

The Georgia State University Signal

Student Newspaper

gsusignal.com



**Marta
is
Smarta**

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**Men & Women
Look Stronger
for
Homecoming**

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Cozy Dorms
Coming Soon**

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Politicians**

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Sigma Gamma Rho suspended

DOMINIQUE HUFF
dhuff@gsusignal.com

After celebrating seven years in the Georgia State community, Sigma Gamma Rho was placed on interim suspension for allegedly violating the Student Code of Conduct on two counts.

According to Student Judicial Board records, the alleged violated codes are as follows:

Section III(a)5: Verbally threatening, physically abusing or threatening physical abuse, intimidation, coercion and/or conduct which threatens or endangers the health or safety of self, other students, other members of the University community or campus visitors.

Section III (a) 15: Engaging in, supporting, promoting, or sponsoring hazing.

Rasheedah Wakeel, president of the sorority, found the charges "shocking."

"I'm baffled and our chapter is baffled at these charges from a member whom we inducted," said Wakeel. She, along with



Sigma Gamma Rho defends themselves against charges of hazing.

Special | Signal

two other women participated in the process. "This young lady was not the only one seeking membership to our organization. The other ladies who applied

testified that they were not intimidated or coerced during the process," Wakeel said. The sorority inducted the other two women as well.

George Dean, student assistant for the complainant, thinks that the main issue of the charges is perception. "People need to be sympathetic to other people's

perceptions," he said. "A case can be brought against an individual or organization based on perception."

The member accused the sorority of coercing her to wash dishes, hold a lit match while reciting material, holding a brick, conducting wake up calls and taking road trips. "We went as a group to watch a step show at Troy State," Wakeel said. "The ladies also watched tapes of other step shows to help them prepare for an optional probate show." The probate shows present the new members to the public. Many other organizations do the same for their members.

Regarding the hazing charge, Dean thinks that organizations in general are not in tune with the university policy in regards to hazing. "People need to be familiar with the student code of conduct," he said. "Organizations need to make sure their policies are consistent with that of the university."

Wakeel emphasized that

See HAZING | Page 8

It is never too late to educate

By **CANDACE ELLIS**
cellis@gsusignal.com

Imagining that Nick Meis was once a nervous college freshman is difficult. As he strode into the Georgia State Signal office, he was immediately greeted with hellos.

Before he could finish warming up his biscuit in the microwave, other students engaged him in conversation.

"Did you get that story I emailed you?" asked Lindsey Stephenson, the news editor. "No, I haven't gotten to it yet," he replied between bites.

Nick's blue jeans, T-shirt and sneakers are standard college attire, but the many gray streaks in his hair give him away. He is not the typical college student; he is 52 years old.

The National Center for Education Statistics has projected that by 2010, post-secondary



Nick Meis is the Senior Editor for the Signal and is enjoying college the second time around.

Special | Signal

school enrollment will reach 17.1 million, and nontraditional students like Nick will account for 38 percent. Unemployment, job stress, and increased self-awareness are major factors prompting

nontraditional students to enhance their educations.

According to Diane Weber, Georgia State University's director of admissions, the University System of Georgia categorizes any student who last attended high school or college five or more years ago as nontraditional. Therefore, most nontraditional students are at least 25 years old.

At Georgia State, 29 percent of students are 25 or older and many have attended college previously.

This is not Nick's first college experience. In 1971, he graduated from Kennedy High School in Denver CO., and at his parents' urging, attended Metropolitan State College.

"I really was clueless back then," he said. "I had no aspirations at all. It was basically all I wanted to do was keep my parents off my

See STUDENT Page 4

can five students change the tax strategy of an entire nation? they already have.*

xTAX 2004

Last fall, over 800 students from 25 colleges and universities were given a difficult task: determine if Internet retail sales should be taxed. Their ideas were evaluated by a panel of PricewaterhouseCoopers professionals, who named the top team at each campus.

Join us in congratulating all the students who participated and the top team from Georgia State University:

Keisha Thomas
Ernest Asare-Nkansah
Chezere Williams
Abimbola Opawumi
Bryan Ruiz

pwc.com/xTREME

*connectedthinking

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calender of events

February 8, 12:15 P.M.

