early season loss to Stetson University. Seniors Patechia Hartman, April Clyburn, Dee Dee Merriweather and Andrea Neely were all honored before tipoff by a joyous crowd. Each senior made key contributions in the 72-67 victory over the Hatters of Stetson.

Senior guard Patechia Hartman led the way for the Lady Panthers, recording game highs of 24 points, six assists and five steals. Approaching the conclusion of one of the most illustrious careers in Lady Panther history, it was announced during the Senior Day festivities that Hartman's jersey number three would be retired in her honor.

"Patechia was taking us right where we needed to go," analyzed Georgia State head coach Lea



Special | Signal

Patechia Hartman finished her Senior Day the same way she finished most of her games, as the leading scorer.

Henry. "She was hitting big shots, which she has done her whole career."

Senior forward/center April Clyburn recorded her 10th double-double of the season in her final home game with 10 points and a game-best 13 rebounds. Senior point guard Dee Dee Merriweather scored seven points and dropped three assists, and senior forward Andrea Neely scored six points, grabbed two boards and dished on

See WOMEN | Page 14

Georgia Tech gets its revenge



David Dorsey | Signal

Sterling had three hits in a losing effort. This shot that was a major part of the Panthers' failed rally.

By **DAVID DORSEY**
ddorsey@gsusignal.com

In the rematch of the season opener against 13th ranked Georgia Tech, not even a late surge of runs could secure the same outcome as the first game.

In a game in which both teams left 11 men on base and committed nine errors combined, the Yellow Jackets were able to make more of their opportunities and outscore the Panthers, 11-6. The Panthers only allowed four earned runs of the 11 they gave up, so the errors obviously played a big factor in the game. They were errorless in the first meeting with Tech, a game they won 5-2.

The one bright spot for the Panthers was the spirit that they

showed in the eighth inning. Down by 11 runs they managed to fight back, assisted by Tech's four errors in the inning, and put six runs of their own on the board.

The player for Tech who did the most damage was pre-season All-American Tyler Greene. Greene, who did not play in the first game against State because of a jaw injury, had three hits, two runs and an RBI to lead the Jackets to the victory.

Tech starting pitcher Ryan Turner got the win by pitching five scoreless innings, while allowing only five hits. All six runs scored by the Panthers in the eighth inning came by way of Tech's relievers.

See BASEBALL | Page 15

Men heading to Nashville for tourney

By DJ KUNOVAC
dkunovac@gsusignal.com

Georgia State men's basketball team finished the regular season with a resounding 84-63 win over Stetson on Senior Day Sunday to head into next Thursday's Atlantic Sun Conference Tournament. The win for the Panthers came two days after the team fell to the surging



Special | Signal
Malcolm Manier played his last regular season game as a junior.

conference rival Jacksonville, 81-67.

The Panthers (14-14/11-9) enter as the No. 6 seed and will play No. 3 seed Belmont (13-15/12-8) Thursday at 6 p.m. CST (7 p.m. EST) at the Curb Event Center in Nashville, Tenn. Only the top eight seeds make the 11-member A-Sun Tournament.

State started against Stetson with a quick 8-0 run on back-to-back treys from senior Kevin Thomas and never looked back. Thomas' fourth trey of the first half had the lead up to 10 points at 23-13 just under the 10-minute mark. By halftime, the lead was 44-31. In the second half, State got the lead to 20 points at 52-32 with 17:20 left and kept it there most of the way. The largest leads were 25 points at 70-45 and 76-51 and the smallest was 19 points at 79-60.

Seniors Kevin Thomas and Marcus Brown scored 19 and 16 points, respectively, while juniors Malcolm Manier, Boyd Copeland and Tikoyo Barnett scored 18, 11 and 10 points, respectively. State's four seniors (Thomas, Brown, Sylvester Morgan and Everett Morris) combined for 42 points, 18 rebounds, 4 assists and 2 blocks.

"A coach is always happy to send his seniors off in grand style in their final home game," said Coach Michael Perry. "Our key

today was to get a spirited effort and we got that. So, now we turn all our focus and energy to the tournament next week."

Anthony Register led the Hatters with 15 points, while Borislav Djordjic and Will Holloman contributed with 13 and 10 points, respectively.

Georgia State opened its last regular season home stand on Friday by shooting just 34 percent against the Jacksonville Dolphins. Copeland had the best shooting performance for the Panthers with 6-of-9 shooting for 16 points to go along with his eight rebounds. Following Copeland were Manier's 15 points, Herman Favors' 13 points and Kevin Thomas' 11 points. Suffering from a stomach ailment, senior forward Marcus Brown had the worst game of the season, managing only six points on 2-of-17 shooting. Despite his condition, Brown managed to pull a team-high nine rebounds.

Jacksonville, one of the hottest teams in the A-Sun and winner of 10 of its last 14 games, broke from a 55-55 tie on a three-point basket by forward Haminn Quaintance and never looked back. Quaintance would score four of the final seven points of the game to finish with a total of 29 points which came via 10-of-12 shooting



Special | Signal

This season, Boyd Copeland went from being a role player to a top-scorer.

performance. Quaintance, who had made 6-of-25 three-point baskets the entire season, managed to hit 3-of-3 outside the arc in this game. Jacksonville also got 22 points from David Lee and 12 points from Aubrey Conerly. The Dolphins shot 58 percent from beyond the three-point line with 7-of-12 shots and made 28-of-32 free throws for a staggering 88 percent.

They hit 44 percent of their field goals with 23-of-52 shots.

State will be looking for redemption in the first round of the A-Sun Tournament against the Belmont team that swept the regular season series, 2-0. The conference tournament will be the last for the Panthers as Georgia State enters the Colonial Athletic Association next year.

Numbers Game

6

Men's basketball's seed in the upcoming Atlantic Sun tournament.

2

Where the women's team will finish if they win their final game.

46.7

Marcus Brown's regular season three-point percentage - tops in the Atlantic Sun.

1-3

Record of the softball team when no one commits an error.

.60

Softball pitcher Elizabeth Hyman's ERA - nearly two runs below the team average.

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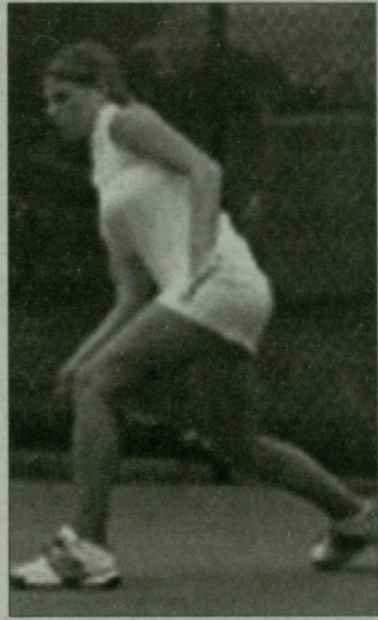
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Women's tennis: season at a glance

By NORM ROBINSON
nrobinson@gsusignal.com

The Georgia State University women's tennis team has gotten off to a great start in Atlantic Sun Conference play this season, going 2-1 in their last three contests, two of which were victories over conference rivals Campbell and Gardner-Webb. The Lady Panthers now have a record of 4-3 overall (2-0 conference).

Georgia State kicked off Atlantic Sun Conference play with a 7-0 sweep at home over Campbell at the Bitsy Grant Tennis Center. State swept the doubles competition, and handily dealt



Special | Signal
Anne Brieholtz has played well this year, but not against Mercer.

with the Camels in both sets of singles competition. Every single match played by the Lady Panthers was a straight sets victory. Needless to say, head tennis coach Andy Smith was proud of his players: "Campbell came back in the second set, but our girls held them off. I'm really proud of the ladies and it's important for us to win conference matches".

The Lady Panthers showed no signs of slowing down as they went into action against Gardner-Webb on Feb. 13 in another home contest. Once again, Georgia State won all three doubles contests. As a matter of fact, the Lady Panthers only dropped one match the entire day: Freshman Diana Cardenas lost a hard-fought three set match (6-4, 2-6, 10-4) to Gardner-Webb's Sara Zirnheld. Other than that, it was a rout. Georgia State's Anne Brieholtz (Jr.), Matija Podgorsk (Fr.), and Birte Koewing (Jr.) each dropped just one game in each of their singles contests.

It was a different story, however, when the Lady Panthers had to go on the road to face a tough Furman team on their home turf in Greenville, SC. The Lady Panthers lost to the Furman Paladins 6-1. The day didn't start off well for Georgia State, as the duo of Brieholtz and senior Annamaria Forgacs fell to the nationally-ranked Furman duo of Caroline Bentley and Mary Neill Hagood. It just got worse as the day progressed, with the Lady Panthers losing two of their three

doubles contests, and picking up just one win in singles competition.

