

# The Georgia State University Signal

Student Newspaper

gsusignal.com



Community  
Service  
Rewards  
System

News, p.7



Volleyball  
falls in  
A-Sun  
Tourney

Sports, p.13



Tax Season  
is  
Coming

Consumer, p.9



Remembering  
John  
Lennon

Perspectives, p.23

## Administration lobbies SGA on behalf of Athletic Department

By DOMINIQUE HUFF  
dhuff@gsusignal.com

The Student Government Association's tough stances against the proposed athletic fee increase were heard loud and clear by the university administration. So loud, that Georgia State President Carl Patton and Vice President of Student Services Hazel Scott came to lobby the SGA personally to push for the athletic fee increase.

Patton reminded the SGA about on the importance of athletics to the university community.

"Athletics are a source of pride for alumni and students," said Patton. "Our move to the Colonial Athletic Conference from the Atlantic Sun will place us in major markets that will provide exposure for the university."

In the current division, the teams play against schools such as Troy and Mercer. In the new division, the Panthers will be up against schools such as Delaware and Drexel. Patton adds that, "the move also would have Georgia State games aired on ESPN, not just local cable."

The proposed fee increase of \$30 will bring the athletic fee up to \$112 a semester. In an Oct. 5, Signal article by Matt Momtahan, it was reported that the extra money from this fee would offset costs of student scholarships, facilities, equipment and other items enabling the university to get situated in a new conference.

However, several members of the senate were still not sold on supporting this increase. Policy Studies senator John Michael Lee wanted to know if any efforts were made to solicit student opinions. "A lot of students do not want this increase," he said. "I encourage everyone to vote based on the opinion of the



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Patton petitioned the SGA to raise the athletic fee.

students not your personal opinion."

Arts and Sciences Senator Guy Brown pushed for a football program. Several students including former SGA officials worked hard to bring a club football team to campus as a grassroots movement for a recognized football program. "Football brings people together more than basketball" emphasized Brown. "We need to start getting ready now for football rather than keep putting it off."

Business Senator Christine Collier was concerned about students with the HOPE Scholarship and the impact on them. "The regents will not allow for the increase to be paid with the HOPE scholarship," said Patton. This would mean HOPE recipients would have to foot the bill via their book stipend or out of their own pockets.

Some SGA members did show the need to support the athletic department by some means. Vice President of Student Services, Richard Glover wanted to see SGA to do something.

"Instead of the full amount that they are asking for, I would propose maybe giving them 15 to 20 dollars instead," stated Glover. "As the SGA, it is our responsibility to get this matter out to the people."

President Tourgee Simpson pushed the need for the athletic department to get more students here on campus enthusiastic about the games and the teams.

"I would like to see the arena packed with students and alumni on game nights, Pounce (the mascot) needs to be in the plaza along

See FEE | Page 7

## Student challenges practices of Physical Therapy Department

By DOMINIQUE HUFF  
dhuff@gsusignal.com

Two attempts and you're out! Michelle DuVaul-Smithson, a student in the Physical Therapy department, has used both attempts. However, DuVaul-Smithson is questioning the practices of the department as she appeals her dismissal. DuVaul-Smithson was informed of her dismissal from the program on Oct. 19. She had failed both exams for safety violations according to statements from her instructors and evaluators.

The chair of the department, Dr. Marcia Pearl was contacted, however the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) prohibits her or anyone within the university from speaking about the matter. Kerry Heyward, Associate Legal Advisor for the university, explains the policy further.

"FERPA prohibits the University from disclosing student education records that are maintained by the University and contain information related to a student," he said. "This would include employees of the University from disclosing or discussing records of a student. However, if a student wanted to disclose his/her information to you that is within the student's right to do so."

Heyward states in an e-mail. DuVaul-Smithson voluntarily provided documentation of her statements to the Signal.

Students in the program are required to take and pass the PT6300 course titled "Patient Management." According to a letter written by Dr. Christine Rosenbloom, Associate Dean for Academics for the College of Health and Human Sciences, to DuVaul-Smithson it states that, "The PT6300

syllabus clearly states the consequences of failure of two practical examinations. The Practical exam is graded with a score and letter grade. A minimum score of 80 percent is required to pass the Practical Exam. Students will be allowed to retake the practical and competency exam should they fail on the first attempt. Students who fail either exam for safety violations will only be allowed two attempts. Failure to pass exams after the allowed attempts will result in a failing grade for the course".

"There are several issues I have misgivings about," states DuVaul-Smithson. "First, the tape dealing with the part of the exam I failed does not exist. Furthermore, neither instructor asked for my consent to be videotaped."

Dr. Rosenbloom explains in her

See POLICY | Page 7

## Personal training available to students at low cost

By BRYAN ALPER  
byalper@gsusignal.com

Georgia State University students, faculty and alumni have access to high quality personal training and health screenings at an incredibly inexpensive rate through the Department of Recreational Services' experienced fitness staff members.

The staff consists of exercise science degree seeking students who are more than adequately prepared to work with a wide variety of people. These professionals in training are mainly graduate students and a few are undergraduate seniors fulfilling their internship requirements.

"Most personal trainers across the country don't have the training we do," said staff member Jennifer Miller who has returned to earn her masters degree after graduating from GSU in 2000 with a bachelor of science in nutrition. "This position makes classes and training come together because



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One-on-one training is available for students.

they go hand in hand. I am able to assess everyone who comes through the door," she explained.

All clients get an assessment before pairing with a trainer; therefore, program design and implementation have a scientific foundation. The assessment includes a series of evaluations to measure cardiovascular fitness, strength,

flexibility, and body composition.

Several programs are available to fit an individual's needs. The Starter Training Package is ideal for beginners and those getting back into fitness. Along with an initial assessment, two 55-minute personal training sessions are included. This

See TRAIN | Page 4



# Interview with UPS and get a chance to win a DVD player AND earn some holiday cash!

Need some extra, last minute holiday cash? Well, UPS will be conducting interviews and making on-the-spot job offers for seasonal driver helpers... **just what you need to make the holidays even better!**

In addition, Georgia State students who complete the interview process will be entered into a drawing for a chance to win one of the following great prizes:

- DVD player
- Dorm survival kit (\$50 value)
- UPS paraphernalia
- \$50 bookstore gift certificate
- UPS luggage case

**Stop by the career services computer lab today to see the prizes!**

## About the job:

- Earn \$8.50/hr by riding on a UPS package car and helping a driver deliver packages in, or very close to, the neighborhood where you'll be during the holiday season. You can even start working after you complete your finals!
  - Must be able to work at a fast pace, lift at least 70 lbs, and work in inclement weather
  - No drivers license required
  - Must be at least 18 years of age
  - Must be available from approximately 10am - 6pm, Monday through Friday
  - Work with UPS during the holidays and you may be able to work as a permanent part-time package handler after the holidays (package handlers receive company paid medical, dental, and vision benefits, and up to \$3000 in \*tuition assistance)
- \*program guidelines apply

**When:** Thursday, December 9th  
from 9:00AM - 3:00PM

**Where:** Georgia State University  
Career Services (Rm 250)

**What:** UPS driver helper  
interviews

To interview, you must complete an  
application online, at

**[www.upsjobs.com](http://www.upsjobs.com)**

**BEFORE** you come to  
interview on December 9th!



## If you will be in one of the following Zip Codes during the holidays, WE NEED YOU!

Acworth (30101/30102), Cartersville (30120), Duluth (30136/30155), Kennesaw (30144), Roswell (30075/30076), Alpharetta (30201/30202), Dacula (30211), Dunwoody (30338), Marietta (30067/30062/30066/30060/30086), Smyrna (30039/30080), Austell (30001), Dallas (30312), Lawrenceville (30044/30045/30043), Norcross (30093), Snellville (30021), Brockton (30501), Douglasville (30134/30135), Lilburn (30247), Powder Springs (30073), Woodstock (30188), Gainesville (30502/30503/30504/30506/30507/30513)

## To apply:

- Visit [www.upsjobs.com](http://www.upsjobs.com)
- From the left toolbar, select "Search all" under Package Operations
- Select "GA" on the map shown
- Select "Georgia State University" as your location

Benefits are not available for seasonal positions  
Positions end on or before December 31, 2004  
UPS is an Equal Opportunity Employer



# calender of events

**December 8, 5:30pm**

Grand Menorah Lighting Ceremony  
Library Plaza at GSU  
Menorah Lighting, Hot Cocoa, Latkes,  
and much more. FREE and open to  
the public.

Visit [www.chabadofgsu.org](http://www.chabadofgsu.org) for more  
information. Sponsored by Chabad of  
GSU and Hillels of Georgia

**December 9, 7:30pm**

100 Frosty the ShowMan with: Alicia  
Keys, Chingy, Good Charlotte  
Phillips Arena

Dec. 9, 2004 Q100 Frosty the  
ShowMan with: Alicia Keys, Chingy,  
Good Charlott

Tickets: \$35

Tickets on sale 11/9 at 10:00 AM

Contact: (404) 878-3000

**December 11, 7:30pm**

Rialto Center for the Performing  
Arts Rhythm of Jazz Series With Lonnie  
Liston Smith

Tickets available through Rialto Box  
Office. To purchase tickets by phone,  
call (404) 651-4727.

Contact: (404) 651-1234

**Dec. 12, 2004, 7:00 PM**

Noh & Kyogen

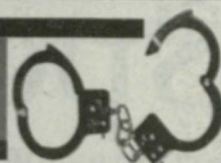
Rialto Center for the Performing Arts  
Dating to the 14th century, Japan's Noh  
theatre combines elements of dance,  
drama, music and poetry into one high-  
ly stylized stage art, while Kyogen, the  
classical comic theater, emphasizes  
dialogue. Officially designated  
"Masterpieces of the Oral and  
Intangible Heritage of Humanity" by  
UNESCO, Noh and Kyogen were first  
introduced to American audiences at  
the end of the 19th century in a pivotal  
performance attended by President  
Ulysses Grant. The Japan Society has  
assembled 30 of the finest Noh/Kyogen  
actors and musicians for this historic  
tour—among them Rokuro Umewaka,  
the great grandson of the Noh master  
who staged that long-ago performance.  
Price \$26, \$36, \$52 Contact: (404) 651-  
4727

**December 18, 3:00 PM**

College of Health & Human Sciences  
J. Mack Robinson College of Business  
College of Law Graduates and  
Undergraduates

3:00 p.m. Students assemble at 1:15  
p.m. in the New Student Center Sports  
Arena doors will open at 1:30  
p.m. Processional begins at 2:30 p.m.

## campus crime



### Thefts

A Theft by Taking report was  
filed by an officer. The officer  
observed the subject taking  
money from a parking lot pay  
box on 12/02/04 at 10:08  
pm. The officer made contact  
with the subject and conducted a  
criminal history check with neg-  
ative results. The subject was  
issued a CTW, arrested,  
processed and transported to  
Fulton County Jail. The money  
was turned over to  
Investigations.

#### One Park Place

A Theft by Taking report was  
filed by a non-GSU individual.  
The complainant stated that he  
installed a panel on 12/02/04 at  
9:30 am. When he returned at  
1:30 pm the panel had been  
stolen. The area was searched  
with negative results.

#### Haas Howell

A Theft by Taking report was  
filed by a staff member. The  
complainant stated that he had  
last seen the VCR (\$200) on  
10/15/04 at 12:00 p.m. He  
noticed it had been stolen on  
12/01/04 at 3:25 p.m. There  
were no signs of forced entry.  
The area was searched with neg-  
ative results.

### Possession

#### Hurt Park

A Drug Possession report  
was filed by an officer. The

officer observed a male  
subject smoking marijuana  
on 12/01/04 at 5:27 a.m. A  
criminal history check was  
done with negative results.  
He was arrested,  
processed, released on a  
copy of charges, and  
escorted off the property.

### Battery

University Village,  
Sparta

A Simple Battery report  
was filed by a student.  
The complainant stated  
that her roommate closed  
the refrigerator door on  
her hand on 12/02/04  
at 8:50 pm. The case will  
be handled by University  
Housing.

### Criminal Trespass

#### 79 Poplar St

A Simple Assault report  
was filed by a non-GSU  
individual. The com-  
plainant stated that he  
observed the subject strike  
a female on 11/25/04 at  
12:15 am. The subject  
attempted to flee but was  
apprehended. The officer  
conducted a criminal his-  
tory check with negative  
results. He was identified  
by the female, arrested,  
processed and transported  
to Fulton County Jail.

## The Exclamation!

**It seems to me** that all of  
SGA has some explain-  
ing to do.

**I hope the volunteer**  
website does not become  
just another level of the  
impenetrable Georgia  
State bureaucracy.

**The school has no busi-**  
ness educating students  
about sex.

**The nation is** only divid-  
ed if we let it be divided.

**The Janet Jackson**  
debacle is the worst thing  
that has happened to the

Democratic Party  
since Michael  
Dukakis.

**There are two types**  
of people in this  
world. Those who  
classify everyone into  
two types of people  
and those who don't.

**Ted Kennedy is** a far  
more divisive man  
than George W. Bush.

**Is anyone else** becom-  
ing desensitized to the  
homeless people?

**George Bush is**  
Curious George and  
Dick Cheney is the  
man in the yellow hat.

**My stepmom calls**  
futons "futrons."  
Yikes!

## Notable Quotables

Anything that is of value in life only multiplies when it is given.  
-Deepak Chopra

It's all right to have butterflies in your stomach. Just get them to fly in formation.  
-Dr. Rob Gilbert

What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us.  
-Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803 - 1882)

Cabbage: A familiar kitchen-garden vegetable about as large and wise as a man's head.  
-Ambrose Bierce (1842 - 1914), The Devil's Dictionary

After all it is those who have a deep and real inner life who are best able to deal with the irritating details of outer life.  
-Evelyn Underhill

Usually, terrible things that are done with the excuse that progress requires them are not really progress at all, but just terrible things.  
-Russell Baker (1925 - )

I don't know the key to success, but the key to failure is trying to please everybody.  
-Bill Cosby (1937 - )

If you have information for the calender of events, exclamation, crime reports or ampersand please contact  
Lindsey Stephenson, News Editor, at: [lstephenson@gsusignal.com](mailto:lstephenson@gsusignal.com) Find more online at

[www.gsusignal.com](http://www.gsusignal.com)



# Spotlight Awareness Week

By DOMINIQUE HUFF  
dhuff@gsusignal.com

What is the Spotlight Programs Board? Who serves on the Spotlight Programs Board? These questions created concern among the staff at Spotlight and the creation of Awareness Week from those concerns.

"We want to reach out to the students. This is a chance to get students involved in the decision making process of Spotlight," stated Director Sheonny Miller.

Spotlight has received harsh criticism over their programming, leadership and focus in the past and now, in continuing Miller's turnaround plan, stu-

dents have a chance to provide input for ideas and suggestions. "There were events during the day and the evening for all students at Georgia State to get involved and know what Spotlight is all about," said Miller.

During the entire week, there were various events for students to participate in. Events ranged, from academia to attending a play. On Monday, there were free strategy sessions sponsored by The Princeton Review for the GRE and LSAT to assist students in the graduate school admissions process. On Tuesday, there was a Spotlight exposition in the plaza from noon to 2 p.m. At

## University offers high quality training at affordable price

### TRAIN From Page 1

package costs \$40 to students and \$45 for all other members. Based on one's personal goals and current fitness level, a compatible program will be developed.

Another program is the Starter Package Plus, which includes six sessions in addition to an initial assessment. This program is most popular. It costs students \$75 and all other members \$90.

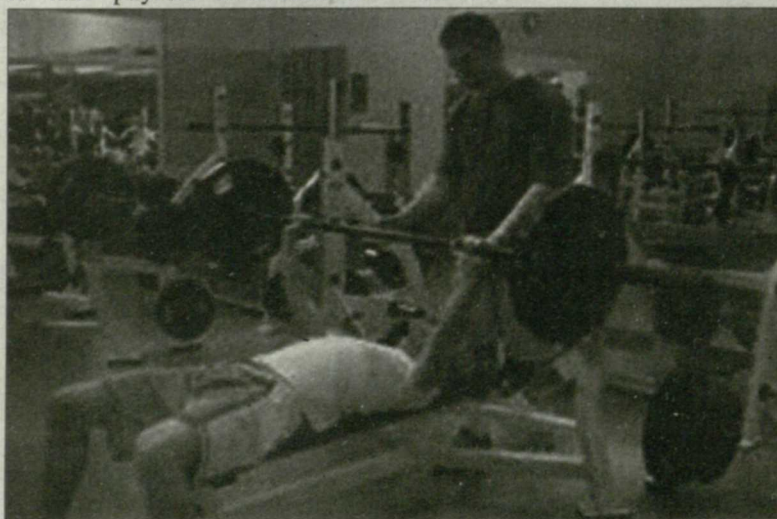
Individual sessions are available in groups of three or by the semester. For a list of all available programs and their rates, go to [www.gsu.edu/recreation](http://www.gsu.edu/recreation).

