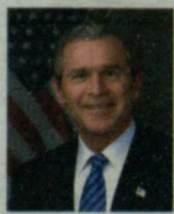


The Georgia State University Signal

Student Newspaper

gsusignal.com



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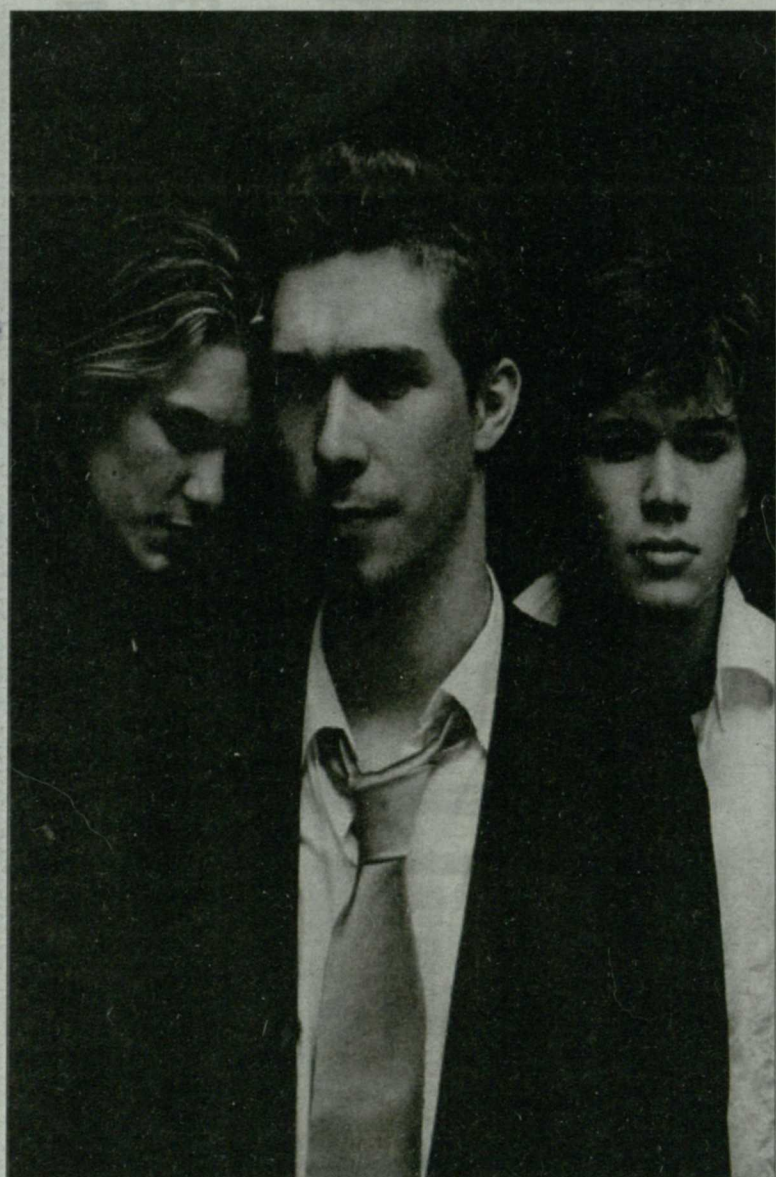
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Hanson promotes indie scene at Georgia State

Georgia State introduces the next Charles Drew



Richard Beland | Signal

Hanson will be visiting Georgia State to support the University's radio station, Album 88.5 (WRAS).

By DANA BURMEISTER
dburmeister@gsusignal.com

Hanson's heard it all before. The long hair jokes, the Partridge family comments, the comparison of their singing voices to that of The Chipmunks ... Hanson is now stuck trying to convince the music world that they outgrew their OshKosh B'Gosh and bed wetting. They are marketing them-

selves as a truly dedicated and talented rock band that not only cares about the music, but wants to change what Hanson has called the "f*ed up" system mainstream music has become entangled in.

On March 1 at 10 a.m., Hanson will be visiting Georgia State's radio station, Album 88.5 (WRAS). Hanson will be streaming a live question-and-answer session from Georgia State

University for students and anyone wanting to participate. Hanson believes there is something college students need to know-- that there is a whole lot of good music out there that corporate record labels are keeping from eager audiences. Hanson places the blame on the giant music conglomerates that are allegedly more concerned about the bottom line than the music on the disc. Hanson's sees its new-found purpose as promoting music as an art form rather than a planned product for distribution to the masses.

Not only will Hanson be answering students call-in questions live on Album 88, but they will also announce then and there if, when and where Hanson may be playing a free show at Georgia State later in the day on March 1.

With a new grassroots effort underway, Hanson believes it is at the forefront of this attack on the corporate control of creativity. They aim to defy the molds of the genres set forth by the music industry by promoting college radio stations and independent ("indie") bands.

With their release of the newest album, *Underneath*, in 2004, Hanson broke from their former mainstream record label and created their own indie label, 3CG Records, with the firm intent of running a label that caters to the bands.

Hanson has a message they want to send loud and clear - they think college radio is the way for indie bands to gain a new public hearing. College radio stations, Hanson purports, have the freedom to play a much larger array of music than any mainstream station could play.

Hanson sees itself as a "Renaissance band," if you will. They write their own music, pro-

duce their own albums, fund their own tours and run their own record company.

"You have to be the artist and the businessman at the same time," drummer Zac Hanson explains during his interview with *The Signal*. "Too often artists let themselves be pawns in everyone else's game. You have to maintain the creative side."

Hanson says of its upcoming visit to Georgia State- "[Grassroots] is a different way to promote yourself. It is important to be here, rather than up on a big stage. We want to reintroduce people to where we are as a band with our new record. Playing acoustic is always important in showing people who you really are, how you write songs and who you are when you are by yourself."

Hanson believes that the mainstream media is controlling the image of today's youth, and that only the youth have the power to change this by embracing independent music. "If you don't become part of it, then you will be defined by P Diddy or Britney Spears. If that doesn't define who you are, and what you want to be represented by, then you need to let your voice be heard" says Zac.

Hanson has been touring college campuses throughout the United States to spread the word on the appeal of the indie scene. Along with their visit to Georgia State, Hanson will also be visiting Emory's college radio station (WMRE) on Feb. 28 at 10 a.m.

With their message of promoting indie bands and uncontrolled creativity in music, Hanson plans to take Georgia State by storm on March 1. Hanson wants to answer student questions and make sure everyone is informed of what they see as a regime change in music.



Special | Signal

Furquan Stafford strives to open the first black-owned plasma center.

By DOMINIQUE HUFF
dhuff@gsusignal.com

What would you do to realize your dreams, goals and aspirations? Would you make tough decisions that many might not understand? Are you up for a challenge both mentally and physically? Do you have what it takes?

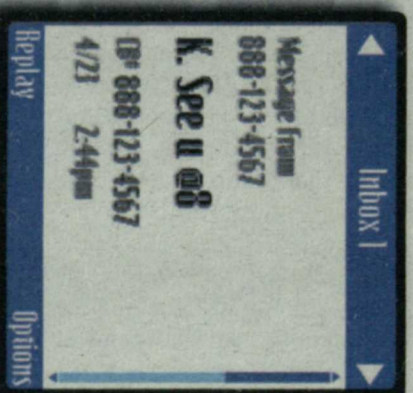
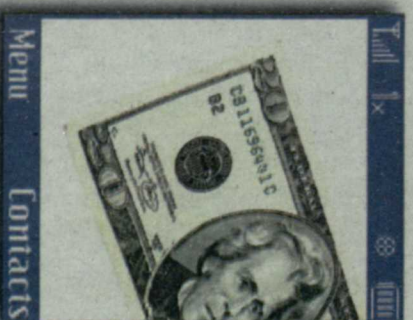
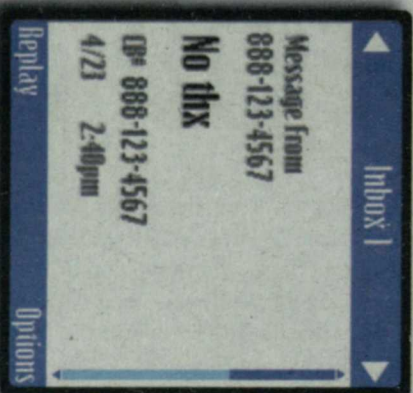
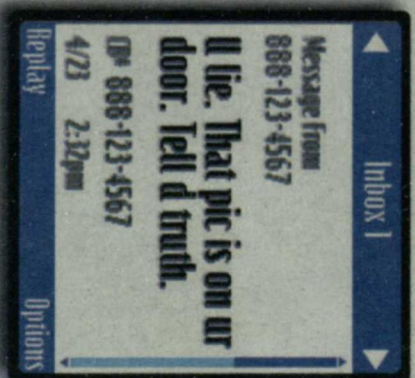
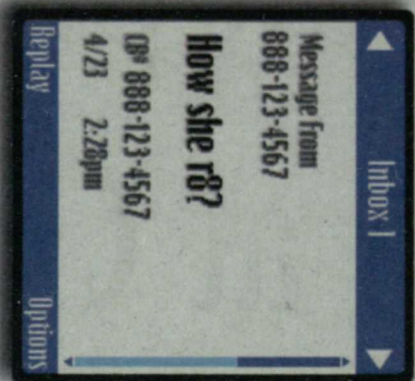
Meet Furquan Stafford, Sr.

Stafford seeks to become the first African-American male to own and operate a plasma center. A plasma center is where blood plasma from healthy donors is collected for manufacturing into medicine to treat various elements of human health.

See PLASMA, Page 4

"My girl's in town. I need a date for her friend. You up for it?"

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calender of events

February 24, 3:00 P.M.

"Impossible Colors: Some Unexpected Predictions, from Cognitive Neuroscience, Concerning the Human Visual System."

A lecture by Paul M. Churchland, a professor in the department of philosophy at the University of CA, San Diego. His current research lies in the philosophy of science, the philosophy of the mind, artificial intelligence and cognitive neurobiology, epistemology, and perception.
Location: the Rialto
Time: 3:00 p.m.
Admission: free
Contact: 404.651.2294 or go to www.cas.gsu.edu for more information.

February 24, 6:00 P.M.

"Judgment Days: Lyndon Baines Johnson, Martin Luther King, Jr., and the Laws That Changed America"

Part of an ongoing series of literary events exploring the human experience.

Location: Margaret Mitchell House
990 Peachtree Street
Time: Reception 6:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m.
Author's Lecture
Admission: \$8, free to members
Contact: 770.578.3502

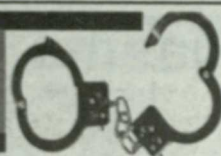
February 27, 3:00 P.M.

University Symphony Orchestra
The performance will be featuring Mozart's Symphony No. 39 with Michael Palmer conducting.
Location: the Rialto
Time 3:00 p.m.
Admission: Free
Contact: (404) 651-INFO

February 28, 3:00 P.M.

"Everybody's Baba: Muslim Saints in Multi-Religious Communities."
As part of the Religious Studies Lecture Series, Anna Bigelow of the University of North Carolina will give the lecture.
Location: Troy Moore Library: 939 General Classroom Building
Time: 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Admission: free
Contact: 404.651.0714

campus crime



Thefts

Urban Life
A Theft of Lost or Mislaid Property report was filed by a staff member. The complainant stated that he placed some cables in a secured closet on 02/08/05 at 3:30 pm. When he returned on 02/10/05 at 9:30 am the cables (\$4800) had been stolen. The area was searched with negative results.

One Park Place
A Theft by Taking report was filed by a staff member. The complainant stated that a student found the door to the room unsecured and items missing out of the room on 02/11/05 at 4:30 pm. The student re-secured the door at 5:00 pm. On 02/13/05 the complainant reported that four computer monitors, mice and keyboards (\$7428) had been stolen from the room. The area was searched with negative results.

Criminal Trespass

University Village, Sparta
A Criminal Trespass Warning report was filed by an officer. The officer received a complaint of a non-GSU individual in possession of a Village access card on 02/11/05 at 4:20 pm. The subject stated that his friend, a resident of the village, had given him the card. The officer made contact with the subject and conducted a criminal history check with negative

results. The subject was issued a CTW and escorted off the property.

Possession

5 Points Garage
A Possession of Marijuana report was filed by an officer. The officer received a complaint of two non-GSU individuals loitering on 02/11/05 at 11:28 am. The officer made contact with the subject and conducted a criminal history check with negative results. A search of the subjects revealed one subject to be in possession of marijuana. He was arrested, processed and transported to Fulton County Jail. The other subject was issued a Criminal Trespass Warning and escorted off the property. The marijuana was confiscated and turned over to Investigations.

University Village, Olympia
A Possession of Marijuana report was filed by a staff member. The complainant stated that she noticed an odor of marijuana on 02/11/05 at 10:35 pm. The officer located the room the odor was coming from and made contact with four student individuals inside the room. The marijuana was confiscated from the individuals and turned over to Investigations. The case will be handled by University Housing.

The Exclamation!

Black Republicans: Say it loud, say it proud!

Kappa Alpha Psi finally has returned. Now where is Iota Phi Theta?

I get lost in Kell Hall sometimes, and as I wander around in that maze of ramps trying to find my way out, I wonder if this isn't some scientists' experiment and they are watching a surveillance video and laughing at me.

Swastikas on campus: The Black Student Alliance needs to step it up with the protests again.

Vaginas need to open up at Georgia State more often.

My mom almost fell over when she saw the headline for the Vagina Monologues article last week, it was hilarious.

My computer died again. These things have a mind of their own.

Why is two jackasses painting their faces more important than the fascist symbols in GCB?

When is the library going to get new books?

How many weeks left?

Notable Quotables

I have a lot of things to prove to myself. One is that I can live my life fearlessly.
-Oprah Winfrey

The game is my wife. It demands loyalty and responsibility, and it gives me back fulfillment and peace.
-Michael Jordan

I believe in the brotherhood of all men, but I don't believe in wasting brotherhood on anyone who doesn't want to practice it with me. Brotherhood is a two-way street.
-Malcom X

Never work just for money or for power. They won't save your soul or help you sleep at night.
-Marian Wright Edelman

I am overwhelmed by the grace and persistence of my people.
-Maya Angelou

Always end the name of your child with a vowel, so that when you yell the name will carry.
-Bill Cosby

I don't know what the future may hold, but I know who holds the future.
-Ralph Abernathy

If you have information for the calender of events, exclamation, crime reports or ampersand please email them to jtoothman@gsusignal.com.

Plasma

from page 1

"Initially, my first job was inside of a plasma center in Houston, Texas. This is where I became intrigued with blood plasma," said Stafford. "I would come in early and stay late reading the various manuals in the center to educate myself about the industry." While employed at the lab, he was promoted to team leader and enrolled at Texas Southern University.

Eventually, he transferred to San Jacinto College, where he obtained his EMT certification. From there, he transferred to Georgia State University and studied for a degree in nursing. During this time, he took on a full-time job, got married and took a heavy course load.

"Georgia State has provided me with the groundwork to prepare me in my endeavor to open my business," Stafford stated. "This university has provided me with the wisdom and knowledge."

Stafford believes that the university has opportunities that are not available anywhere else. "Georgia State has provided the students with resources such as Dell computers, wireless Internet, degree offerings and a variety of activities."

Stafford cites the diversity of the faculty, staff and students in making him well rounded. "At single race colleges, they give you a mindset of how things are built, but it's not like that. It helps you to be diverse and to know different cultures," he added.

Stafford credits the university as a whole for making him into who he is. He considers President Carl Patton as a role model. "I like how he has raised money for the university and expanded the campus over the years. He carries himself well and conducts business in a professional manner," he stated. "I've had several opportunities to meet with Dr. Patton."

According to Stafford, the environment of the university is "on point." "When you are around people who carry themselves in a dignified manner, it rubs off on you," he stated. "Several successful people I know are products of this university." Stafford thinks that the downtown placement of the campus is a major asset for the university. "We are near CNN, Coca-Cola and several prominent corporations," he said.

However, Stafford does express some concerns about the university. He would like to see more black men here and excelling while they are here. "The university currently has a large number of black women but not enough black men and that needs to change," he said. Currently, Tighter Grip, the African-American male initiative group, is working to enhance the black male experience and presence on campus.

Rasheem McCall, a former SGA and Spotlight member informed Stafford of Charles Drew, the pioneer of the blood plasma industry. "I read a book from University Library that was about the life and work of Dr. Drew. I even contacted and met the author of that book," stated Stafford. "Dr. Drew created the first mobile blood bank in

New York City. He worked and studied so hard."

Stafford believes that Charles Drew is not portrayed in the black community as much he should be. He also believes that Drew taught blacks to excel in the field of medicine. "The way people feel about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is the way I feel about Dr. Charles Drew. Everyone needs to know about him."

He also pointed out that many sources depict the death of Charles Drew inaccurately. "Many say that he died as a result of not getting proper medication and treatment for his injuries. With his light complexion, he was often mistaken for a white man," he stated. Dr. Drew died in a car accident after suffering from severe injuries including internal bleeding. "The injuries Dr. Drew obtained in that tragic accident were so severe that literally nothing could be done to save him."

Charles Drew died in 1950. In 2005, Stafford is working to take the legacy of Drew to another level. However, this will not be an easy task.

Many times throughout the course of following his dream, Stafford was homeless and often did not have anything to eat. "There were times when I never knew where my next meal would come from. I have slept inside at the airport, MARTA trains and Georgia State buildings," he stated. "I would groom myself in a restroom here on campus and get back into my studies and work."

Stafford believes that a true man is judged on his legacy and what he leaves behind for his children. He has credited Bishop Eddie L. Long and the Rev. Creflo A. Dollar for providing him with spiritual nourishment to continue his journey. "Pastor Dollar has given me tools of faith. I have been blessed with a mantle from Bishop Long," he adds. The mantle is a practice used to give someone a spirit.

Stafford has taken on constructing his dream into reality as a full-time job, as he has not worked in four years. "You need to be willing to sacrifice everything. Everything comes with sacrifice," he said. "I have never stopped trying, and I will not give up."