Even though the day didn't exactly go as the Lady Panthers had planned it, there was still a silver lining, of sorts. Koewing and Podgorsk continued their strong play, as Koewing gave the Lady Panthers their only singles victory of the day. Koewing and Podgorsk also earned Georgia State's only doubles victory against Furman as well. Also note that the Lady Panthers are still undefeated in Atlantic Sun Conference play, which is very important.

The Lady Panthers are now back in Atlanta in the middle of a three-game home stand. They will see action next against the Appalachian State University Mountaineers. The Mountaineers have a record of 1-2 and are coming off of an 0-7 road loss to East Carolina. After that, the Lady Panthers will have a short rest as they are back in action two days later against the University of North Carolina - Greensboro.

This is an opportunity for Georgia State to get back on track after the somewhat disheartening road loss to Furman. The 0-7 loss to Houston on Feb. 5 aside, the Lady Panthers play considerably better at home than on the road, so this is a prime opportunity for them to work out any kinks in their game before they go on a three-day, three-game road trip Mar. 9-11.

Baseball from page 13

Georgia Tech started the scoring in the third, when they put four runs on the board. They added two more in the fourth and one in the sixth. In the seventh they added three more to make the score 10-0 and take a lead that State was not able to overcome. All of Tech's scoring came before the Panthers ever put a single run across the plate. Neither team had any homeruns, but Tech was able to use a balanced and consistent offensive attack that saw nine different players record hits. They scattered their scoring out over five different innings.

Ryan Sterling and Chris Dentler were the only Panthers to get more than one hit in the game. Sterling ended the game 3-for-5, with a run scored. Justin Meyer, Micah Johnson and Adam Caldwell each had an RBI in the eighth inning. Butch Morris pushed two runners across the plate but it was too little, too late for the Panthers.

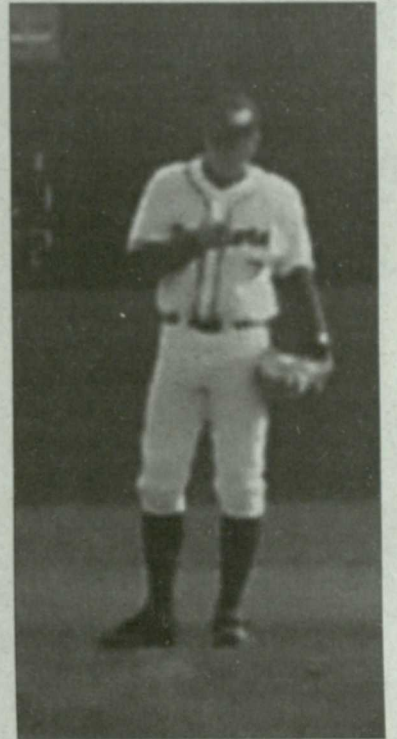
Brett Strickland, the starting pitcher for Georgia State allowed five runs, on five hits in three innings. He had to come out of the game in the fourth inning after facing only one batter because he developed a blister on his finger of his throwing hand.

Freshman Bobby Bennett came on as the fifth Panther pitcher in the eighth inning and struck out four of the five batters he faced, while walking none. This was his second appearance of the

year.

In their conference, Georgia State has several players who rank well in the statistics. Romas Hicks leads the Atlantic Sun Conference with three saves and Rusty Bennett has a .520 on base percentage, mainly due to the nine walks he has already on the season, which is good enough for seventh place.

The team plays Georgia tomorrow at 5:30 p.m. at the East Cobb Complex in Marietta. They will follow that with a three-game series against Mercer beginning Friday at 4 p.m. at Panthersville.



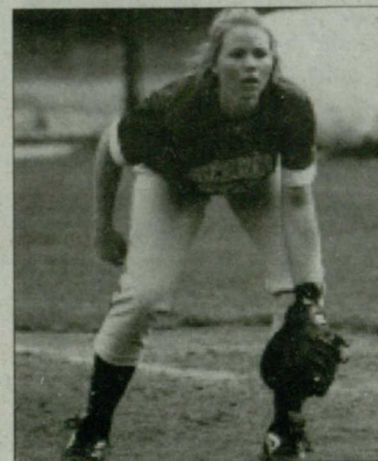
David Dorsey | Signal
Brett Strickland examines the blister that prompted his early exit at the top of the fourth.

Softball drops three out of four

By BOBBY MCMILLIN
bmcmillin@gsusignal.com

Last week started well for the Lady Panthers. A win in the top of a double-header last Wednesday against Georgia Southern looked like it might be the game to turn things around. Pitcher Liz Hyman didn't need any run support as she pitched a scoreless complete game to beat the Eagles 1-0.

The junior from Lilburn, Ga., struck out five and gave up only four hits as she went the distance against Southern. The win brought the young hurler's record to 3-1, and no one was happier than head



Brandon Wiggins | Signal
Elisabeth Watson has played well on defense, but she's batting .111.

coach Bob Heck.

"She's a good little pitcher," said Heck. "She's like a hard-working bulldog."

Hyman did look tired towards the end of game one of the double-header, and she let Southern threaten twice late. In the top of the fifth, Southern managed to get outfielder Courtney Jones on third after two bunts sandwiched around a Georgia State error. Another Hyman strikeout got the Lady Panthers out of the inning.

The top of the seventh was equally traumatic for Georgia State. Southern got batters on first and second, and it looked like Heck might pull his starter. Hyman recorded her final strikeout to win the game.

The Panthers didn't need more than Mary Kathryn Brannan's run in the fourth, but the scorecard would read 2-0 if not for an incredible play by Georgia Southern centerfielder Shanita Black. In the bottom of the second, Black threw out Georgia State freshman Jessica Gowin at home plate, keeping the score tied at zero.

One run was enough for game one's pitcher's duel, but Georgia State needed a little bit more horsepower for game two. It looked as though catcher Candace

Jones provided plenty when she recorded her second-career home-run making the score 4-2.

"Very timely," Heck said of Jones' long ball. "That should've won the game."

It didn't. Thanks to some sloppy defense and two walks from pitcher Megan McCoy, Southern would score three at the top of the next frame and sneak away with the win.

"A sad loss," Heck called the game. "Walks and mental mistakes cost us one when there was no way we should have lost." But Heck was not upset with his pitcher's performance. "She did well before that sixth inning," said Heck. "Those walks kill, but she's learning that."

Georgia State hoped to reverse their fortunes again when they hosted Tennessee-Martin and Wright State this weekend, but the victories wouldn't come. Georgia State finished Saturday winless after two very close games. Junior pitcher Alexandria Pratt started her first game against Wright State. She and McCoy combined to give up only one earned run on seven innings' work. Wright State scored in the second on an error, but that slip would prove to be the margin of victory.



Brandon Wiggins | Signal
Jessica Gowin (left) avoids a collision in a game that Georgia State should have won.

Freshman Laura Jones scored the lone run for the Lady Panthers - only the second of her career. McCoy came on in relief during the fourth, and she did not give up an earned run in four innings work. However, she did let an inherited runner score to make the difference.

Game two against Tennessee-Martin would be an eerily familiar game. Hyman again went the distance without giving up an earned run, but the Skyhawks would still score two thanks to a couple of Lady Panther errors including a

wild pitch.

For the second time in three hours, Georgia State out-hit their opponents, and still managed to lose. Heck is optimistic despite his team's offensive lethargy and defensive slips.

"I'm pleased. I think we're a better team than last year," said Heck. "I'm optimistic we can work on the rough edges."

The Lady Panthers (4-8) will see today if they can change their fortunes in a crucial Atlantic Sun doubleheader versus Jacksonville (8-9).

Women's golf wins second tournament in a row at Miccosukee

By JOSH MOYNIHAN
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Georgia State sports history was made last week when the women's golf team won their second straight tournament at the Fourth Annual Miccosukee Women's Championship. The Lady Panthers beat out 17 other schools including Washington State, who was ranked #25 in the nation.

It took a tremendous effort, including the third lowest round score in school history on the final day of the tournament to earn their second win in a row. Georgia State placed two golfers in the top ten, junior Lisbeth Meincke (fifth) and senior Erica Wein (ninth). Joining Meincke and Wein with solid efforts across the board were senior JaNae Riehlman, who shot a career low 233, freshmen Anna Scott and Joanna Clatten, who both shot 235 including excellent rounds on the final day of the tournament.