Sugar and Spice in the Plaza

The ladies of Theta Nu Xi Sorority will be out in the plaza selling Valentine's Day goodies for a \$1. There will be a 50 cent raffle for a Valentine's Day basket filled with goodies. The sorority will also be raising funds for the American Cancer Society Relay for Life.

Time: During the 12:15 break

Location: Library Plaza.

February 10, 7:00 P.M.

Meditation Class

A unique and easy form of meditation is now available from the Sahaja Yoga Meditation Group. This is the perfect opportunity for students who get out of classes later to wind down. Classes are held every Thursday from 7-8 P.M. Location: University Center Room 230 Free to GA State students Contact: Adam Cortese 404.206.7242

February 11, 12:00 P.M.

Demolition Ceremony

The current building at the old

Beaudry-Ford Property will be destroyed. The site will be the location of a future student housing facility that should be opened in 2007.

Location: the corner of Piedmont and Ellis Streets

Contact: 404.451.3025

February 15, 8:45 A.M.

Law Review Symposium: The Next Generation of ADR & Conflict Management in Health Care Settings: New Challenges, New Approaches

Health care conflict resolution is one of the biggest challenges facing the legal and medical professions today. Our distinguished panel of experts will present a lively discussion about resolving conflicts in health care settings.

Learn more about the panelists & the symposium at our website:

<http://law.gsu.edu/lawreview/symposium/2005.htm>

Hours: 8:45 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

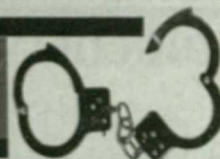
Location: GA State Student Center

Admission is free and open to the public

Contact: Beverly Sill 404.651.2047

6 hours of CLE credit available.

campus crime



Thefts

Student Center

A Theft by Taking report was filed by a student. The complainant stated that she placed her purse (\$60) and GSU laptop on a table at 7:25 p.m. on 2/01/05. The fire alarm went off and she proceeded to exit the building without either item. When she returned at 8:15 p.m., both items had been stolen. The area was searched with negative results.

5 Points Garage

An Entering Auto/Recovery report was filed by an officer. While patrolling the area, the officer observed the subject loitering through the deck with a laptop case on 02/02/05 at 1:07 pm. The officer stopped to question the subject and he attempted to flee the area. Officers apprehended the subject near the CNN center. A search of the deck was conducted with positive results for two vehicles in which the windows had been broken out. The subject was arrested, processed and transported to Fulton County Jail. The owners of the vehicles were contacted and all items confiscated were returned to them.

Criminal Trespass

University Village, Sparta

A Criminal Trespass Warning report was filed by an officer. The officer received a complaint of an odor of marijuana coming from a room on 02/02/05 at 5:02 pm. The officer made contact with a past resident who had previously received a verbal warning against entering Village property. The subject was issued a Criminal Trespass Warning and escorted off the property.

Assault and Battery

Decatur St at Central Ave

An Aggravated Assault report was filed by a faculty member. The complainant stated that an individual approached him, pulled out a weapon, and demanded his wallet on 01/28/05 at 7:00 pm. The subject fled the area after failing to obtain the wallet. The area was searched with negative results.

Student Center

A Simple Battery report was filed by a student. The complainant stated that she observed two male subjects making sexual remarks to two female students at 7:55 p.m. on 2/01/05. She approached the subjects and asked them to stop the behavior. One subject grabbed her arm. The area was searched with negative results.

The Exclamation!

The project in Woodruff Park was a complete let down.

I cannot stand when people bump into me in the elevators!

The Daily Show gets better all the time.

Oh my God! Don't you want the Pope yet??

Mocha Delights is in a whole other galaxy than Starbucks. A better one!

We all need to do each other a favor and spend 10 minutes on the internet and looking up the facts of social security; then we can talk about it. (This could easily apply to any major issue.)

Alright, I'm taking bets: Bush starts a war against Iran in March.

American Idol beat the State of the Union in ratings. That made me smile. And then cry.

Wow, did the front page article of the "Signal" that compared homeless people to wild animals remind anyone else of the Third Reich?

Why does it seem like the Village Shuttle only runs once an hour when its past 6 P.M.? And smells bad?

I have some teachers who seriously need to retire.