Stafford's struggle has yielded some progress.

Last summer, Stafford was able to meet and discuss his business plan with George Andrews, CEO of Capitol City Bank. Stafford says Andrews is a very accessible man with whom one can talk. "I have never seen a person who has access to over 250 million dollars have so much accessibility," Stafford said. "He sees himself in me." Andrews left SunTrust Bank, formerly Trust Company, to start Capitol City Bank.

During the meeting, Stafford and several members of his executive board presented a business plan for the plasma center to Andrews and his staff. According to documents from Stafford, Capitol City is willing to provide up to 85 percent of the funding of the center providing that Stafford come up with 15percent. The center will be called CP Plasma Center, with CP standing for College Park. Stafford wants the center placed there because that is where he grew up.

The business plan Stafford presented was well received. "I have been told my plan is the best that many have ever read. They can see

my vision and financial projections, which were on target," he stated.

Stafford has been in conversations with the Bayer Corporation about formulating a deal for the center. He was featured in other publications such as *Sandz* magazine and the *Atlanta Daily World*. "I give God credit. I am a young, African-American male doing business with a major corporation," he exclaimed. "I have my letter from Capitol City Bank in regards to financing for my project."

Stafford has come a long way from the halls of Benjamin Banneker High School in College Park and graduating from McCook Community College. "College Park, Ga., and McCook, Neb., were two different worlds. I went from urban territory to rural territory," he said. Despite the fact that he did not participate in commencement exercises at McCook, he looks forward to doing that in the future at Georgia State. "I would like to get an honorary doctorate degree from here," he added.

He also has advice for those who have an "impossible" dream. "I hope people will come to Georgia State, get groomed and get educated to go into



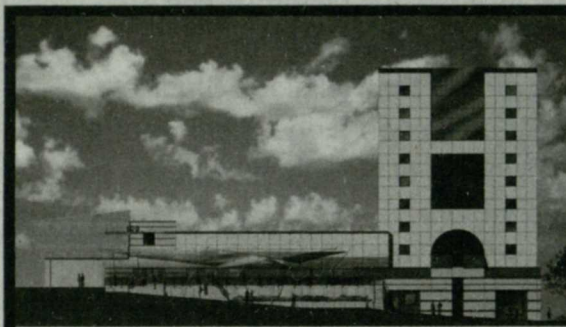
Special | Signal

President Carl Patton continues to expand the Georgia State campus and has raised millions for the University.

the world to make a mark that cannot be erased," he stated. "Without Georgia State, I would not been able to establish a foundation." He advocates reading and studying. "I like reading and studying because it gives you an advantage because preparation is better going into a situation. The experience takes you to another level," he added.

Nevertheless, the most important concept to Stafford is "never giving up." "People give up on things very quickly because we tend to want things now," he stated. "When you get your degree, you got to go out there and make it happen."

For more information about CP Plasma Center, check out the website at www.cpplasmacenter.org.

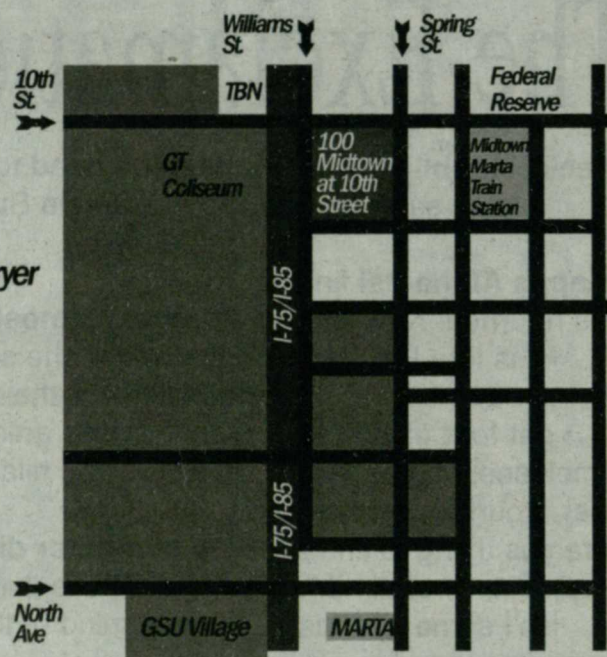


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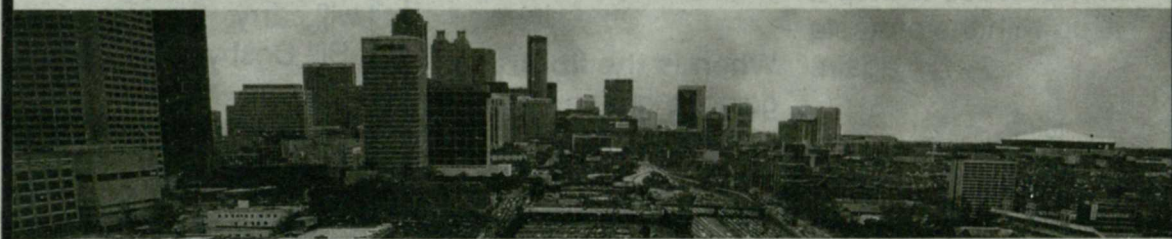
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Perkins loans' future in question

By J. SUZZANE BANNER
jbanner@gsusignal.com

In his 2006 budget proposal released on Feb. 7, President Bush suggests eliminating the Perkins loans and other college-prep programs that have helped low-income students receive higher educations.

The budget plan proposes using the money saved from the elimination of the Perkins loan towards the Pell Grant. The Perkins loan program allows undergraduate and graduate students to borrow money at five percent interest, repayable to their school, based on their financial need. The loan is made with federal funds, and the school provides a portion of the borrowed amount. Undergraduates are able to borrow up to \$4,000 each academic year for a total of up to \$20,000. Graduate students can borrow up to \$6,000 each academic year for a total of up to \$40,000, including any Perkins loans borrowed as an undergraduate. The student must begin repayment nine months after grad-



Congress deliberates over financial assistance budget cuts.

uation, but similar to the other federal government loans, a deferment or forbearance can be granted up to 10 years.

If Congress approves the budget, it will not mean an immediate end to the Perkins loans. They plan to phase out the program

tribute their own money, whereas the Pell Grant serves all institutions.

Unlike the Perkins loan, the Pell Grant is only awarded to undergraduate students and does not have to be repaid. The maximum amount awarded is up to \$4,050 each academic year and is determined by financial need and cost of attendance. If approved, the new Pell Grant program, included in the 2006 budget proposal, will increase the maximum award amount by \$600 over the next five years to \$4,650 a year, beginning in the 2006 fiscal year. Bush also proposes increasing the limits on federal Stafford Loans to balance the effect caused by eliminating the Perkins program.

"The president's goal is to make federal financial aid available to as wide a group as possible," Walsh said.

In addition to the proposed discontinuation of the Perkins program, Upward Bound and Talent Search, two programs that operate through about 12 Georgia schools, including Georgia State, will be cut as well. Their purpose is to expose low-income students to experiences intended to increase their chances in higher education. Created in 1964 by President Lyndon B. Johnson, these programs cost about \$460 million annually and serve about 450,000 students a year. Georgia State served 750 of those 450,000 students, according to Cheryl Arnold, Director of Educational Opportunity Programs at Georgia State. Arnold said that of that group, at least 90 percent of Upward Bound students and 85 percent of Talent Search students pursue a higher education after completing high school. No information was given about what Congress plans to do with the funds saved from these programs.

over a period of 10 years; however, part of the proposal means that the participating schools will have to repay the monies contributed by the government in 10 years as well.

"The \$6 billion in savings and recalled Perkins money would help eliminate a \$4.3 billion gap in the Pell Grant budget and extend the program to about 5.5 million more students in the next 10 years," said Ed Walsh, spokesman for the U.S. Department of Education.

According to the U.S. Dept. of Education, students receiving Perkins loans make up less than three percent of all the students receiving student aid. Walsh said that the Bush administration is targeting the Perkins program because of its "limited reach." Only about 1,800 schools nationally participate in the program because of the requirement for institutions to con-

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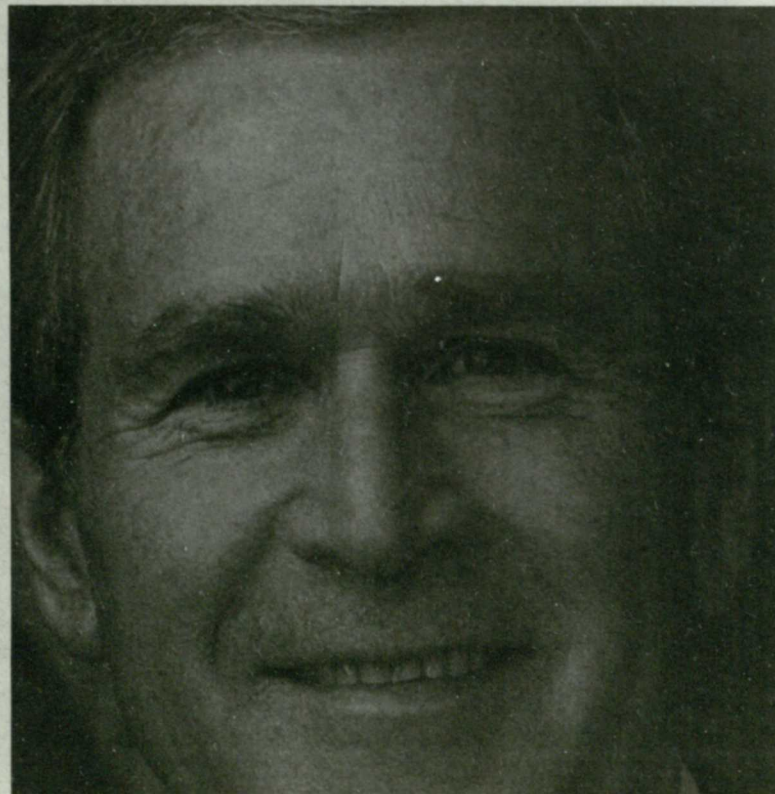
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Special | Signal

President George W. Bush "supports" the education reform.

Georgia State Police seek national accreditation

By DOMINIQUE HUFF
dhuff@gsusignal.com

The Georgia State Police Department is constantly improving itself. In 2000, the department received accreditation from the State of Georgia. Currently, the department is seeking national accreditation from Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA).

"To receive this recognition, we must meet 450 standards that are set by CALEA," says Connie Sampson, Chief of Police. The department had 20 standards from that list that needed some work. "We have worked on those items, and we are moving forward with the process," she added.

The Georgia Legislature created the Georgia State Police Department and permits it to operate on the campus. CALEA standards provide "what" a department should be doing rather "how" to do it. "A police department does not need accreditation to be recognized. This is a voluntary process," Sampson stated. "This just helps us improve our operations."

The standards address nine major law enforcement subjects

including traffic operations, operational support and organization, management and administration. The standards help law enforcement agencies to achieve several goals, including improvement of service delivery, and citizen and staff confidence in the agency.

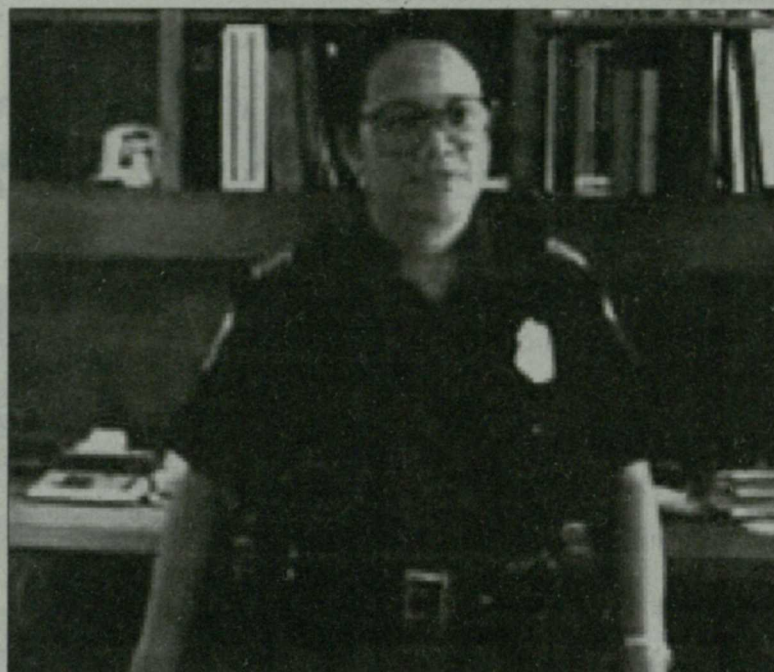
According to their website, the Georgia State University Police Department was the first campus police department in Georgia to achieve the distinction of "Certified Law Enforcement Agency" from the State of Georgia Law Enforcement Certification Program. "I'm always looking for constant improvement in our department while utilizing the resources provided to me," added Sampson.

However, police officers are required to have certification from Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST). "These are standards which any officer must have to enforce laws. POST is notified when an officer is disciplined or transfers to another department," stated Sampson.

Currently, the department has an online survey that has been e-mailed to everyone in the university community to voice opinions, concerns and suggestions about operations of the department. The survey is confidential and voluntary, and only takes about

five minutes. As an incentive to participate, participants are encouraged to register for a prize drawing. E-mail addresses will not be linked to responses.

According to the e-mail that was sent along with the survey, the survey is highlighting the areas of perception of campus



Special | Signal

Chief of Police Connie Sampson works to get her department recognized.

safety and departmental professionalism.

The department works to maintain public safety in the downtown area alongside other agencies including Atlanta Police, Capitol Police and the Georgia World Congress Center Police.

"We work with the other departments, and it works so well," Sampson stated. "You can't have too much police help."

We are here for the needs of the Georgia State University community," Sampson concluded.



Special | Signal

The Georgia State police patrol the campus insuring safety.

Announcement.....

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

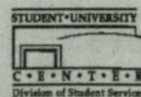
Room 384 is currently available for assignment to Chartered Student Organizations (located on the 3rd floor of the Student Center). Chartered Student Organizations are eligible for consideration and those interested should submit an application by March 2, 2005. Once assigned, room(s) will be utilized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

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

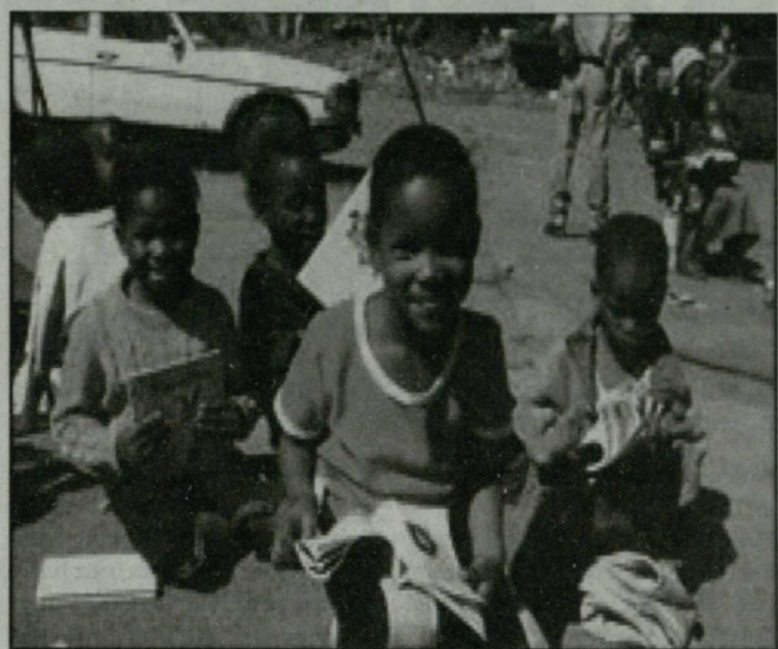
Online at www.gsu.edu/studentcenter.....

Note: Completed Applications are due March 2, 2005

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



College of Education assists South African children

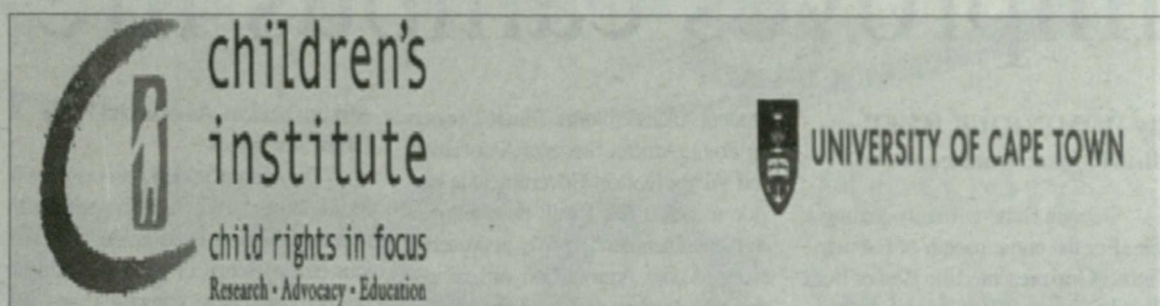


South Africa children do not receive adequate education

By VANDREENA COTTON
vcotton@gsusignal.com

Forty-two percent of South Africa's total population lived in rural areas in 2001. Sixty-five percent of the country is rural. This statistic from the Southern African Regional Poverty Network has

caused concern around the world and the country. To help this multifaceted epidemic, the Georgia State University College of Education has taken the liberty of assisting the hardest hit areas. Dr. Gregory Brack, associate professor of Counseling and Psychological Services, recently



Special | Signal
The Children's Institute of the University of Cape Town seeks improvement of the hazardous conditions that South African children face.

hosted a lecture entitled "South Africa's Rural Schools: Challenges, Tragedy, and Heroism" to bring attention to this issue.

At the lecture, Brack conducted an in-depth discussion about the deplorable conditions South African children live through on a day-to-day basis. Some of the circumstances these children endure include diseases, poor education and exposure to high and traumatic levels of violence of many forms, according to the Children's Institute at the University of Cape Town.