Coach Cathy Mant had this to say about the Panthers' big win, "The girls played great. We're excited about beating Washington State, who was ranked in the top-25 in Golfweek rankings. It's a



Special | Signal
Lisbeth Meincke finished fifth to help the Lady Panthers win again.

wonderful win for our program, and we're getting off to a great start." The Lady Panthers look to make it three in a row on March 6 when they travel to North Carolina to take part in the Edwin Watts/Pinehurst Challenge. The event will be held at course number eight of the nationally renowned Pinehurst facility.



Special | Signal
Erica Wein is enjoying a senior season that is one of the most successful in Georgia State history.

Women from page 13

assist in a reserve role.

"It was a good win because it was Senior Day, and everyone contributed," added Coach Henry. "You have to have great senior leadership, and you have to produce. All of our seniors stepped up big today. It's been a great class with good people. They're good students and good athletes."

This year's class of seniors has a four year combined record of 73 wins and 44 losses, a winning record of 61 percent. In their career this group of Lady Panthers has gone to the NCAA Tournament twice, and captured an outright regular season Atlantic Sun championship in 2001-02 and was co-champions in 2003-04.

The Georgia State Lady Panthers (14-12, 12-7) started off slow, watching Stetson (12-13, 9-9) build a 9-2 advantage with 17:22 remaining. Refusing to be rattled, Georgia State clawed back into the contest and took its first lead of the game, 18-16, with less than 11:00 remaining in the first half. Five lead changes and three ties ensued, but the Lady Panthers pulled ahead 28-27 with 5:20 left and built their lead to 36-30 going into the half.

The Hatters surged out of the intermission with a 21-10 run, giving Stetson a 51-46 lead, but a quick 6-0 spurt by Georgia State reclaimed the lead, 52-51, at the 10:52 mark. The game remained tight, highlighted by four more lead changes and two ties, until the Lady Panthers regained the lead, 65-64, with just over two minutes remaining. In the final two minutes State held firm and built up to the five-point, 72-67, victory.

On Thursday, Feb. 24, the Lady Panthers matched up with Jacksonville University and

Jacksonville fought back to lead, 14-13, approaching midway of the first half. The final twelve minutes of the opening half were a back-and-forth battle with six lead changes and four ties before the Dolphins carried a slim halftime advantage, 34-33.

State looked poised as they returned for the second half and after scoring a swift basket to retake the lead, 35-34, never surrendered their advantage. The Lady Panthers led by 13 points on six occasions before cruising to an eight-point win.

In the confines of the Georgia State Sports Arena, the Lady Panthers have been most comfortable, building a home record of 11 wins and two losses, but Georgia State concludes its regular season on the road where they have only three wins.

Coach Henry believes her team is fortunate to have some time off before their final game as tournament time approaches: "The extra time will let us put in some extra plays and be our best going into the tournament. We can work on a few small things that need improvement."

Georgia State travels to Troy, Ala., for a regular season finale with Troy University at 7 p.m. on Saturday, March 5, before the Atlantic Sun Conference tournament hits full stride on March 10.



Special | Signal
Dee Dee Merriweather scored seven points in her swan song against Jacksonville.

marked the return of Dolphins head coach Jill Dunn, a former assistant under Lady Panthers head coach Lea Henry. Georgia State scored the first six points, but

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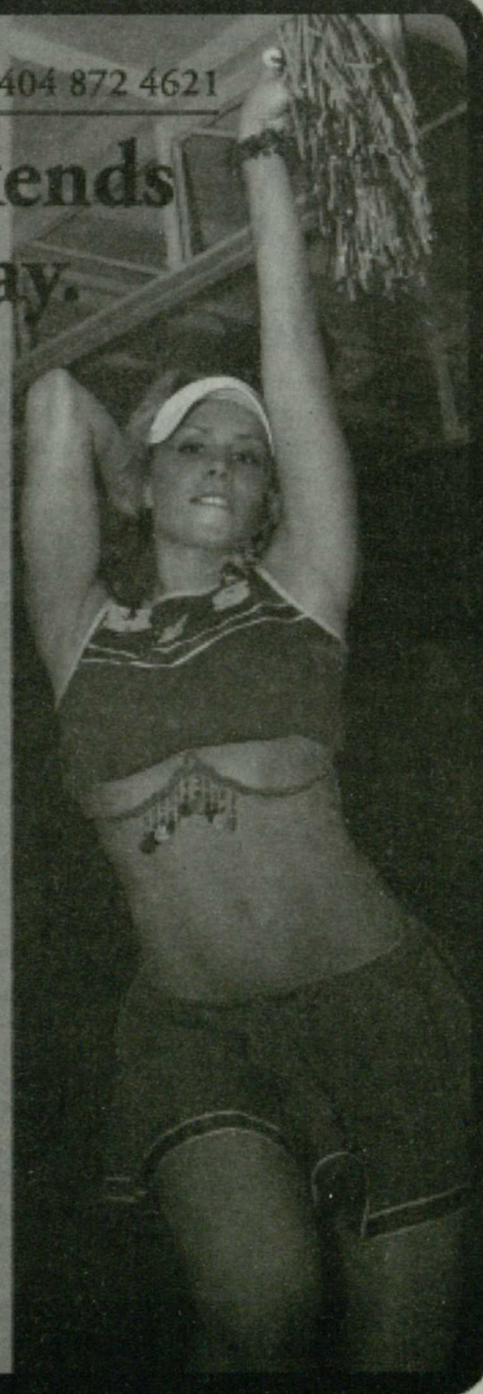
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Giants

from page 13

last month, and she's done that," said Henry.

Perry never needed to have a talk with Morgan. "He used to be the quiet guy out there, but he's become more assertive as the season winds down."

But it's the way the two act off the court that really makes them stand above the rest — no pun intended. "She's just a great person," said Henry. "I respect her as much as a person as I do as a player. She's just very popular on the team; it's hard for anyone to not like her."

Perry has similar opinions of the big man from Southwest Dekalb. "He's been a pleasure on the floor and off. He has great academics, and that's so nice to not have to worry about that aspect of a player."

While their disposition will likely take both further than their basketball skills, both would like to stay in the field for at least a little while. Morgan plans on playing in Europe for a few years before coming back across the Atlantic to own his own business.

Clyburn is done playing, but she plans to go to graduate school for physical therapy unless her exercise science degree can land her a hospital job.

Both players have had their

successes on the court. Morgan set a new Georgia State record for blocks in a season at 78 (second on the team is Tikoyo Barnett with 15), and Clyburn leads the women in both rebounds (108) and free throws (75).

Their off-court behavior is not nearly as exciting. Morgan's favorite non-basketball activity is watching comedy movies while Clyburn couldn't be happier just sleeping or watching "Will and Grace."

Their humble lifestyles may have a lot to do with their modest backgrounds. Morgan came from a single-parent home where his mom, Antoinette Morgan, had to raise him along with his three brothers.

Not surprisingly, Morgan calls her his inspiration. "She raised the four of us on a Delta salary, but we never really suffered," recalled Morgan. "She always made sure Christmas was special."

Clyburn also refers to her mother as her greatest influence. "I always thought it was incredible how much faith she had. It seems like her faith could get her through just about anything."

The parallels don't end there, but they have at Georgia State. No longer will fans be able to watch Clyburn grab rebounds above the rim, and Morgan's "Block Party" fan club has forever left Georgia State Arena.

Freshman: Deven Dickerson

hopes to step in for Morgan next year, and Henry likes some of next year's freshmen to pick up where Clyburn left off. Figuratively and literally, they have some big shoes to fill.



Special | Signal
April Clyburn was sent to the line more than anyone else, and she converted more, too.

On Deck:

Men's Basketball:

Thu., March 3 - Sat., March 5 @ Atlantic Sun Tournament @ Nashville, Tenn. 6 p.m. (TV on CSS)

Women's Basketball:

Sat., March 5 vs. Troy @ Troy, Ala. 8 p.m.
Thu., March 10- Sat., March 12 @ Atlantic Sun Tournament @ Dothan, Ala. 2 p.m.

Men's Tennis:

Fri., March 4 vs. Sacramento State @ Atlanta, Ga. 2 p.m.
Mon., March 7 vs. South Florida @ Tampa, Fla. 2 p.m.
Wed., March 9 vs. Florida Atlantic @ Orlando, Fla. 1 p.m.

Women's Tennis:

Sat., March 5 vs. Appalachian State @ Atlanta, Ga. 11 a.m.
Mon., March 7 vs. UNC-Greensboro @ Atlanta, Ga. 10 a.m.