Notable Quotables

Although the world is full of suffering, it is also full of the overcoming of it.
-Helen Keller

Reality is a crutch for people who can't cope with drugs.
-Lily Tomlin

Even a cat is a lion in her own lair.
-Indian Proverb

Because you don't analyze yourself, you remain always psychological furniture, never changing.
-Paramhansa Yogananda

The biggest mistake we could ever make in our lives is to think we work for anybody but ourselves.
-Brian Tracy

The sound of a kiss is not so loud as that of a cannon, but its echo lasts a great deal longer.
-Oliver Wendell Holmes

Happiness is not cozy. It gleams most vividly against a background of black.
-Nuala O'Faolain

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

Student

from page 1

back because I was still living at home."

Within a year, Nick got a reprieve from college but with a price.

"It was May of '72 when I got my draft notice," he said. "We had the lottery system back then and it was inevitable because my number was very low."

With the Vietnam War looming, he made a choice.

"When I got my draft notice, I joined the Air Force so I wouldn't have to go to Vietnam," Nick said. After three years of working as an airborne computer and radar mechanic on B-52 bombers, he eventually moved to New York and found employment in the architectural engineering field.

He advanced from working as a drafter to working on engineering teams. In 1988, Nick moved to Atlanta, where he now lives with his wife, Cheryl.

For the last five years, he worked for a "big architectural firm" that does a lot of work for Home Depot. Though he did not want to identify the company, he did say, "It was the best job I've ever had."

Nick said he was content in his professional and personal life, but he was about to learn an invaluable lesson: expect the unexpected.

Sept. 11, 2001, caught the nation by surprise and massive layoffs followed, striking an additional blow to unsuspecting Americans.

Thirty years after the threat of Vietnam, Nick faced another challenge.

"I was laid off in October 2001 and looked for a job for several months," he said. "[I] could not find a job mainly because I had been getting paid too much, and the market was just not there."

Nick was not alone. He became one of many displaced workers, people who were at least 20 years of age who lost or left jobs because their company closed, moved, had insufficient work for them, or their position or shift was eliminated.

During September 2001, there was a record 1,327 mass layoffs in the United States, 50 people or more laid off at a single establishment, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. This represented the highest number of mass layoffs in the period from 1995 to 2004.

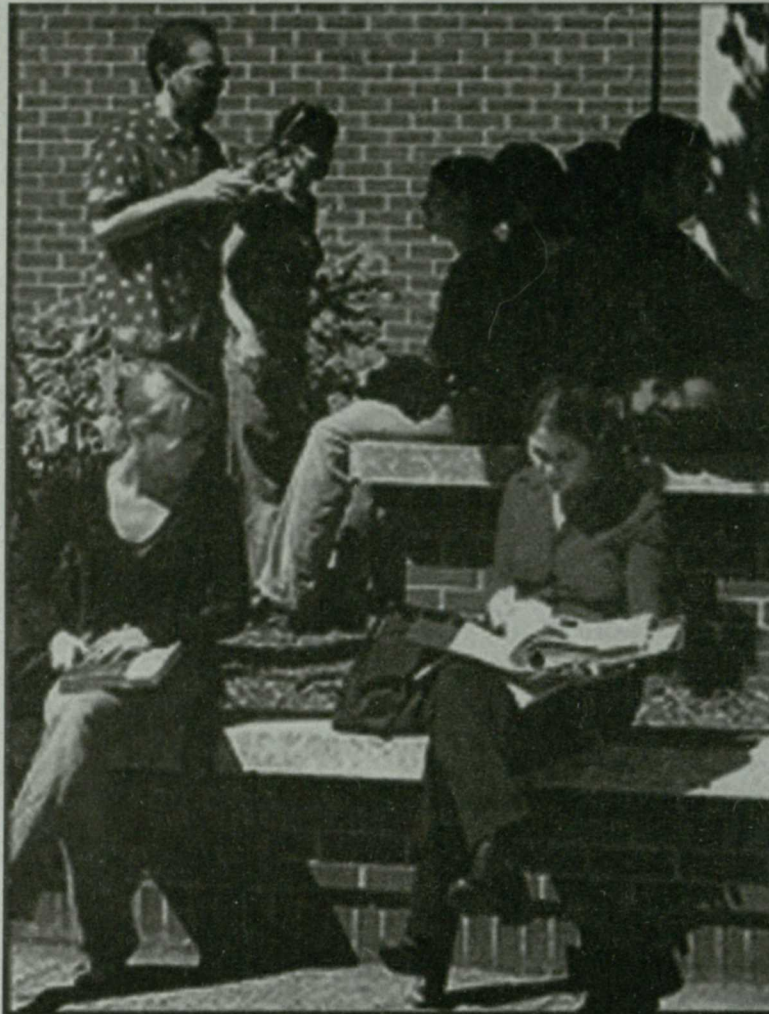
Nick's face clouded as he remembered the layoff.