Along with these difficulties, the children also have to walk one to one and a half hours to reach

their schools. However, with school fees and the cost of uniforms being a major expense for poor families, attending school becomes a luxury. Despite these setbacks, there have been significant improvements in the state of infrastructure of schools in South Africa, according to Brack.

"Some teachers work for free and we are grateful for that," he said. But these teachers face these challenges everyday. Brack added, "Many of the preschoolers do not have basic hygiene and educational skills. Some do not know how to use the restroom or tie their shoe."

In an effort to help the children prepare for the world, Brack has assisted in the operation of the "Life Skills Approach." In the program, Brack and his associates use three categories, "learn to learn, learn to work, learn to live," to advance the children. "We have recognized that children without life skills will not respond to education and will not prosper after graduation," said Brack. "To give them more help, we have infused life skills in all schools, embedded it in the community, and trained the trainers. We hope the teachers train the children and parents who train other family who train the community." In order to accomplish this, the organization's greatest need is to develop trainers, but due to low funds, many within the infrastructure have left.

The Life Skills program is not the only organization assisting the South African children. The Bethlehem Shelter for Neglected Children provides breakfast, lunch

and dinner five days a week and teaches educational and life skills to boys and girls ages 6 through 16. Although the facility is not yet open on weekends, every member of its crusade is a volunteer.

Even with these various opportunities for advancement, some are still the victims of the deplorable lifestyle. Brack gave examples of some victims who touched his heart. "During some of my trips, I encountered children living in an actual pig sty," he said. "There was also a time when a woman asked if we had helicopters in America. When I told her yes, she spoke of a time when a helicopter collected all the boys from her village and threw them from the helicopter. Now, people avoid going through the bush surrounding the village due to the remains."

In an even more disturbing incident, Brack told of one of his pupils who was betrayed by her family. "Kitiboné was one of my most advanced pupils. She wanted to learn everything she could and make a positive change in her village. Her family, however, did not like the fact that she wanted to make a change and organized a gang rape. Kitiboné contracted HIV and died. It affected us all".

Throughout all of South Africa, children are suffering on a day-to-day basis, with 10 million under the age of 18 living in poverty. However, Brack and his colleagues in the College of Education hope to increase budget infrastructure, the quality of living and develop a new generation of well-rounded individuals.



Special | Signal
South African children enjoy recess despite bad school conditions.

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

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



Best of Both Worlds improves campus life

By DOMINIQUE HUFF
dhuff@gsusignal.com

Georgia State is finally getting a life. For the entire month of February, Tighter Grip presented the Best of Both Worlds. Best of Both Worlds collaborated with other student organizations to provide programming and activities to promote campus involvement from everyone.

"There are a lot of things offered here at Georgia State," said Jarrett Williams, President of Tighter Grip. "We want people to know that there is more than just academics available here."

Tighter Grip has worked with Infinite Appeal, Omega Psi Phi, Spotlight Programs Board, Health Promotions, Rampway.org, Alpha Lambda Delta, Alpha Phi Alpha, Black

Student Alliance, Softer Touch, Dancers on Point, African Students Association, and Village Student Government to provide a month filled with entertainment and enlightenment. "We approached every student organization on campus about this project, and these are the ones who agreed to participate," said Williams.

"This concept is a trial run, and to experiment to see what works and what doesn't," added Williams. Activities have been at various times during the day and evening, and at various locations from the Student Center to the Village. "We came up with this idea at one of our meetings," Williams said.

Homecoming, hosted by the Spotlight Programs Board, kicked off the month. Upcoming events include:

Tue., Feb. 22, 2005

African Student Association: Racial & Ethnic Stereotypes

The African Student Association will be the hosts in this dialogue session to address the various issues amongst the various ethnic groups of people of African descent on college campuses, and the keynote speaker will be Dr. Umoja of the African-American Studies Department.

Sat, Feb. 26, 2005

Infinite Appeal Annual Fashion Show
Infinite Appeal will be hosting its annual spring fashion show, which will raise money to benefit a local Atlanta charity. The event will also feature security from selected members of Tighter Grip, Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity and Omega Psi Phi fraternity.

Tues, Mar. 1, 2005

Health Promotions, Tighter Grip, Black



Special | Signal

Omega Psi Phi congratulates their member, James Hefner, president of the Tennessee State Chapter.

Student Alliance & others: ...Presenting the Down Low Health Promotions, Tighter Grip, Black Student Alliance and additional organizations will feature an educational session dedicated to exploring the "down low" phenomenon currently taking national prominence in the black community. This event is planned by various student organizations along with the Health Promotions office. Omega Psi Phi has pledged a speaker for this event as well.

Other events include:

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. Black History Program
Omega Psi Phi will be presenting Dr. James A. Hefner, the president of Tennessee State University as the keynote speaker. This event will also feature selections from the Clark-Atlanta University choir, as well as a traditional African dance selection.

Infinite Appeal Talent Show

Infinite Appeal will be hosting a talent show featuring the talents of Georgia State University students and will be the prelude to the fashion show-taking place.

Alpha Phi Alpha Black History Lecture Series

Alpha Phi Alpha will be hosting a black history speaker's series addressing the history of the city of Atlanta, and the keynote speaker will be Dr. Skip Mason.

Panther Prowl

Spotlight Programs Board will once again be the presenting the monthly Panther Prowl, in which students take part in various games, activities, and events being held in the Georgia State University Student Center. The difference is that the Ms. Rampway Drag Show and Tighter Grip's Tribute to Women will be taking place simultaneously with this event.

Tighter Grip & Friends present: A Tribute to Black Women

Tighter Grip along with Alpha Phi Alpha, Omega Psi Phi, Dancers On Point, and Conscious Collective, among others will be participating in a tribute to black women at Georgia State University for achievements on and off campus. This event will feature a tribute to womanhood by Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, a dance selection by Dancers On Point, and poems from Conscious Collective.

Alpha Lambda Delta Quiz Bowl 2005

Alpha Lambda Delta will be the hosts in a campus-wide Quiz Bowl, which will challenge the knowledge of various student organizations on campus.

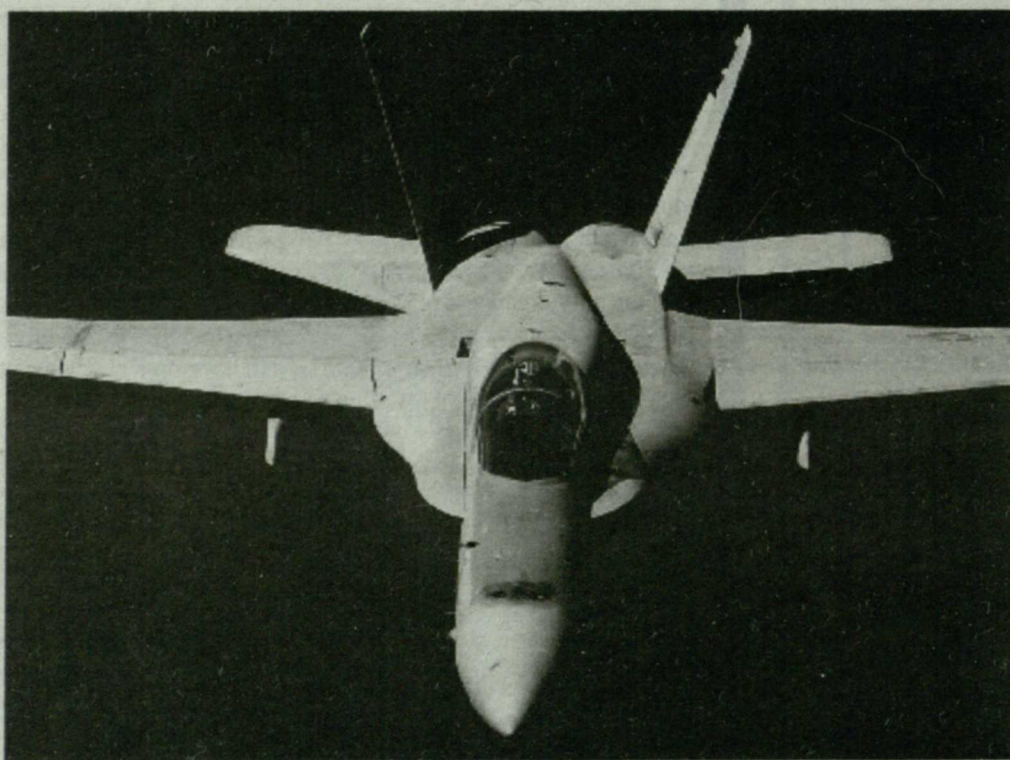
Tighter Grip encourages night students to participate in the events. "We think that our night students are the most neglected, so we want to show them the best of all worlds," stated Williams.

"We are looking forward to all the events. They are all well put together," Williams concluded.

For more information about any of the events or Tighter Grip, contact Jarrett Williams at stdjrw@langate.gsu.edu or 404-463-9065.

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2004



Special | Signal

Voices of Praise entertained audiences with gospel music.

Living Editor:
Erica Meyers

**A Monthly Look
at College Living**

College Living

ADDICTED

By **KRISHNA MERCHANT**
kmerchant@gsusignal.com

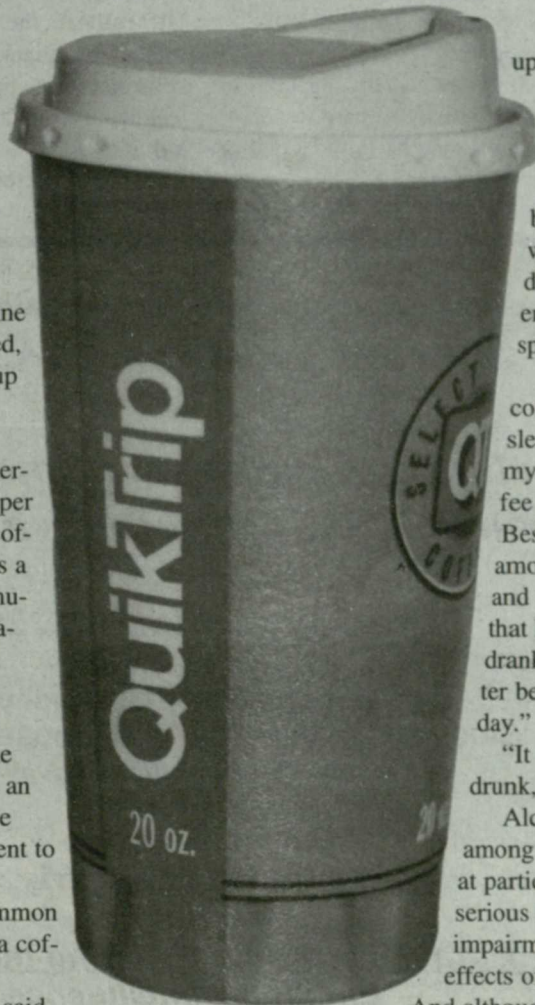
More and more college students are relying upon various kinds of drugs. It may be because of peer pressure, stress or just for fun. Often times these habits get incorporated in the lifestyle and become addictions.

A January 2005 article on "Caffeine addiction is a mental disorder," in *National Geographic* stated that caffeine is a mildly addictive substance that can cause long-term physical dependency. A study done by caffeine researchers found that daily coffee drinkers feel irritated, lethargic and have headaches if they do not get their cup of the day. Roland Griffith, a professor of behavioral biology and neuroscience at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine in Baltimore, led a study in which he has determined that even consuming as little as 100 milligrams per day of caffeine, which is usually found in half cup of coffee, can lead to withdrawal symptoms if the recipient is a regular coffee drinker. Caffeine acts like any other stimulant and withdrawal symptoms, besides headache, irritation and drowsiness, include mild forms of depression, nausea, muscle pain and stiffness.

Lisa Ray said that during her senior year in high school, she became dependent on caffeine pills like Vivarin because of the stress and work load. Vivarin is an over-the-counter drug which she consumed two to three times a day. One tablet of Vivarin has caffeine equivalent to two cups of coffee.

Lisa Ray also said that Starbucks coffee was a common trend in her lifestyle, especially the Sumatra and Kenya coffee in which she added three to four shots of caffeine.

"That made the coffee very good and strong," she said. When Lisa's doctor asked her to cut back on caffeine during her pregnancy, she said that it was the "hardest part of her pregnancy." "It was analogous to withdrawal from street drugs, and it was very hard to give



up."

However, some students believe that caffeine addiction is not good for them.

When Michael Smith withdrew from caffeine he felt more energetic and back to normal after a week. To help him wean off his caffeine dependency, he drank more water, got adequate sleep and engaged in activities that were fun, such as sports.

Andrea Allison, who is not a regular coffee drinker, said "coffee messes up my sleep, increases my heartbeat and irritates my stomach." The only time she drinks coffee is when she needs to stay awake. Besides caffeine, alcohol is very common among college students, especially at parties and other social events. Richard Ellison said that having hangovers was common if he drank too much, but he added, "it doesn't matter because that's the problem for the next day."

"It is always fun when you are tipsy and half drunk," Ellison said.

Alcohol consumption is very common among college students because it is often served at parties. Too much alcohol intake can lead to serious health problems from short-term vision impairment and hangovers to the long-term effects of liver damage and cancers.

And although college students experience high levels of stress, they may need caffeine to stay awake and study. Caffeine pills like Vivarin work as energizers but when consumed persistently or long term, they can lead to serious health problems.

Beware: infected area

By **TONYA JONES**
tjones@gsusignal.com

Suit up everyone because it's raining sexually transmitted infections (STI) out there. STIs are the leading killer of young adults. More than 25 diseases are spread through sexual contact. These diseases create significant health problems for young Americans. Two-thirds of all sexually transmitted diseases occur in people 25 years of age or younger.

Too many young adults are uninformed when it comes to sexually transmitted diseases. As a result, STIs are one of the most under recognized health problems in the country.

STIs are spread by sexual contact including oral, anal, penile-vaginal sex and rimming (oral/anal sex). A person can contract STIs either by skin-to-skin contact or the exchange of body fluids such as semen, pre-ejaculatory fluid, vaginal fluid or blood.

Most STIs can be treated with medication. However, it is important to treat them at an early phase to avoid long-term problems such as infertility, chronic pelvic pain, joint problems, heart problems, eye problem and death. Therefore, it is important for people to get examined on a regular basis, even if no symptoms are present.

Sexually transmitted diseases have one of three different causal agents: bacterial, viral or parasitic.

Bacterial:

Neisseria gonorrhoea, popularly known as gonorrhea, has a high rate of transmission. Over 650,000 new cases are discovered each year in the United States, and 82 percent of these cases occur in teenagers and young adults. Gonorrheal infections may be asymptomatic in both males and females. As a result, many people are unaware that they have contracted gonorrhea.

Symptoms:

- Urethral or vaginal discharge
- Frequent and painful urination

Treatment:

- Antibiotics are required to treat gonorrhea. Sexual intercourse is to be avoided until treatment is completed.

Chlamydia trachomatis, better known as chlamydia, has symp-

Sankofa: African American rebirth

By **CANDICE MORROW**
cmorrow@gsusignal.com

W.E.B. DuBois sits on the right side of a ballroom lit by chandelier next to his colleagues, Malcolm X, Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth while music plays from the group Arrested Development.

Accompanied by signs saying "We Serve Colored Carry Out Only" and "Public Swimming Pool White Only," Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks set-up the Civil Rights Movement through faith and civil disobedience on the left side.

In the center, the exact design of the Slave Trade Ship for the Middle Passage stands.

These prolific leaders and events before and after the Civil Rights Movement came to the

Student Center's ballroom at Georgia State University this month for one reason and one reason alone.

"To take you on a journey," said Angela Jennings, curator of the Sankofa's African American Museum on Wheels.

With a collection of artifacts, figurines, inventions, photographs, newspaper articles and documentary stories, Jennings creatively shows how the African American culture originated in the Americas and how it survived.

"Sankofa was the appropriate name for my museum because it offers wisdom of the past to build the future," said Jennings.

The museum began traveling throughout the United States and other countries, such as Europe and West Africa, thanks to a

honor student named Coleman Sistrunk, Jennings nephew.

Jennings said, "I had to start this museum after I found out an 'A' student was uninformed about his own culture."

"I knew a little," said Sistrunk, "But in school, you focus more on American history and how to make it in Corporate America."

Jennings did what any aunt would do for their nephew, she educated him.

She started to quiz Sistrunk on parts of her, then, small collection of artifacts.

Sistrunk said by this method he paid attention more to what happened to his culture and it has stuck with him ever since.

A collection that during its birth in 1995 consisted of roughly two or three tables worth of

African history.

Today, Jennings's collection fills an entire ballroom and attracts ethnic groups from all over the world.

Photographs of a black man's ripped, bleeding back from a brutal lynching made Georgia State students cringe in disgust.

"I just came downstairs to see what was going on," said Nu Norton, a senior, "I got a reminder of what blacks went through from the lynching portrait."

Jennings said the museum is on wheels to stimulate those types of reactions because if it were a stationary history rather than traveling its influence would not exist.

"The most reactions I get,

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See INFECTED | Page 10

Infected

from page 9

toms similar to gonorrhea. Chlamydia is the fastest growing and the most frequently reported STI in the United States. Infection without symptoms and latent symptoms are very common.

Symptoms:

- Painful and frequent urination
- Urethral discharge

Treatment:

Antibiotics are required, and intercourse should be avoided until treatment is completed.

A complication of gonorrhea or chlamydia may lead to pelvic inflammatory disease (PID). It is an infection that affects the uterus, fallopian tubes or pelvic area.

Symptoms:

- Symptoms include abdominal pain and tenderness, fever and vaginal discharge.

Treatment:

PID requires antibiotics to treat and may also require hospitalization. If it goes untreated or if it is inadequately treated, it can cause infertility or sterility.

Treponema pallidum, better known as syphilis, has a 50 percent rate of contraction after a single exposure. Syphilis has four clinical stages.