Baseball:

Wed., March 2 vs. Georgia @ East Cobb Complex, Ga. 5:30 p.m.
Fri., March 4 vs. Mercer @ Panthersville, Ga. 4 p.m.
Sat., March 5 vs. Mercer @ Panthersville, Ga. 1 & 4 p.m.

Softball:

Fri., March 4 - Sun. March 6 @ Charleston Southern Tournament @ Charleston, S.C.
Mon., March 7 vs. Boston University @ Panthersville, Ga.

Men's Track:

Sat., March 5 @ Virginia Tech Last Chance Meet @ Blacksburg, Va.
Fri., March 11 @ NCAA Indoor Nationals @ Fayetteville, Ark.

Women's Track:

Sat., March 5 @ Florida State Opener @ Tallahassee, Fla.
Fri., March 11 @ NCAA Indoor Nationals @ Fayetteville, Ark.

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Atlantic Sun Scoreboard



Scores and more from around the conference

Men's Basketball

February 26
Belmont d. Troy, 75-64
UCF d. Campbell, 63-52
Gardner-Webb d. Florida Atlantic, 91-76

February 25
Jacksonville d. Georgia State, 81-67
Mercer d. Stetson, 74-73

February 24
UCF d. Gardner-Webb, 58-55
Florida Atlantic d. Campbell, 89-83
Lipscomb d. Troy, 87-79

February 22
Lipscomb d. Belmont, 59-58

February 21
UCF d. South Dakota State, 82-72

February 20
Troy d. Stetson, 80-72

Women's Basketball

February 26
Belmont d. Campbell, 67-56
Georgia State d. Stetson, 72-67
Mercer d. Jacksonville, 60-48
Gardner-Webb d. Lipscomb, 70-64

Troy d. Florida Atlantic, 57-52

February 24
Belmont d. Gardner-Webb, 72-46
Campbell d. Lipscomb, 70-62
Troy d. UCF, 71-50
Georgia State d. Jacksonville, 73-65

Mercer d. Stetson, 66-56

February 19
Belmont d. Mercer, 74-70
UCF d. Campbell, 81-40
Gardner-Webb d. Florida Atlantic, 55-45
Lipscomb d. Georgia State, 64-58
Stetson d. Troy, 65-61

Baseball

February 26
Belmont d. Boston College, 6-1, 3-1
#26 UCF d. Monmouth, 8-3
FAU d. Purdue, 5-4
Lipscomb d. UConn, 5-2
Mercer d. McNeese State, 13-9
Mercer d. SW Missouri State, 9-0
Stetson d. Siena, 7-6, 24-3
Troy d. Ohio State, 6-4
NC A&T d. Gardner-Webb, 5-2
Gardner-Webb d. NC A&T, 16-4
USF d. Jacksonville, 5-4 (11)

February 25
UConn d. Belmont, 10-7
Virginia Tech d. Campbell, 10-6
#26 UCF d. Monmouth, 4-1
FAU d. Purdue, 6-4
Illinois State d. Lipscomb, 8-2
Southern Miss d. Mercer, 12-6
Stetson d. Siena, 10-0
Troy d. Iowa, 6-1
USF d. Jacksonville, 8-0

Softball

February 26
Campbell d. ETSU, 6-3
Charlotte d. Campbell, 4-0
UCF d. Connecticut, 7-0
#18 Oregon d. Fla. Atlantic, 5-0
DePaul d. Florida Atlantic, 2-0
Wright State d. Georgia State, 2-1
UT-Martin d. Georgia State, 2-0
Jack. d. Savannah State, 14-0
Jack. State d. Lipscomb, 4-2
Jack. State d. Lipscomb, 5-2
Mercer d. Siena, 12-3
Mercer d. Marist, 6-5
Stetson d. Furman, 2-0
Furman d. Stetson, 2-1

February 25
Campbell d. Rider, 4-2
Miami (OH) d. Campbell, 4-2
UCF d. Florida A&M, 7-1
#20 FIU d. UCF, 3-2 (8)
Creighton d. Florida Atlantic, 6-1
#7 Alabama d. Florida Atlantic, 2-1
Southern Miss d. Mercer, 5-1
Mississippi Valley State d. Mercer, 5-4

Softball Continued

February 24
#7 Alabama d. Troy, 5-1

February 23
Florida Atlantic d. Hofstra, 6-5
Florida Atlantic d. Hofstra, 12-0
Gardner-Webb d. Charlotte, 2-1
Gardner-Webb t. Charlotte, 4-4
Georgia State d. Georgia Southern, 1-0
Georgia Southern d. Georgia State, 5-4
Lipscomb d. Alabama A&M, 10-1
Alabama A&M d. Lipscomb, 7-6
Campbell d. UNC-Greensboro, 1-0
Campbell d. UNC-Greensboro, 4-0

February 22
North Carolina State d. Campbell, 7-3
North Carolina State d. Campbell, 4-3
UCF d. Florida A&M, 14-9
Florida A&M d. UCF, 5-3

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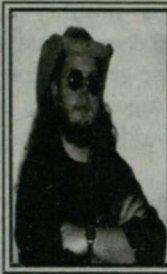
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Perspectives

To Hunter S. Thompson, for never letting me down

**JONATHAN SPRINGSTON****Senior/Journalism**

Another Freak in the Freak Kingdom

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Hunter S. Thompson's 1979 book *The Great Shark Hunt*, a collection of some of his best articles, is dedicated "To Richard Milhous Nixon, for never letting me down." Readers who know Thompson's work understand that former President Nixon was Thompson's favorite target and the inspiration for much of his work. For the purpose of this article, the title is for Thompson for inspiring me and providing a guide to get where I am today.

Thompson shot and killed himself at his Woody Creek, Colo., home outside of Aspen Sunday Feb. 20. He was 67 years old. If he had died from natural causes, I would have not been so surprised. He lived a hard life fueled by drugs and alcohol, and over the last two years, underwent surgery to repair his spine and a broken leg. The fact that he shot himself shocked me so much.

But I guess I should not be surprised. His idol, Ernest

Hemingway, did the same thing in Ketchum, Idaho, in 1961, frail and depressed. Thompson enjoyed retyping Hemingway's novels as a young man just to see how the words flowed.

From 1968 to 1976, Thompson's most brilliant period, he was as good as or better than any 20th-century writer including Hemingway, William Faulkner, F. Scott Fitzgerald and Jack Kerouac. During that time, he covered three presidential elections, ran for sheriff of Pitkin County, Colo., and came to fame in the pages of *Rolling Stone* magazine during their best years. He also took a little trip to Las Vegas, which became the 1971 seminal novel *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*, which later became a film starring Johnny Depp and Benicio Del Toro.

Often grouped with "The New Journalists" like Tom Wolfe and Norman Mailer, Thompson was best known for creating his own style of journalism called "Gonzo Journalism." Frequently imitated but rarely equaled, this style of journalism puts the writer right in the middle of the story, to the point where the adventures of the writer are the story. Whereas people called Wolfe the fly on the wall, others called Thompson the fly in the ointment.

Thompson inspired me to begin writing. I read *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas* for English 1101 my freshman year at Georgia State and went on to read everything else he had done that I could get my hands on. My regular column title, "Another Freak in the Freak Kingdom," comes from *Fear and Loathing*, and I have quoted him on numer-

Thompson always searched for the truth and denounced the hypocrisies on the political left and right. While he constantly battled editors over expense accounts, deadlines and article lengths, he managed to struggle through years of freelancing until finally gaining wide recognition, surprising himself the most.

While I did not know him

America, give readers an intimate portrait of a man coming to grips with a tumultuous and changing world.

He spent the last years of his life doing what he loved most, sports writing. He was a regular contributor to ESPN.com's "Page 2," in which he tied sports and politics together like no other. A collection of these columns was released last year as a book called *Hey Rube*. Those columns cover the politics of George W. Bush and "the downward spiral of dumbness" in a post-Sept. 11 world. His prose in those columns is good as his work was 30 years ago.

His death is like John Lennon for my dad or Kurt Cobain for my older brother. Like them, Thompson seemed like he had so much more to tell us. The demons he battled his whole life may have finally overwhelmed him. What does it say for the rest of us when the one guy who seemingly had it together kills himself? We all lost a giant of the literary and journalistic world last week, but his work and his message will last forever. I just miss him so much already, like a death in the family.

"Life is beautiful, living is painful." — Hunter S. Thompson.



Thompson never expected to live past the age of 30. He spent the last half of his life living fast and hard.