Students have access to the Student Recreation Center automatically when they pay their semester tuition. However, faculty and staff who don't pay a student activity fee can choose to take payroll deduction for

admittance or pay a membership fee in advance. Alumni also have to pay a fee for use of the facility. This fee is separate from personal training rates.

Program director, Deborah Rupp leads her team of fitness professionals. She prides the program on her staff's excellent customer service. "Besides the fact that the staff members are professionals in training, they are students who serve students," she said. "The opportunity for these students to put theory into practice is one of the strengths of our program."

One student who has been quite pleased with her training program is Ellan Edwards. "I have been enjoying myself and I really look forward to improving even further," she said. Since I have started with Jennifer, I quit smoking and just today was able to run 2.5 miles out of a 3 mile run (1.5 miles straight) which is great for me."



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Several different personal training programs are available.



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Awareness week offered students an opportunity to ask questions about the organization.

that time, members of the board showcased their committee to the student body.

"During this time, students saw what committees Spotlight consists of, learned about relevant events to that committee and even volunteered to work on that committee," Miller stated. Later on that evening, students were encouraged to come to one of the showings of "The Saddest Music in the World" at Cinefest and attend Acoustic Soul Vibes, collaboration with the Black Student Alliance. "The Saddest Music in the

World" was shown the entire week.

On Wednesday, students came to Cinefest Theatre and the Spotlight Office between the hours of 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. to offer suggestions, opinions and recommendations for programming ideas.

"This was the whole reason for the week. Students talked and we listened," Miller said. "We received a lot of feedback from the students."

On Thursday, the Buddy Lee Tour was on campus as part of awareness week. Students

enjoyed free food, games, free t-shirts and free jeans for the men. A band performed as well. Cinefest hosted an advance screening of "Alexander." The 70's musical "Hair" the show, had performances on both Thursday and Friday evenings in Alumni Hall.

"After this week, we hope that students will have a greater understanding of what Spotlight is and what we do. We also look forward to new people wanting to volunteer and work with us as well" Miller said.

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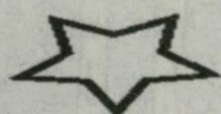
Go to [PCB05.com](http://PCB05.com) today for contest details and information!

#### Panama City Beach Florida 2005 Spring Break Sweepstakes Rules:

No Purchase or Obligation Necessary to Enter or Win. Open to legal U.S. residents, 18 and older at time of entry. Void where prohibited. Sweepstakes starts 12:00:00 AM (Midnight) (ET) 9/1/04 and ends at 11:59:59 PM (ET) 1/31/05 ("Promotional Period"). Automatically receive one (1) Sweepstakes entry when you complete the registration form at <http://www.pcb05.com>. Entrants must complete all the required information to be eligible. Winner selected at random on or about 2/7/05. Prize/Value: (1) Grand Prize: A 7-day, 6 night trip for four (4) to Panama City Beach Florida for Spring Break 2005. The winner and his/her guests must travel be available for travel for a 7-day period from 3/1/05-3/31/05, or prize will be forfeited and awarded to an alternate winner. Approx. Retail Value ("ARV") \$4,000. The odds of winning will be dependent upon the number of eligible entries received. Sweepstakes subject to complete official rules, which may be obtained by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to "Panama City Beach Florida 2005 Spring Break Sweepstakes" Rules, P.O. Box 5000, Manhasset, NY 11030, for receipt by 1/31/05 or online at <http://www.pcb05.com>.



# CASH FOR BOOKS.



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WHAT WE NEED.**

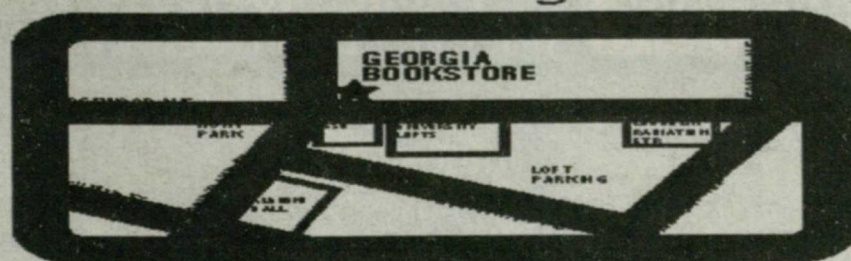
**WE GOT  
WHAT YOU WANT.**

**THIS IS LOVE.**

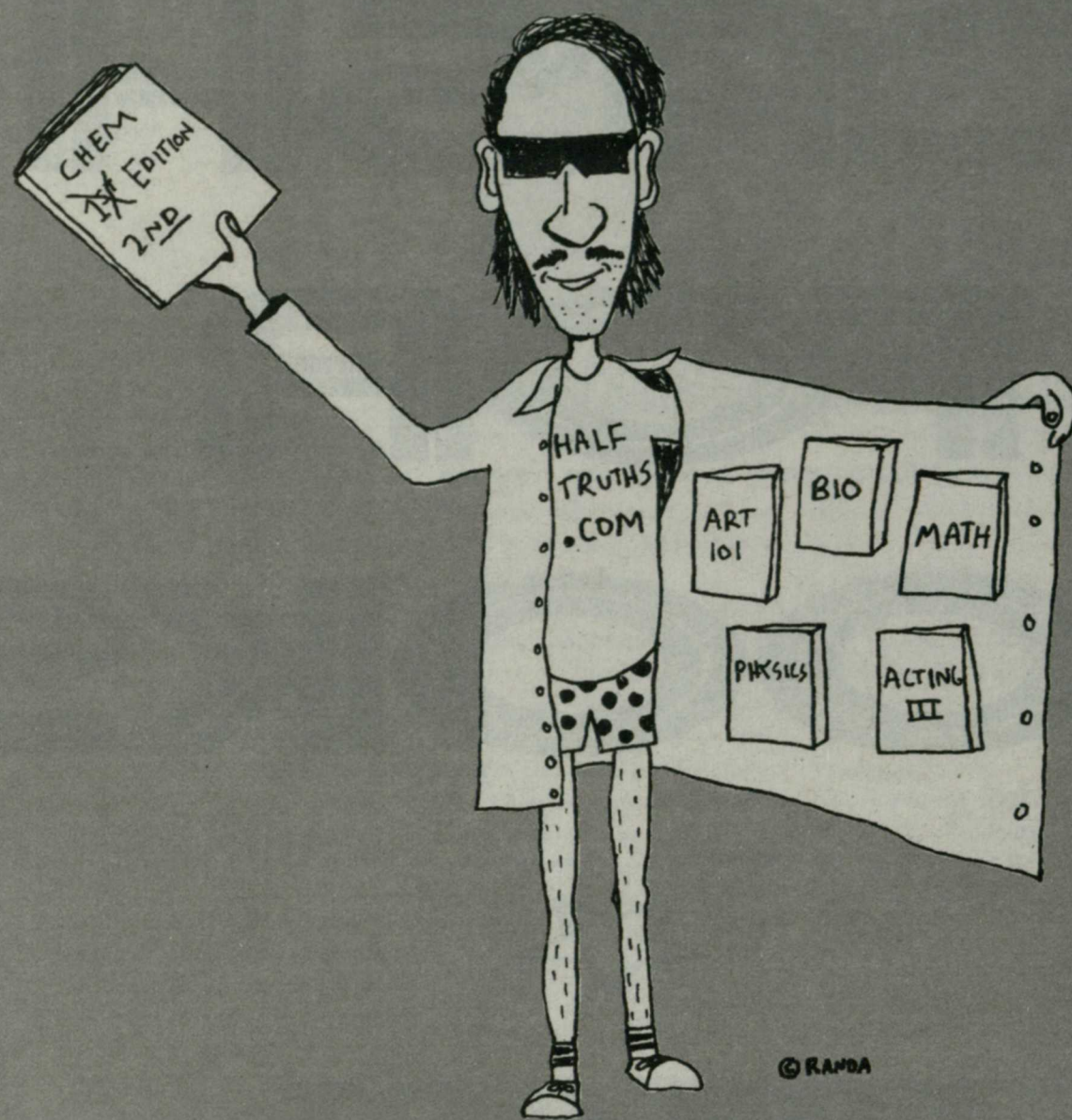


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# Office of Community Service launches rewards system for Georgia State volunteers

With the new system in place, volunteer hours equals rewards

By DREW WOODS  
awoods@gsusignal.com

Students at Georgia State University who desire to reach out to the community--and receive rewards for it--can now do so through an online database consisting of hundreds of local volunteer opportunities.

Launched on Oct. 15 by the Office of Community Learning, Atlanta Based Learning, Neighborhood Collaborative and External Affairs, the volunteer website requires a quick and easy registration before students can access links for community engagement as well as their own personal profile. Students are encouraged to get involved in volunteer events concerned with issues ranging from the environment to substance abuse through the "Volunteer Solutions" link via [www.gsu.edu/service](http://www.gsu.edu/service).

After setting up a user account describing their availability, skills, location and specific groups they would like to be involved with, students will receive an e-mail notification of a volunteer event. They can then use the account to record community service hours and log personal reflections of their experiences.

Students who choose to get involved become eligible for prize drawings, based on their documented volunteer hours, through the "Rewards Program." Prizes include



Hands on Atlanta is one of many organizations with which the Office of Community Service coordinates.

Special | Signal

rewards such as gift certificates for restaurants and the Georgia State Bookstore, and tickets to movies or Atlanta sporting events.

Lovell Lemons, director of the Office of Community Service, is optimistic as the website has already attracted volunteers logging in over 100 hours. "Once the word gets out, we never know what we may receive in terms of responses," he said.

Several local organizations are included in the volunteer website, such as After-School All-Stars Atlanta, which, according to their homepage, is "dedicated to keeping children safe and helping them achieve in school and life." Centered at Martin Luther King Middle School, the All-Stars seek volunteers as positive mentors with skills in childcare, tutoring, and leadership development.

Around Christmas time,

Santa Clause's can be seen ringing the Salvation Army bell standing beside a bright red kettle. The Salvation Army is reaching out for volunteers to ring the bell at a location in close proximity to the Georgia State University campus. For three hours a day, volunteers help raise money to house the homeless, feed the hungry and reach disadvantaged citizens of all ages.

Lemons stresses the importance of this and other holiday projects, such as adopt-a-family projects and elementary school Christmas parties.

"We try to brighten the lives of those who are less fortunate," he said.

Lemons adds, "Hopefully we'll be able to identify those who are doing good will and inspire other students and faculty members to get involved. The goal is to help create the kind of culture where giving back and service to others is something we all aspire to do."

## Physical Therapy Department policy in question by student

### POLICY From Page 1

letter written to the DuVaul-Smithson that "videotape is not used as a grading tool for student performance and no student has ever been graded using a video tape." DuVaul-Smithson requested a chance to view the tape to see her mistakes but apparently it was cut off before the mistakes in question occurred. "I will never know what I did that was wrong because of the obvious editing of the tape," she adds. "The tape stops within eight minutes of my examination and proceeds to another student's examination."

She also expressed concern about this exam being issued during the student's first semester in the program. "I think overall performance by the end of the semester should be evaluated to determine if a student should remain in the program, not the results of one test, especially this early in the semester," states DuVaul-Smithson.

In her letter, Dr. Rosenbloom states, "patient safety is of the utmost importance in the physical therapy practice. The faculty of the department prides themselves on training to keep patients safe. The best way to insure that is to have students practice safety skills in a laboratory session before clinical rotations begin."

The Student Government Association recently got involved with

the situation as well. DuVaul-Smithson contacted Rashida Davis, Executive Vice President who ordered Vice President of Academic Affairs Harriette Thomas and Health and Human Science senator Vernessa Glen to draft a resolution issuing the SGA's support of DuVaul-Smithson. "Rashida and the SGA were very approachable and supportive of my endeavor to seek justice in the situation. When others had seemed to stop listening to me, they kept supporting me," said DuVaul-Smithson. The senators presented the resolution during the Nov. 18 meeting and it will be voted upon at their next meeting.

DuVaul-Smithson is taking action against the department to fight for her reinstatement. Her appeal to the College of Health of Human Sciences was denied. She is currently appealing their decision with the university provost, Dr. Ronald Henry. If Henry denies her request, she will then appeal to Georgia State President Carl Patton, who will have the final say on the university level.

DuVaul-Smithson is prepared to go to the Board of Regents.

"I do not want another student to go through what I've been through," she said. "Even if when it's all said and done and nothing changes my fate, I hope at least there will be some considerations for changes in policy. Student morale will and is suffering by this one strike and you're out policy."

## Patton lobbies SGA for athletic fee increase

### FEE From Page 1

with the cheerleaders and there needs to be much more presence from the department on campus since students fund it with their fee payments," said Simpson. "There needs to be involvement not only through student money but school spirit from the faculty, staff and administration as well."

The SGA has planned a Blue and White Day where the entire university community will be asked to wear blue and white to

show their support for the basketball team. This initiative is slated to become a new campus tradition.

If this fee goes into effect with SGA support, then this will be the fourth fee increase/creation that will have occurred within the past three years. Others included the library renovation fee, the international student fee and increase in the transportation fee.

"We want the administration to realize that we are not going to just say yes to fee increases just because," adds Simpson. The outcome of this matter will be reported in Jan. 2005.

# SGA wraps up Fall Semester

By MATT MOMTAHAN  
mmomtahan@gsusignal.com

The SGA Senate completed its fall semester activities with a session that included the passage of three bills. However, Senator Davis's Bill 06-04 entitled "Fair Compensation" was tabled, because the Senators wanted time to review some of the amendments made to the legislation. This bill should come up for review and voting at the SGA's first meeting of the spring semester.

The Senate did pass Bill 10-04 authored by Senator Guy Brown, this bill entitled "Blue and White Day" will enact a "blue and white" spirit day on the Thursday before the first mens basketball home game during the spring semester. Next, the senate passed Bill 12-04 authored by Senator John Michael Lee Jr. entitled "Constitutional Retreat" which will call upon the President of the SGA to organize a SGA retreat in which all issues of regarding the constitution will be addressed.

The Senate also passed bill 13-04 entitled "Students are customers too" and authored by Vice President Marriisa Johnson. Bill 13-04 will enable the SGA to seek answers and issues regarding poor service by entities of the University and on campus, in response to student complaints.

The Senate also had two bills come up for introduction, Bill 15-04 entitled "Catch the Spirit GSU" authored by Senator John Michael Lee Jr. would allocate \$700 from the SGA Senate budget to encour-

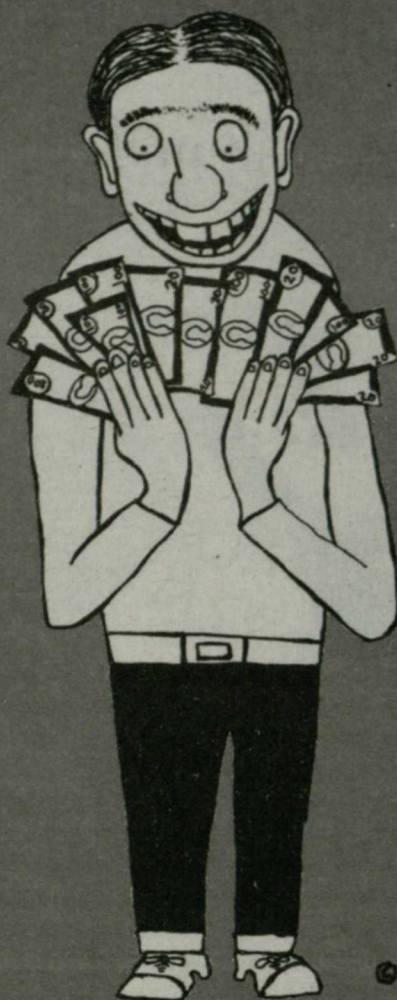
age student organizations to support the GSU basketball teams throughout the spring semester.