- The primary stage is highly infectious. It occurs 10 to 90 days after the infection and causes an ulcer-like sore at the site of infection.
- The secondary stage occurs about six weeks after the primary stage and causes a rash all over the body, fever, headache, loss of appetite and joint pain.
- The tertiary stage has many different forms. It can be present without any external signs or symptoms. If untreated, the tertiary stage can affect the heart, brain or other vital organs.
- The congenital strand is passed from mother to baby.

The disease can cause many problems in all areas of the body including the heart, brain, skin, bone, upper respiratory tract and liver.

Treatment:

Antibiotic's are required, and intercourse is to be avoided until the treatment is completed.

Bacterial vaginosis is a bacterial infection caused by bacteria that are normally harmless. The exchange of body fluids with multiple sex partners (or with a partner who has multiple sex partners) can create bacterial vaginosis.

Symptoms:

- Symptoms include increased vaginal discharge (may be asymptomatic).

Treatment:

Antibiotic's are required, and intercourse is to be avoided until the treatment is completed.

Parasitic:

Trichomonas vaginalis is a curable infection that is caused by protozoa.

Symptoms:

- Mild to severe vaginal discharge
- Intense itching
- Painful urination
- Males may not have any symptoms

Treatment:

Antibiotics are required, and intercourse is to be avoided until the treatment is completed.

Viral:

The Herpes Simplex Virus causes a recurrent, incurable disease that has two forms, HSV-1 and HSV-2. HSV-1 produces cold sores around the mouth. HSV-2 causes genital sores that produce lesions.

Symptoms:

- flu-like symptoms
- clusters of lesions on the genitalia that can spread and last for 2-3 weeks
- tingling around the area where lesions occur

Treatment:

There is no cure for herpes. Antiviral drugs are prescribed to shorten the duration of the symptoms and relieve discomfort.

Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) is a double stranded DNA virus which is the causative agent

of genital warts. If the cervix becomes affected, it can create cervical cancer. Treatment is necessary due to

- HPV can cause changes in genital epithelia (creating warts that resemble cauliflower)

Treatment:

Treatment includes removal of the warts by the use of laser, freezing or burning. Topical medication may be applied. There is no cure for the warts, and they may recur at any time.

Over 20,000 young adults under the age of 25 are diagnosed with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) annually. The most common risk factor for HIV is male homosexual intercourse. However, the virus can be spread by heterosexual

intercourse or blood transfusions. HIV affects the human immune system by attacking the T-helper cells that normally function to protect against infection.

Symptoms:

- Flu like symptoms

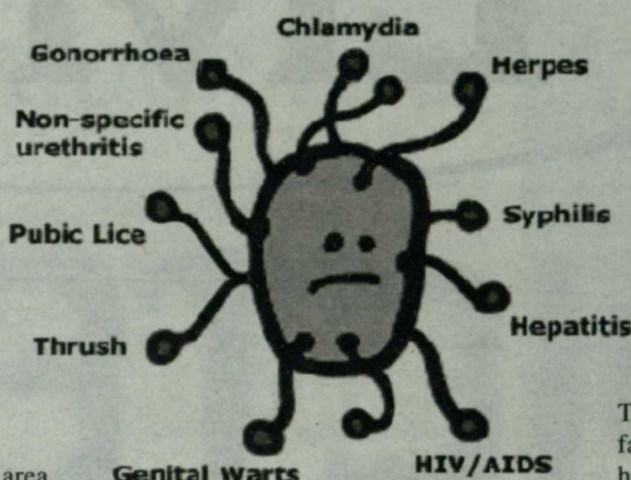
- Thrush (fungal infection)
- Pneumonia
- Recurrent herpes infections
- Bacterial, protozoa or fungal blood stream infections

Treatment:

Many medications are available to help slow the progression of HIV. However, no cure is currently known for this deadly disease, and many infections are drug resistant. Therefore, HIV patients are carefully monitored by a physician for the duration of their lives.

The best way to avoid contracting an STI is to practice abstinence. The second best defense against STIs is the use of latex condoms. However, there are some STIs like genital herpes and human papilloma virus that may be located on the skin's surface in areas that condoms do not cover effectively.

For more information on STIs, visit the Sexual Health Center located on the third floor of the Student Center or the Health Center located on the first floor of Sparks Hall.



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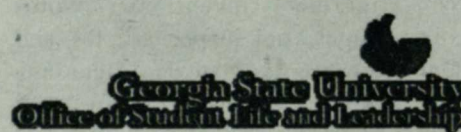
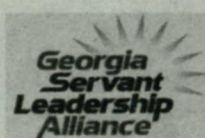


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Sankofa

from page 9

however, come from my presentation of inventions by blacks," said Jennings.

Lacey Weber, a senior, said, "I have to admit that I did not know about the inventors whose products I use every single day."

Lacey is not alone.

It may seem hard to believe that Imhotep of Ancient Egypt invented the stethoscope; Henry T. Sampson invented the cellular phone or that George T. Grant the golf tee, which is pretty ironic since blacks were only allowed to work as a caddy in the sport.

The recognition that the museum received attracted non-students as well.

Aniya Antenor came from New York to visit her friend who attends Georgia State.

"We came to get a little black history," said Antenor, "And I got more than I ever expected."

Antenor was particularly intrigued by a framed list of all the functions cotton served for slaves.

Cotton could produce diapers, pants, shirts and skirts.

Clearly, the museum serves as an educational and inspiring journey for all people to better understand African American history.

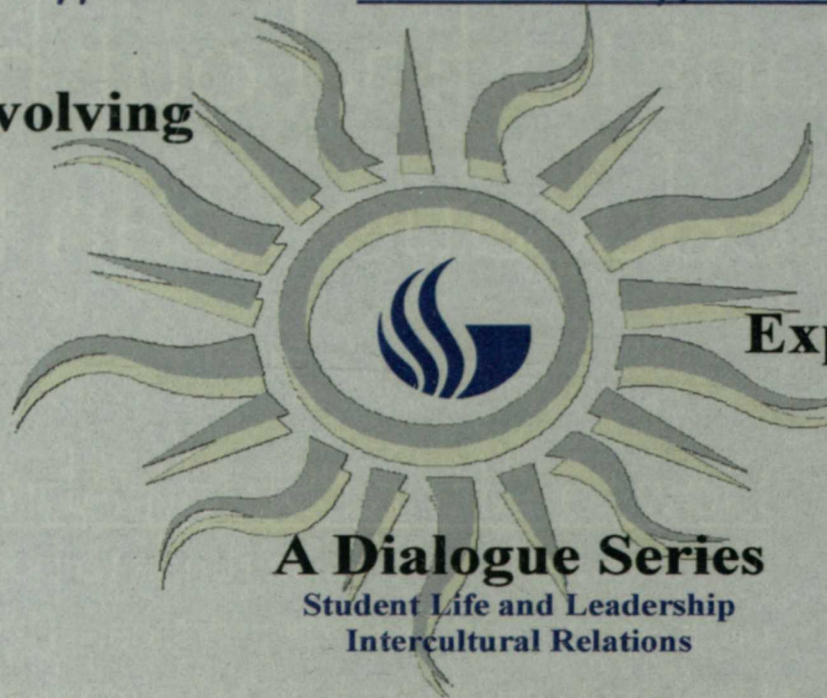
It is a history that Jennings plans to travel with for as long as she can.

"One day I might donate it, but to who I don't know," Jennings said, "My nephew is always going to be my first choice, though."

Nephew Coleman Sistrunk said, "She's been trying to get me to carry it on and I need to."

Applications are DUE Wednesday, February 23rd!

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SPRING 2005 TOPICS AND MEETING TIMES

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Race in society focuses on how the concept of race manifests itself in society, whether or not race matters and how issues of race have influenced individual experiences.

Wednesdays: 1:00-2:30pm (3/30, 4/6, 4/13, 4/20) OR Thursdays: 12:00-1:30pm (3/24, 3/31, 4/7, 4/14)

Gender in society focuses on the role gender has played in individual experiences, as well as how experiences within and across genders are observed throughout society.

Wednesdays: 4:30-6:30pm (3/30, 4/6, 4/13, 4/20) OR Thursdays: 12:00-2:00pm (3/24, 3/31, 4/7, 4/14)

Religion in society focuses on experiences within and across various religious identities, as it relates to other social identities. (Students of any religious/spiritual identification, as well as those who are atheist and agnostic are welcome.)

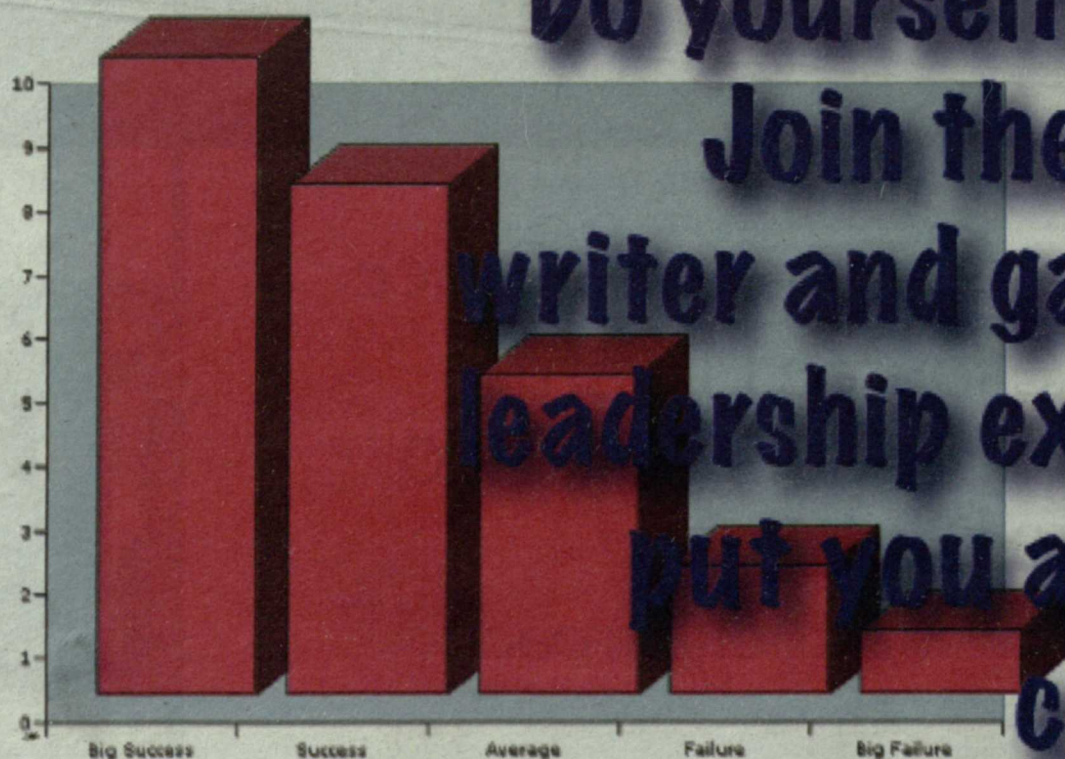
Thursdays: 3:30-5:00pm (3/24, 3/31, 4/7, 4/14)

Exploring women's identity focuses on how the intersection of various social identities impact being a women in modern society.

Tuesdays: 3:00-4:30pm (3/22, 3/29, 4/5, 4/12) OR Wednesdays: 10:00-11:30am (3/30, 4/6, 4/13, 4/20)

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Sports

Rodriguez keeps tennis undefeated in Atlantic Sun

By **NORM ROBINSON**
nrobinson@gsusignal.com

The Georgia State University men's tennis team was in action twice last week, with road matches against the Mercer Bears and the Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets. The Panthers picked up a road win last Tuesday over Mercer with a score of 4-3, but fell to the Yellow Jackets 6-1. Georgia State now has an overall record of 5-2 (2-0 Atlantic Sun Conference).

Strong performances were the reason that the Panthers were able to escape Macon with the victory



Special | Signal
Matija Sulin was the lone Panther to gain a point against Tech.

over Mercer. Georgia State won the doubles point after victories from the duo of Jamie Rodriguez (Sr.)/Eduardo Gutierrez (So.) and the freshmen team of Anze Cevka and Frank Suro. State's other doubles team of Martin Steigwardt (So.) and Jacek Twarowski (Fr.) lost a close match to Mercer's Warren Woolfolk and Tobias Ohrstrom.

Mercer came roaring back in singles competition, however, and evened the score 3-3 after Twarowski, Suro and Gutierrez all fell in singles matches. It was up to Rodriguez to win it all for the

See TENNIS | Page 17

Thomas helps men take two of three



Brandon Wiggins | Signal
Kevin Thomas has been hot of late. He led all scorers against Lipscomb.

Bouncing back from their loss to Gardner-Webb, the Georgia State men's basketball squad won two of their last three games to remain atop the tight Atlantic Sun Conference standings.

The Panthers throttled Lipscomb 86-62, on Homecoming Day before 1,533 fans at the Georgia State Sports Arena. The team then traveled to Boca Raton to take an important road victory over Florida Atlantic, 80-76. State ended its last road trip of the regular season by dropping a tightly contested game to Central Florida, 70-65.

The Panthers provided a fireworks show for the Homecoming Day by using their up-tempo, transition offense to shoot 55 percent from the floor and make 13-of-19 three-point shots in their win over Lipscomb. The ever-intimidating Georgia State center, Sylvester Morgan, also set a new school season record for blocked shots with his 63rd and 64th blocks. Kevin Thomas was the scoring leader with

20 points on six three-point baskets. Point guard Boyd Copeland added 18 points and five assists, forward Marcus Brown scored all 15 of his points in the second half, and Herman Favors had 12 points and four assists coming off the bench. Georgia State also ended the game with a 35-28 rebound advantage as the promising freshman forward Justin Billingslea led the Panthers with six rebounds.

"We attacked with our transition and kept pressure on them," said coach Michael Perry after the game. "I challenged our guys to each make a sacrifice today and make it obvious and contagious to someone else. Our shooters were also much more aggressive today and stepped up when we needed them," Perry added.

In their next game against Florida Atlantic, Georgia State's balanced effort featured four players in

See B-BALL | Page 16

Women still struggling away

By **MATT SIMMONS**
msimmons@gsusignal.com

The Lady Panthers' road woes continued as two conference losses dropped Georgia State to third place in the Atlantic Sun. The Lady Panthers traveled to Nashville, Tenn., for conference battles with Belmont and Lipscomb University. They looked to gain momentum approaching the upcoming Atlantic Sun Conference Tournament only to lose each game.

Georgia State University (12-12, 10-7) fell 76-65 to Belmont University (12-10, 7-8) at the Curb Event Center on Thursday, Feb. 17. Belmont rushed out the gate, taking an initial lead before the Lady Panthers clawed back and claimed their first lead of the contest, 17-16, as 9:16 remained in the first half, but it would be Georgia State's only lead in the game. The Bruins of Belmont surged ahead and built an advantage of 36-29 with two minutes before halftime. The Bruins would carry a 37-31 lead into the half.

The Lady Panthers appeared to lack any sense of

urgency as the second half began, watching Belmont increase their lead to 64-49 over the first 12 minutes. Head coach Lea Henry was able to spark her Lady Panthers into a 14-4 run, closing Belmont's advantage to 68-63 as 3:21 remained in the contest, but the Bruins would seal their victory by draining 6-of-8 free throws in the closing minutes.

Sophomore Kelcey Roegiers-Jensen led Georgia State's losing effort with game highs of 23 points and five assists, while senior center April Clyburn added her eighth double-double of the season with 13 points and 10 rebounds.

"We're very young at positions, and we're not as athletic at some positions as we have been in the past," said coach Henry. "We have to do the smart and right things to win."

The Lady Panthers traveled down the road to battle another Nashville foe, Lipscomb University (13-10, 10-6), on Saturday, Feb. 19. Both teams battled tough in the first half, but following a tie and five lead changes the Lipscomb Lady



Special | Signal
Despite fouling out, Monica Thomas managed to score 11 points in a losing effort.

See WOMEN | Page 14

Baseball blows lead to Samford, gain vengeance against Miss. Valley

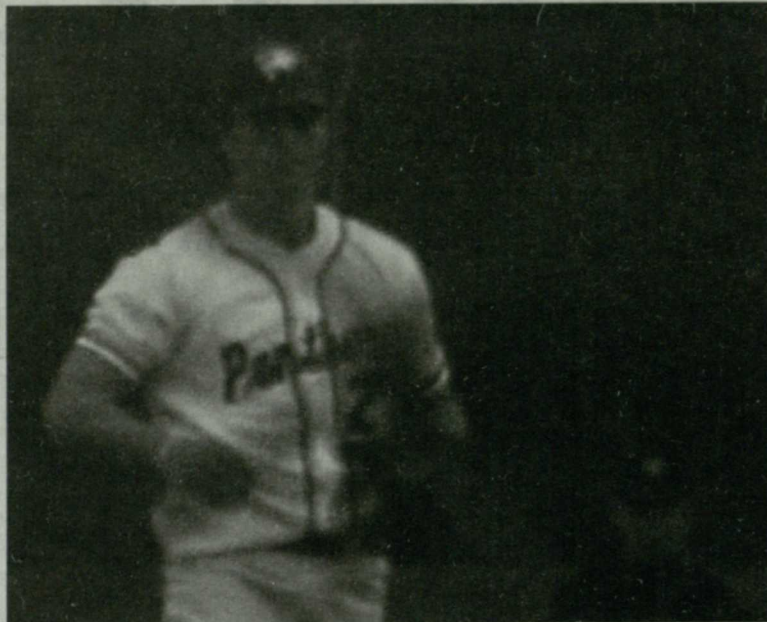
By DAVID DORSEY
ddorsey@gsusignal.com

Senior Rusty Bennett hit the 25th homerun of his collegiate career, but it was not enough for the Georgia State baseball team to hold on to a lead they fought very hard to protect against the Samford Bulldogs last Tuesday in Panthersville.