Special | Signal

ous occasions. His advice to write what you know has always stuck with me. Thompson turned me on to politics, the world and the possibility that I might be able to change the world with a pen and paper.

personally, Thompson's writings made me feel like I was talking to him. Everything he wrote, even something as mundane as letters, was interesting. Two volumes of his letters, *The Proud Highway* and *Fear and Loathing in*

Cents and sensibility

Why outer space is no place for an M&M

**VICTOR SPOONER****Senior/Accounting**

Raised By Wolves

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"You read those books where luxury comes as a guest to take a slave...Books where artists in noble poverty go like virgins to

the grave." — Joni Mitchell

I once met a genuine starving artist, and we actually had something in common: I knew a little about attapulgate, and, at the time, he was using super-sized photomicrographs of that rare clay in some of his artwork. The guy lived like a hermit in a cavernous warehouse devoid of any modern conveniences, and he complained he could not support himself merely by selling his artwork. Everyone he knew, he said, was barely eeking out an existence, and, basically, it was our government's fault for not subsidizing him and his artistic friends.

I replied that hundreds-of-millions of dollars were annually pumped into the arts, nationwide, and that, doubtless, it was his portfolio's own lack of commercial

appeal that was directly responsible for his dire economic misfortune. I conceded that the majority of Americans apparently care very little about fine art, but, given that fact, it would then reasonably follow that the arts might actually be currently over-funded in the United States.

Consider the degraded state of popular culture in this nation, and imagine trying to generate lasting interest in the arts among the vast majority of Americans! Does that make Americans boorish? In certain relative terms, it does. But, do our other accomplishments as a nation vastly overshadow that particular shortcoming? Absolutely. Perhaps if the definition of fine art could just be sufficiently stretched

See ART | Page 20

Time to step up and be a leader

**DOMINIQUE HUFF**

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The semester is half over and before one knows it, election time will be here for the majority of campus organizations. Some organizations appoint the new leadership rather than elect. Nevertheless, the call for action is now.

Students have watched several events take place over the last year. Do you think your leaders have done a good job in representing you? Do you think you have been entertained?

Overall, are you impressed with your campus organizations?

The time is approaching when students will decide who will be running SGA next year. Of course, there will be incumbents who will seek other positions as well as new comers. Know the issues, know the individuals, and make an informed and educated vote. SGA elections are a different ballgame than Homecoming elections. Homecoming glory lasts a week while you have to deal with SGA for the entire year. Do not be impressed with just a pretty face and a piece of candy; rather, be impressed with their stances and eagerness to serve. All too often, several candi-

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Art from page 19

to encompass gangster rap and NASCAR.

Truth be known, though, the fine-arts crowd is horribly elitist and really does not want uncultured bumpkins milling around in its studios. And it is that very same sort of snobbery that generated international condemnation of Atlanta for its "over-commercialization" of the 1996 Olympics. Apparently, it does not matter that the Atlanta Olympic Committee netted a cool million after expenses nor that every other Olympic-host city, especially those in Europe and Canada, wound up sinking citizens in tens-of-millions worth of debt. As a taxpayer, I unabashedly shout welcome Coke, Kodak, Lexus, Umbro, et al. In fact, the more the better. I am even ready-and-willing to paste Budweiser logos onto our tanks and bombers to help fund the war on terror.

Hatred of commercial culture is quite common among university personnel and is even present in the business schools: Last semester, I witnessed a tenured professor savaging the reputations of several large corporations including McDonald's and General Motors. It gets worse, though: A few months back, in the middle of a commercial venture powered solely by the profit motive, even a hard-nosed engineering professional publicly donned the imperi-

ous mantle of anti-capitalist snobbery. *The New York Times* reported that several corporations helped fund the recent exploits of the *SpaceShipOne* pioneers, but also that a certain Minnie, pilot of the prize-winning craft, had expressed his displeasure at the project's decision to solicit such corporate money. Minnie actually griped that corporate marketing messages

"If *SpaceShipOne* truly plans on providing pricey space tours to the mega-wealthy, then sponsors other than M&Ms will need to be acquired."

had cheapened his glorious achievement, and, of course, such an anti-capitalist swipe absolutely delighted the editors at the *NYT*.

I personally fail to understand the real difference between solicitation of venture capital directly from wealthy individuals (which, indeed, got the project started) and solicitation of similar funding from corporate sponsors. After all, the first group sought and received a return on their investment, and the second group, well,

sought and received a return on their investment. Not one of those private investors turned a wrench or ran a single engineering simulation and neither did the makers of M&Ms, so how are the latter any less noble than the former?

The truth is that most corporate sponsors happen to hawk tacky, bourgeois products that elitists desperately wish to dissociate themselves from. I will wager that it is not really the gaudy paint-and-print of commercialism that those self-styled anti-capitalists really object to but rather the very products that the paint and the print actually symbolize. The M&Ms brand is a veritable icon of middle-class sentimentality and lowbrow taste, and, for a few brief moments, the noble Captain Minnie was made to endure the great indignity of having colorful candy satellites orbiting weightlessly about his space helmet.

Perhaps this astronaut-cum-connoisseur would have deemed a few floating Piaget timepieces more appropriate. In reality, though, the shrewd captain likely was on to something: If *SpaceShipOne* truly plans on providing pricey space tours to the mega-wealthy, then sponsors other than M&Ms will need to be acquired. Effectively, when it came time to choose logos worthy of the refined sentiments of Minnie and his future clientele, *SpaceShipOne's* own marketing research team completely crashed and burned.

Cowboys and hypocrites: Is our reputation salvageable?



JENNY PAYNTER
Journalism/PR
I'm Not Lost,
I'm Just Exploring
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On Sept. 3, 2003, Hollywood actor Johnny Depp, who now resides in France, made this comment to a German magazine: "America is dumb, it's like a dumb puppy that has big teeth that can bite and hurt you, aggressive."

Some members of the American media had a field day with this, saying that Depp was making negative statements at a time when our nation's morale was low. His remark came a few months after the War in Iraq began. Perhaps the fact that he no longer lives in America fueled the fire even more.

Shortly after his words were circulated around the world, he tried to explain them by saying this: "Taken in context, what I was saying was that, compared to Europe, America is a very young country and we are still growing as a nation. There was no anti-American sentiment. In fact, it was just the opposite. I am an American. I love my country and have great hopes for it. It is for this reason that I speak candidly and sometimes critically about it."

Whether or not this explanation was genuine is something only Johnny Depp could explain. But there could be some logic to his argument.

President Bush is starting down a long, and probably very difficult, road to mending America's relations with Europe. It is a move that is long overdue and incredibly necessary for the future of the United States. As advances are made to further the European Union, it has become clear that it will be a powerful ally that the United States needs.

And it is no secret that the United States' foreign relations leave something to be desired. Even before the War in Iraq, American people and their political leaders have had a somewhat negative reputation.

The same stereotype can be seen in nearly any foreign book or

film that contain American characters. We are depicted as loud, obnoxious creatures who have neither tact nor class, and our leaders are shown as cowboys with no morals and often no intelligence. We are walking, talking clichés to the rest of the world.

Whether or not you personally believe all of this hostility is deserved, there is no denying that it exists. So how did we get this reputation? I mean, all America does is fix the rest of the world's problems, right?

What Americans often seem to forget is the fact that when we ride heroically into these other countries to save the day, we fail to recognize who it is we are saving and how much they may differ from us.

America is such a young country, in the grand scheme of things. Many nations were around for thousands of years before the initial structure of the American government was even imagined. And now that same government, one that was founded on a wish of independence and puritanical principles, is trying to save the world from itself.

And we expect the world to, in turn, bow down and be thankful when we step in and tell them to change? I really do believe many of the initiatives the United States has taken begin with the noblest of ideas. But even if all of the right intentions are there, aren't we just a high and mighty new kid on the block who thinks he can solve everyone's problems?

I hope to God that we are able to mend relations with Europe, as well as all other countries of the world. America is an incredibly powerful country, but as powerful as we may be, so much more could be accomplished if we had more allies and were able to stand together. Hopefully now we can regain the trust of those we have alienated.

I too have all the hope in the world for our country. I believe there is no end to the positive things it can accomplish in the future. And I am not ready to write it off because of mistakes our government has made in the past. I am, however, ready to see us take the next few steps in growing up.

Leader from page 19

dates campaign on nothing but their looks and pieces of candy.

The Spotlight Programs Board will be making new appointments for committee chairs for such committees as Panther Prowl and Homecoming. The media outlets, including *The Signal*, will be making changes in leadership.

Where do you come into play?

Now is the time to analyze the campus experience this year. This is time for the silent majority to speak. Voting and voicing your opinion are two powerful weapons that you have to initiate change. Do not stop with just those two but also hold people accountable and get involved. Go to a meeting, serve on a committee or attend a function. Too many of us make excuses on why we cannot do something but we complain about things. We can place the blame on our leaders but if we do not follow up with them, then we are to blame. The best way to keep them in check is to let them know what you are watching.