"I went into what I think was a deep depression. It was the most profound emotional state that I can think of. I felt discarded. It was the first time that I had been laid off or fired or whatever and not been able to immediately find another job."

Nick said the dismal job-search damaged his self-image, but it took another toll.

"The first month I was real aggressive," he said. "I went out looking for work. I had a lot of energy, but it just wasn't there, there wasn't work, or they didn't want me."

Nick said after two months he stopped looking all together, and that put a lot of stress on his marriage. His



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More nontraditional students are entering campuses for career enhancement or to begin a new career.

wife, who earned a master's at Georgia State, encouraged him to seek a positive outcome to his situation.

"My wife said 'Go down to Georgia State. Just go and pick something,'" Nick said.

So that is precisely what he did. Nick said his SAT scores were so old they did not exist. He had to take the COMPASS test, which evaluates a student's ability to complete college-level coursework.

Dianne Weber said many nontraditional students did not take the ACT or SAT because they had not expected to attend college.

"After five years from high school graduation, neither testing agency recommends taking these tests," she said.

After taking care of the preliminaries, Nick was prepared to start.

"I got laid off in October, and I started here in summer semester of 2002, so it took a bit over six months for me to snap out of it," he recalled.

Laughingly, he remembered his first day.

"I was in an English 1101 class and in college algebra," he said. "I felt so out of place. To start with, I was older than most of the professors in the lower level classes."

It took some time for Nick to adjust to being a student again.

"I was still kind of uncomfortable even into the fall semester," he said. "I was still questioning what I really wanted to do with the rest of my life."

He said an English class helped him realize that he would begin a new career path.

"This thing woke up in me, this writer, I guess, that's been asleep for so long," he said.

In the composition class, he had a "great teacher," Claire Summers, and said he knew then this is what he needed to be doing and should have been all along.

Nick decided to major in English

with a concentration in Advanced Composition and Rhetoric, and this semester he is taking four writing classes. Full course loads are often strenuous for nontraditional students.

According to the NCES, nontraditional students are more likely to leave school without returning than traditional students because they find it difficult to balance the demands of work and taking care of dependents while enrolled in school.

Nick said he has not found any obstacles. He considers himself incredibly fortunate because his family's financial situation allows him to attend school without having to work.

"Not everybody's like that, a lot of the older students that I'm meeting now in the upper-level classes have full-time jobs and have to take classes later in the day," he said. "A lot of the higher level classes aren't taught in the evening."

Although he does not work full-time, Nick does some contract drafting work and works part-time as the senior editor for the Signal.

Nick's work status is not uncommon, 33 percent of students work part-time, which is higher than the 28 percent full-time average, according to the Census Bureau.

Nick will graduate next year and has some advice for other nontraditional students.

"One of the things that helped me was to try to bring myself back ... mentally ... and to attack things with a childlike energy," he said. "Don't make a big deal about age because nobody here really cares about it."

Deborah Coleman said she was concerned about her age when she decided to further her education. Sitting in the Consumer Credit Counseling boardroom, she remembered a time when she was not the self-confident manager her co-workers know her as.

"I was 41 and afraid, my first test was coming up and I was competing

with these young whippersnappers, but I did it and I made it through," she said.

Twenty-four years prior, her educational goals were different than they are today.

In 1980, she graduated from Hyde Park Academy in Chicago and was interested in a music career. She said her parents did not agree with her plan to become a singer.

Her mother, who had a business degree, and her father, who graduated from law school, required her to attend college. After graduation, she enrolled in the University of Arizona.