This money would be awarded to the student organization as a prize for having the highest attendance at the basketball games, and will be added to the organization fund allocations. Finally, Bill 16-04 entitled "Textbooks" by Vice President Harriette Thomas would call upon the academic departments to re-evaluate the contents of course textbooks to measure if a change in textbook editions is nec-

essary. Additionally, the legislation will asks that "colleges and departments as well as professors...to consider using supplements to college textbooks", this proposal would also cap the amount a textbook could cost at no more than the \$300.

This session concluded the SGA Senate's duties until the Spring semester, however the SGA will be available during some limited hours during the holiday break. The Senate will resume action in January.





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Consumer Editor:  
**Erica Meyers**

A Monthly Look  
at Consumer Issues

# College Consumer

## Job competition high for December graduates

By LATOIA CUNNINGHAM  
Guest Writer

Employers are hiring, but the competition is on for December graduates.

Employment is on the rise in the current job market although a balance has not yet been established. The number of open positions is not equivalent to the number of candidates seeking jobs.

According to the National Association of Colleges and Employers, businesses are expected to hire more than 12 percent of college graduates this year.

But this year's graduates will not only compete with each other but also with graduates from 2001, 2002 and 2003 who are currently unemployed or unsatisfied with the positions they are holding.

Job opportunities are more promising in some fields than others. Graduating seniors holding degrees in business administration, accounting, economics and computer science will have a greater chance of finding employment. NACE reports that employers are expected to hire 22.2 percent more of those graduates this year than last year.

There are also more prospects anticipated this year for students in management, investment banking, strategic consulting and information sciences fields.

The market for educators continues to be at a high demand. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports job opportunities for teachers will vary between good and excellent over the next 10 years because of recent retirees.

Qualified vocational teachers for middle and

secondary schools, bilingual teachers and special education teachers are highest in demand for the education sector.

Students looking for jobs in fields such as journalism, government and nonprofit organizations are more likely to have a harder time finding employment. According to NACE, government and nonprofit organizations are cutting their new hires by more than 10 percent.

Journalism positions, an already competitive field, are expected to grow more slowly than average, just 3 to 9 percent, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. But journalism jobs in small towns and suburban areas are available.

The common trend among employers is hiring experienced graduates. Internships are likely to be the key for establishing employment. Reports from NACE show that last year's employers hired more than a third of their interns for full-time positions.

Internships allow an advantage over candidates without previous experience in a field.

Whether you hold a degree in a major that is high in demand or part of the shrinking sector, most employers are looking for specifics in new hires. According to a NACE survey, the top 10 characteristics employers look for are:

1. Good written and oral communication skills
2. Honesty and integrity
3. Ability to relate well with others
4. Motivation
5. Strong work ethic
6. Ability to work in a team
7. Analytical skills
8. Flexibility
9. Computer knowledge
10. Detail oriented



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**Graduates have a lot of competition going into the job market this winter.**

## Navigating the tax maze

By ASHLEY STEELE  
Guest Writer

Jan. 1 is not only the day to break New Year's resolutions, but it is also the beginning of a new tax season. Fortunately, even students are eligible for some tax relief.

In order to qualify for tax deductions and credits in the upcoming season, students must "file their own tax return and cannot be dependents," says Pat DeJager, a tax preparer at H&R Block. She says this is a common mistake. Another is a regular inquiry regarding a possible credit for textbook expenses—"No books," she says.

There are three categories in education for tax breaks, according to the IRS: Tax-Free Benefits, Education Credits and Tax Deductions.

A list of tax-free benefits is included on the IRS's Web site. The directory consists of programs that are used to pay for eligible education expenses. Scholarships and grants are at the top.

If a student is a degree candidate, tuition, fees, books, supplies, and equipment included in grants and scholarships are tax-free, according to the IRS. Room, board, and travel are not free of tax.

Students may also take advantage of two education credits: the Lifetime Learning Credit and the

Hope Credit (not part of Georgia's HOPE scholarship). Each offers a tax reduction that is subject to income tax limitations and cannot be combined for the same student.

The Lifetime Learning Credit offers a tax cut of up to \$2,000 for continuing education, including

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**If "yes" mark "no." What? Don't let 1040s get you down. Even students can figure them out.**

non-degree courses. The Hope Credit provides up to \$1,500 for the first two years of higher education.

Finally, there is the Tax Deductions group, which includes deductions for tuition and fees plus

See TAXES | Page 10

# Don't trade down

Online  
trader offers  
students  
flexibility  
from  
textbook  
buy-back  
traditions

By LATOYA CLARK  
Guest Writer

There's a new textbook service launching in December that wants to help students retain their money for textbooks.

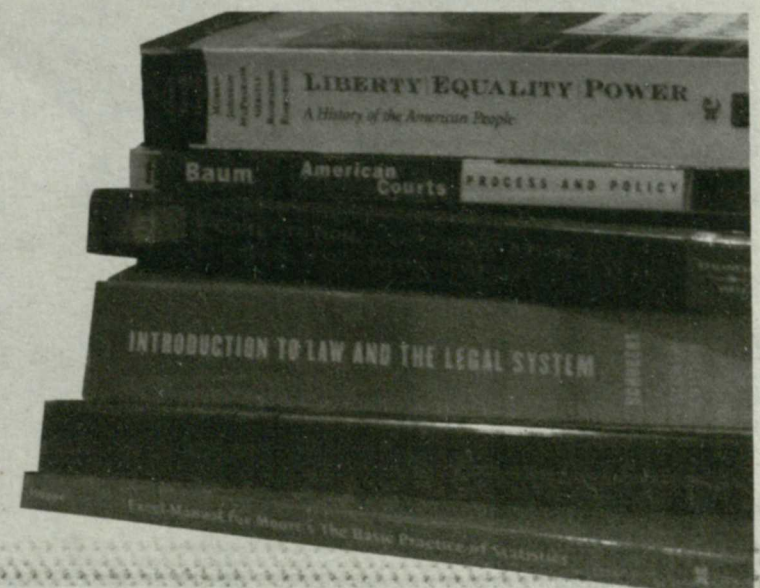
Switchtextbooks.com is a new online textbook service where students trade textbooks with students from other colleges instead of the buyback books program at their schools.

The service will network with over 4000 colleges, giving students many opportunities to sell their books. With a one-time fee of \$19.95, students can trade books as much as they want.

All students can become

members. Once becoming a member, students are given an identification number and a book balance of zero. Once a student finds a book, the fee is paid (since they're a new member) and the trade is made. As long as students have a positive balance, they can trade books. Students can post their textbooks on the site and at the same time look for books they'll need.

Since there are many textbooks that professors choose from, many students will need the book's ISBN number. The website provides an ISBN loca-



See TEXTBOOKS | Page 10



# eTraining prepares students for technological world

By SHEENA MIDDLEBROOKS  
Guest Writer

Technology is a cornerstone in this modern society, aiding growth in industry, healthcare and education. But as the world becomes technologically-based, is everyone ready?

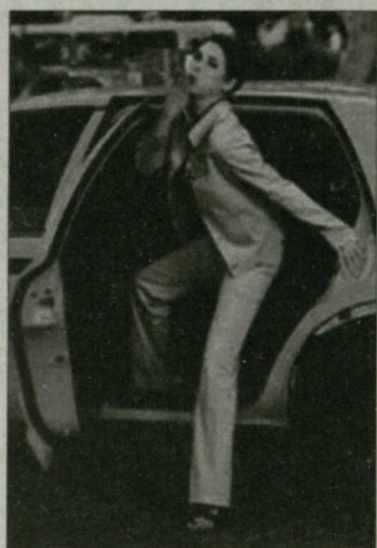
It is imperative for students of all disciplines, particularly on the college level, to have extensive training in newer technologies. As soon as new hardware or software becomes available to the public, college students need tutorials.

Georgia State is aiming to do its part to help students. The university has made considerable strides in providing strong technological backing through many initiatives. The University Educational Technology Service controls five computer labs across campus with numerous computers equipped with the latest software and hardware. The labs encourage students to complete their school work by supporting extended operational hours, even during the holiday breaks.

The College of Education Instructional Technology Center houses a computer lab, video and audio editing facilities and conference suites. The ITC even allows

students (with faculty permission) to rent digital cameras and laptops for up to three business days.

WebCT has been successful in giving students and teachers a



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**Georgia State prepares women to be more than beautiful; technology skills take students to the next level.**

chance to continue the classroom setting through the personal computer. GALILEO and GIL are other technological resources that work as an extension of the school's libraries. They give stu-

dents access to documents from any Internet connection.

In addition, several classrooms are computer equipped. This allows for computer-based instruction and assignments as a part of a professor's educational plan. Georgia State's plans consist of computers and other technology in every classroom for every student.

But access to the technology is not the main concern. Students must also have a level of expertise or a general understanding of certain computer programs, no matter what career path they choose after graduation.

eTraining, sponsored by the Information Services and Technology unit, is a Web-based tutorial paid for by every semester's technology fee and intended for students, faculty and staff. eTraining supplies more than 400 self-study courses on applications like Excel, Access, Oracle and FrontPage. The programs offered aid in business, computer programming, desktop publishing and Web page design.

Georgia State has been able to integrate technology into the curriculum and is striving to make this connection even more useful to the students.

## TECHNOLOGY

## Textbooks

from page 9

tor which helps students to see if the books they're looking for are available for trading. All the students need is the name of the book, the author's name and publisher information. If the book has been located, the student will receive an ISPN Verification notice.

Once students have found the book they need, they have three days to contact the owner of the book through their ID number and to establish the trade. Within these three days, they must confirm with the service. Once the tracking information has been confirmed, the book will be delivered to the student in seven business days. There is a check-book system that keeps tracks of all trading. The more trading a student does, the more points that they collect. This helps build the student's trade credit, which allows to them get more books.

Switchtextbook.com has

two affiliate programs to get more students involved and to add money in the student's pockets. The first is the hotlinks program where students use their ID number to refer people to the program. The second program is the flyers program. Students download their printable flyers, post their ID number on the flyers, and send them to people they know. The student gets paid \$5 for each person they refer.

This service's main goal is to help students and to give them an opportunity they can greatly benefit from. Time will tell if this service will be a success. For a better understanding of this service, go to

[www.switchtextbooks.com](http://www.switchtextbooks.com) and see if it's worth your time.

Since this service is not a buy and sell system like university bookstores, they provide students a way to dispose of books they don't need. Patrick Magle, president of *switchtextbooks.com* said, "We are helping to give back to students by giving them the opportunity to have some control of what to do with books that they no longer have any use for."

## Taxes

from page 9

a deduction for work-related education.

Tuition and fees may only be deducted if no education credits have been claimed and there have been no tax-free benefits in the same year for the same student. A maximum of \$4,000 or \$2,000 may be deducted in a given year under this deduction, depending on the individual's level of income. The more a student makes, the less he or she will be awarded.

Education related to a student's job that is required by the employer can be a deduction if it serves a purpose and if it will not help to move the taxpayer into a new career or business. Transportation costs, books, supplies, tuition and some other expenses for such courses may all be deducted.

Work-related education also includes education for sole propri-

etors and company owners who offer education benefits to their employees. It, too, is subject to income tax limitations, and tax-free assistance cannot be included as an expense.

In spite of tax-free benefits, credits and deductions, students may also want to take advantage of financial planning to cover the costs of their education.

Some schools offer prepaid tuition plans. Under these plans, students "pay in advance and beat inflation," says Laura Schilling, Financial Planner and Attorney.

Schilling says there are also savings accounts with tax-free benefits. Students can put in "after-tax monies, let them grow tax free and then withdraw them tax-free for education," Schilling says.

While the choices may seem straightforward, Schilling adds there is a lot more to each and advises students to seek some financial counseling that can help cut education costs.

DON'T WORK FOR SOMEONE. WORK FOR SOMETHING.



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<sup>1</sup> Payment is based on current interest rate of 3.37% and does not take into consideration annual changes in the variable rate determined every July 1. Repayment period is standard of 10 years which is equal to 120 months.

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<sup>3</sup> Payment is based on a weighted average interest rate of 2.875% while consolidating before the expiration of 6 month grace period and maximum repayment period allowed under federal guidelines for consolidation.



# Use your degree for something else

By CRYSTAL CLARK

Guest Writer

For over 1900 Georgia State University students, Dec. 18 marks a day that will be cherished and remembered for the rest of their lives, graduating from college. Only two weeks away, 1,239 Undergrads, 706 Grad students, and 19 Law students will trade their backpacks for briefcases and take the plunge into corporate America.

However, jumping from school to suit is a lot easier said than done. According to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, as of Oct. 31, the nationwide unemployment rate remains unchanged at 5.5 percent. This, combined with slow recession recovery, is making high paying jobs especially hard to come by for recent college graduates. Typically, the majority of jobs being offered are entry level and usually low paying. Nevertheless, attempting to get a foot in the door, many graduating seniors have begun the arduous task of fine tuning their resumes, composing intriguing cover letters, and scoping the Internet and weekly classifieds in search of an opportunity to apply the skills learned in school to the real world.

This semester, in an effort to expose students to a new set of career alternatives, 24 students in the Robinson College of Business participated in the FBI's Collegiate Marketing and Recruitment Program. They created a full func-

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**The FBI wants you! But you are not in trouble; they want to offer you a job.**

tioning marketing agency called "Campus Campaigns" with an objective to increase awareness of career opportunities within the FBI. Through research, Campus Campaigns found that in general, college students perceived the FBI

to be a secretive organization comprised of mostly Caucasian men who wear black suits and talk into their watches while investigating alien encounters. Additionally, they discovered that students as well as the general public are unaware of the compelling, diverse and financially rewarding positions available within the FBI and therefore fail to consider the FBI when

choosing a career.

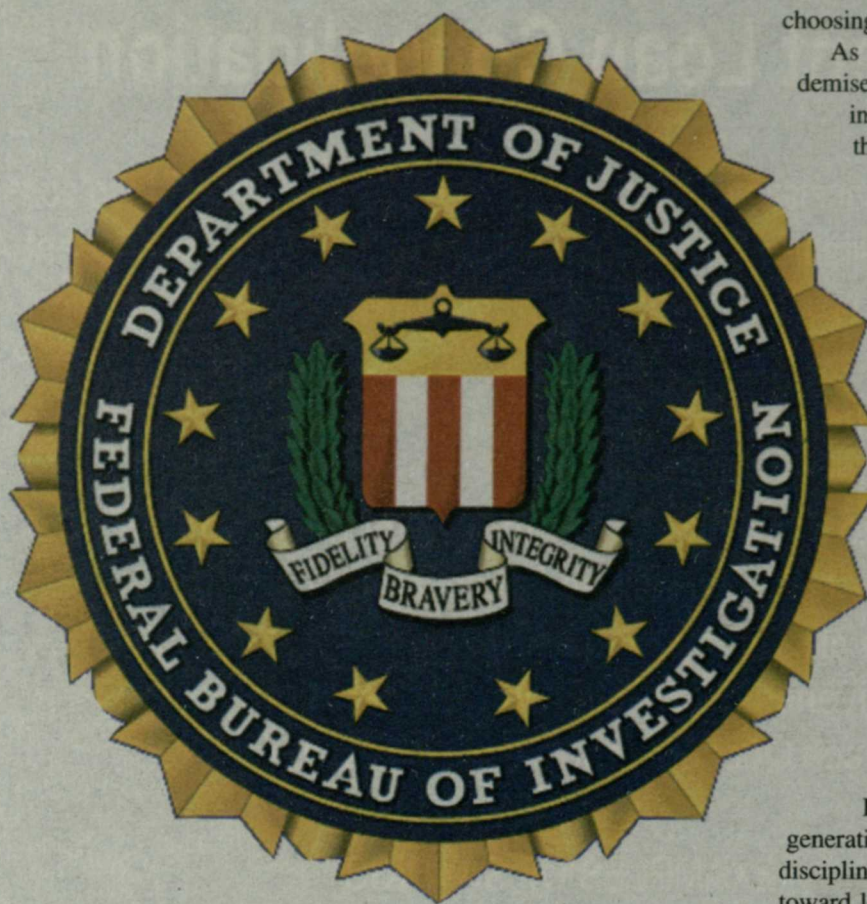
As a case in point, with the demise of the dot-coms resulting in thousands of jobs lost in the industry, many computer science/information technology students quickly switched

majors, and those already in the field returned to college for a second degree.