The support should be given for those who are the most qualified for the position regardless of their personal affiliations with others. We



Adam Nathani | Signal

All these people are leaving *The Signal* at the end of the year, leaving holes that need to be filled quickly.

should not be quick to support our friends all the time when we know they are not qualified for the position. Sometimes, this means supporting someone with whom you may disagree but you know they will get the job done. That individual may not be the most likable person but they are the most dependable.

The new Spotlight Director and Editor of *The Signal* will be seeking out individuals just like you to help them run things. There is no I in team. It will be a collaboration of different individuals. They will be looking for new ideas, dedication, and most importantly, commitment. Leadership is not easy, it takes work, and one must be willing to put the time in. Moreover, that will include

spending weekends, nights and even the summer working on planning, organizing and executing. You must earn the respect that the position will bring and then set a new standard for your predecessor.

Lastly, do what you do and do it well. Leaders should keep the same momentum and energy they had from the beginning. Being chosen to lead the organization is only part of the work. Leadership positions should not be used as a stepping-stone to go Greek or just be something to put on your resume. They are in place to make Georgia State University a better campus for us all.

It is your money. It is your school. So get involved and be active.



Associated Press | Signal

President Bush greets the crowd in Slovakia, part of his European tour to mend relations between allies.

Rolling with punches Marijuana can solve your problem



**BRYSON
ALFORD**

balford@gsusignal.com

A couple of weeks ago I read a fellow writer's article entitled "Nazis meet apathy at Georgia State." The article was about how racism's best ally is apathy. After reading the article I could not help but refer to myself as "apathetic," although I had never thought of myself as a friend of or even an accomplice to racism. He suggested that prejudice exists because people are too apathetic about fighting it. The article said Nazis drew swastikas on the walls of some classrooms in the General Classroom Building and no one cared, not even school administrators. However, when two white students wore blackfaces to a sorority party, many black students raised hell, almost prompting race riots at Georgia State.

I'm sure we all remember the blackface incident. It even made the news. Although I am black, I was probably the most apathetic student at Georgia State regarding the incident. The only time I thought about it was when I heard other students talking about it the hallways, saw anti-Pike signs, and heard students' rage in classrooms. Many students were so upset they couldn't even concentrate on their schoolwork.

Maybe I'm just too nonchalant or maybe I just have thicker skin than most people because the incident did not bother me at all. Over the years I've learned to expect the worse and hope for the best. This philosophy just makes it a little easier on your soul because you won't be as disappointed when things don't go the way you would like or the way you planned, or even when the worse transpires. This is one of

the ways I deal with the harsh realities of life.

I recently adopted a new motto for life: "whatever's whatever." I will continue to try my best to reach the platform I want to reach in life, but I understand now that life is an extremely tough journey and I just can't waste my time, energy or even tears getting upset about everything that is contentious. Racism, sexism, and all other forms of discrimination will always exist. That is just something I've learned to live with. In life you have to learn to accept the bad with the good, the bitter with the sweet, if you want to retain your sanity.

You have no control over people's actions or thoughts. But you can control how people's actions and thoughts affect you mentally and emotionally. In the movie *Training Day*, Officer Jake Hoyt, played by Ethan Hawke, said it best: "It is all about smiles and cries. You have to control your smiles and your cries because that is all you have and no one can take that away from you."

I'm not going to get all bent out of shape about things I have a slim or no chance of changing like prejudices within others. What is destined to happen is going to happen. Yeah, I guess you can say, as some have, that I am "one of those people" who believes everything happens for a reason.

Thank God for the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. He was like the early North American colonists and other revolutionaries who fought for their own liberty and livelihood in order to make America a better place to live. But I can't fight to try to change people's convictions because I am fighting just to keep my own sanity.

No matter how much evil surrounds us, as long as we know God is in control, everything will be fine because only he knows the master plan.



Special | Signal
Martin Luther King, like other North American colonists before him, fought for liberty and to make America a better place.



**CALISTA
SCHENCK**
Senior/Psychology

I Can Back
That Sass Up

cschenck@gsusignal.com

If our government were truly concerned about rescuing our economy, it would legalize marijuana. It is already a prime cash crop (nationally it is the fourth largest), and an increase in usage would also bolster the fast food industry. If combating terrorism were the primary goal, our government would legalize marijuana. There is that government-funded commercial saying that buying marijuana supports terrorism because the money goes to Al Qaeda. Now half the marijuana consumed in the United States is grown domestically, and the major foreign sources are Mexico, Colombia, Canada, and Jamaica, but the minute percentage that funds terrorism would be eliminated if Americans had no reason to use foreign sources. There! I solved that tear-jerking problem for the DEA. I could go on, but I want to focus on the main issue of this column, one that is more important to me than the economy or terrorism: medicine.

A plethora of scientific research has found that marijuana is a highly versatile drug. It can be used in comprehensive treatment plans for multiple sclerosis, epilepsy, cancer, HIV/AIDS, chronic neuropathic pain, Tourette's Syndrome, glaucoma, Alzheimer's, anorexia, fibromyalgia, arthritis, post-traumatic stress disorder, endometriosis. There are literally hundreds of medical and psychological conditions marijuana can assuage. It selectively kills cancer cells, acts as an antioxidant, and reduces inflammation and pain, which are just a few of its positive effects.

Some people point out that marijuana also has negative effects. It releases carcinogens when smoked — although this effect can be circumvented by the use of a vaporizer, which heats (but does not burn) the marijuana to a temperature that releases the active ingredient THC. Its effects on heart rate and the brain also raise concern, but what legal medicine is free of side effects? Every drug out there used to treat medical conditions has side effects, but the benefits outweigh the disadvantages. If marijuana causes a tumor to go into remission, isn't some memory impairment acceptable?



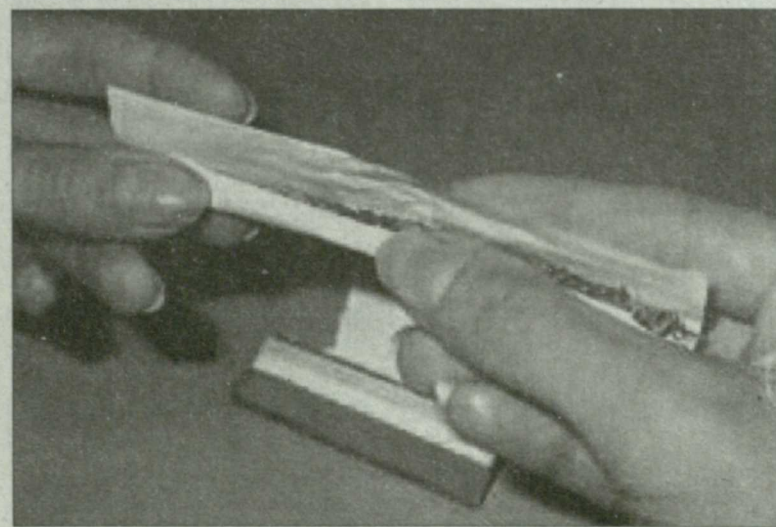
Special | Signal
Half the marijuana consumed in the United States is grown domestically, and sometimes indoors, as shown in the above picture.

Drugs that contain selected components of marijuana or allow it to be taken orally (in pill form) have been found to not be as effective for some conditions such as vaporized, inhaled *Cannabis sativa*. In 2001, U.K.-based GW Pharmaceuticals noted "extracts of cannabis provide greater relief of pain than the equivalent amount of cannabinoid given as a single chemical entity."

Currently, marijuana is a Schedule I drug in the United States. This classification means that there is no accepted medical use for marijuana (despite all the evidence to the contrary), and it has a high potential for abuse (although it is less addictive than both alcohol and tobacco). Other Schedule I drugs include LSD, heroin and mescaline. Schedule II drugs also have a high potential for abuse but are appropriate treatments for certain medical conditions. Cocaine, morphine and dextroamphetamine fall under Schedule II. What this means is that your 7-year-old child can take amphetamine so that he can sit still in class, but your 70-year-old grandmother cannot smoke marijuana to alleviate the nausea and pain associated with her cancer and

chemotherapy treatment. Marinol, a marijuana derivative, is a Schedule III drug, which means it is more legal than marijuana, but it is not as effective in treating various conditions. In 2001 in the *International Journal of Drug Policy*, Harvard psychiatrist Lester Grinspoon, M.D., stated that he had not found "a patient who has used both smoked marijuana and Marinol who finds the latter more useful. The most common reason for using Marinol is the illegality of marijuana, and many patients choose to ignore the law when they believe that the difference between the two puts their health, comfort or economic well-being at risk."