The way the team started out, they looked as if they were on their way to another victory, as well as starting the season 2-0 for the third year in a row. But the scoring opportunities ended for the Panthers after the fourth inning when Samford pitcher Joseph Edens came on in relief and did not allow another Panther base runner past second base for the rest of the game. In fact, he only allowed one hit while striking out five batters in five innings to keep the Bulldog's hopes alive until the very end, which is exactly when they took advantage of their opportunity.

That is when Samford senior Richard Bishop came through in a "pinch." He came in to pinch hit with two outs and the bases loaded in the top of the ninth inning and dropped a double down the right field line that cleared off the bases and gave the Bulldogs the lead at 5-3, which proved to be too much for State to handle that late in the game. Pitcher Romas Hicks gave up the homerun during his one and a third innings in relief.

Coach Hurst said, "We let them hang around [and] didn't put the ball in play to keep pressure on their defense." It came back to bite the Panthers in the final inning. He also said that he did not think that his team was overconfident coming off the win against the Yellow Jackets the previous week, but instead he gave Samford's pitchers credit for being tough.



Romas Hicks was one out away from a Panther victory, but then he gave up the go-ahead double.

Bennett connected on a 1-1 pitch in the fourth inning and sent it over the right-center field wall for a solo homerun that put the Panthers up 3-0. He said, "It felt good" after going 0-4 in the season-opener against Georgia Tech. On the late inning loss, he said the team, "didn't take some opportunities with people on base," and he too gave credit to the Bulldogs for "hanging around," and taking advantage of the opportunities presented to them.

Second baseman Ryan Sterling teamed up with shortstop John-Michel Rochon-Salvas to turn two double plays, which gives them four already on this young season.

Sterling also contributed with his bat by driving in a run and scoring a run in the first inning. He had two hits on the afternoon. Justin Newman also drove in a run in the first inning giving State its only other RBI in the game. Chris Dentler led off his second game in a row with a single, and he scored a run.

Ben Rulon, the winning pitcher against Georgia Tech, was named the A-Sun Pitcher of the Week for his performance in that game. He allowed only three hits and struck out three, while only allowing two earned runs. He is the first Georgia State pitcher to receive that honor since Ronnie Robinson won it back in 2003.

The Panthers finished the week with a three-game series against Mississippi Valley State. Georgia State swept a double-header Friday thanks to some big bats from Sterling and T.J. Brandenburg. Sterling's clutch double carried the Panthers to an 8-6 win in the first game, and Brandenburg's three-run homer sealed game two.

Transfer John Palmer pitched the Panthers to a win in his first start for Georgia State allowing only one run in a 7-5 victory. The win brings the Panthers' record to 4-1 – their best start since 1999.

Women from page 13

Bisons, who held the first significant lead of the game, 27-20, as 4:11 remained in the first half. The Lady Panthers crept within two points with only 1:17 remaining, 27-25, before Lipscomb swiftly scored five unanswered points to increase their halftime lead to 32-25.

Lipscomb held their largest advantage of the game, 37-26, at the 17:11 mark and maintained a healthy lead for most of the second half before Georgia State roared back to make the game interesting. The Lady Panthers displayed a hot hand and shot their way back into the contest, 58-55, but when two of their leading scorers, Roegiers-Jensen and Monica Thomas, fouled out, Georgia State couldn't muster enough firepower to come back. Six good foul shots down the stretch gave Lipscomb the six-point victory.

Roegiers-Jensen led the way for the Lady Panthers with 19 points and hit 5-of-10 three-point field goals while junior Monica Thomas contributed 11 points off the bench.

The Lady Panthers found themselves struggling to reach the charity stripe against Lipscomb. The Lady Bisons hit 26-of-39 free throws, while Georgia State only attempted eight and made seven. "You're on the road, and that's the way it goes," added coach Henry. "We should have gotten to the basket. We didn't handle their traps, and I didn't like the way our senior guards played." The Lady Panthers committed 26 fouls to Lipscomb's nine.

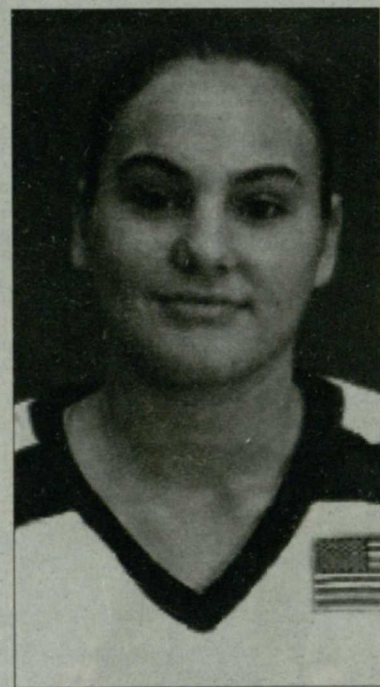
Senior guard Patechia Hartman struggled mightily during the two-game road trip,

averaging only seven points a contest and making only 23 percent of her shots in a 6-of-26 shooting performance. Hartman committed seven of Georgia State's 25 turnovers in the Lipscomb contest.

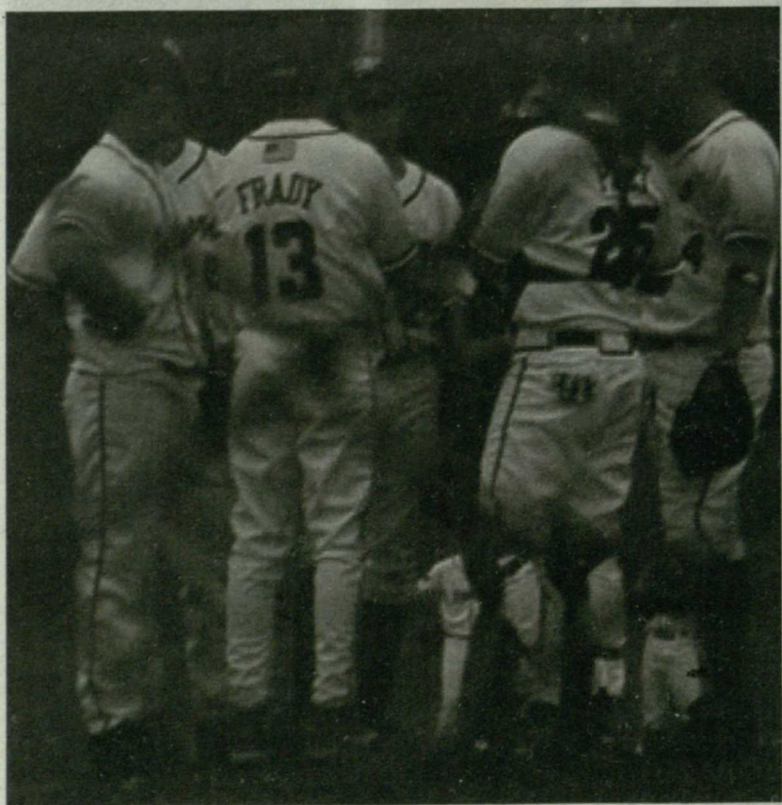
The Lipscomb loss caused the Lady Panthers and the Lady Bisons to switch positions in the conference. Georgia State now sits in third place in the Atlantic Sun, looking up to Lipscomb in second.

"This time of year you're just looking ahead, you can't win every game," said Henry. "Every game has to have the intensity and spirit." Coach Henry later added, "You want to be prepared to play your best going into the tournament."

The Georgia State Lady Panthers return to the safe haven of the Georgia State Sports Arena, where they are 9-2, for a Thursday, Feb. 24, contest with Atlantic Sun foe Jacksonville University. Tipoff is scheduled for 6 p.m.



Special | Signal
Kelcey Roegiers-Jensen led the Panthers in scoring for both losses.



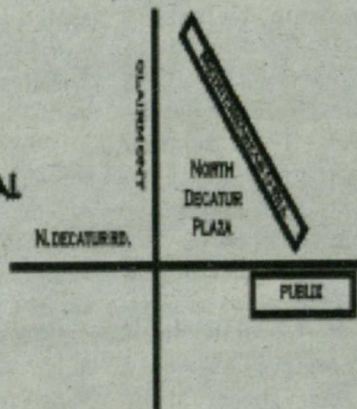
David Dorsey | Signal

Despite holding the lead for most of the game, Samford would eventually force a late pitching change before winning the game.

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Goal and assist from Sawruk help Gladiators triumph over Everblades

By JENNIFER ANDERSON
janderson@gsusignal.com

A post-Valentine's Day shutout began the week for the Gladiators, who won two of three games this week, beginning with a win at home against Florida, followed by a loss in Charlotte and a win in South Carolina.

On Feb. 15, the Gladiators took the ice at the Arena at Gwinnett Center to face off against the Florida Everblades. Gwinnett goaltender Adam Berkhoel led the team in shutting down the Everblades, stopping 28 shots to record his first shutout of the season.

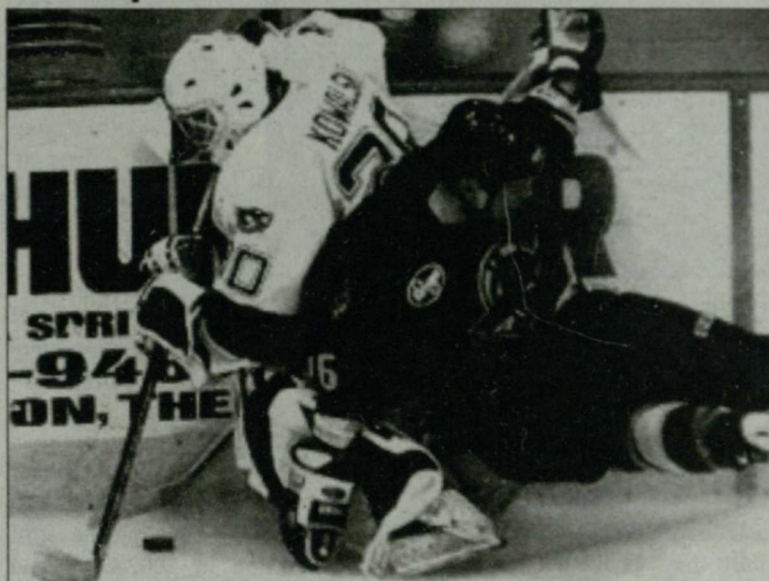
Meanwhile, the Gladiators scored three goals on 25 shots, the first goal coming from forward Mike Vigilante for his 18th goal of the season. Alex Sawruk and Randy Dagenais picked up assists on the goal.

Early in the second period, Lane Manson made the score 2-0 with a slap shot from Peter Flache and Chris Durno.

Gwinnett's final goal came just 26 seconds into the third period as Sawruk stuffed home a pass from Cam Brown.

The 3-0 win brought the Gladiators to a 22-14-7 record on the season.

The following night, Gwinnett traveled to Charlotte to take on the Checkers for the second time in less than a week. Unfortunately for Gwinnett, the outcome was not much better than their previous game in Charlotte, with a final score of 2-1 Charlotte.



Special | Signal
Alex Sawruk led the Gladiators in points when Florida came to Gwinnett.

Despite 50 shots on goal against Checkers netminder Alex Westlund, the Gladiators were held to one goal, which came off the stick of Mike Vigilante at 1:19 of the first period, assists going to Andrew Oke and Peter Flache.

Charlotte tied the game late in the first period as Dusty Jamieson snapped a shot past Berkhoel for his 21st goal of the season. The power play goal was assisted by Eduard Pershin and Brian Escobedo at 17:48.

The final goal of the game came just 48 seconds later from Charlotte's Mike Wirrl, an even strength goal, with helpers going to Ryan Lang and Dan Preston.

Following the loss in Charlotte, Gwinnett remained in third place in the ECHL's South Division.

The Gladiators had a bit more

success on Friday night in Charleston, taking on the South Carolina Stingrays, ending in 4-3 Gladiator's shootout victory.

South Carolina began the scoring on a Kevin Spiewak goal early in the first period. Eight minutes later, Spiewak helped out again, tallying an assist on a John Jarram even strength goal. Robin Gomez also picked up an assist on the goal.

Gwinnett came within one before the end of the first, as rookie Jeff Campbell beat Stingray's goalie Justin Eddy for his 21st goal of the season.

Gwinnett's Brad Schell tied the game at two at 6:29 of the third on a pass from Vigilante, beating Eddy over the shoulder into the upper left-hand corner of the net.

South Carolina regained the lead on a goal from Joe Tenute slightly over five minutes later, only to have Gladiator Randy Dagenais tie the game again with just 47 seconds left in the game.

Gwinnett killed off a penalty early in the five minute overtime session to push the game into a shootout. Gladiator's netminder Sean Fields turned aside all six Stingrays shooters as Vigilante scored the shootout's only goal, giving Gwinnett the victory and improving their record to 24-15-7 on the season.

Also this week, the Gladiators announced the signings of forwards Craig Miller and Chester Gallant. Miller comes to Gwinnett from Macon of the Southern Professional Hockey League, where he has posted 20 goals and 20 assists for 40 points in 42 games this season. Gallant began the season with the Port Huron Beacons of the United Hockey League and has posted 16 goals, 9 assists and 111 penalty minutes in 47 games with Winston Salem and Asheville, also of the Southern Professional Hockey League.

The Gladiators continue their season this week, playing a home and home series with the Augusta Lynx on Feb. 25 and 26, followed up with a home game against South Carolina on Sunday, Feb. 27 at 4:05 p.m.

On Deck:

Men's Basketball:

Fri., Feb. 25 vs. Jacksonville @ GSU Sports Arena 6 p.m.

Sun., Feb. 27 vs. Stetson @ GSU Sports Arena 2 p.m.

Women's Basketball:

Thu., Feb. 24 vs. Jacksonville @ GSU Sports Arena 6 p.m.

Sat., Feb. 26 vs. Stetson @ GSU Sports Arena

Men's Tennis:

Thu., Feb. 24 vs. Clemson @ Clemson, S.C. 3 p.m.

Sat., Feb. 26 vs. Jacksonville @ Atlanta, Ga. 2 p.m.

Women's Tennis:

Sat., Feb. 26 vs. Jacksonville @ Atlanta, Ga. 9 a.m.

Baseball:

Tue., Feb. 22 vs. Georgia Tech @ Panthersville, Ga. 3 p.m.

Fri., Feb. 25 - 27 @ Savannah Tournament @ Savannah, Ga.

Softball:

Sat., Feb. 26-27 @ Georgia State Spring Classic @ Panthersville, Ga.

Men's Track:

Sat., Feb. 26 @ Clemson Indoor Invitational @ Clemson, S.C.

Women's Track:

Sat., Feb. 26 @ Clemson Indoor Invitational @ Clemson, S.C.

For more scores, schedules, and more, check out Georgiastatesports.com or Atlanticsun.org

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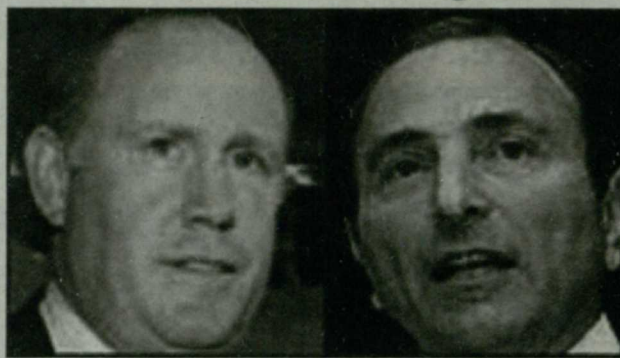
No miracle on ice this year for NHL

By JASON NICHOLS
jmoynihan@gsusignal.com

Well, the NHL season is finally over. On Wednesday, Commissioner Gary Bettman canceled the NHL season due to a labor dispute. It was the first time a major sports league in North America has lost a full season due to a labor dispute, and it is the first time since 1919 that there will be no Stanley Cup champion. The cancellation of the season arose after Gary Bettman sent a letter to executive director of the NHLPA, Bob Goodenow, requesting that the league's proposed salary cap be \$42.5 million. However, Goodenow sent a letter back requesting that the salary cap be \$49 million. The \$6.5 million difference is what prompted the commissioner to call an end to the season stating, "This is a sad, regret-

table day that all of us wish could have been avoided." Is that the best line Bettman could come up with?

Will we have hockey next season? There is an abundance of people who could probably care less if they see another NHL game. But for some fans (if there are any left), there is a possibility that both sides can get this ordeal worked out. Both sides agree that they are not that far from their goal, and if some tinkering and compromise is done, then there should definitely be a season next year. I doubt that they would let a labor dispute last for two full seasons. Former player and now a managing partner for the Phoenix Coyotes said, "Ultimately, these players want to



Special | Signal
Gary Bettman (left) and Bob Goodenow (right) could not bridge a 6.5 million salary cap dispute to save the season.

play. I know too many of them love the game too much, and I just can't imagine these players not playing in the National Hockey League for two years." Also financially they would not be able to afford another lockout season.

The financial ramifications of this episode are humongous. First, 500 to 1,000 seasonal workers at

each NHL arena have missed at least 41 game paychecks. Second, the sports bars in the hockey cities have taken a major loss. In cities such as Detroit, Boston and Pittsburgh, restaurants have had to close down until the season resumes or cut staff because they cannot afford to operate with-

out the NHL in season. Furthermore, Gary Bettman has said that teams lost \$1.8 billion over the last 10 years, along with the NHL clubs claiming they lost \$273 million in 2002-2003 and \$224 million last season. The only people who were not affected by the lockout that much were the players. Many players have gone

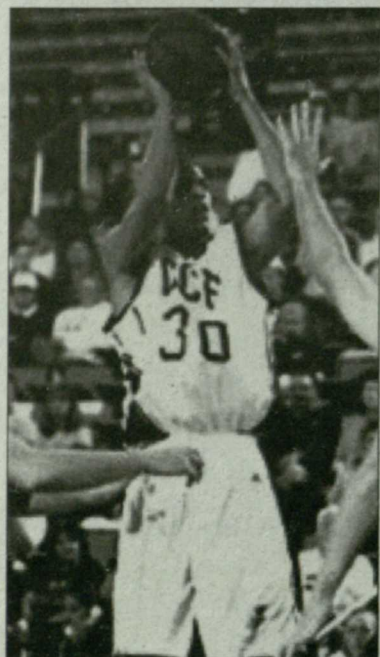
overseas or to Canada to play. Jaromir Jagr, Vincent LeCavalier, Teemu Selanne, Joe Thornton and Saku Koivu are among over 300 of the league's 700 plus players who have spent a fraction of the season playing hockey in Europe.