Although careers in traditional IT jobs were scarce, the FBI was and is still desperately attempting to recruit those same individuals who once believed their degrees were worthless. With computer-oriented crime and the threat of terrorism on the rise, the FBI is in search of the next generation of special agents from disciplines requiring a mind trained toward logical analysis and critical thinking. This not only includes degrees in computer science but also in engineering, traditional physical sciences, accounting and more! Imagine that the woman at H&R Block who does your taxes every year could actually be the next special agent! Or, you, the aspiring lawyer fresh out of law school, can work for one of the most respected federal agencies in the world, the FBI.

In order to counter the stereotypes, Campus Campaigns discovered and provided students with an opportunity to uncover the plethora of careers awaiting them with the FBI. Campus Campaigns hosted a successful networking session at the Rialto Center for the Performing Arts. Held in the elegant lobby of the theater, the event featured live jazz, hors d'oeuvres, several FBI Special Agents and Professional Support Personnel on hand to casually interact with attendees, distribute information, answer questions and give those who were interested a chance to actually apply for jobs within the Bureau. Although the FBI intends to hire over 1200 special agents next year, they are also looking for professional support personnel to fill hundreds of positions worldwide. These positions range from clerks and auto mechanics to fingerprint analysts and scientists to name a few.

If you missed the event, you can access FBI career information and apply online for all positions at [www.fbijobs.com](http://www.fbijobs.com). If asked where you heard about it, just remember to say you heard it here, Georgia State University. So, when you are trying to unearth a career that is good for you, think outside the box. Consider nontraditional ways such as with the FBI to use your degrees to discover new and exciting ways to earn a living.



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Sports Editor:  
**Bobby McMillin**

Reporting on  
Georgia State  
University Athletics

# Sports

## Volleyball finishes season poised for next fall

By ISAAC KINARD  
ikinard@gsusignal.com

A lot of people around campus wish they had spent the last two months with a six-foot tall, athletic Brazilian woman, but the Georgia State volleyball team has a more wholesome reason than you or me. Ana Paula Ferreira, the Brazilian middle blocker for the volleyball team, went down in September with a season-ending knee injury. She had the highest kills per game, the second highest digs per game and the highest blocking percentage on the team. She earned an A-Sun Player of the

Week honor back in September and the AVCA South Region Freshman of the Year honor in 2003.

The Lady Panthers came close to a great season, and that's why they missed Ana Paula so much. They scraped a few games from well-ranked teams like Georgia Tech, Eastern Kentucky, Jacksonville State and Clemson. They had a tough schedule, fighting with other ranked teams like Duke, Florida A&M and College of Charleston but still came up with a 13-17 record.

They netted a 3 seed for the A-Sun tournament. In the first round, they

fought back from a two-game deficit to beat Mercer. They fell to the number two ranked Belmont Bruins after three hard-fought games.

Senior April DeCoste achieved 5000 career assists, becoming just the second player in the NCAA to record 5,000. She was named to the 2004 Atlantic Sun All-Conference Team, making three years of postseason honors.

Alex Blenche slammed up solid numbers, achieving the second highest kills per game. She generated a lot of the team's offense; as Jason Hanes, the volleyball information director and PA announcer said, "There were a few teams that just couldn't stop her."

Robyn van Dam became a First Team All-Conference honoree. She also earned an A-Sun Player of the Week honor in November. She led them to victory in the first round of the A-Sun Tournament, with 19 kills.

Carol Mattos thought about quitting in 2003 but more than came back in 2004. Her resilience showed and she earned an A-Sun Player of the Week honor in November.

Christen Garcia, the sophomore defensive specialist, put up some great defensive numbers with the team's highest dig percentage. She even set an A-Sun record when she made 45 digs in a game against Eastern Kentucky.

The rest of the team also pulled together, filling in holes and elevating their play.

Danielle Gonzalez, a player who



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The young Garcia led the Panthers in dig percentage.

has said that she's thought about quitting in 2003, didn't give up on blocks. She defended the net throughout the year and punched away a lot of blocks in the A-Sun Tournament. Natalie Coley, a 5'3" player going up against giants, dug up serious dig percentages.

Even the freshman like Marissa Levasseur, who came on with presence, stepped it up.

"She can do whatever you need her to do," Hanes said.

They attacked their opponents with the intensity of hungry panthers.

Panthers only eat meat. They eat deer, hogs and even alligators. And hungry panthers are known to eat 16 pounds of meat at once. They played around 45 hours of blood thirsty, savage volleyball.

That's not bad, and if their blocks and kills were higher, they might have gone to the NCAA Championship Tournament. But we can't waste our time lamenting what could or should have been.

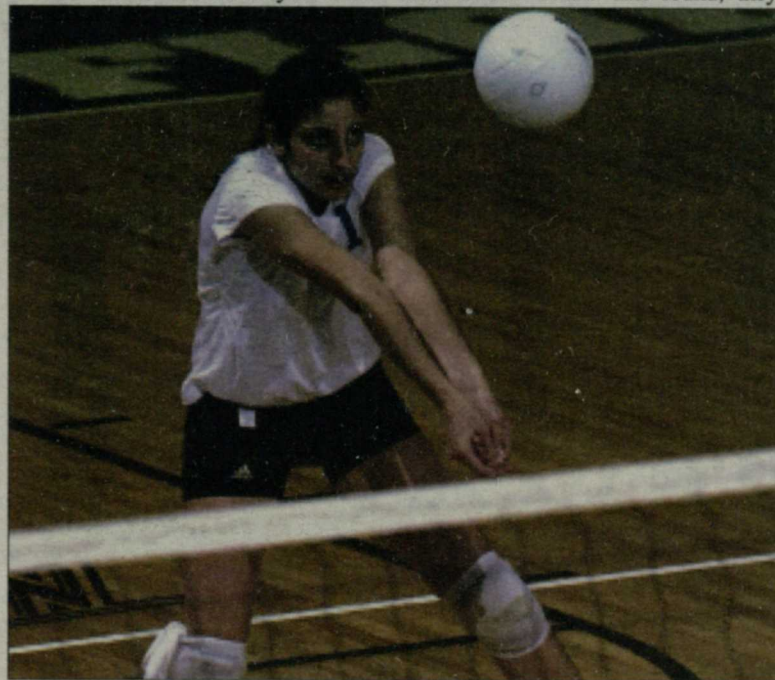
"When a thing is done, it's done. Don't look back. Look forward to your next objective," said George C. Marshall, the master strategist behind the Marshall Plan. It's good advice whether you've got a war or a volleyball match.

The Lady Panthers look forward to a good future.

"We've got a strong nucleus coming back next year," Hanes said. "Only DeCoste will be leaving. Ana Paula will return, and joining the Colonial Athletic Association gave GSU a recruiting boost. We've already got two recruits that will make a big difference."

With more experience, more time to bond with their new coach and more recruits, the Lady Panthers might give us more wins. But don't go out and call your volleyball bookie yet. Hanes told me joining the CAA "will be a big step up for Georgia State competitively."

Currently, three CAA teams are top ranked, but only one A-Sun school received a top ranking. As they say, "Tomorrow is ours to win or to lose."



Special | Signal

Ferreira was lost for the year in September, but she will return next season.

## Women's basketball off on the wrong foot

By NORM ROBINSON  
nrobinso@gsusignal.com

The Georgia State University Lady Panthers basketball team began a season-long four game home stand with a 64-49 loss against Middle Tennessee State University Thursday. Junior forward Monica Thomas had a double-double in the losing effort, posting 17 points (7-16 FGs) and a career-high 11 rebounds. Senior guard Patechia Hartman scored 12 points (4-10 FGs) to go along with two steals and two assists. With this loss the Lady Panthers drop to 0-2, their worst start since the 1990-1991 season.

In the loss, the Lady Panthers shot just 38 percent from the field as opposed to MTSU, who shot 45 percent. Georgia State also had 21 turnovers and shot only one free throw in the first half, seven for the entire game.



Special | Signal

Clyburn has been missed for her leadership and ability.

On the season, the Lady Panthers are shooting less than 30 percent from the field (29.5 percent) and are averaging less than 40 points per game (39.5).

So who or what is responsible for the Lady Panthers' slow start? First, it should be noted that the team is shorthanded because centers Robyn Gilbert, sophomore, and April Clyburn, senior, are injured.

The injuries take away Georgia State's low-post game and force them to shoot lower-percentage shots from the perimeter. They also affect scoring and create problems on defense as well.

Not having a large presence in the paint on defense allows the opposing team to penetrate easier. This fact was illustrated in the Middle Tennessee game, where the Blue Raiders outscored Georgia State in the paint 34-18.

The unique situation the Lady

Panthers have been placed in might actually be good for the team, according to head coach Lea Henry. "We're getting better defensively," says Henry.

As for being forced to play younger, more inexperienced players in place of Gilbert and Clyburn? Henry said he feels this will be valuable experience for those players and will make Georgia State "a better team down the stretch."

Also note that a 0-2 start is not the end of the world. It's a long season, and if the Lady Panthers can win the rest of the games in this home stand, they'll be back over .500 with an overall record of 3-2 (1-0 conference).

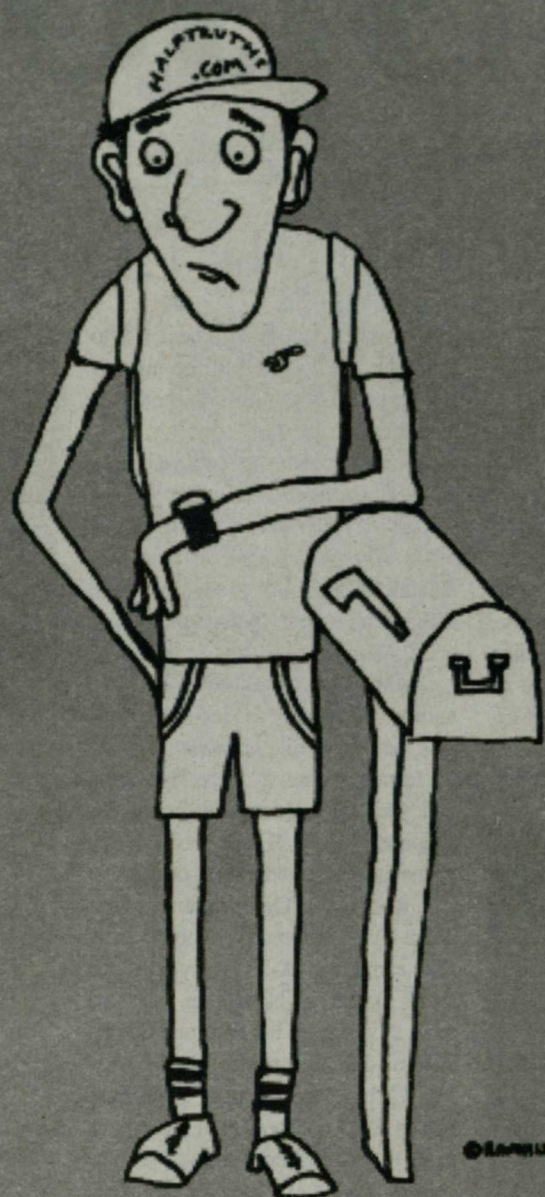
The Lady Panthers' next two games are part of the Hyatt Regency Atlanta Invitational against Mississippi Valley State (Dec. 11) and Jackson State (Dec. 12).



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Thomas had a double-double, but it wasn't enough.





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# A spotlight on sophomore soccer midfielder Dana Van Winkle

By RAVEN BECK  
rbeck@gsusignal.com

I think every year our team is improving and improving, and I think next year we'll be even better." Dana Van Winkle is definitely one to ask when it comes to the success of the Georgia State women's soccer team. In the one year she has been at Georgia State, the midfielder and forward for the Lady Panthers has been quite an asset to her team.

Since she began playing for the team during her sophomore year, Van Winkle, 20, started in every game. Currently, she is ranked in the top five goal scorers for the Lady Panthers. And on Nov. 3, she was awarded Atlantic Sun Second Team All Conference honors, along with two of her teammates, Alexa Pasquarelli and Christa Mann.

Soft spoken Dana Lynn Van Winkle was born to Chas and Sally Van Winkle on Jan. 9, 1984, in Victorville, Calif. Along with her two brothers, Nick, 23, and Travis, 21, Dana has spent the majority of her life enjoying the great outdoors.

"We didn't play video games or anything," Dana said. "We were always outside, playing in the street because we lived in a small town so there really wasn't much to do. So we were always outside in the woods and stuff."

Dana says she owes much of her athletic prowess to the fact that she has two brothers.

"I feel like I'm pretty good at sports just because of that because I used to always play with them."

Dana's and her brothers' love of the outdoors isn't a coincidence. Her parents, Chas, a Delta employee, and Sally, a nurse at a dermatology office, happen to be avid campers who camp out whenever



Special | Signal  
**Van Winkle received second-team all-conference honors in her first year as a Lady Panther.**

they get the chance.

Despite the fact that her family sometimes finds themselves on opposites sides of the globe, (her brother Travis is an aspiring actor living in California, and brother Nick is moving to Germany to teach English), the Van Winkle's manage to remain close knit.

"We're really close now that we've all moved out of the house," Dana said. "We get together every other weekend."

When she was two, Dana's family left California and headed for Michigan, where they settled in

a small town. During her fourth grade year, they moved to Peachtree City, Ga, where she got into soccer.

Dana played for a local team, the Lasers, until she got recruited for another team, the Lightning in Fayetteville. During high school, Dana stayed busy playing for her school team during the spring and for the Lightning during the fall. She also dabbled in track, but a stress fracture in high school kept her off of the field for a year. For her freshman year of college, Dana attended the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga but transferred as a sophomore to Georgia State.

In the future, Dana hopes to infuse more adventure into her life. This business major doesn't long for the simple life, at least not for a while.

"I kind of want to live in Europe or somewhere crazy like that," she said. "I want to live in different places, and when I get a lot older, like 30, I want to settle down."

With the season over, Dana has set her sights on one more year of soccer before she stops playing the sport that has been a part of her life since she was a kid.

"I've played soccer almost all of my life," she said. "I've missed out on some stuff, but I've also gained some stuff too. But once it's over I'm just going to find something else to do with my time." With her family's support and her strong goals, Dana Van Winkle is destined to accomplish whatever she puts her mind to.

# Women's basketball signs five recruits

By SONATA KOGAN  
skogan@gsusignal.com

Georgia State University's women's basketball program signed five players to a national letter of intent during the NCAA mandated early signing period, which was held Nov. 10-17. All five players will enter Georgia State as freshman during the 2005-06 school year. This is Georgia State's largest November recruiting class, with all the players coming from high school ranks.

Courtney Chasten, from Durant High School in Val Rico, Fla., is a 5-8 guard who was a class 6A honorable mention all-state selection as a junior last season. Chasten was also named first team All-Hillsborough County last year after averaging 16.5 points and 5.4 rebounds per game for the Lady Cougars. She chose to join the Georgia State team instead of Texas Southern University or Mercer University.

Marquitta Head from Conley, Ga., is the only local recruit. She is a 6-3 forward/center and has played the last three seasons at Forest Park High School. During her junior year, she averaged 14.7 points, 10.9 boards and 3.2 blocked shots a contest. The University of Cincinnati and The University of Memphis also recruited Head.

Brittany Hollins from Columbia, S.C., was recruited out of Columbia High School. As a junior, the 5-9 guard helped lead her team to a 25-2 overall record

and the 2004 class AA state championship.

Hollins averaged 18.8 points and 9.1 steals per contest as a sophomore when the Lady Capitals finished 25-3 overall as the state runners-up. Hollins is also an all-state volleyball player and picked Georgia State over the University of South Carolina and Jacksonville University.

Last season, senior Nakiasha Manuel, a 6-2 forward from Greeneville, Tenn., helped lead Greeneville High School to a 26-7 overall record as well as the final four appearances in class AAA. Starting for the Lady Greene Devils, her averages were 14.0 points and 8.8 boards an outing, which earned her the Associated Press third team all-state honors. She chose Georgia State instead of Old Dominion College, Boston College, the University of Memphis, Tennessee University and Austin Peay State University.

Metika Roche, from St. Augustine, Fla., is a 5-8 guard from Nease High School. She has been a starter since her freshman season.

In her junior year, Roche averaged 19.8 points, 8.6 boards, 4.3 steals and 4.0 assists per game for the Lady Panthers. Roche chose Georgia State over Georgia Southern University, University of North Florida and Jacksonville University.