I know that our nation is not necessarily fond of policies based on science (evolution and stem cell research, anyone?), but when the only barrier to a drug that offers so much while costing so little is legality, couldn't we make an exception? Everyone has or has had a friend or family member suffer from a condition that could be treated by marijuana. If other treatments had failed your friend or relative and you knew that clinical trials had shown that marijuana was an effective treatment, what would you do?



Special | Signal
Marijuana is used for recreational and medicinal uses in the United States.

The truth about heroes

By AVA WARD
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Christopher Columbus, Thomas Jefferson, Helen Keller — all are American heroes. Their names bring carefully crafted thoughts of freedom fighting, discovery, and courage. Run these names by any middle-or high-school student, and you will probably hear a regurgitation of several noble accomplishments — discovery of America, author of the Declaration of Independence, victor over a physical handicap. The list goes on. But when asked to recall anything hypocritical, unjust or un-American in the character of these people, the result would be quite different. They would be dumbfounded because schools do not teach students the complexities and inconsistencies that make these “heroes” human. Instead, these three people, along with hundreds of others, are portrayed in most American classrooms as perfect citizens — super humans with spotless records.

But were our idealized forefathers and mothers really perfect? Of course not.

Christopher Columbus discovered America, sure, but he certainly was not the first. How can you discover a country that already has inhabitants? In fact, Columbus is responsible for one of the primary instances of genocide on the planet. He wiped out complete communities of Indians and engaged in unspeakable acts of brutality against the peoples he “discovered.” He is indirectly (if not directly) responsible for the extinction of numerous languages. He enslaved virtually all the indigenous people he encountered. He also separated families, drove individuals to suicide, and chose women and children to be sex slaves as a reward to his lieutenants.

Thomas Jefferson wrote the famous words, “All men are created equal” and have the right to “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness” — beautiful sentiments but terribly hypocritical. The truth is that Jefferson owned at

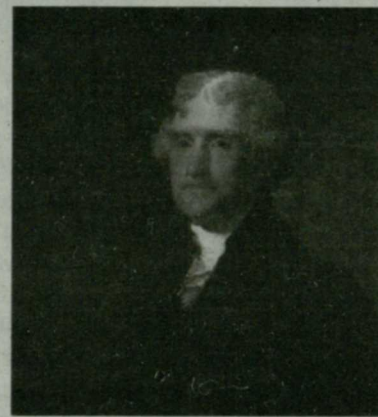
least 267 slaves during his lifetime. He freed only eight, five of whom were relatives. If a textbook happens to mention this fact, then it is expressed in extremely ambiguous terms. *The American Way*, a popular high school textbook, puts the only mention of Jefferson’s slaveholding this



Helen Keller and Thomas Jefferson are not always portrayed in a way that is truthful.

way: “Although Jefferson and others who owned slaves spoke against slavery, many people did not believe that a mixed society of equals could work.” This deceiving sentence leaves the reader to question if Jefferson even owned slaves at all.

Last is Helen Keller — sweet Helen Keller. Her childhood and adolescence are the only portions of her life taught in primary education. The truth is that she lived a long and outspoken life as a radical socialist. She celebrated after the Russian Revolution brought communism to Russia, she



Special | Signal

was a member of the Socialist Party of Massachusetts, and she wrote encouraging letters to “communists” who languished in jail because of the McCarthy era. Perhaps she would find it more than disheartening to learn the

way the pages of most textbooks represent her life. She is remembered for overcoming deafness and blindness rather than for her lifetime of dedicated work defending the poor and the downtrodden.

For some people, it undoubtedly makes sense to create heroes for America’s youth. It is a great recruitment strategy. Falsify people in America’s history to instill nationalism in the youth. Then everyone will agree it is a great and noble cause to fight for this great, flawless country. For other people, however, it undoubtedly makes greater sense to believe that if people are to fight for this country, then at least we should have enough faith in them to present them with truth in all its complexity and to allow them the opportunity to make informed decisions. Do not create nationalistic patriots blinded by idealized visions of American heroes. Give students the truth and then respect them as they independently make the choice to fight for whatever is good and true about America.

The depressing effects of anti-depressants



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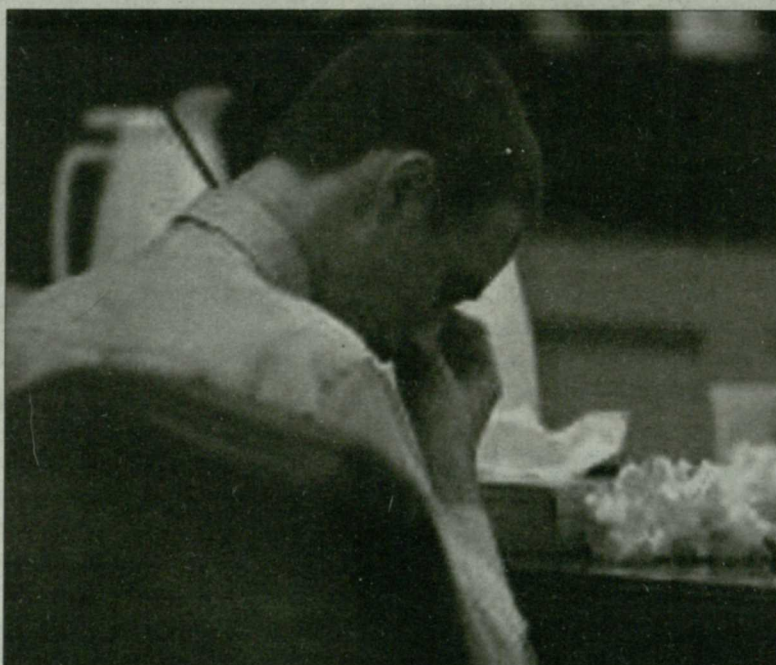
Are you feeling tired, angry, irritable, unhappy, unsatisfied and perhaps balding? Chances are if you are struggling with any sort of undesirable situation there is a chemical alteration available. In the past, such mental imbalances have pardoned many otherwise inexcusable acts. Issues ranging from snappy tempers to physical assaults have been defended on the pretext of emotional or mental incapacity. With the onslaught of prescription pill advertisements saturating our every waking moment, such issues are now fixable with only “one tiny pill every four hours.” But how much of a saving grace are these pills, really?

Fifteen-year-old Christopher Pittman recently received a 30-year to life jail sentence for the murder of his grandparents. On Nov. 28, 2001, Pittman was angry with his grandparents because they

had punished him for an incident on a school bus the previous day. Pittman confessed that he lay in bed waiting for his grandparents to fall asleep before loading a .410-gauge shotgun he had received from his father the previous week. The confession detailed how Pittman pumped a birdshot through his grandfather’s open mouth and the side of his grandmother’s head. Before fleeing, he set fire to the home.

Along with his confession, Pittman cited his grandfather’s disciplinary tactics as justification for his death. He confessed that his grandfather, Joe Pittman, deserved to die because he had paddled his grandson. He further explained that his grandmother deserved to die as well because she had done nothing to stop it.

After his arrest, Pittman’s lawyers argued that his young age prohibited him from forming the criminal intent to commit these murders. Moreover, they cited an adverse reaction to his use of a popular anti-depressant drug, Zoloft. They argued that Zoloft had impaired his judgment and allowed him to kill both of his grandparents without remorse. The defense pointed out Pittman’s initial adamancy that



Christopher Pittman, seen here at his trial, was sentenced to a 30-year to life in prison.

someone else had performed the killings and his ultimate refusals of guilt as evidence of mental instability.

Some argued that volatility stemmed from a popular drug intended to positively alter such dispositions.

Questions have arisen concerning the sincerity and truthfulness of Pittman’s plea. There has been an uproar of concern surrounding the allocation of Zoloft to young

teens, which is now socially acceptable and widely distributed.

We have become a nation obsessed with the quick fix, pop a pill and change something, the get rich quick, the get out of jail free card, if you will. Only now that analogy has become a possible reality. Can we write off the murder as a side effect to medication? Nausea and sleeplessness are one thing, but murder is quite

another. If Pittman was truly unstable at the time of the murder and his prescribed drugs were to blame, how then are we to adequately prosecute?

Such an instance should prompt us all to analyze our dependencies. Be it caffeine, pain medicine, diet pills or some other chemical form. We have to honestly critique the benefits and the drawbacks of so many modern day enhancers and chemically charged personality revision. Whether Zoloft did have a part in the murder of Pittman’s grandparents, or it was simply used as a hopeful pardon, the possibility of its acceptance is still startling.