A study conducted by the National Center for Education Statistics found that the children of parents who attended college are more likely to enroll directly after high school.

"I went off to school, and I hated it," she said.

Dana Sanabrina, a 31-year-old Spanish major at Georgia State said, "A lot of people when they leave high school and go to college ... have a pre-prescribed to-do list.

"They're really not thinking," she continued. "I mean, think about it, how introspective or retrospective can you be at 18?"

At 18, Deborah said she was too young, too sheltered, too unexposed, underexposed and unprepared.

"College was almost like being thrown to a ravenous beast for me," she said.

Despite disliking college, Deborah continued and graduated in 1985 with a sociology degree.

She moved to Atlanta in 1990 and in January 1991 started working at Charter Peachford, a psychiatric facility for people who have drug and emotional problems. By 1999, she was director of needs assessment.

Deborah headed a staff of about 25 employees, ranging from graduates with bachelors degrees to medical degrees.

Although she enjoyed her job, Deborah felt that it was beginning to wear on her physically and emotionally.

"I worked eight to 10 hours," she said. "I was in a long-term relationship and my partner had moved across the world ... to be with me. I was just not being as attentive as I should have been to her."

Deborah said she realized something had to change.

"I wasn't sleeping, I had lost 25 pounds, [I] wasn't eating right, I had no social life, wasn't taking care of my animals, my whole life was consumed by these sick people," she said.

Visits from the Atlanta School of Massage to her job site helped relieve some of her stress.

"The Atlanta School of Massage came and gave us massages as a part of their internship," she said. "The whole time I was there, I kept asking questions."

For years, she entertained thoughts of attending massage school. A co-worker, whose husband was enrolled at the school, encouraged her to apply.

Deborah went for an interview but said the \$6,000 tuition was too expensive, considering that she had recently purchased a home.

She dispelled the notion of going to school and continued to focus on

her present career, but she would soon have an experience that would make her realign her goals and priorities.

One Thursday night, a woman who had attempted suicide was transferred to Charter Peachford.

"I sent one of my counselors, Renee, in to go do the assessment," she said. "She came running back in the door and said, 'Debbie I need your help!'"

The patient was bleeding all over and had sliced her upper body with a razor blade.

"I was just sick to my stomach," Deborah said.

She went home but had to return later because she was on call.

"They called me at home late at night, and they said that the patient had another razor blade," Deborah said. "She'd cut into her breasts and nipples."

Deborah returned to work and stayed until 2 a.m. "I had to turn back around and come back in at 9," she said. "I came into the 9 o'clock meeting and my boss ... came in cursing and yelling and screaming. I thought ... I can't protect these people anymore."

Deborah, who said she felt as if she had been trying to save the world, went home and cried the entire weekend.

On the following Monday morning, she tried to resign from her job. Instead of accepting her resignation, her boss told her to take two weeks vacation and to rethink her decision. Deborah said she could not pick a happy medium.

"I said OK [to the time off], but I knew I was leaving," she said.

Deborah said she cried the first three days after she left. Then one day, she went to sleep, woke up and felt like she knew what she would do next.

After years of counseling others, she resolved to work on herself.

"I have always wanted to be a massage therapist," she said, "but I never could do it." She decided to look for a new job and to apply to the Atlanta School of Massage.

Deborah said she needed a job that would allow her to think about herself and for herself without consuming her. With in a week, she found that job.

Deborah began working at Consumer Credit Counseling, a nonprofit debt management organization, in January 2001.

Locating a job that would allow her to balance school with work as she studied for a new career was a priority for Deborah.

Most of the Atlanta School of Massage's students range in age from 24 to 45 and are planning a major career change or have worked in successful careers, according to the school's website. Wanting to gain skills or personal enrichment, were the top reasons students gave for returning to school, according to the NCES survey.

For Deborah, these were also important reasons. Reflecting back, she realized that she had always used massage.

"My mom would come home and she'd say, 'Oh, Red, my feet hurt,'

Students for Progressive Transit say Marta is Smarta



Special | Signal

Students for Progressive Transit work to encourage alternate modes of transportation.

By BRYAN ALPER
blper@gsusignal.com

Students for Progressive Transit at Georgia State University has begun its program to make a positive impact on transit in metro Atlanta, particularly here on campus.