The NHL will have an enormous task in attempting to win back both hardcore and casual fans it lost due to the strike. They will face the same challenges baseball faced after their strike-shortened season. Before now the ratings for the NHL were on the decline, trailing the other three major sports. But now they will also lose the viewers or the fans that would consider going to or watching an NHL game. The worst thing to do to fans is to take away their sport because the athletes that play it want more money or do not want to take a pay cut. Ultimately, greed is a fan's worst enemy.

B-ball from page 13

double figures. Favors impressed again by coming off the bench to score 19 points in the second half for a game-best 21 points. More importantly, Favors made six crucial free throws in the final minute of the game to seal the win. Copeland scored all his 18 points in the first half to go with the team-best seven rebounds. Thomas chipped in with 16 points, most of them coming from four three-pointers, and Marcus Brown contributed 13 points in a seesaw shooting battle between two up-tempo teams.

"The guys gave unbelievable effort tonight in a place that is tough to win," Perry said. "We really hung together tonight, and it paid divi-



Special | Signal
Josh Peppers ensured that the Golden Knights would be in second, and not the Panthers.

dends for us. We made the plays you have to make to win and are building momentum at the right time."

The Owls had three players in double figures led by forward Mike Bell's 22 points. Kahleaf Watson scored 12 points and Pierre Tucker 10 points. Rodney Webb led the Owls with 14 rebounds.

In their last road game of the regular season, the Panthers saw their five-game road win streak end at the hands of the surging Central Florida. The C-USA bound Golden Knights capitalized on their 45-26 rebound advantage that included 18 offensive boards to give them additional possessions and ultimately the win over Panthers.

"We just didn't finish our defensive possessions today," Perry said. "The defensive possession doesn't end until you've come away with the rebound. We forced them into last-second shots on the possession clock, but they came up with too many offensive rebounds despite that good defense before the shot. But, UCF is a pretty good ball club, and we played tough and hard on their home court."

The tight contest between the two teams had tournament-level intensity and included 11 lead changes and six ties. It was a one-possession game with a minute to play at 62-20 when Central Florida got a key offensive rebound, and Anthony Williams went to the free throw line with 54.2 seconds left and made a pair to make it a two-possession game at 64-60. The Panthers offense misfired in the final minute, and the Golden Knights made additional free throws to conclude the 70-65 game.

Georgia State got 19 points from Brown and 10 points from guard Malcolm Manier. The Golden Knights had three players in double figures led by forward Josh Peppers with 22 points. Guard Kingsley Edwards scored 12 points and had a surprising 11 rebounds, while forward Marcus Johnson added 12 points and 11 rebounds as well.

The loss dropped State into a tie with Jacksonville for third place in the Atlantic Sun, while Central Florida moved into a second-place tie with Belmont. Georgia State returns home for the final two regular season conference games next Friday and Sunday when Jacksonville and Stetson, respectively, come to Atlanta.



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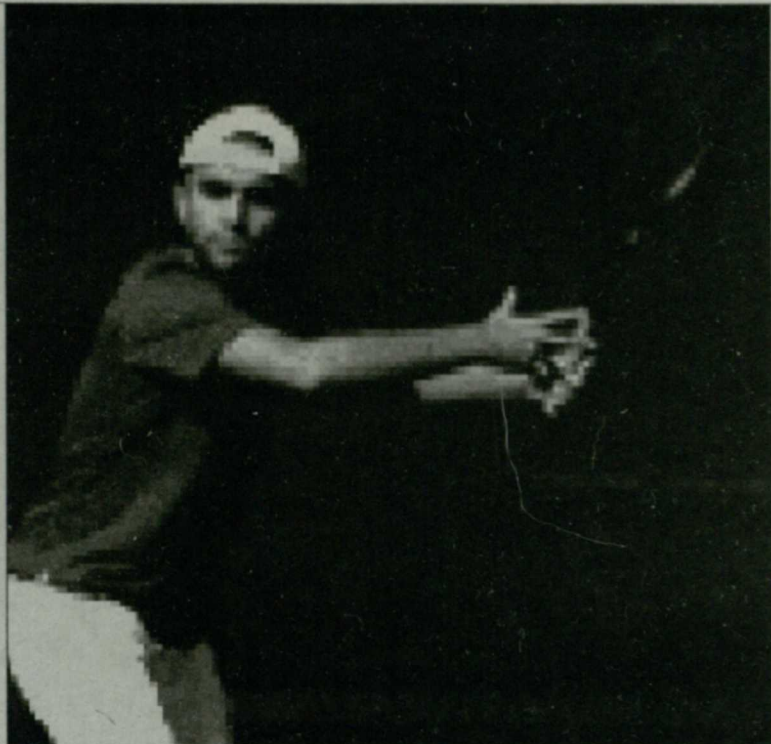
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Tennis from page 13

Panthers, and he delivered. Not only did Rodriguez win a hard-fought three set match for the singles win, but he also gave Georgia State a 4-3 final score and the win. The Panthers went on the road again (sort of) last Friday to take on Georgia Tech who picked up the victory over State 6-1. State started the afternoon off wrong by dropping the doubles point to Tech. While the duo of Steigwardt and Twarowski picked up a win in doubles competition, it wasn't enough as the teams of Cevka, Clarence Boyd (So.) and Matjia Sulin (Jr.)/Rodriguez each lost their matches.

There were some things that State can be proud of, however, as three of the five matches that the Panthers dropped in singles competition went to three sets. Sulin posted State's only point of the match with a singles win over Tech's Scott Blackmon (6-2, 6-4). The loss to Tech ended a five-match win streak for the Panthers. After losing their home opener against Princeton, Georgia State appeared to be unstoppable, with convincing wins over schools such as in-state rival Georgia Southern (5-2) and a shutout against conference foe Gardner-Webb (6-0).

The Panthers will return to action with a road match against the Clemson Tigers. This will be



Jaime Rodriguez continues to play well despite the pressure of being the Panthers' lone senior.

quite a test for the Panthers, as Clemson has a record of 6-2, with the Tigers' only losses coming in the Harvard Invitational against Harvard and the University of Louisville. However, when Clemson does win, they do so convincingly, as the Tigers already have two shutouts on the season and 6-1 victories over Troy and Princeton, the same Princeton team that defeated Georgia State earlier in the season. Also, the Tigers are undefeated when playing at home so far this season,

with a home record of 4-0.

Good news for the Panthers is that Clemson seems to be in a bit of a decline, with both of their losses having occurred in the last three games. Even though Clemson defeated Boston College in their last contest, it was by a slim margin (4-3).

After the match against Clemson, Georgia State returns to Atlanta for a two-game home stand, with matches against Jacksonville and Sacramento State.

Special | Signal

Around the top 25 in college basketball

By JOSH MOYNIHAN
jmoynihan@gsusignal.com

The college basketball regular season is quickly coming to a close, and conference tournaments are just weeks away. This time of year has people buzzing about one thing, NCAA tournament seeding. Seeds determine where, when, and whom a team plays, so gaining a high seed is crucial. The most coveted seeds are obviously the four number ones handed out to the nation's elite. With the end of the regular season just around the corner, the country can begin to see who has the inside track for the number one seeds. Here are the four (or five) teams that get the nod of approval to head into the NCAA tournament as number ones.

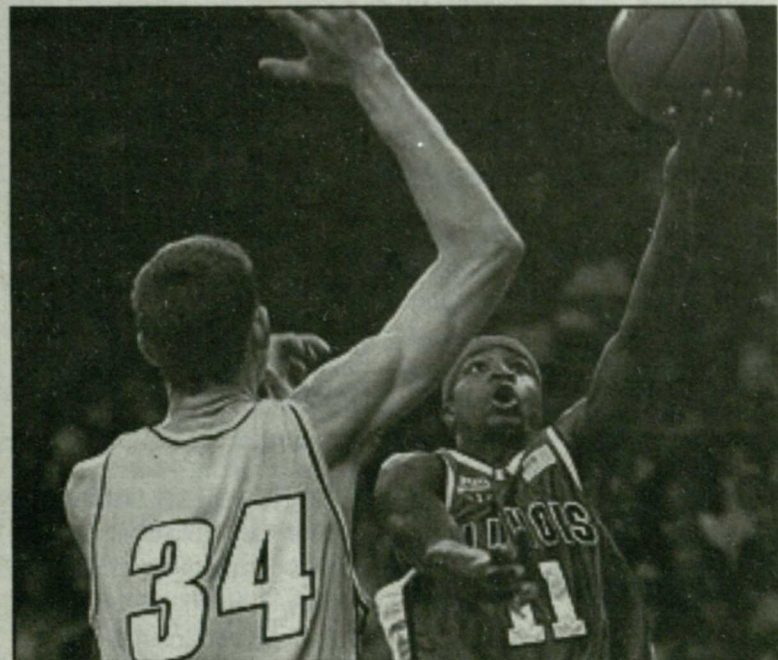
Illinois- The three headed monster of Dee Brown, Derron Williams and Luther Head have the Illini undefeated and ready to accomplish what many experts said could not be done, go undefeated out of a major conference. Illinois should run the table in the regular season and even an upset in the Big Ten Tournament won't stop them from gaining a number one seed. In earning a number one seed the Illini will probably spend their NCAA tournament time just bus rides away from home in cities such as Indianapolis, Chicago, and then to St. Louis if they make the final four. All this means huge fan support for the only undefeated Division 1A team in the country as they make their march for the title.

North Carolina- The Tar Heels have what many experts call the best talent in the country and having a coach like future Hall of Famer and UNC alum Roy Williams doesn't hurt either. The inside-out game that Sean May and Rashad McCants provide is almost unstoppable; but add the speed, handling, and leadership skills of point guard Raymond Felton, and you have one big headache in try-

ing to stop these guys. Oh, by the way, UNC also has one of the best sixth men in the country in super freshman Marvin Williams. Bottom line, if Roy pushes the right buttons in the NCAA tournament, no one may have the talent to stop Coach Williams from winning his first NCAA title, not even the undefeated Illini.

Wake Forest- That's right, two ACC teams will earn number one honors in this year's tourney and no, Duke won't be one of them. Wake has one of the best starting fives in the country, led by my pick for Player of the Year Chris "no sophomore jinx here" Paul. The outside shooting of Justin Gray and Taron Downey combined with the inside presence of big man Eric Williams create the perfect complement to Mr. Everything Chris Paul. One problem the Demon Deacons might run into in the tourney is their reliance on the outside shot. If Downey and Gray pick the same night to get cold, Chris Paul may have trouble doing it all on his own. On the flip side, if Gray and Downey get hot in the tournament, Wake fans may want to book tickets to St. Louis for this year's Final Four.

Kansas/Oklahoma State- Yes, I wussed out by not putting my stamp of approval on one or the other, but this weekend's loss to Iowa State at home by Kansas created uncertainty as to who will represent the Big 12 as a number one seed. Oklahoma State is playing their best ball of the year after a few midseason slips; Kansas has the talent, but doesn't show up to play every night. These two factors combine for a wide-open race between the two. Lucky for fans, we get to see the two square off next Sunday and if we're really lucky they will meet again in the Big 12 tournament. Barring any upsets, those two matchups will decide the difference between which one of these teams earns a number one seed for the national tournament.



Special | Signal

Illinois' Dee Brown has the Illini fighting for more than a number one seed; they are playing for the first undefeated season in years.

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Atlantic Sun Scoreboard



Scores and more from around the conference

Men's Basketball

February 19
Belmont d. Campbell, 81-63
UCF d. Georgia State, 70-65
Lipscomb d. Gardner-Webb, 80-61
Mercer d. Florida Atlantic, 107-88

February 18
Troy d. Jacksonville, 85-73

February 17
Gardner-Webb d. Belmont, 67-58 (ot)

Georgia State d. Florida Atlantic, 80-76

UCF d. Mercer, 79-65
Lipscomb d. Campbell, 71-65 (ot)

February 13
Belmont d. Mercer, 65-63
Georgia State d. Lipscomb, 86-62

February 12
Jacksonville d. UCF, 83-82 (ot)
Florida Atlantic d. Stetson, 81-75
Troy d. Campbell, 60-56

Women's Basketball

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

February 17
Belmont d. Georgia State, 76-65
Florida Atlantic d. Campbell, 66-51

UCF d. Gardner-Webb, 64-57
Jacksonville d. Troy, 60-56
Lipscomb d. Mercer, 54-47

February 15
Stetson d. Jacksonville, 67-62 (ot)

February 12
Stetson d. Belmont, 88-82
UCF d. Mercer, 64-59
Georgia State d. Florida Atlantic, 60-58

Troy d. Gardner-Webb, 61-59
Lipscomb d. Jacksonville, 66-52

Baseball

February 19
Campbell d. Ohio, 6-4, 3-1
Belmont d. Morehead State, 4-2
UCF d. #20 Notre Dame, 2-1
FAU d. #23 Texas Christian, 4-1
Lipscomb d. Xavier, 8-3
Mercer d. Al. State, 7-6, 11-0
Illinois State d. Stetson, 12-6
Troy d. Samford, 11-3
Jacksonville d. Wake Forest, 5-4
Gardner-Webb d. Akron, 2-0
Georgia State d. Mississippi Valley State, 7-5

February 18
Belmont d. Morehead State, 10-9
UCF d. Florida A&M, 10-2
Campbell d. Ohio, 18-17
#23 Texas CU d. FAU, 11-10
Lipscomb d. Xavier, 7-6
Stetson d. Illinois State, 7-2
Troy d. Samford, 9-5
#12 Texas A&M d. Jacksonville, 10-2
Missouri d. Gardner-Webb, 12-9
Georgia State d. Mississippi Valley State, 8-6, 9-2

Softball

February 19
Indiana State d. Belmont, 2-0 (8)
UT-Martin d. Belmont, 9-0
Belmont d. Saint Louis, 4-3
Elon d. Campbell, 1-0
Winthrop d. Campbell, 4-0
UCF d. Boston, 6-5
North Dakota State d. UCF, 3-2
Florida Atlantic d. Pittsburgh, 6-4
#8 Michigan d. Florida Atlantic, 12-3
Gardner-Webb d. Boston College, 2-1
Gardner-Webb d. Austin Peay, 5-0
Auburn d. Gardner-Webb, 3-0
Georgia State d. Eastern Kentucky, 3-1
Evansville d. Georgia State, 6-0
USF d. Jacksonville, 10-1
#4 Stanford d. Jacksonville, 2-1
Lipscomb d. North Texas, 5-1
Lipscomb d. North Texas, 6-5
#7 Tennessee d. Mercer, 12-0
Mercer d. Illinois-Chicago, 7-0
Mercer d. Georgia Southern, 5-1
Tennessee Tech d. Troy, 3-2
Mississippi State d. Troy, 3-0

Softball cont'd

Stetson d. Bethune-Cookman, 4-3
Stetson d. Bethune-Cookman, 13-7

February 18
Campbell d. George Mason, 11-0
Campbell d. UMBC, 5-4
Campbell d. Akron, 7-2
UCF d. Longwood, 9-0
UCF d. North Dakota State, 9-1
Fla. Atlantic d. Rutgers, 7-2
Fla. Atlantic d. Ohio State, 12-3
#30 Auburn d. Gardner-Webb, 4-0
Gardner-Webb d. Birmingham Southern, 6-3
#14 Oklahoma d. Lipscomb, 11-1
Georgia Southern d. Mercer, 7-6
Mercer d. Charleston South., 8-0
Troy d. Tennessee Tech, 3-1
Troy d. Tulsa, 5-4

February 16
Campbell d. Charleston Sou., 4-1
Campbell d. Charleston Sou., 16-3
Gardner-Webb d. ETSU, 3-1
ETSU d. Gardner-Webb, 6-0
Jacksonville d. S. Carolina St., 6-1

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Black History Month



Laura, stop, please



ERICA MEYERS
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My Superior Opinion
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I actually like Laura Bush. I think she has a good heart and I like that she stays out of politics, for the most part. But her little program, which President Bush introduced during the State of the Union address to help the youth in the inner cities, is a fairytale dream that will produce no results.

The First Lady's first problem is the way she is approaching the problem. I think most people can agree that inner city youths, the majority of whom are black and Hispanic, are in trouble. However, as long as she and the president see the problem as internal, as the president explicitly expressed in the state of the union address, they will miss the mark when it comes to actually helping these youth.

I will take the rest of this column to discuss black youth and not Hispanic youth; how-

ever, this does not mean that the Hispanic youth are less worthy of discussion.

The president said, "Now we need to focus on giving young people, especially young men in our cities, better options than apathy, or gangs, or jail. Tonight I propose a three-year initiative to help organizations keep young people out of gangs, and show young men an ideal of manhood that respects women and rejects violence."

I think this is great. It's just great that finally someone stands up and says, hey, there is a problem with our young black men and we need to fix some things. But, the blanket statement made by President Bush labeling our young black men as gang bangers who care about nothing and are headed for jail, but not before they smack a hoe, is a seed that will prevent any good policy decisions from being made.

Nothing Laura does will be enough if she approaches the problems without addressing the broader social issues that lead some young black men down these roads.

Blacks in this country have suffered an inordinate amount of social annihilation.

According to our history books, blacks have only played three roles in American history. First, they were slaves. Second, Eli Whitney invented the cotton



Special | Signal
Laura Bush will try to help inner city youths stay out of trouble.

gin to help them be better slaves. And third, Martin Luther King Jr. led the civil rights movement.

Black people have been in this country for almost as long as whites, and yet, our history

has been reduced, for the most part, to three instances (some instructors in grade school will take it upon themselves to incorporate a little bit more history, but for the most part, this is it).