Georgia State University is a NCAA Division I and an Atlantic Sun Conference member and will move to the Colonial Athletic Association in 2005-2006.

# Cross country season crosses the finish line

By JAMES LEWIS  
jlewis@gsusignal.com

Georgia State Cross Country programs have had their share of ups and downs this season. Both the men's program and the Lady Panthers ended the season with identical 16th place finishes at the NCAA Division I South Region Championship held in Tuscaloosa, Ala., on Saturday Nov. 13.

The men's program had some strong performances this year. The Panthers won the Troy State Invitational. They placed second at the Atlantic Sun Conference Championship but had first place aspirations.

The Panthers won the Georgia State Invitational last year, and yet, they came in third this year in an extended field. Last year, the Panthers placed eighth at the Auburn Invitational but fell to 11th place this year in a

field that had been shortened by teams. The situation was the same at the NCAA

Division I Regional Championship. Last year, the Panthers came in 12th but this year, in a shortened field, they came in 16th. In 2003, Georgia State had three first-place finishes and three second-place finishes. In 2004, they were only able to capture one first-place finish and one second-place finish.

There were some strong



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**Big things are expected from Holland next season.**

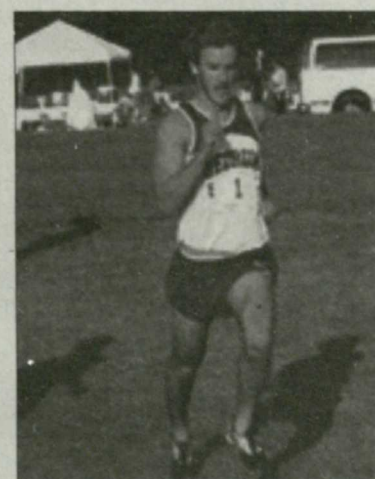
individual performances by the men. Senior Andrew Campbell, junior Matt Cameron, sophomore Nick Miller and freshman Jay Morril each turned in respectable performances. Typical of the team's performance, each individual also had weak moments during the season. Despite their sometimes erratic performances in 2004, optimism abounds for the 2005 season. Nearly the entire team is returning. Only Campbell will graduate this year.

In many ways, the Lady Panthers' season mirrors the men's. Both teams placed third in the Georgia State Invitational after winning last year, and both programs had a significant drop in the NCAA Regional Championship. The Lady Panthers came in 13th place last year and dropped to 16th place this year. They did improve their performance at the Auburn Invitational. Last year, they came in 13th place. This year, there was a dramatic improvement as the Lady

Panthers came in fifth. The season was a little disappointing. In 2003, they ended the season with four first-place finishes yet, they could only collect one first-place finish this year.

The Lady Panthers had strong individual performers, most notably senior Jenn Feenstra. In 29 career races, Feenstra has had 12 individual titles and 23 top-ten finishes including the Atlantic Sun Conference Championship, which she won for the first time this year.

The Lady Panthers have positive hopes for next season. Junior Andrea Smith and sophomore Brittany Holland will lead the team, which will be supported by a cast of strong freshman runners. Freshmen Barbara Phelan, Alex Friel and Rachel Hanna have consistently been top-five runners for the Panthers this season. Next season, they hope a year of experience will benefit them. Coach Jessica Raby announced this week that



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**Gonzalez had a bevy of kills in the final two sets of the year.**

Stephanie Poore, a top high school cross country and track runner, has committed to Georgia State. Poore, a Douglas County High School star, has won two county championships and one regional championship.

Fueled by youth and optimism, the 2005 cross country season should have its share of positive moments for Georgia State cross country team members and their fans.



# Sports legend loses son in plane crash

By MATT SIMMONS  
msimmons@gsusignal.com

A charter jet carrying NBC Sports Chairman Dick Ebersol and his two sons crashed and exploded into flames amid takeoff Sunday Nov. 28 near Telluride, Colo.

Ebersol, 57, suffered broken ribs, a broken sternum and fluid in his lungs. Ebersol's eldest son, Charlie, 21, helped him from the wreckage even though he broke his hand and injured his back. Both remain hospitalized in Grand Junction, Colo. and are expected to recover fully.

Ebersol's youngest son, Edward "Teddy" Ebersol, 14, and two crew members were killed when the 18 seat twin-engine CL-601 Challenger crashed during snow, fog, and freezing temperatures.

The co-pilot of the plane, identified by Denver newspapers as Eric Wicksell, 30, of Daytona Beach, Fla., is reportedly in a Denver burn unit. His condition is critical.

Investigators are trying to determine if ice on the wings may have caused the crash, but they have not ruled out other factors. National Safety Board investigators said the plane did not de-ice before takeoff.

"I would say right now we're looking at environmental factors and (aircraft) performance factors," NTSB lead investigator Arnold Scott told the AP Wednesday.

"Investigators are drawing similarities to a lethal January 2002 crash in England involving a CL-600 Challenger that attempted takeoff in freezing temperatures without de-icing.

"We will look at it and see if there are similarities other than that," said NTSB spokesman Keith Holloway.

Ebersol told NTSB investigators the plane struggled to rise 20 feet from the ground before

falling back to the runway, causing the fiery crash. The cockpit voice recorder has been recovered in good condition and taken to a NTSB lab in Washington for review. Results may not be available for months, according to Scott. He also said the wreckage has been moved to Greeley, Colo., for further examination.

Ebersol, an innovative television figure, is known for his Olympics passion. He helped NBC secure television rights through the 2012 games.

"He's kind of 'Mr. Olympics'; there's no doubt about that," Fox Sports chairman David Hill said.

Opposed to accentuating results, Ebersol advocated a philosophy of storytelling. NBC posted a 14 percent ratings increase for the 2004 Olympics over the 2000 Sydney games.

"The Olympics are not to us a sporting event; they're not about sports rights," Ebersol said in June after NBC acquired the 2010 and 2012 Olympics. "The Olympics are something really, really special. They are the only great family viewing experience left in all of American television."

NBC named Ebersol director of late-night programming in 1974. He has been involved in "Saturday Night Live" and temporarily served as executive producer of the show during the early '80s. In 1989, he became president of NBC Sports, and in 2001, he experimented with the XFL.

The deceased crew members have been identified as pilot Albert Polanco, 50, of the Dominican Republic and flight attendant Warren T. Richardson III, 36, of Coral Gables, Fla.

Ebersol's wife, actress Susan St. James, was not aboard the flight.

The CL-601 Challenger was departing for South Bend, Ind., where Charlie Ebersol is a senior at the University of Notre Dame.

# Men's golf wins consolation bracket at Western Refining Classic

By DAVID DORSEY  
ddorsey@gsusignal.com

Senior Ty Harris tied for 26th place in the 30th annual Western Refining College All-America Golf Classic on Nov. 23 in El Paso, Texas. He shot a 74-73-77 giving

him a three-round total of 224. The event was held at the El Paso Country Club and featured 29 of the top college golfers in the nation. This marks the first time a Georgia State golfer has participated in an All-America tournament, and by

doing so, Georgia State, along with each participating school, will receive a \$1000 scholarship.

Georgia Tech's Nicholas Thompson beat out Texas' Matthew Rosenfeld in a sudden death playoff to take top medalist honors. He put himself in good company, joining the other two former Tech golfers that have won this tournament. Tech's David Duval won in 1991, and Matt Kuchar won in 1999.

State also played their last tournament as a team before the winter break on Nov. 15 at the Hooters Collegiate Match Play Championship. They tied for seventh place with the University of Arizona. State went into the tournament as the sixth seed and won its first-round match against



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Harris will go down in Panther lore as the first GSU golfer in an All-America tournament.

See GOLF | Page 17

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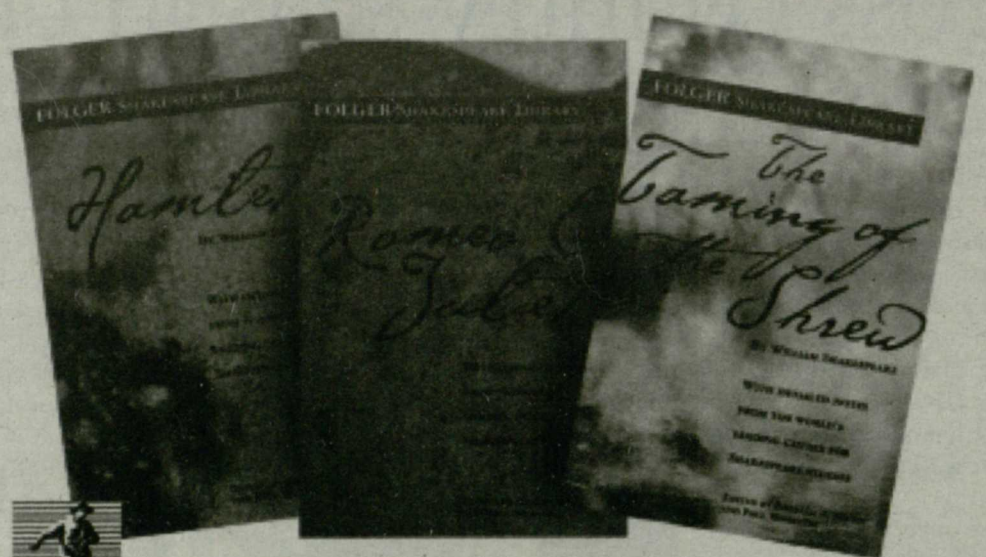
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## Men's golf must settle for consolation prize

### Golf

from page 16

Washington, but 14th seed Texas A&M beat State in the second round. State moved into to the consolation bracket and couldn't hold on against seventh seed Florida.

Ty Harris gave State its only win in the second round against Texas A&M, but Joel Sjöholm and Steve Tiley both won their matches against Florida while Harris halved his. Florida won more holes overall, and that was the deciding factor that gave them the victory and allowed them to move to the next round. Florida finished the tournament by beating Clemson in the Consolation B Final. Oklahoma State went undefeated through the event and won it all by beating State's cross-town rival Georgia Tech in the final

match.

Now, the team takes a break for the next couple of months. After the winter break, State will tee off in the spring at the 27th annual SunTrust Gator Invitational University Golf Classic on Feb. 5 in Gainesville, Fla. This will be the first of five spring tournaments leading up to the Atlantic Sun Conference Championships in April. All of these tournaments will set the stage for the NCAA Regionals and the NCAA Championships that take place in May and June respectively. Georgia State is ranked 22nd in the latest GCAA/Precept Coaches Poll. The team fell from the 18th place ranking it reached earlier in the season. Intrastate rivals Georgia and Georgia Tech are ranked number one and number two respectively. State still has several opportunities in upcoming tournaments to improve their ranking before the Conference Championships. The team is looking to improve on last year's 11th place finish in the NCAA Championships, but to do so, they will have to get past some really good competition along the way.

# Motor City madness

By ADAM KROHN  
akrohn@gsusignal.com

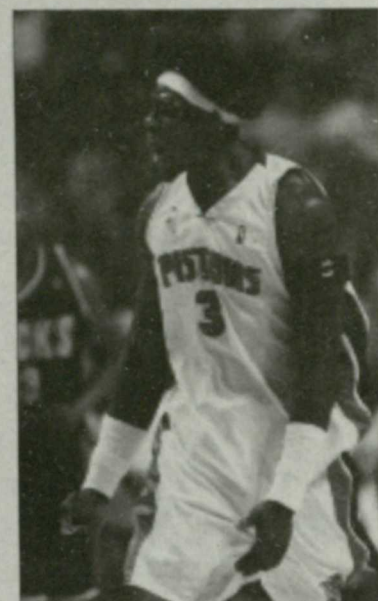
When Ron Artest decided to charge into the stands last month, he brought American sports to an all-time low. Following him into the stands was former Hawk Stephen Jackson, Artest's teammate who also attacked random spectators. When David "not so" Stern handed out suspensions, he called for Artest to sit out the remainder of the season and for Jackson to serve 30 games. Other players involved who did not charge the stands received lesser suspensions.

Given Artest's track record and the violent nature of the fight, Jackson should have imposed more severe punishments. Artest should have been banned from the league with the possibility of reinstatement a few years later, and Jackson should have sat out the

season. Stern was correct in giving Artest the heaviest suspension because there would have been no fan/player confrontation if Artest had not charged the stands, but he still came short of making the proper choice.

The reason Artest should have been banned from the league begins with his track record. Ever since the Chicago Bulls drafted him out of St. Johns in 2000, he has been nothing but trouble. Artest led the league in flagrant fouls and suspensions in 2002, broke a \$100,000 TV monitor during a game in New York, instigated fights, charged Pat Riley and the Heat bench in '03, and always distracts from any team he plays for. This season, Artest showed no signs of letting down. He changed his jersey number to 91 in honor of Dennis Rodman, the infamous bad boy who also once led the league in suspensions and flagrant/technical fouls, spat on a fan in the crowd, and had off the court trouble. Just days before the infamous brawl, Artest completed a two game suspension after asking for time off to promote an R&B album he produced. Up to this point, despite his behavior and attitude, the league has leniently punished Artest with slaps on the wrist. Given these circumstances, Artest was a time bomb waiting to go off. When a fan in the stands threw a cup of water on Artest, the bomb exploded. Now the NBA is left to clean up the remains.

There are some who would argue that Artest's suspension is appropriate and that forfeiting \$5.6 million is no slap on the wrist. Also, Artest is at too vulnerable of a point in his life for the NBA to turn its back on him. These argu-

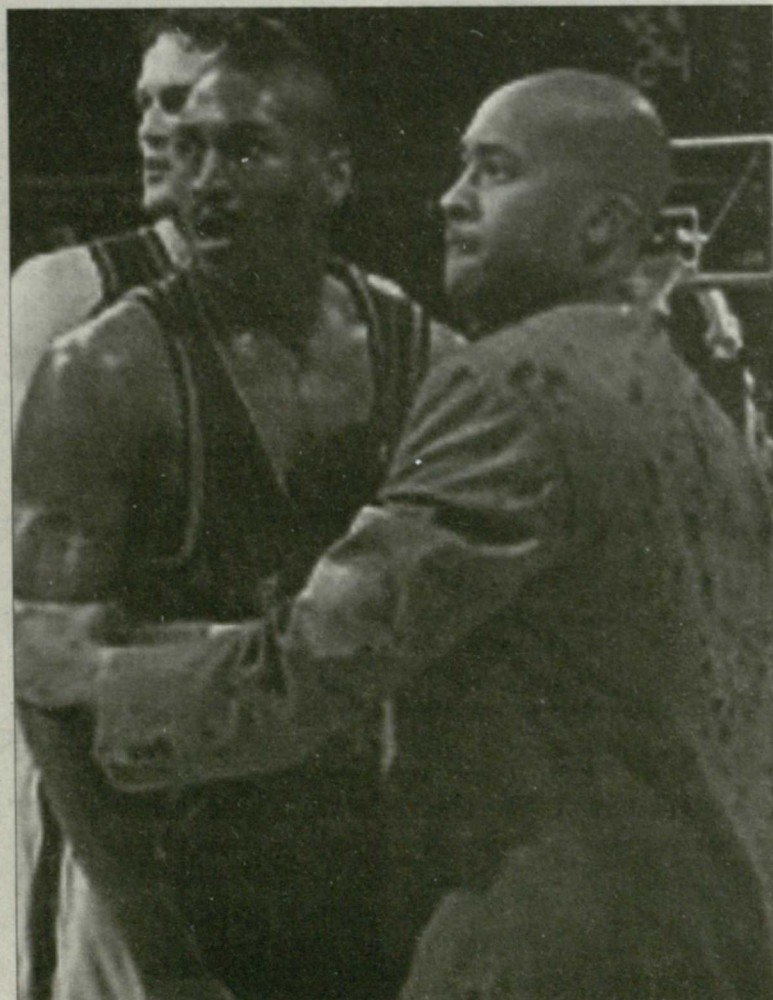


Special | Signal

The intense Wallace threw the first punch, but no one expected what would follow it.

ments do not substantiate a lesser suspension. Artest has already made enough money to support his family for the rest of his life, and he is a grown man who can make decisions without the NBA's help.

Artest's actions following the fight and suspensions are additional reasons the league should ban him. Just days after Artest learned he would not play this year, he began promoting his R&B group and their CD. Showing no signs of regret, Artest looked as though he was enjoying his time off. With the season suspension, Artest has merely been slapped on the wrist again (although this time a little harder). When Artest returns next season, his attitude will be the same, and his sporadic and impulsive behavior will continue to rule his actions. This is a player the league can and should do without.