The rapidly maturing student organization started last spring seeking to encourage alternative forms of transportation. The organization does this mainly through advocacy, education and debate with a goal of emphasizing the importance of transit for a viable and sustainable

Atlanta.

Rebecca Serna, founder of SPT explains, "We all agree that MARTA riders should have a voice in planning the future of Atlanta's transportation system."

As a member of Citizens for Progressive Transit, the parent organization of SPT, Serna foresaw students' potential for spreading the word about transportation alternatives for commuting students. She then started GSU's chapter.

"I love this city and its beautiful nature," said Brad Pilfer, journalism major at GSU. "I am so pleased that

I can take the train from Brookhaven all the way to Five Points and stare out the window at all the kudzu. Not only that, I'm not stuck in traffic."

Brad is just one student who gets more out of college by using public transportation. Nationwide, studies show that students in big cities who take advantage of public transportation report a higher degree of satisfaction in their college experiences than those who don't. Brad also mentioned that riding MARTA makes him feel more involved with the community.

Unfortunately, not all students feel the same way Brad does. The Atlanta-Journal Constitution recently reported on MARTA struggles. Guest columnist and MARTA board chair Michael Walls noted, "For a few transit-dependent persons, taking MARTA is no longer an option because it is just too hard to get to. For some other previous riders, the time between buses is now simply too long to wait, a sad fact that not only affects MARTA's fare box collections but also puts cars back on the roads."

Matt Johnson of Georgia Tech's chapter of Students for Progressive Transit has initiated a customer service student task force within MARTA. He and other SPT members ride MARTA and periodically meet with MARTA officials and make suggestions for improvement. Students interested in contributing their own suggestions can do so with a problem form that will soon be available to download from the website, www.sfpt.org.

MARTA is the single largest transit system in America that receives no state funding for operations. Instead, the agency depends on the 1% sales tax collected in the City of Atlanta, Fulton and DeKalb Counties to fund operations. Due to the faltering economy of the past few years, MARTA has operated at a loss, according to Joe Winter, SPT's presi-

dent.

Winter believes several changes are necessary for progress in Atlanta's public transportation. For one example, he would like to see all county bus lines around Atlanta merge to form one agency, saying that bus transportation would become much more efficient under one umbrella. MARTA now operates only in DeKalb and Fulton County.

Because of MARTA, there are 200,000 fewer cars on the roads every day. Thousands of people rely on MARTA to get to work and it makes metro Atlanta a better place to live.

Winter also strongly advocates the Belt Line: the 22-mile circuit of transit that promises to connect some of Atlanta's most sought-after intown neighborhoods.

Although SPT has not yet collaborated formally with other university chapters, an intercollegiate dinner to brainstorm on public transportation improvements will take place in February. Other Atlanta chapters include Emory University, Georgia Tech University, and Morehouse College, which is in the beginning phase of recruiting new members.

Any student interested in becoming a GSU SPT member can go to their website, www.sfpt.com, which is currently being updated. Rebecca Serna says, "There are lots of opportunities to get involved. We welcome anyone who is interested."

Georgia State law students go to trial

By DOMINIQUE HUFF
dhuff@gsusignal.com

Classes are becoming more hands on. Students are not only learning from textbooks, lectures and guest speakers but competition as well. Several students in the political science department have

participated in the recent Mock Trial competition.

The Mock Trial competition provides the opportunity for students to develop skills such as trial advocacy. Participants learn how to make opening statements, conduct direct examinations and han-

dle legal objections.

"I want to go to law school and mock trial gives me some practical experience," said George Dean, team captain for the Georgia State team.

Other members of this team are Tim Blair (co-captain), Desiree



Special | Signal

The mock trial team are preparing future lawyers for the real thing.

Duke, Haniyah Miller, Andrew Murphy, Fabian Rincon, Joshua Todd Haag, and Alamin Sayani.

Each member of the team played a role in the competition as the plaintiff, defendant or witness. The team members face other schools in the courtroom as they try simulated cases. The cases range from civil to criminal.

Schools such as Duke, University of South Carolina and Wofford College participate in the competition.