Of course people with no history, nothing to be proud of, will be apathetic towards their own future and potential. And people with nothing to work for don't spend their time staying out of trouble. Perhaps, this should be corrected first. But U.S. policy-makers do not want blacks to realize their potential; it would mess with the capitalist social order too much. A people with no history have no future; the absence of black people in our history books is no accident.

But Laura won't concern herself with this because what those youths really need is to stop "smackin' hoes." Well that's fine, Laura, but how about addressing the underlying social environment that promotes A) women as objects to be treated as such and B) black men as uncontrollably violent.

We learn from our examples, and if our patriarchal society continues to allow

women to be portrayed as objects and not humans and continues to show only violent black men in the media, of course young black people are going to learn to be violent and abusive towards women. Furthermore, this is not just a problem in the black community; all groups experience this phenomenon.

I can't wait to see what grand plan Laura is going to come up with to get blacks to stop doing drugs. But it seems a little ironic to me that black people are not allowed to smoke, shoot up or pop pills that they buy on the street, but you can go get some of those FDA approved drugs that have the same physical effects, if not worse. In our country, you can be addicted to drugs, but they must be state-sanctioned drugs.

The enemies are not our black boys; they are patriarchy, history and a society that continues to promote an ideal of black men that is not ideal. When black boys are shown what success looks like in a black man, the tides will change, but not until then. So, I implore you, Laura, please don't attack our boys, attack the society that breeds them.

NAACP needs to get out of history's way



DOMINIQUE HUFF
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Make way for the Nigger! Make way for Charlene Hunter-Gault, one of the first black students who integrated the University of Georgia. Apparently, the campus chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has a problem coming to

grips with the harsh reality many blacks had to endure during the era of integration.

The organization has created drama over a campus mural that honors Hunter-Gault and Hamilton Holmes. Hunter-Gault stated that she wants the mural to remain to remind people of the university's racial history. However, Tiffany Chatman, president of the NAACP chapter, does not think Hunter-Gault's opinion matters because she is not a current student of the university who has to look at the mural on a regular basis.

Chatman should be happy

that UGA wants to acknowledge the turmoil of the past to show that the university has come a long way. Georgia State should do the same to honor black students who integrated the university. Moreover, let us not forget about the students of the 1992 sit in as well.

It appears Chatman wants to forget all the pain and suffering of the Civil Rights movement, the *Brown v. Board of Education* Supreme Court case, and the integration of her own university because she and her self-right-

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Time to stop the blame game

By **SABRINA BUCKWALTER**
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John McWhorter would not be a friend of editor-in-chief Erica Meyers. McWhorter, who spoke two weeks ago at Emory University's "State of Race Debate" is insulted by ideas (advocated by Meyers in her article "Capitalism and the Black," published Feb. 8) that the black race is not "dominant" enough in this society to be considered a success instead of a "loser" for whom the "bootstraps break."

In her article two weeks ago, Meyers wrote that, "Black people are, as long as they continue to work

in a society where they are not the dominant culture, always the losers," and "that capitalism is the big hurdle that keeps the majority of blacks from being able to 'pull themselves up by the bootstraps' because it is designed to ensure that any time that a black person picks up his bootstraps they break."

McWhorter sees the black community as a culmination of beauty, strength, hard work, determination and perseverance. However, he believes those qualities have dwindled since the times of the civil rights era. And, he says it is

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Religion's disservice to humankind



**CASEY
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Junior/English

The World
as I See It

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As a child, religion and the concept of God as taught through religion never made sense to me. My mother would ready me for Sunday service, and I would always drag my feet. The hour I would spend sitting on a pew would be the most non-intellectually stimulating hour of my week. Now, as an adult, I repeatedly observe ill effects in religious followers. Religions dumb people down in three big ways: teaching people to look outside of themselves for answers, preaching that money is the root of evil, and by directing people to closet and criminalize sexuality.

The first fault found in religion is the redirection of the human mind. We are classified as humans, largely, because of our brain capacity. However, a religion preaches to its followers that he or she should not use it. One should pray to a god for answers. This is saying that humans should not trust their brains to make rational decisions; humans' mental faculties are infallibly faulty, supposedly, because they will always err in the direction of sin. But the entire vague notion of the word sin is based on the preface that a person will not decide for him or herself what is right or wrong — he or she will accept what a preacher tells them as such.

If a man does not want to steal from another then he needs to develop his own logical reasoning against it — not put his faith (blind hope) in a mythological entity to do it for him. In cases like this, religions promote and foster intellectual emptiness.

The second abomination committed by religions is the denouncement of money. When churches decree that money is the root of all evil they are seriously misleading their flocks. They must also remember that they pass collection plates through congregations and blatantly ask for handouts. This begging/giving situation creates a welfare mentality throughout the congregation as members begin to pray and rely on a god for his or her financial well being, never quite becoming the cause of well being themselves.

If a person needs a hundred dollars, he must go out and work for it. It does not matter whether the individual sells stocks or sex or swims in the Olympics—he must find a way to earn it! By dictating a person's morals, churches dictate how, when, and if he or she will make money at all. The American government works hard at maintaining control in society and thanks churches for aiding the process by offering them tax exemption. Separation of church and state is long overdue!

The third equally important religious control center is human sexuality. This process begins by leading followers to believe that mental and physical aspects are separate when they are really one and the same. Think about it: if a person is brain dead, their body will

not operate; likewise, physical exercise and proper diet will significantly reduce stress and depression. Mind and body work best together — not separately!

Worst-case scenarios of religious sexual repression are female genital mutilation, which is practiced under the guise of religion. A clitoris was formed precisely for pleasure; a clipped clitoris will never permit a woman to actualize one of her highest forms of elation — an orgasm. And a less happy woman makes for a less happy man!

Circumstances closer to home include the criminalization of prostitution. History does not repeat itself for nothing and there is a reason that prostitution is the oldest known profession. Sex, like any other form of exercise, has physical and mental benefits. The benefits of sex are similar to any other aerobic exercise. Also made possible by sex is endometriosis prevention in women, and, for men, a lowered risk of prostate cancer due to frequent ejaculation. Psychological benefits abound due to increased endorphin, serotonin and oxytocin levels. The mind betters the body while the body betters the mind! A religious follower may never heed this, however, as he never truly put the two together, he will fall short of becoming the most intelligent person they could be. Until people—especially women—have full control of their sexualities, they will never completely control their minds. This lack of mental exercise is a setback to the entire human race!

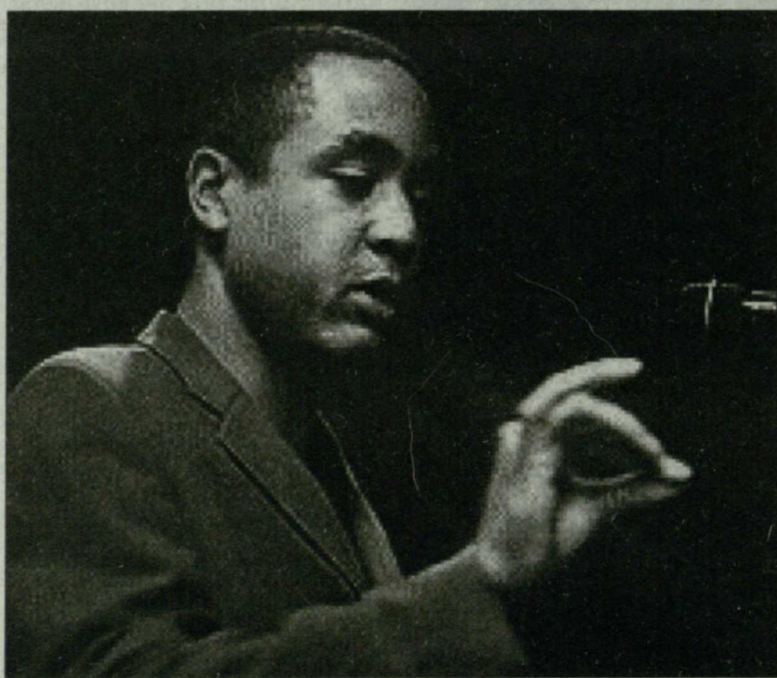
Blame

from page 19

due to a widely adopted ideology of victimology, separatism and anti-intellectualism. He says these issues infect the black community more so than bigotry, racism, be it overt or covert, and even capitalism.

While others would most surely consider people like him, he is only coming from a place of respect for the elders in our community who died for those of us who now enjoy all the freedoms for which they fought. While they fought for the privileges we take so much for granted today, like trying on shoes in a department store, we gripe if someone looks at us sideways. We have lost our perspective he says. While he knows racism is not dead, it surely is on its way out.

I must inject a dose of empathy at this point however. One year ago, I would have fought that last statement I made tooth and nail. So much so that I had compiled a large notebook that documented and detailed various acts of racism to prove to others it still does exist. "See, here's the proof," I would exclaim. So I can understand where Meyers is coming from. However, after reading two of McWhorter's books, *Losing the Race: Self-Sabotage in Black America* and *Authentically Black*, I



Special | Signal

John McWhorter's views may not be popular but he sticks by them.

realized that we have come a long way; no longer are we dealing with water hoses and tear gas. We now have our first African-American female secretary of state. The glass is half-full after all.

McWhorter's views may not be popular, and hard to swallow at first, but he represents a new consciousness for the black community. He practices tough love that espouses personal accountability instead of finger pointing. And he

reports that response to his atypical opinions has been good. "Really, I get so much love mail about *Losing the Race*," he said. "Very rarely do I have anyone approach me in a hostile way, only one or two times and, you know, sure there's the occasional hate mail and people say things about me behind my back. But in general, I think that a lot of the things I say are things that most black people think on some level."

Trouble brewing at 14th and Piedmont



**JONATHAN
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Piedmont Park is one of Atlanta's best features. I happen to live near the corner of 14th Street and Piedmont Avenue where the main park entrance is located. Like many other Midtown residents, I like taking weekend walks to the park to enjoy the many acres of green fields, trees and lakes, along with the bike and skate paths, and the off-leash dog park. But trouble is brewing.

On Dec. 21, 2004, the Piedmont Park Conservancy voted to eventually build a six-story, 800-space parking deck on a tall hill located near the Atlanta Botanical Garden. Well before the vote took place, *Creative Loafing* published a story on May 27, 2004 about a pending vote on the proposed parking deck. The story reports the pros of the parking deck as cited by the conservancy, which are that the park and the Atlanta Botanical Garden would share the deck, alleviating parking problems for the Garden and that the conservancy would get 50 percent of the revenue from the deck to go toward park maintenance.

The story also reported that the Botanical Garden would foot the \$15 million bill for the deck so that they can share the parking spaces with park patrons. *Creative Loafing* published another article shortly after the vote took place, which reported that the vote approving the deck also included plans to expand the park with a skate park, playgrounds and wetlands.

Many park patrons have complained about the difficulty of finding a parking space. Currently, many people find parking spaces in the surrounding neighborhoods within a couple of miles of the park, which can be scarce, especially on weekends. Supporters of the deck cite this as the best reason to build it while others, including

many Midtown residents, oppose the construction, saying it will create a terrible eyesore.

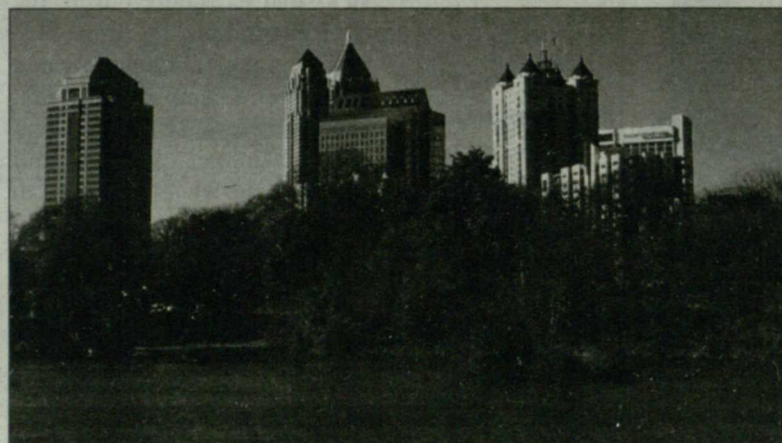
I applaud the conservancy for wanting to freshen up and liven up the park by making ugly places greener. According to the official Piedmont Park Web site, the conservancy has raised \$20 million in mostly private funds to help implement a master plan to beautify the park and to provide comfortable amenities for visitors.

The hill where the deck would be built is apparently overgrown with weeds and flattens out to what *Creative Loafing* called in their May 27 article "an unsightly swath used as a maintenance facility by the city" near the Eastern side of the Botanical Garden. Building a deck on that space will replace one eyesore with another. It will add to traffic problems and cause more danger for bikers, skaters and pedestrians already diving for cover from the frothing, out-of-control motorists in this town. Why not just continue raising funds to make that area as beautiful as the rest of the park?

As far as the parking problem is concerned, here are some suggestions. There are public parking areas on Peachtree Street and on 15th Street. The Sheraton Hotel located on 14th Street provides parking for the public occasionally. People outside the Perimeter can park at MARTA stations like Indian Creek, Doraville or North Springs and ride to the Arts Center station.

"But that means I have to do more walking?" Yes, it does. But here's the kicker: these locations provide a safe place parking, and you are close to other Midtown attractions. You can catch an art exhibit, a performance by the symphony orchestra, enjoy a meal at Colony Square, walk through the Botanical Garden, and visit the park. Families can make a whole day out of it.

Patrons can get fresh air, exercise and reduce stress caused by fighting for a parking space. While these solutions might not completely solve the problem, it's at least something park visitors ought to try.



Special | Signal

Piedmont Park may soon get a new parking deck that may scar its beauty.

Ambulance chasers Lying to 5th graders



**BEN
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Enough
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On the night of Jan. 18, a car containing five children and two adults was coming up on a routine stop in Tal Afar, Iraq. For some reason, the car did not stop but maintained its speed.

Shouts. More shouts. Warning shots. The car continued at its dangerous speed. All of a sudden, bullets ripped through the air and tagged the two adults in the front, who were the parents of the five children also in the car.

Blood was everywhere. The children, screaming and yelling, were escorted to safety, checked for wounds and cared for by the same people who killed their parents. But when these very same members of the 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Stryker Brigade Combat Team of the 25th Infantry Division investigated the incident, reports did not mention finding any bombs. In fact, there is a lack of any incriminating evidence in all the reports I read.

Chilling pictures taken by photographer Chris Hondros, who has published these photos all over the web, tell an ostensibly cruel story. But what about the full story?

Just two days later, four incidents strikingly similar to the above resulted in the deaths of 28. During the elections, a young boy with Down Syndrome was equipped with explosives and sent into a populated area, only to be detonated by remote terrorists. Why could this incident also not be interpreted in such a cautionary manner?

But no. We Americans, sitting at our computers, watching TV and eating popcorn, just will not see it that way. Nonstop

posts pervade the Internet's message boards, filling them with a load of vitriolic nonsense. Read this snippet of an article on this incident found on www.dailykos.com:

"The Bush family in Washington, D.C., could [not] care less about the six orphaned Iraqi children. They don't care about us either in America. They only care about what happens to them and how richer they can get on the largesse of the republican majority in the Congress."

Is that so? This writer continues on to portray the Bush family reveling in the joys of living the rich life, not having to worry about the deaths of people much lower on the economic scale. This is all while the people these liberals really need to address are risking their lives. But no; uploading trash on the Internet is easier.

This is downright libel. Using the typical, over-generalized claptrap, these liberals have gutted the meaning out of this incident. There was no reason to assume that the driver of the car did not have delusive, incendiary machinations given the style of his driving.

He did not stop when told to, even when soldiers fired warning shots in the air. What if he was one of the many terrorists that do this kind of thing frequently, such as the kind that killed 28 people two days later? Well, then the liberals would accuse this administration of failing to contain the terrorist threat, as the members of that military division would all now be dead.

Some sites have reported that even though no reports of bombs are circulating, there is evidence that the driver still had ulterior motives behind his ostensibly foolish driving. Then again, it only makes sense.

Were there any other options? No. They did the right thing. Then again, there is no credence given to the wise in this world.



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Despite my Protestant upbringing and the passing of many years, I have never forgotten my fifth-grade teacher's angry condemnation of *Los Reyes Católicos* (i.e., The Catholic Sovereigns), Ferdinand and Isabella. Legend has it that the pair exploited the power of the Spanish crown to engage in the most grievous sorts of cultural and religious bigotry, and, ultimately, ordered the deliberate destruction of the Iberian Peninsula's venerable Muslim community.

Despite the passage of more than half-a-millennium, Osama bin Laden recently professed to nursing an inherited grudge over the whole affair, even vowing that, by way of mass-murder and reconquest, Islam's ancient Moorish brethren, though long since reduced to dust, ultimately would be avenged. Amazingly, many in Islam today believe that Spain, Christianity and the entire West are, in here-and-now, wholly deserving of death over the issue.

Apparently, it does not matter that nothing even remotely akin to a Spanish nation-state even existed at the time of Ferdinand and Isabella, nor that the Moors originally stole their Iberian holdings via military incursions that displaced and slaughtered tens-of-thousands of non-Muslims. The Iberian Moors had, indeed, evolved into an urbane, prosperous and relatively peaceful community by the time of their final defeat in the late 15th century. Their libraries preserved Arabic translations of Greek and Roman scholarship long lost to the rest of Western Europe. But the truth is that Ferdinand and Isabella's own battles to finally dislodge the remnants of a once-vast Islamic empire really amounted to little more than the final stages of an unimaginably bitter Iberian war fought between Muslims and non-Muslims over the course of more than 780 years. Further, on the non-Muslim side, much of that war had been soldiered almost exclusively by the Kingdom of Castille.

At the time of their marriage, neither Ferdinand nor Isabella ruled over any part of the peninsula. Each eventually received a separate coronation and domain, and, even after the forging of a final alliance, sovereignty and administration of



Special | Signal

Ferdinand and Isabella have been accused of exploiting their power to eliminate the Iberian Peninsula's Muslim community.