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The fight did not turn into the brawl that it was until Artest charged into the stands.

## Notice of Student Activity Fee Allocation Process For Fiscal Year 2006

The Student Activity Fee Committee announces the beginning of the funding process for Fiscal Year 2006. Fiscal Year 2006 begins on July 1, 2005. The process will begin with applications being made available Tuesday, December 7, 2004. The deadline for submitting applications will be Friday, February 25, 2005, at 5:15pm. The applications are available from, and are due by the deadline to, the Dean of Students Office, Room 300 Student Center.

Student organizations chartered through the Office of Student Life and Leadership (Room 330 Student Center) and approved by the Student Life and Development Committee are eligible to apply for funding. Note that charters expire each year and must be renewed. Student organizations who are not chartered or whose charters have expired must apply for a charter by February 15, 2005. Charter applications are available from and must be turned in to Elizabeth Heidler, Greek Life and Student Organizations Advisor. She may be emailed at [cheidler1@gsu.edu](mailto:cheidler1@gsu.edu), or you may visit her in the Office of Student Life and Leadership, Room 330 Student Center.

The allocation of fee funds is subject to various rules and regulations of the University, Board of Regents, and Student Activity Fee Committee. A summary will be available with the application.

If you have questions concerning the application or any aspect of the fee distribution process, please call Jeff Walker, Business Manager, at 404-463-9021, or Shantavia Reid, Accountant, at 404-463-9022. The Dean of Students Office is the official source for information on the process - all inquiries should be directed to this office. This process concerns only the Student Activity Fee, and is not associated with other fees for Athletics, Transportation, Health, Recreation, International Education, and the Student Center.

The allocation of fee funds will be based on the following criteria:

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  - b) Planning
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  - e) Alternative funding sources
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4. Contribution to the educational mission of the institution.



# Atlantic Sun Scoreboard



Scores and more from around the conference

## Men's Golf

### Hooters Match Play

#### Second Round Results:

- #1 Georgia Tech def. #8 Arizona, 4-1  
 #5 Texas def. #13 Clemson, 3-2  
 #14 Texas A&M def. #6 Georgia State, 4-1  
 #2 Oklahoma State def. #7 Florida, 4-1

#### Consolation Round:

- #16 Penn State def. #9 Purdue, 3-1-1  
 #4 Kentucky def. #12 Pepperdine, 3-1-1  
 #11 Washington def. #3 Georgia, 3-1-1  
 #10 UCLA def. #15 California, 3-1-1

#### Third Round Results:

##### Winners Bracket

- #1 Georgia Tech def. #5 Texas, 3-0-2  
 #2 Oklahoma State def. #14 Texas A&M, 4-1

##### Winners Consolation B Bracket

- #13 Clemson def. #8 Arizona, 3-2  
 #7 Florida def. #6 Georgia State, 2-2-1

##### Consolation Bracket

- #16 Penn State def. #4 Kentucky, 3-1-1  
 #10 UCLA def. #11 Washington, 3-1-1

## Volleyball

### Dec. 3

NCAA Championship  
 Tallahassee, Fla.

#6 Stanford d. Jacksonville, 3-0

### Nov. 20

Atlantic Sun Championship  
 Championship Match  
 #4 Jacksonville d. #2 Belmont, 3-2

\* Aired on tape delay at 8:00 pm  
 on Sunshine Network

### Nov. 19

Atlantic Sun Championship  
 #4 Jacksonville d. #5 UCF, 3-0  
 #3 Georgia State d. #6 Mercer, 3-2

#4 Jacksonville d. #1 Florida  
 Atlantic, 3-2

#2 Belmont d. #3 Georgia State,  
 3-0

## Women's Basketball

### December 4

- \* Belmont d. Florida Atlantic, 76-75  
 \* Campbell d. Jacksonville, 64-63  
 \* Lipscomb d. UCF, 67-60  
 \* Gardner-Webb d. Stetson, 64-58  
 \* Georgia State d. Troy, 62-60

### December 2

- \* UCF d. Belmont, 77-42  
 \* Campbell d. Stetson, 77-66  
 \* Lipscomb d. Florida Atlantic,  
 91-87 (3ot)  
 \* Troy d. Mercer, 64-50  
 Middle Tennessee d. Georgia  
 State, 64-49

### November 30

Florida d. UCF, 67-42  
 Lipscomb d. Kent State, 62-60

### November 29

\* Gardner-Webb d. Jacksonville,  
 64-53

## Men's Basketball

### December 4

- \* Stetson d. Georgia State, 79-70  
 \* Gardner-Webb d. Florida  
 Atlantic, 76-69  
 \* Mercer d. Jacksonville, 71-67  
 \* Lipscomb d. Troy, 77-68  
 UCF d. Missouri-Kansas City, 62-56

### December 2

- \* Belmont d. Troy, 86-73  
 \* Jacksonville d. Georgia State,  
 78-75 (ot)  
 \* Gardner-Webb d. UCF, 67-55  
 \* Mercer d. Stetson, 89-76

### November 30

UNC Wilmington d. Campbell,  
 75-52

### November 29

- Middle Tennessee d. Belmont, 66-47  
 Georgia State d. UL-Lafayette,  
 85-78  
 Mercer d. Georgia Southern, 103-94 (2ot)

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Looking  
back to  
move  
forward



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Change is not well-liked at times. It can bring growing pains and remove the comfort zone of most. All too often, changes are inevitable for various institutions. Change doesn't have to mean a bad thing, but it can symbolize progress or an effort towards progress. Here at Georgia State, several things needed to be looked at for changes.

First, given the crunch that

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Jonathan Springston | *Signal*  
**Georgia State should offer  
courses online for nontraditional  
students.**

many students face in getting needed classes, the university should consider more offerings online. In the technological era we live in, this makes sense. Online classes offer flexibility, convenience and more control for the student. Independent students can take classes by computer which has the added benefit of shortening the long trek towards graduation. There are so many online universities soliciting students and other institutions, such as DeVry, that offer both online and traditional class offerings. Georgia State needs to move forward.

Secondly, the Spotlight Programs Board needs more authority. Too many groups

See CHANGES | Page 21

# Step up and unite us all



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President Bush's second term is almost on its way. The president seems confident enough to take on the challenges his second term will bring. Important changes have already occurred in the president's administration. Along with these changes, I hope he will make a few others regarding his administration's policies.

During the president's first term, many of the president's decisions repelled many people. Since this nation decided to give him a second chance, the president should revisit overlooked foreign policy issues and revive harmony in the country.

The Bush administration often characterizes the war on terrorism as a global war. Here is a chance for them to expand their list of allies and to make this war actually a global effort. Recently, French President Jacques Chirac met with Britain's Prime Minister Tony Blair. During the meeting, President Chirac criticized the United State's effort to fight terrorism. However, he expressed willingness to put aside the differences and help rebuild Iraq.

This offer can produce beneficial results for Iraq and the United States. The Bush administration should try to seize this

opportunity to revive relationships. If the administration welcomes this offer, it may encourage other nations to step forward with their aid.

Then, there is the issue with Iran. I hope that Iran won't become another Iraq for the president's second term. Instead of utilizing the militaristic approach, the United States should join its European allies to try diplomacy. *The New York Times* reported that the administration was expressing skepticism regarding the European's effort.

At the same time, the administration is using a six-nation diplomacy regarding North Korea's defiance to dismantle its nuclear projects. The United States focusing its attention on Iraq for the past few years allowed North Korea to make significant progress in its nuclear ambition.

The fact is, the Arab world is still angry about Iraq. If the administration uses aggressive methods with Iran and diplomacy with North Korea, it will contribute to the increasing anger. This military versus diplomacy approach will increase the administration's reputation as anti-Islamic and anti-Arab. Given the current situations, America's Arab allies are essential.

Also, it is time to become a true mediator regarding the Palestine and Israel issue. It is unreasonable to expect one side to cooperate while leaning towards the benefit of the other.

Simply preaching about justice and peace is inadequate. If justice is part of democracy, then the United States should apply justice and equal support when working with both parties.

Regarding harmony in the country, before the election, President Bush signed the Global Anti-Semitism Review Act of 2004 before heading out to Florida for his campaign. This law requires the State Department to monitor global anti-Semitism and rate countries on their treatment of Jews.

The president stated, "Extending freedom also means disrupting the evil of anti-Semitism." That's great that he wants to end discrimination. However, I question the president's intentions.

Florida was a key battleground state for the upcoming election. The Jewish population in Florida is the third largest after Israel and New York. Given their historical support for democrats, it is obvious that the president's attempt was to attract Jewish voters.

But, what about anti-Semitism at home? If the president is so concerned for the well-being of others, then why isn't he committed to ease the discrimination that exists here?

This country praises itself for its diversity. Yet, during the president's first term, he failed to address these issues on the national level. The president's effort to extend freedom will not succeed if he reaches out to only one group of people. Don't stand

half way for humanitarian work. Stand up straight and speak for all.

Political pundits are constantly discussing the so-called lack of response from the Muslim community regarding terrorist attacks. They know very little of the effort by Muslims leaders to criticize and demonstrate their opposition towards the attacks in the name of Islam.

As president, Bush should have helped to discredit these accusations by highlighting work done by Muslims in this country. Most of the time, the news media is blind when Muslims speak out. They pretend as if leaders like Hamza Yusuf do not exist. President Bush also remained silent concerning this matter.

There are six to seven million Muslims in the United States. Many, like myself, are raised here. The president speaks of peace and ending discrimination while ignoring a growing portion of the American population. This circumstance does little to develop or increase any support for this president.

Many people ask me why so many Muslims voted for John Kerry. It's not that Kerry did anything special to attract Muslim voters, but rather President Bush did plenty to repel Muslim voters.

It is time for the president to step up and use the next four years to address these issues. If the United States is to lead a global effort, then it should not ignore these national and international policies.

# Atlanta tightens its Belt Line



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The city of Atlanta wants to redevelop a 22-mile belt line of rail that circles the city, forming a mini-perimeter inside I-285. This perimeter crosses the east-west MARTA line, major roads like North Avenue and runs through places like Cabbagetown. The 75/85 connector runs north to south in the middle and I-20 runs east to west

near the lower third.

Various groups, including Norfolk Southern Railroad, CSX Railroad and the Department of Transportation, own portions of the belt. Certain portions still have trains running on them. Mayor Shirley Franklin envisions a transit system "with pockets of retail, green space and new residences that teachers and office workers can afford," according to a Nov. 17 article in the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*.

The problem is that the railroads and other groups that own portions of the belt are not interested in selling to the government. Enter Wayne Mason, a powerful real estate developer who

gained prominence from his development of Gwinnett County. According to the article, Mason is buying a 4.6 mile section from Norfolk Southern for a hefty \$25 million. Now the city has to go through him for access to his portion, and the state has to think of an alternative route.

The article reports "developers were awaiting a green light from the city regarding its support for the Belt Line" before Mason stepped in. Many believe that funding for the Belt Line is years away and others are concerned that no one is considering the difficulty of developing a commuter system on rails that still have commercial trains running on them.

Franklin seems to be happy Mason is making an effort to redevelop because she believes his efforts will prove that a mass redevelopment along the entire Belt Line is possible. What will most likely be built is what we see in Gwinnett County: endless strip malls.

Mason, along with Wayne Hill and Wayne Shackelford, became famous for developing Gwinnett County. This egregious triumvirate of human jackals ran loose like bulls in a china shop, developing countless acres of green space into three major malls, Wal-Marts, neighborhoods and thou-

See BELTLINE | Page 24



# The anatomy of facism: a rotted corpse gets yet another prodding



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Professor Robert Paxton has apparently decided that, despite the existence of thousands of books on the subject, creation is incomplete without yet another generalized history of facism. The good professor has, indeed, produced another such history to toss atop the heap, and it is definitively entitled *The Anatomy of Facism*.

The entire book, and Professor Paxton's credibility as a scholar, are completely undermined by two things: he all but completely dismisses the fact that the soviet communists were undeniably a deadly threat completely dedicated to the destruction of democracy in Germany and Italy; and he insinuates very strongly that the United States seems never out of danger of becoming a failed democracy and a fascist state, all courtesy of conservatives (i.e., republicans).

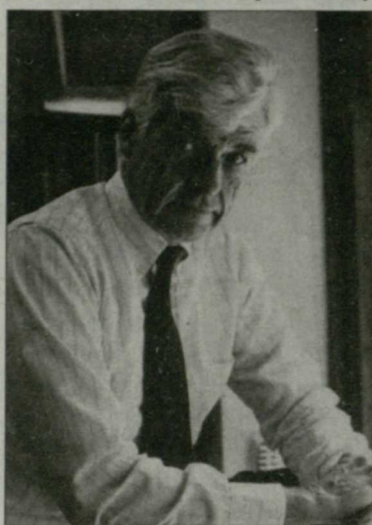
Lenin and Stalin considered bankrupt Germany to be the "powder keg of Europe," and the USSR threw enormous resources behind

the German communist movement to utterly destroy the fragile Weimar Republic. For all intents and purposes, the majority of German communists were, effectively, direct agents of the USSR, and their mission was to destroy German bourgeois democracy/capitalism for the purpose of transforming the nation into a client state of the Soviet Union. After Russia, Germany was, indeed, the next tumbling domino in the expected worldwide Bolshevik revolution.

It was not just the aftermath of the Versailles Treaty that allowed National Socialism (i.e., the Nazis) to prosper in Germany. Nazism also handily exploited the genuine terror that a majority of Germans felt over the issue of advancing communism: it was the rapid encroachment of communism, known by then to be the world's most deadly ideology that helped bring the Nazis to power.

Professor Paxton writes as if German communists were merely harmless 'liberals' and misunderstood social reformers, and he implies that paranoid German conservatives allied themselves to the brown shirts in efforts to oppose benign Bolsheviks. Well, not quite. The deadly communist threat to Germany was very real, the fear

felt by the majority of German citizens was palpable, and the communists would have triumphed easily



Special | Signal  
**Robert Paxton needlessly added to the endless list of books on facism.**

had the fascists not beaten them back. Unfortunately, the German fascists were as evil as the German/soviet communists.

Why did Italy and Germany fight for the fascists during the Spanish Civil War? Because Spain was the next powder keg that the USSR focused on after facism thwarted the communists in Italy and Germany. Ron Radosh recently wrote a book revealing the extent of the USSR's infiltration

and takeover of the Spanish republican (i.e., mainly communist) insurrection. It turns out that thousands of military officers and operatives from the USSR completely commandeered the Republican cause and that they had even purged and killed Spanish allies and military comrades who objected to the soviet takeover.

The professor's insinuation that certain events might conspire to remake the United States into a fascist state seems nothing more than the parroting of an old Marxist delusion that has been around since Lenin. One key aspect of Marxism is that there are certain things believed to be historically inevitable. For instance, there is an unstoppable evolution from feudalism, to capitalism, to socialism, to communism. From at least as far back as the 1930s, soviet and American communists, and their later successors in the American New Left, also claimed that it was inevitable that the United States would (temporarily) become a fascist state in reactionary efforts to resist the evolutionary progression toward communism.

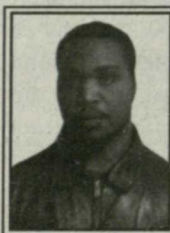
In the idiotic world of the left, ideological extrapolation of historical inevitability even justified advance condemnation of America for its anticipated future political

reaction. In other words, because America is predicted to become a fascist state in some unknown future, it is perfectly okay to declare it to be so in the here-and-now.

By painting the communists as benign reformers and the victims of fascists and by all but overtly stating that Bush and his neo-conservative allies are marching America toward a new facism (via alleged exploitation of America's war on terrorism), Paxton has guaranteed that his book will receive first-rate reviews in the left's most influential organs including the *New York Times* and the *New York Review of Books*. Indeed, Samantha Power has already published an absolutely glowing review in the *New York Times* dated May 2, 2004.

Because Paxton has spent his career in elitist academia, he may actually believe his own nonsense. However, it all seems a bit too calculated. I suspect that this professor emeritus is attempting to bolster book sales and publicly redeclare his unwavering fealty to the left (perhaps as some last hurrah). By the way, professor, the term "islamo-facism" is not a Bush invention: it was coined by your own radical ally, Christopher Hitchens.