I fear a society of growing hypochondriacs, one in which those who truly need to alleviate problems through chemical means, are scarce among the masses who are chemically dependent. I fear a society that pops Prozac like Tic-Tacs and justifies it as a means of coping with stress, which is ironically self-induced. Pittman’s story, though extreme, should, if nothing else, shake us, waking our nation from a drugged slumber, to the reality and gravity of that around us.

Letter to the editor

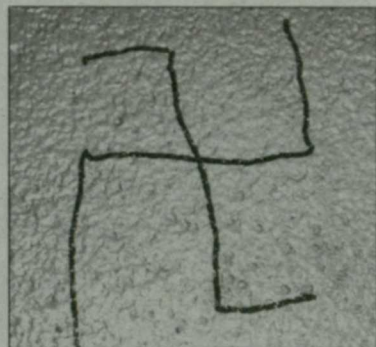
Dear Editor,

As Jewish students and faculty members at Georgia State University, we would like to respond to the opinion article written by Matt Cochran and printed in the Feb. 15 *Signal*.

The swastikas found on campus offended all of us, and awakened us to a stark social problem. However, we want to assure the campus that there have been significant efforts, including intensive investigation, to address this problem. A campus-wide e-mail was sent by President Patton condemning the actions, and further long-term solutions are being sought.

These responses mirror the responses given to other incidents of hatred and ignorance on campus, and the Jewish community at Georgia State stands in solidarity with any other students who have experienced such hatred on campus. It is important that all of Georgia State, and especially victims of hatred or ignorance, work together to end such incidents. It is wrong to blame one victim in

response to another victim's fate. The Jewish students of Georgia State remain committed to working with the whole of the Georgia State community to rid ourselves of the hatred and ignorance which any one of us may experience.



Special | *Signal*
The swastikas in the General Classroom Building have sparked a controversy.

We hope that students who are interested in learning more about the symbol of the swastika, or the Holocaust which indelibly seared it into history, will visit one of the following exhibits and learn more about what makes the

appearance of swastikas at Georgia State so upsetting. The Georgia Commission on the Holocaust, in cooperation with the Georgia Department of Education, is currently sponsoring a traveling exhibit of Anne Frank in the World, 1929-1945, at Kennesaw State University. The William Bremen Jewish Heritage Museum at 17th and Spring Streets in Atlanta has a permanent exhibit on Jewish life in Georgia that includes a section on Georgians and the Holocaust.

Our campus has strength in its amazing diversity. The Jewish community appreciates this and seeks to enrich cultural exchange at Georgia State with safety and respect.

Thank you,
Bryce Farbstein, President—Jewish Law Students Association;
Laurel Snyder, Program Director—Hillel: the Jewish Student Union; Michael Galchinsky, Director—Program in Jewish Studies; Mark Budnitz, Faculty Advisor—JLSA & Hillel

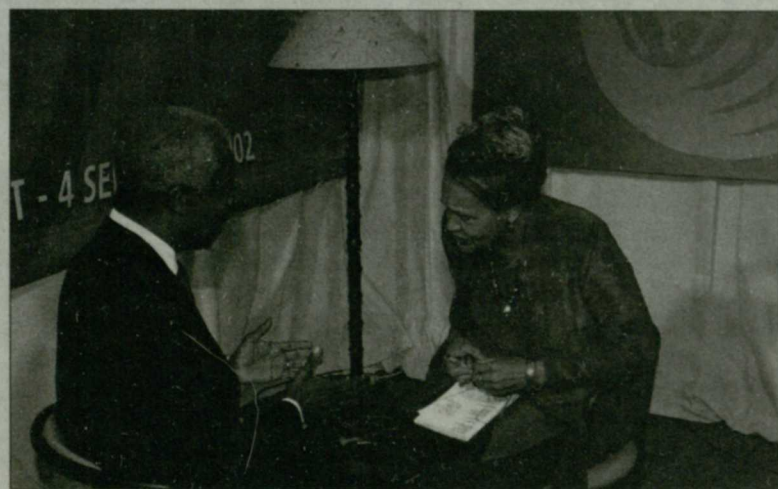
Letter to the editor

This selection is in response to *The Signal's* Feb. 23, 2005 column, "NAACP needs to get out of history's way" by Dominique Huff:

As a member of the University of Georgia Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, I am appalled at the blatant ignorance displayed in Dominique Huff's Feb. 23 editorial, "NAACP needs to get out of history's way."

Tiffany Chatman and her "clique," the UGA NAACP, know their history. They know that Charlene Hunter-Gault and Hamilton Holmes integrated the University on Jan. 9, 1961, and endured racially-based adversity including being called a nigger. More than forty years later, African-Americans at UGA are still in a racially insensitive environment in which nigger is used in the same context.

The organization's concern, or "drama" as described by Mr. Huff, was due to the display of a word that remains offensive to many students on our campus today. We praise the University's efforts in acknowledging Hunter-Gault's courage by creating the commemorative mural, however, many in the African American community at UGA were offended by the placement of the quote, "Make way for the



Special | *Signal*
The exhibit at UGA honoring Hunter-Gault contains the word nigger, and has upset several people.

nigger." While simply walking on campus, African Americans are referred to as niggers by whites on a daily basis. Mr. Huff, if you and a few of your shielded GSU black comrades were to spend a day on our campus, you'd know the reality of the word.

I thank Chatman and the UGA NAACP for having the courage to take a stand when no one else did. They lived true to the advocacy responsibility of the NAACP. The truth is that Chatman and her "clique" are heroes. While many "Uncle Toms" sit idly by when injustices are done unto the African American community, they possess the will and tenacity to fight for what they believe in.

So before you decide to bash Chatman and the UGA NAACP, get your facts straight Mr. Huff. Had you made a simple phone call to any African American student on our campus, you could have been given a brief and accurate synopsis of the history of UGA in regards to race relations and its current state, and that the word nigger is as real as it's ever been. And you're definitely wrong about one thing, brother. The battle has been fought, but your ignorance on the issue confirms it isn't over yet. We have a long way to go.

Christopher Johnson
Second-Year Student
University of Georgia

Mission Statement

The *Signal* shall provide, in a fair and accurate manner, news of interest and significance to the Georgia State University community and serve as a forum for the expression of ideas of members of that community. Furthermore, the *Signal* shall provide an opportunity for students to pursue experience within a professional newspaper environment. The *Signal* shall also provide truthful and ethical advertising of interest to the Georgia State University community.

Letter Submission Guidelines

The following guidelines must be followed when submitting a Letter to the Editor. Failure to follow them will result in your letter not being considered for publication.

- Letters must be submitted to jspringston@gsusignal.com and must include the text of the letter in the body of the e-mail.
- Letters should be 200-400 words maximum. The *Signal* will allow longer letters, but only in rare circumstances.
- Letters must include the full name(s) of the writer(s) and include their year and major. If the writer is a faculty member, they must include their title.
- Letters will be fact-checked before publication. The writer may be obligated to make changes to the letter for publication.
- Letters will be edited for grammar, clarity, length, factual accuracy and adherence to *Signal* policy.
- The *Signal* reserves the right to reject letters at their discretion.

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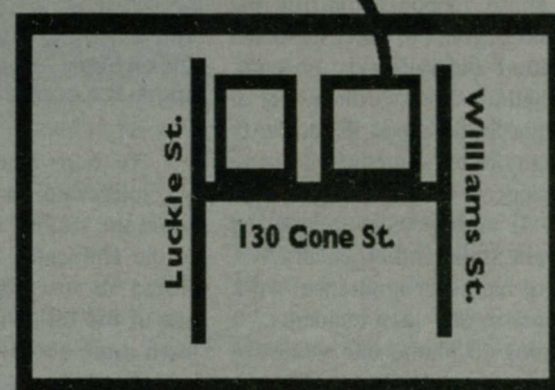
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PANTHER POLL:

Q: STAFF POLL: WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR SPRING BREAK?



Jonathan Springston
Perspectives Editor

"I'm going to Los Angeles to see my brother."



Kyla Evans
Production Manager

"I'm working on my thesis."



Nick Meis
Senior Editor

"I'm going to Carrabelle, Florida to do some kayaking."



Brandon Wiggins
Photo Editor

"I'm going to New York to show off my portfolio."



Jess Toothman
Associate News Editor

"I'm going to Milwaukee."



Matt Cochran
Managing Editor

"I'm taking a long weekend to Hilton Head."

**HAVE A FUN AND SAFE
TELL US WHAT YOU THINK... SPRING BREAK!**