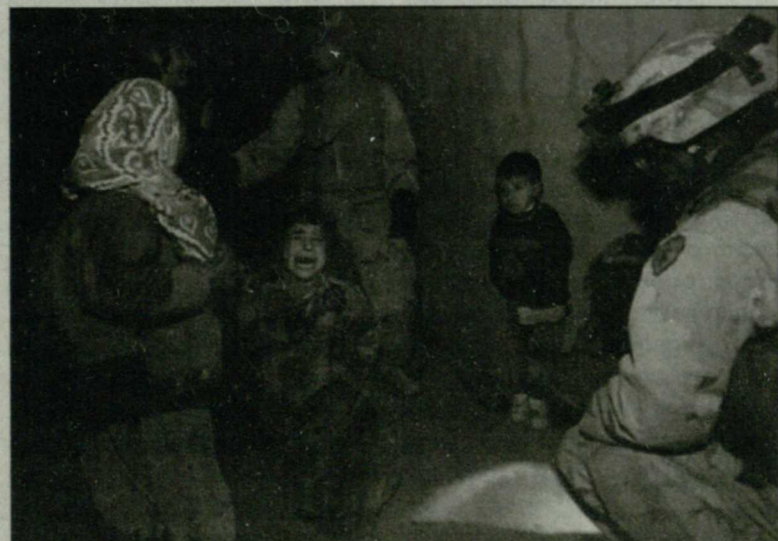
Ferdinand's Aragon and Isabella's Castille remained largely separate affairs. How then is modern Spain (or the West, or Christianity) to blame when the overall condition of ancient Iberia was that of a motley collection of mistrustful kingdoms, mixed ethnicities and competing religions all perennially at war?

Isabella was, indeed, a Catholic zealot, but she was also something of a political and religious reformer. She fought to become sovereign of the Kingdom of Castille and then broadened her fight not only against non-Christians, but also against the rampant corruption exhibited by her dominion's own administrators, nobles and clergy. Ultimately, this tiny, spiritual female single-handedly forced deliverance of her people from chaos into greatness. Isabella's husband, though, was nearly her exact opposite. Ferdinand eventually became sovereign of the neighboring Kingdom of Aragon, but as a shrewd, worldly politician, he apparently cared very little for religion, bided time bedding entire bevy of mistresses, and harbored the opinion that the French were much more of a threat than some ossified remnant of Iberia's once-formidable Islamic horde.

The war that this unlikely pair ultimately brought to an end was a horrid conflict begun almost 800 years before they were even born. The fall of Moorish Granada marked the end of centuries of sporadic bloodshed originally initiated by Islamic warriors who sailed from North Africa across the Strait of Gibraltar. What began as a vicious crusade to spread Islam by use of the sword, finally ended in the reconquest of lands formerly held by multi-ethnic, non-Muslim Iberians.

Was Isabella's own brand of Catholicism both militant and intolerant? Absolutely. Adherents of other faiths were usually forced to convert or be exiled, and, at one point, astride her warhorse, Isabella personally led troops into battle against her religious enemies. (Often overlooked, though, is the fact that the defeated Moors of Granada were allowed to retain much of their property, culture and religious practice.) Was the Islam of the Moors also a militant, intolerant faith? It is no secret that it was. Subsequent to subjugation and plunder by Muslim armies, most adherents of other religions were made to endure the social, economic and political hardships of a humiliating second-class citizenship so typical under Islamic rule.

The real mystery for me was why my teacher chose to focus on the religious intolerance of Isabella but to deliberately squelch all information concerning the many centuries of Moorish military aggression, religious intolerance and Iberian occupation. Ultimately, a growing awareness of the ideological battles waged during the 20th century ended my naivete. In effect, as a fifth-grader, I was expected to convert to an anti-Western, anti-Christian worldview previously fashionable only within radical political circles. My own generation was an important test case for New Leftists seeking indoctrination of the culture-at-large, largely via the nation's public schools. The radical left's targeting of children to institutionalize anti-Western propaganda is now wholly pervasive. After decades of endless repetition in countless American classrooms, fringe perspectives once rightly thought culturally pernicious are now completely banal.



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Images like this resulted from the Jan.18 shooting in Tal Afar, Iraq that left five children without parents.

Debating House Bill 67

By KATIE HAWKINS
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Earlier this month, the Georgia House of Representatives overwhelmingly approved a bill that gay rights activists and organizations have heavily criticized. A Senate vote is pending and, if approved, it has the potential to become law.

House Bill 67 will limit any state or local government from fining a person or group for denying benefits to gay individuals. House Rules Committee Chairman Earl Ehrhart (R-Powder Springs) introduced the bill in response to last year's controversial Druid Hills Golf Club decision to deny club benefits to unmarried partners.

Last year, Lee Kyser, a lesbian, and Randy New, a gay man, filed a complaint against the golf club for denying spousal benefits to their long-term partners. In response, a city commission ruled that Druid Hills was in violation of Atlanta's human rights ordinance by discriminating against gays. The club maintained that it provided

marital benefits only to people legally married and that it was not a matter of discrimination.

The city of Atlanta, under the leadership of Mayor Shirley Franklin, ultimately decided to fine the club for violating the ordinance. In response, Druid Hills Golf Club filed a lawsuit against the city under the argument that the human rights ordinance is a violation of the state constitution.

Representative Ehrhart then decided to take action; while his bill does not specifically mention Druid Hills Golf Club or the city of Atlanta, it is no secret that the legislation is a direct response to the controversy. Ehrhart has publicly stated that he drafted the bill after Mayor Franklin imposed the threat of fines.

On Feb. 1, I attended a House Judiciary Committee meeting where House Bill 67 was being discussed. During the meeting, various individuals raised objections to the bill.

Linda DiSantis, Atlanta's city attorney, reminded committee members that the city



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House Bill 67 will limit any state or local government from fining a person or group for denying benefits to gay individuals.

of Atlanta was opposed to the bill. She explained that the legislation would undermine the city's authority and prohibit them from "responding to constituents' interests."

Chuck Bowen, executive director of Georgia Equality, spoke next. He warned that the bill would have "far-reaching implications outside of Druid Hills Golf Club," and that gay and lesbian

rights would undoubtedly be violated.

ACLU representatives were also present, although none spoke during the meeting. By allowing private institutions to determine whether they want to extend member benefits to the partners of gay and lesbian members, the bill scarily reminds me of segregation-era legislation. One committee member

made a poignant comment: "I'm afraid we are opening a door which was closed 50 years ago."

House Bill 67 was overwhelmingly approved at the end of the meeting. Only two members voted against the bill, and their objections received little attention from other committee members. Despite the fact that most of the meeting was spent on testimonies from advocates like Bowen, who worried about the ramifications of the bill, the concerns appeared to have little to no effect on the lawmakers' decisions.

A week later, the House passed the bill with an extremely uneven vote of 124-34.

The Senate is now discussing the House Bill 67 and will soon vote on it. I fear what will happen if it passes — private groups could soon have the right to discriminate against gay and lesbian couples without fear of any consequence. Unfortunately, with republicans controlling both houses in the Georgia legislature for the first time in 130 years, that frightening fate seems very likely.

Dealing with the quarterlife crisis

By BRYAN ALPER
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If you question your existence and struggle to find answers, you are not alone. I, for one, empathize with how you feel and so, too, do many others in their 20s. We are experiencing what has been called "the quarter-life crises."

This phrase is a play on midlife crises. Popularized by the 2001 book *Quarterlife Crises: The Unique Challenges of Life in Your Twenties*, by Alexandra Robbins and Abby Wilner, quarter-life crises has been around for a few years.

There are moments these days when I want to break down and cry because of the ambiguity I am facing. During these vulnerable moments, I feel like a young boy who has lost his mom and dad in a crowded shopping mall and is frantically searching in fear of never finding them again.

Sometimes, emotional instability permeates my spirits and leaves me drained. As a result, I become overwhelmed with anxiety and convinced I may never find an answer. At this point, I feel helpless. Fortunately, I don't panic so much lately, because I am dis-

covering reasons to have hope of finding myself.

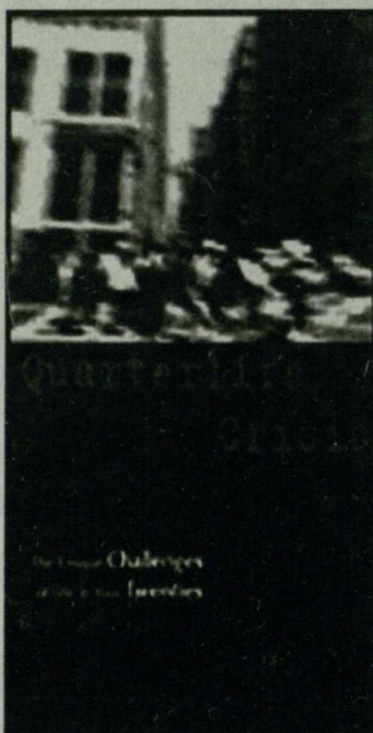
To break this gloomy cycle, I recently sought guidance and found several resources I would like to share.

Quarterlife Crises reassured me that I am not a failure just because I am not where I thought I would be today. I still don't know exactly what I'm going to do, nor do I have any idea how to get there, but at least I know that what I am going through is normal.

"Most of the book's advice lies in lengthy quotes from other 20-somethings, an anecdotal overabundance that makes for more of a pastiche than a guidebook," states a *Publishers Weekly* review. "But while the book may not have all the answers for members of generation-Y, it at least provides proof that they're not alone in feeling pressured, depressed or disappointed."

Although I am not particularly religious, Peachtree Road United Methodist Church in Buckhead offers a class called "Quarterlife." In it, single adults in their 20s and early 30s explore the concerns of the quarter-life from a faith perspective and enjoy Christian fellowship together. For information contact Dan at

DRogers@capitalsource.com or Vicki at Vicki_i_brown@hotmail.com or call the church directly at 404-266-2373. Classes are at 10 a.m. on Sundays. I look forward to



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This book tries to help twentysomethings deal with problems they face.

attending these classes.

Another valuable resource during my late 20s has been the support of a major university. Networking opportunities are

endless at Georgia State. Although I am not a degree-seeking student, one class per semester puts me on campus, usually twice per week, where I am around other students and, more importantly, faculty.

Every Wednesday, I meet with a therapist at the Counseling Center. She is a compassionate woman who is familiar with the quarter-life crises. She reminds me that there are other students with similar struggles; therefore, it is a common topic of discussion. I often leave our appointment knowing that somebody understands how I feel.

Another university staff member, career counselor Phil Rockwell who works in Georgia State's University Career Services, has provided me with clear direction. He is down-to-earth and very informative. "We are our own worst enemies in terms of inflicting pressure on ourselves to get somewhere where we think we're supposed to be," he said. "Not everyone's life goes in one linear direction. People have upsets in their lives and that's often how we bounce back."

He recommended that I read *"What Should I Do with My Life"* by author Po

Bronson. The book is a collage of interviews of individuals who made huge changes in their career directions because they finally realized who they were and what they really wanted.

He also made me aware of these websites, which are valuable tools for researching potential careers:

-Studentjobs.gov (federal job openings)

-Bls.gov/oco (the online Occupational Outlook Handbook)

-online.onetcenter.org/ (job definitions/profiles and their futures)

After my one-hour career appointment, I walked away grateful that I took advantage of this service. Mr. Rockwell encourages students who have questions about their futures to set up an appointment with any of the counselors.

For now, I have come to the conclusion that the cliché phrase, "Life is a journey," has real meaning. I am willing to accept it is all about the adventure along the way and not one final destination. For me, two words boldly stand out at the end of the day: Money and passion. My drive to always have enough of both will not easily fade away.

NAACP from page 19

ous NAACP members are offended. Chatman is also forgetting that it was common practice for many Southern whites to refer to blacks as niggers. She fails to accept that because of all this hard work she is able to attend UGA. The struggle for this progress was not easy, and it needs to be respected for all it is worth. We can forgive, but we shall not forget.

The NAACP has a history of blood, sweat and tears according to their national Web site. One of their objectives is to inform the public of the adverse effects of racial discrimination and to seek its elimination. Given that, Chatman and her clique should be trying to embrace the legacy of Hunter-Gault and Holmes rather than trying to erase it in their cries of offense. One must learn from history in order not to repeat it. As of late, the chapter wants Hunter-Gault to add a personal statement next to the epithet because the racial slur lacked tact.

A redandblack.com staff editorial regarding the issue stated, "We urge the group to spend less of its time trying to



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Charlene Hunter-Gault was one of the first students to integrate the University of Georgia.

censor the display of a word that, 40 years ago, was a part of the reality of campus life." They went on to say, "This campus does not whitewash its history by ignoring offenses of the past but displays its transgressions for all to see." The Editorial Board is right; the chapter could have spent their time doing something more productive. Unless one of the current members of this chapter had any experiences similar to or worse than what Hunter-Gault and Holmes encountered in 1961, they have no room to downplay history.

Hunter-Gault does not owe Chatman or any UGA NAACP member any statement of defense for the racial treatment she endured. She is the real hero of this battle, which has already been fought, not Tiffany Chatman. Chatman's behavior only proves to our elders that we are not grateful for what they have done.

Chatman and her members owe Hunter-Gault and others who have fought racism to make it easier for the black community, particularly black students, an apology for their selfish and righteous behavior.

U.S. needs to cut back emissions

By ROB HAMILTON
The North Wind
Northern Michigan U.

Once again the United States stands alone against the opinion of much of the international community. Only this time we aren't being criticized for acting too hastily and fighting a pre-emptive war -- now we have angered the world by not acting at all.

On Wednesday, 141 nations ratified the Kyoto Protocol in an effort to fight global warming, which many scientists believe is directly caused by greenhouse gas emissions during the 20th century.

The agreement seeks to reduce air pollution by requiring developed nations to cut emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases released from power plants, factories and cars by 5.2 percent below 1990 levels by the year 2008.

The protocol is imperfect and has flaws -- its effects may be minimal if the restrictions aren't increased and it does not demand accountability from underdeveloped nations.

Yet, it is at least a small step towards combating the possible effects that climate change could have on the Earth.

But while other foreign powers are attempting to slowly clean up their act, the world's biggest polluter refuses to sign on to this global agreement. Noting that fossil fuel emissions are not absolutely proven to cause global warming, President Bush pulled the United

States out of the treaty in 2001.

Bush argued that the protocol was unfair to the United States because it did not require other major polluters such as India and China to reduce their emissions due to their expanding economies. He also noted that the repercussions of ratifying such an act could possibly damage our economy, as many corporate polluters would have to make costly revisions to the way they produce energy.

But while these changes might hurt the pocketbooks of Bush's friends in the oil industry, forcing companies to invest finances in cleaner alternative energy resources would be beneficial for our long-term economy.

The United States is forgoing an opportunity to lessen its dependence on foreign oil while finding new, more efficient technologies. Americans would eventually benefit from spending less money on fuel and would save on health costs related to air pollution.

During the 20th century, the Earth's temperature has risen 1-degree Fahrenheit. While some argue that this is simply part of the Earth's natural cycle, most of the scientific community agrees that this rise is occurring faster than it should.

In a recent report, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change wrote, "There is new and stronger evidence that most of the warming observed over the last 50 years is attributable to human activities."

In the last decade, scientists

have noticed considerable melting of polar ice caps. At the same time, sea levels have risen slowly and are already beginning to threaten many low-lying island nations and coastal cities. These appear to be only the beginning stages of an all-out climate change. Some analysts said the average temperature on Earth could rise 2.5 to 10.4 degrees Fahrenheit by 2100 if emissions do not decrease.

Many parts of the world have already seen the results of a slight temperature increase, with much greater weather extremes, such as the 2004 hurricane season in Florida. The United States can't afford to be wrong if emissions are indeed a cause of the climate change. The Kyoto Protocol was an important first step and the United States stuck its head in the sand (probably looking for oil).

Even if Kyoto is fully implemented, it would only cut a projected rise in temperatures by 0.1 Celsius by 2100, according to U.N. estimates. Negotiations for further cuts have started for when this deal ends in 2012 and the Bush administration needs to join in on the effort. The United States needs to join the United Kingdom, Japan, Russia, and every other leader of the free world and take action now.

The jury may be out on global warming, but by the time it can confirm that humans are the likely culprits, the entire world will suffer if the United States continues its passive attitude towards protecting the environment.

Mission Statement

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

Letter Submission Guidelines

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

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

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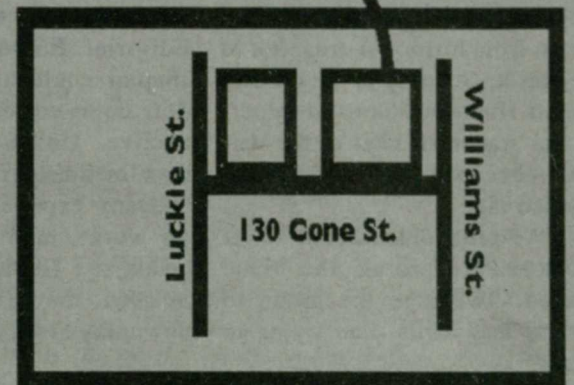
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PANTHER POLL:

Q: WHAT ARE YOUR COMMENTS
ON THE SWASTIKAS IN YOUR
CLASSROOMS?



Christine Collier
Business Senator

"Along with discussing the issue, we need to deal with it."



Rashida Davis
Executive Vice President

"I am offended that no one has cleaned it off."



Tourgee Simpson
President

"I thought the university administration addressed the issue and dealt with it."



Brian Gaither
Arts & Science Senator

"It is really disrespectful for us to be a diverse school ignoring an issue such as this."



Courtney Davis
Business Senator

"This reflects poorly on the university administration and students are offended by this."



Gina Smith
Senior

"I'm surprised they haven't done anything about it yet."

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK...

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR
SPRING BREAK?