# Our New World Order alienates allies



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Due to our new world order, unilateral approaches to foreign policies are usually condemned. Bush upheld the status quo when he ordered the invasion of Iraq on a nation-building mission illegitimately and without compromising his position to attract a "real" coalition.

Telling others you are "either for us or against us" was adequate rhetoric for strong leadership, which we needed, to make Americans feel firm about hunting down terrorists, but defective for amassing help to store democracy in a terrorist haven nation.

According to the Congressional research service, the United States has engaged in 16 nation-building operations and only four of them were success stories. (Japan, Germany, Panama, Grenada) The others failed mainly because of unilateral approaches, in which some led to brutal dictatorships. What were some of those failures?

It is apparent now that the

administration did not plan our mission in Iraq well partly because it violated international law.

For those of you who are still hanging on to the pretense that foreign intelligence agencies confirmed Saddam had weapons of mass destruction along with the CIA, ponder this scenario:

Hypothetically, say that your sister's boyfriend, "Hulk Hogan", is physically abusing her. For the sake of this argument, say there is no police to intervene, much like there is no international police to intervene on world affairs. You and your brother will not stand for this, so you have three choices. Both you and your brother could gang up on "Hulk Hogan" and beat him down. You could fight him alone, or you could coax your cocky brother into fighting him alone. Now which sounds better to someone who does not want to get his or her hands dirty?

This is how some of these foreign intelligence officials used our unilateral instincts against us. They wanted to see Saddam toppled as well.

Granted, Saddam was a good bluffer, but it is obvious neither the CIA nor foreign

intelligence agencies had any hard evidence of weapons of mass destruction. The Bush administration probably did not know what kind of evidence these other intelligence agencies supposedly possessed. When told that foreign intelligence



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**Bombs going off in Iraq everyday is a symptom of not having full control over the country.**

concurrent with the CIA's claims, Bush was able to legitimize his invasion of Iraq.

Ousting Saddam in the wake of Sept. 11 was the perfect opportunity for Bush to try to pacify Americans, retain global respect for America, and allow America to exert heavy influence in the oil industry. He accomplished this with one

stone, or rather one operation called "Iraqi Freedom."

Bush was not about to let others prevent him from seizing that opportunity. Now we are stuck in a difficult situation. It's obvious Bush underestimated the will of insurgent groups after removing Saddam. They are strategically impeding stability in Iraq by assassinating government officials and murdering new Iraqi troops in training, hence intimidating other Iraqis as well as aid workers from assisting the process to a free state.

There is no telling how long we will have to occupy Iraq because we cannot pull our troops out now. If so, all our fallen soldiers will have died in vain, and Iraq would be worse off than when Saddam was in power. Not to mention the disparaging reputation it will foster, only to supplement anti-Americanism evoked partly by our dominance and unilateral approaches to foreign policies.

Throughout history, governments have tendencies to gang up to balance the superpower. Although the United States is more powerful now than any other country in history, we've managed to foster U.S. leadership abroad by invig-

orating pro-American sentiment with benevolent power like working through international organizations and promoting open markets to enable other nations to prosper as well.

Nevertheless, support for America has declined since Bush took office. By disregarding international organizations and acting unilaterally to foreign policies, some countries view us as pursuing our own interest, sometimes at the expense of others. This exhibits American supremacy abroad, which is highly offensive to our allies.

We are only antagonizing others, including allies, and meanwhile create more enemies, including radicals. The more enemies we create, the terrorists will be able to rely on them for funding and training bases. Let us not forget about the increasing supply and demand for WMD technology and materials within the black market.

The attacks of Sept. 11 proved that we are vulnerable, even with the most powerful military in the world. Therefore, we do not want to lose our "soft" power to influence, which is just as potent.



# Considering the rules of war



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The concept of the "rules of war" is idealistic at best. This concept challenges us because it is contradictory in many ways. Ideally, these rules are used to protect and to provide even battle grounds. When a soldier's task is to destroy and conquer, how can one be expected to win without distorting the battle grounds, without altering something to their advantage? We must ask ourselves, when we construct such rules, how are those expected to fight by such rules affected physically, emotionally and mentally?

In late November we experienced how the rules of war and conditions of war have affected those intended to abide by them. The world gasped as a U.S. marine shot a wounded insurgent at close range in Fallujah. In the footage retrieved by NBC, a marine is shown screaming that the insurgent was faking death. As he screamed, he raised his rifle and fired into the insurgent's head. Another marine is heard in the background stating "well, he's dead now."

The rules of war state that wounded, unarmed fighters who pose no threat must not be harmed. Though this particular

insurgent posed no threat and was visibly wounded, he was shot and killed anyway as the rules of war were contorted and disregarded instantaneously.

Not only is this instance unfortunate, it is also shameful and counterproductive. As many Iraqis consider situations such as this murder, they are led to question American occupancy in their



Special | Signal  
**Images of Iraqi citizens greeting soldiers may not paint a true picture of the reality of war.**

country. Many ask, if this is accepted and can be done while filmed, what happens when the cameras are off?

However unfortunate and counterproductive this instance is, there are a number of items to take into consideration that deserve mention. The possibility of mitigating circumstances certainly exists. The marine in the video is reported to have been shot in the face previous to the insurgent confrontation. Also, a military spokesman claims this particular marine had a friend who had earlier been killed by a booby-trapped insurgent corpse.

The argument is that possibly the marine shot in self-defense,

fearful that the insurgent had been booby-trapped. Again, question the "rules of war" as it is apparent the insurgents are not abiding by them either. Does this mean our soldiers have to create their own rules to survive?

If the insurgent did, in fact, pose a possible threat, it could be argued that killing him was still unnecessary. In order to decide whether or not the decision was logically sound, the question of the marine's mental stability should be examined. Undoubtedly, the marine responsible for the shooting, as with all active duty marines, was subjected to unimaginable images of war and death, which has many adverse psychological effects including mental instability. The reality of the situation, illustrated by instances such as this, is that war is ravaging not only the country and the people involved but also the psyche and essence of soldiers whose original intentions were patriotic and noble.

Is it possible that these rules of war are simply used as guidelines? Possibly their creation used to ease the mind and conscience of those at home and those fighting under the pretense of justice and peace? Is it feasible that rules of war are fashioned to create images to spawn our support and stifle our judgment and criticisms? Perhaps the images of children running to soldiers with flags, hugs and smiles are simply images and not a true picture of the reality of this war.

# United Nations: Putting the U.N. in un-American



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For over half a century, the United Nations had rallied relentlessly towards its vision of a socialistic, one-government world. After failing to back its own policies and resolutions, the United Nations has become virtually useless, kind of like how a bully isn't as scary after you've seen him get beat up. The United Nations has lost all authority in the world and will continue to be defied and, most likely, continue to appease resolution offenders instead of taking them to the woodshed. Because of this attitude, and other reasons that I will detail, the United States should leave the United Nations.

The United Nations was built on, and today maintains, an anti-American platform. Of the 17 individuals who were identified by the U.S. State Department as having shaped U.S. policy that led to the creation of the United Nations, all but one were later identified as secret members of the Communist Party of the United States. Even the first Secretary General, Alger Hiss, went on to be convicted as a Soviet agent. This makeup of the United Nations has remained consistent. Since its creation in 1946, the ideological makeup of U.N. leadership has remained consistent. In fact, all seven Secretary Generals of the United Nations have either been devoted socialists or communists. Fourteen out of 15 of the United Nations' military bosses (the Under Secretary Generals for Political and Security Council Affairs) have been communist, and two-thirds of the Membership in the General Assembly, the Security Council, and the World Court have been representatives of socialist and communist countries. Performance directly reflects leadership.

Speaking of leadership within the United Nations, I don't want to leave out Kofi Annan (for you third graders: he's the current Secretary General). Annan, after visiting with Saddam Hussein in Iraq in 1998, returned to New York to report: "I think I can do business with him"...and business he did. Documents and research have shown that the oil-for-food program, a contract that the United Nations had with Iraq to sell Iraqi oil to fund humanitarian aid, gave Hussein over 21 billion illegal dollars, which, by the way, he used to help fund his donations to families of Palestinian suicide-bombers. Annan's Secretariat collected more than \$1.4 billion in commissions on Saddam's oil sales. Not only that,

but the United Nations hired the law firm that employed Kofi Annan, Kofi's son. While information on this has been known for years, it has only recently become a focus of major news outlets. More dirt on the Annan's will certainly be uncovered as more information is gathered. Is this why Annan was against the U.S.-led removal of Saddam? His paycheck seems to have outweighed his morals and the resolutions of the United Nations.

On this topic: Annan has repeatedly stated that he was "not involved" with designing the oil-for-food program, however, Annan's own official U.N. biography states that before becoming secretary-general he "led the first United Nations team negotiating with Iraq on the sale of oil to fund purchases of humanitarian aid." Oops!

Annan has also repeatedly praised Fidel Castro's Cuba, a dismal Communist dictatorship that landed on the State Department's list of terror-sponsoring governments. Castro's regime has "set an example we can learn from," Annan stated at a summit in Havana. Cuba's government, as evil as it is, is not a rarity in the U.N. General Assembly; Syria, Libya, Namibia, Sudan and a list of other dictatorships who support the international terrorist network are also present.

In 2001, the anti-U.S. sentiment was epitomized when the United States was voted off the U.N.'s Human Rights Commission. The Commission, which includes such human rights champions as Libya, Syria, and communist China, voted to grant Syria a seat on the Council. Syria, a notorious terrorist state, is also responsible, along with the other Council members, to supervise the war on terrorism. Do we want Syria (probably number two on the United States' "To Deal With" List) making decisions on whether or not we can mobilize our army? Annan does. In fact, he stated, "If action is taken without the authority of the United Nations, the legitimacy for any such action would be seriously impaired." This parallels John Kerry's "global test" remark. Do we want Syria having a voice in the war on terrorism? Hell no. (Are you still glad you voted for Kerry?)

The United States doesn't need the United Nations. The United Nations needs the United States, financially, militarily and because we're the world's hyperpower. If we leave, the United Nations will come tumbling down, which won't be a bad thing. I leave will a quote from Bill Cosby, "I brought you into this world and, by God, I can take you out!"

# The school needs to listen to what the students want as well

**CHANGES** from page 19  
are invading its territory of keeping the student body entertained. Given the mismanagement and micromanagement of their former advisor, the group has proven that it can function on its own. If the SGA has pull around here, then Spotlight should as well. The university should provide more funding for Spotlight and allow it more creative control over its projects. The current leadership and future leadership should not be penalized for the mistakes of the past. Once again, Georgia State needs to move forward.

Thirdly, SGA needs a new constitution. Corey Thompson's administration was scared to touch it. It has become very antiquated. Policy Studies Senator John Michael Lee has proposed a constitutional retreat to undertake this tedious endeavor. This needs to be a high priority for the second half of the

current administration. The senate should consult amongst themselves, the student body through forums and other SGA's to improve their effectiveness. Suggested recommendations are making president and executive vice president run together, bringing back the practice of the senate voting for their own public relations, budget, and finance vice presidents and the ability to allow the students to have some autonomy to remove student leaders from the senate.

Fourth, why doesn't Georgia State offer any 24 hour study places that not only provide a place to study but also provide computers to work with as well? The Library South computer lab was 24 hours at one time. The library renovations are proposing on making a 24 hour study space, but it is not guaranteed. The university wants to attract students that are more traditional in their efforts to be like Georgia Tech and UGA. Their

students have facilities such as this; Georgia State needs them as well. Remember students, various departments are asking us to dig deeper in our pockets to support fee increases for improvements; they should consider our wants as well as their own.

These are only a few examples of what is needed around here. Much more could be said, but there is not enough room to continue at this time. The administration pushes for the master plan, but they must include what students need and want as well. With the library renovations, the construction of Aderhold and the Policy Studies building, progress is being made, but they need to be in the student's best interest. This is not complaining but rather keeping back issues on the people's minds. The administration needs to remember to dance with the one they brought or the music will stop and they will be



# It's time for Hillary

Hillary Clinton's time to take center stage has arrived

By CHARLES STEPHENS  
cstephens@gsusignal.com

Personally, I would love to see a Hillary Clinton/Barack Obama ticket in 2008, though I know it will never happen. The two of them combined would be a powerhouse, strong enough to send a ripple through the Democratic Party and the cultural fabric of America. It is quite stunning that both senators represent two groups that began in this country without the right to vote: African-Americans and women. If both groups together, could ascend to the presidency, history would be made.

Unfortunately, I am not so idealistic as to believe such a combo is possible. Clinton will have to fight tooth and nail to distance herself with the charges that cost John Kerry the presidency, a northern out of touch liberal. To run with Obama would court such accusations, and neither of them has just yet proven to be above such challenges. Thus, Clinton would do better to run with Mark Warner, governor of Virginia or Bill Richardson governor of New Mexico. Both men have proved capable of winning elections in predominantly conservative states. But either way Clinton is our best hope to recapture the White House in 2008. I would like to see Obama in a high cabinet post.

She can raise funds faster and more plentifully than her fellow party colleagues, and the republicans as well. She already has name recognition on the national level and would not have to work to make a name for herself. She has taken a hawkish stance on terrorism, and with her political sophistication, she is a formidable candidate. It is not by accident that her name pops up time and time again as the democrat to beat. Back when the democratic candidates were running campaigns more like some twisted version of "American Idol," rather than a serious White House bid,



Tom Daschle (seated at left) suffered a stunning loss in the election, after serving as the minority leader in the senate.

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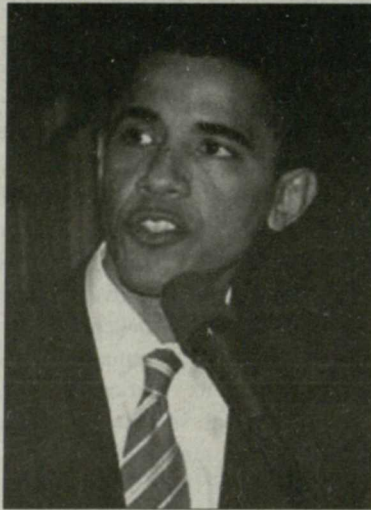
Clinton was all but drafted into the race. Nor, is it surprising that she consistently polls so high when talk turns to her presidential potential.

There are those who might argue that she is too divisive. This is very true. Since the beginning of her career, she has been able to

into the White House. This of course, too is reminiscent of her husband, a man who ruled as the political lines were drawn, and while the Contract with America became one of the earlier signs of the cultural wars to come.

But Clinton has to win her Senate seat first. With Tom Daschle out, the destruction of powerful democrats and symbolic castration of the party is all but too tempting for blood thirsty republicans. Even if there are those who might argue, no matter how much money he spent, this was not Daschle's election to win. If they could get a Clinton, however, the Daschle defeat would be miniscule compared to what a defeated Clinton would mean for the party. Thus, she would do well to watch her back.

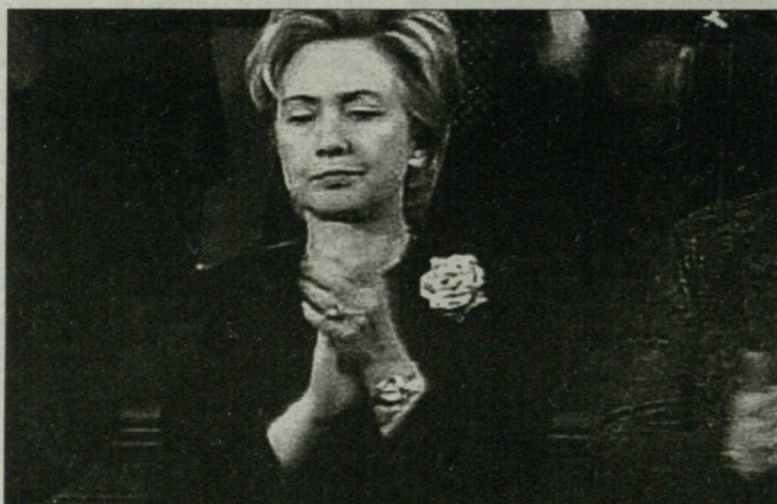
Overall, she has played everything right. Her political moves have been impressive. She has even won praise from members of both parties. Her presidency could rejuvenate the party and inject some much needed excitement for democrats. She just has to beat John McCain, who undoubtedly will be the republican nominee in 2008.



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Barack Obama would be a tempting running mate for Hillary Clinton in 2008.

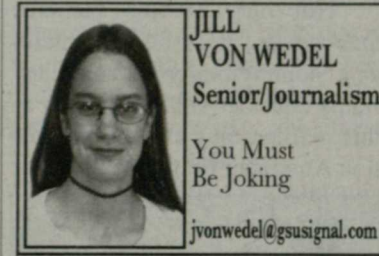
inspire as much love as hate. Then again, most powerful and successful women do. One of the more interesting arguments I have heard that finds a light in the passions she provokes in people is that if George Bush can win in such a divisive, divided atmosphere, perhaps this could catapult Clinton right



Special | Signal

Hillary Clinton is regarded as an early frontrunner for the democratic nomination in 2008.

## Racist cartoons should be denounced by all sides, regardless of politics



Political cartoonists from the supposedly peaceful and racially-tolerant left have struck again. After President Bush nominated National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice to succeed Colin Powell as Secretary of State, the cartoonists lampooned Rice in horrible, extremely racist drawings. Jeff Danziger portrayed Rice as barefoot, sitting in a rocking chair and feeding an aluminum tube from a baby bottle--surrounded by several more "babies." The captions read, "I knows all about aluminum tubes! Correction, 'I don't know nuthin' about aluminum tubes.'" Pat Oliphant is even worse, depicting Rice as a parrot with exaggerated features (a racist stereotype) saying, "OK, Chief! Anything you say, Chief! You bet, Chief! You're my hero, Chief!" He has portrayed her as a parrot in other cartoons as well. Even *Doonesbury* got in on the bashing.

Now, here are the statements from Rev. Jesse Jackson, denouncing these racist tactics:

(crickets chirping)

What's that? No statement from Jackson? Well, what about Al Sharpton or NAACP president Kweisi Mfume?

There wasn't a word out of any of them.

How in the world could these leaders of the black community, who are usually the first in line in front of the cameras to denounce and demand apologies and resignations, not be anywhere in sight for this blatant racism towards Rice?

Simple: Rice is a conservative.

Had a conservative drawn these cartoons, there would still be screaming going on from all camps. Both Jackson and Mfume demanded ESPN's "Sunday NFL Countdown" remove Rush Limbaugh from the program when he said of quarterback Donovan McNabb, "The media has been very desirous that a black quarterback do well." However, the National Leadership Network of Conservative African-Americans denounced a cartoon drawn by tasteless, talentless cartoonist Ted Rall earlier this year--another cartoon lampooning Rice, portraying her as saying, "I was Bush's Beard! His house nigga!" The Leadership Network called on the NAACP and the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition to denounce the cartoon--but they were silent on that one as

well. Project 21, another leadership group, hit the nail on the head: "Is it okay for Ted Rall to use such vile language because he's using it against a black conservative?"

Also following Rice's nomination, Madison, Wis. radio host John Sylvester referred to Rice as "Aunt Jemima" and called Powell "Uncle Tom." Sylvester apologized to "Uncle Tom" but refused to apologize to Rice. Sen. Russ Feingold--a democrat, surprisingly--said that he joined "all Wisconsinites in rejecting" the name-calling.

Surprisingly, Mfume did speak up about this incident, saying that Sylvester's words were "just as bad as those who hide under sheets and burn crosses" and that Rice is "an example of how far hard work, education and determination can take one to new heights." This, despite that fact that he has compared both Rice and Powell to ventriloquist's dummies, saying they "sit there in the puppet master's voice, but we can see whose lips are moving, and we can hear his money talk."

Instead of the Left celebrat-



Special | Signal

Condoleezza Rice has been portrayed negatively in recent political cartoons.

ing the accomplishments of Rice and her position as the first black female Secretary of State, they are ridiculing her and portraying her with the vilest of racist stereotypes. It is one thing to disagree with her policy positions, but why resort to personal attacks such as these? This is what the racially-sensitive liberal left has to offer? The black leadership has made it worse by remaining silent. Had Rice been nominated by, say, Bill Clinton, they would all be bowing at her feet. If you are black and a democrat, you're all right. But conservative blacks are labeled as sellouts and puppets, and the most racist ridiculing will go virtually unnoticed.

If Rice were a democrat, it is likely no one would have drawn those cartoons in the first place. And that, my friends, is my final word.



# No consistency in the animal rights movement

By BEN HODGES  
bhodges@gsusignal.com

I find it nothing less than disturbing that every year, certain environmentalist and animal rights terrorist organizations seldom make any substantial noise in the media despite their anarchical schemes to destroy any semblance of 'unkindness' to animals, and other non-human creatures. Take for instance the Earth Liberation Front. Responsible for over 600 attacks since 1996, this group of vandals has done nearly \$50 million in damage, to both public and private property, with such highpoints as their Vail, Colo., binge, doing 12 million dollars in damage including the firebombing of research centers and ski lifts.

Why are these people doing this? Well, probably all of these radical environmentalists would derive their reasoning from a simple Darwinian syllogism:

P—There are all different kinds of creatures on this planet, all evolving on their own path.

P—No creature is any better or worse than any other creature; all creatures are equal.

C—Therefore, the human race, one of many different kinds of animals, has only one difference with the rest of the animal kingdom: it has a randomly evolved rational capacity; and thus, the human race

should not treat other animal races with inferiority, for all are the same.

Fair enough. Except, I know of no person, even inside these environmentalist and animal rights terrorist organizations, who actually abides by this. Why should they? A good test of a universally applicable theory like this one is to apply it as it asks to be: that is, universally.

Did you know that every time you brush your teeth in the name of hygiene you systematically kill thousands of microorganisms? When you use mouthwash, you increase that number into the millions—millions of potential human beings. Any person who brushes his teeth then, will surpass Adolf Hitler on the Holocaust body count in about a day and half. Stalin may take a couple more days to reach, but Pol Pot was already in the bag before you left the bathroom. These three men are infamous for their systematic extermination of just another kind of animal; these microorganisms are no different, are they? By killing millions of them every day, you are just showing your brash intolerance of the alternate lifestyles of different people (yes, people; we're all equal here). How are these innocent animals supposed to survive in a world that does not tolerate their values? They have their way, and we have ours. Should they be murdered and persecuted for holding to and living

out an alternative lifestyle? Should we systematically destroy their race just because their way of living does not conform to our white, protestant, bigoted views of life? These creatures are dependent on you for their very lives! Is it too much to ask that you smell a little bad to save the lives of millions of homo sapiens' equivalents?

And what of vegetarians? Vegetables aren't alive? Uh, yeah they are. Actually, it's just because they don't look infrahuman enough to matter. Plants are just as human as humans, and their deaths, even in the name of "environmentalism" and "animal rights," should be just as despicable as the first-degree murders of Nick Berg, a deer shot for sport, and one of the millions of dead animals you spit out of your mouth into the sink this morning. Even the most cautionary things we do are still stained with the blood of earth patriots—brave bacteria and courageous protozoa all caught up in a wave of genocide.

So, where are all these people now? Who's advocating this position? They get too scared? A little frightened at their stupidity? Anyone? Guess not. It's what you should believe though if you believe the syllogism. You really think those three statements are accurate? Think again.

# Letter to the editor

In response to "Gay Students and Faculty Speak Up" by Charles Stephens:

I contend that it was not religious zealots or right wing fanatics that won George Bush the election, it was gay activists who lost it for John Kerry. Kerry lost because he didn't heed Bill Clinton's advice: support the gay marriage ban. He flatly refused to do so. Gay activists on the other hand lost the election for Kerry by handing Bush a mandate during an election year. Everyone from Ted Kennedy to major activists thought that Massachusetts should've waited until AFTER the election. San Francisco should've waited until AFTER the election. What were they thinking? That a few cities and a states would suddenly cause a huge pink revolution? It's the United States not one state under America! They all but handed Bush a platform that would be guaranteed to turn out scores of religious people who might not otherwise vote, and he used it to perfection.

The lesson for the future is not to depend just on the courts. Civil rights came at a very slow

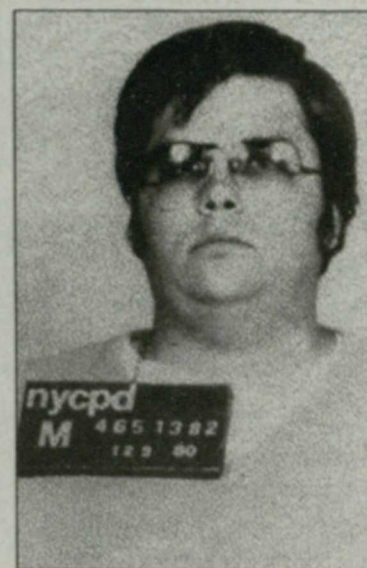
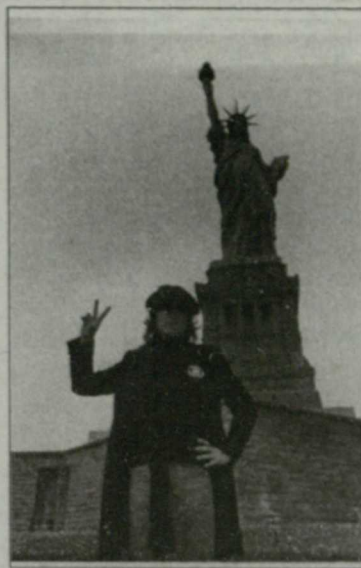
"Whether you like it or not, America is a conservative, religious country that does not like for their values and morals to be messed with."

pace, culminating court decisions with laws and constitutional amendments. It will take time but that time will come. I believe that George Bush won the election because activists pushed the envelope too hard and too fast and it ran head long into religious doctrine, something people are not willing to change easily. We must use both the courts and the politicians to bring gay marriage into the mainstream. If we try to force it with the courts and try to make it happen overnight, all of those red states and those blue states that voted for the ban will be enough to enact a constitutional amendment banning it once and for all.

Whether you like it or not America is a conservative, religious country that does not like

for their values and morals to be messed with. I truly believe that gay marriage will be legalized during my lifetime but it will come when we are older, when the generations of our parents and grandparents have died, and the idea of gay marriage has sat for so long in the open that it's not a big deal anymore. Only after a slow process of education and consideration can the concept of gay marriage be woven into the fabric of an otherwise resistant nation. Anything less would lead to greater restrictions, more backlash, and quite possibly a country willing then to take the final steps to end the debate once and for all.

Jonathan Posey  
Senior, Political Science



Special | Signal

John Lennon was cut down by bullets from Mark Chapman nearly 25 years ago this month.

## Dec. 8, 1980: John Lennon, two decades ago

By JIMMY HALL  
Contributing Columnist  
jhall@gsusignal.com

Excluding the onset of an unfortunate memory illness, I shall always recall the overnight hours of Dec. 8, 1980. Just as the generation before me collectively remembers precisely where they individually were on a sad weekday afternoon in late Nov. 1963, I still hear the words a male co-worker spoke to me late on that dreadful night. "John Lennon's dead. Someone shot him."

Lennon's politics were not the best, but he was. That man's blunt statement cut me like a knife sometime around midnight. However, working at the Arrow Shirt Company, I was unable to get any kind of official confirmation as I toiled at spreading Oxford cloth. Word of mouth remained rampant, but no one wanted to accept the awful hearsay as truth.

Further clues were evident during the commute home at 2:30 a.m. I scanned the radio dial and heard Beatles' songs on several stations. Those hints were followed by a deejay's sad message as I reached Douglasville. It was true. A worldwide dream was truly over.

I entered our residence to find my parents awake at 3:00, with food on the table. As I reached the top of the stairs I said, "John Lennon was assassinated." Unlike much of the nation, the folks hadn't viewed Howard Cosell's tragic announcement during "Monday Night Football", a program Lennon had once been a guest on with Ronald Reagan (an incredibly unlikely pair).

I immediately grabbed an old radio which we often used amid bad weather conditions, and tuned into Larry King's

old Mutual radio show, which ran virtually all night. The emotional outcry caught the host by surprise. He found himself in unknown territory.

Walking downstairs, I laid on the floor listening to caller after caller cry on nationwide radio. The Dakota Apartment Building in New York City became a household name and a shrine. In a classy move, King barred his stable of funny callers from checking in as themselves. "The Chair" nor "The Door" made their nightly appearances, but the twice-hourly news-break anchor did, over and over.

Lennon's death was huge news; a potential deal to release the American hostages in Iran was a distant second headline. As information slowly trickled in, the fact that the killer, Mark D. Chapman, had once lived in Decatur became a part of the main headline.

The telephone rang at 5:30. It was my girlfriend in Lilburn phoning to tell me what I already knew. We made plans to go to North Lake Mall prior to our individual work shifts. Suddenly, the Georgia Bulldog's great season was not so important.

With misty eyes I drove through Atlanta to Indian Trail Road, and soon Christy and I bought Lennon and Beatles' recordings from stores all around Tucker and Norcross. It was our way of paying last respects to the musical and lyrical legend we respected.

Later, we were still purchasing Lennon tribute magazines right up until Easter Night, the evening our relationship went the way of Lennon. Even now, viewing a calendar as I initially write by hand, it seems impossible that I lost both Christy and John two dozen years ago. Woe is me... Where has the time gone?



# Look forward to suburban mentality in the heart of the city

## BELTLINE from page 19

sands of strip shopping centers. This, all in the name of "progress." When asked when the development would stop, Shackelford replied, "When it's full."

Being a lifetime resident of Gwinnett County, I can go back to places that were farm land five or 10 years ago and see it all gone, replaced by Publix-Target strip mall combos, Super Wal-Marts and neighborhoods filled with poorly constructed \$200,000 houses. Gwinnett County has gone from containing sleepy little communities to becoming one of the most populous counties in the state, inching closer to one million residents.

The main reason for developing the Belt Line in the first place was to provide residents who live around the line an easier way to transport themselves around the neighborhoods and easy access to some MARTA stations. This is all well and good, but getting the railroad companies to give up their property will be very difficult.

While the city and state governments haggle with developers and rail-

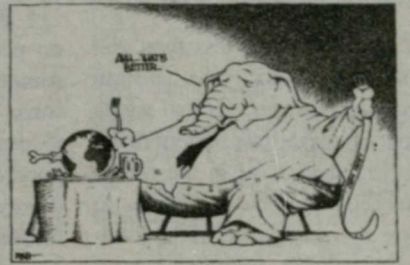
road companies about what to do, existing commuter lines like MARTA will suffer. Money should go to expanding MARTA in an effort to reach more people and to make it more effective. Instead, we've let people like Mason come in and snatch up potential commuter land because of indecision and hesitation, making it that much more difficult for the government to make progress with the Belt Line, even if they really wanted to turn it into a commuter system. Improve what is already in place while the money is available, then move on to new projects like the Belt Line.

Mason does not have to answer to anyone and therefore can now do whatever he wants with the land. He'll bring suburban style development to the heart of the city. Call me cynical, but if Gwinnett County is a model for what he's done, then I don't expect any green space or parks to be a part of Mason's plans. Strip malls and a host of other eyesores will spring from the earth and still there will be nothing to show for it. CSX trains will continue to run on those lines and the city will continue to scratch its head about how to solve the commuter problem.



Can you express opinions through cartoons?

The Signal is looking to fill up this page with your op-ed cartoons. Bring



color drawings to the Signal office or email them to: [gonzoperspectives@yahoo.com](mailto:gonzoperspectives@yahoo.com)

(we can only accept .jpg files)



Don't forget to include your name and contact information!

# Signal

## PANTHER POLL:

Q: Who should run for president in 2008?



Sam Kader  
Senior

"If William Shatner ran, he'd win."



Tanya McAllister  
Sophomore

"I would like to see Hillary run."



Lisa Quang  
Sophomore

"A libertarian candidate, or someone who focuses mostly on domestic issues."



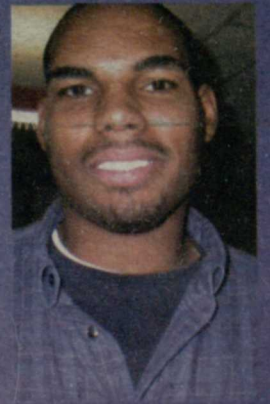
George Awolusi  
Senior

"Al Gore should run again because he has experience."



Robert Cooper  
Senior

"There are no good democrats out there."



Joe Washington  
Senior

"Hillary should run because it's time for a woman president."

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK...

WE'LL SEE YOU IN 2005!