This year's case was Kessiner v. Polk Hospital and concerns a golfer who was injured by a psychiatric patient allegedly released by mistake. The accused patient eventually committed suicide. The plaintiff, Kessiner, decided to sue the hospital.

The Georgia State team ranked 12th of the 25 teams that competed at Furman University. This placement was one ballot away from proceeding to the

national competition. "Prior to our competition this year, Georgia State did not have a ranking," said Andrew Murphy. "I would like to go back next year to put teams like Furman in their place. We definitely can do it"

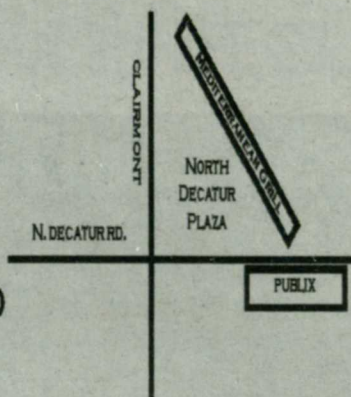
The success of the team did not come easy. Long hours were spent researching and practicing. "We practiced two hours daily in the law school courtroom," said Dean. Major concerns for the team include resources and recruitment. "Considering the big name universities that were there, we lacked the funding that they had," Dean also said. "But, we held our own and placed well."

The other concern is the number of team members graduating in May. To solve this, tryouts are going to be held. "I encourage everyone to try out," said Murphy. "This is a great opportunity to expand skills by getting courtroom to practice"

MEDITERRANEAN GRILL

SHISH KABOBS-KUFT KABOB-CHICKEN KABOB-GYROS-FALAFEL-HUMMUS-SPANAKOPITA-TABOULI-DOLMAS-
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FETOUSH SALADS

*Georgia State University
Office of Student Life and Leadership/Intercultural Relations and
NAACP, Georgia State University Chapter*

Sankofa African American Museum on Wheels

Tuesday, February 15, 2005 12:00 pm - 8:00 pm

and

Wednesday, February 16, 2005 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Student Center House - Senate Salons



- Light refreshments
- Giveaways

Join us for a fascinating tour of African American artifacts dating from 1860 to the present
Co-Sponsors:

**Brief discussions regarding exhibit with founder and curator
Angela W. Jennings**

- | | |
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| • Atlanta Public Schools | • Affiliated Student Organizations |
| • Atlanta-Based Learning | • Office of Community Service |
| • Department of African American Studies | • Office of Opportunity Development/Diversity Education |
| • Golden Key International Honour Society | • Planning |
| • Lanette L. Suttles Child Development Center | • Rachel's Daughters |
| • Minority Pre-Med/Pre-Dental Association | • Tighter Grip |
| | • Women's Studies Institute |

Free and open to the public. For more information call: 404/463-9031

Georgia State students inquire about school fees

By Charmaine Henry
chenry@gsusignal.com

"Fees should be assigned to students, based on the facilities that they use," said Kwajalyn Brown.

Each semester students pay their tuition and mandatory student fees, hoping that the tuition does not rise. What do the fees apply to and how does it benefit each student?

All students are required to pay a mandatory student fee, and it is broken down into several categories.

The mandatory student fee covers a number of services, including student activity, athletics, recreation, transportation, health and technology.

Out-of-state students pay three times the amount per semester in-state students pay. This is how it adds up:

In-state students pay \$141 per credit for less than 12 semester hours.

Undergraduate students pay \$1,684 for 12 or more semester hours, plus an additional \$393 for mandatory student fees.

- Total tuition per semester, \$2,077.

Out-of-state students pay \$562 per credit for less than 12 semester hours.

- \$6,737 for 12 or more semester hours, plus \$393 in mandatory student fees.

- Total tuition per semester, \$7,130.

In an interview with both full- and part-time students, they stated that they did not know the reasons for paying the fees. "It's a waste of money!" said Tandi Greene, a senior, graduating in May 2005. "The extra fees that we pay are being improperly placed." "Those fees should be used for more elevators and parking spaces."

Two specific areas where students felt they were not getting their money's worth were recreation, which includes the game room and the gym, and the Panther Express (shuttle bus).

Of the seven students interviewed, only two use the gym weekly. The others either didn't have time because they work or just have no interest in using the facility.

In addition to being covered in the mandatory student fees as recreation, a game of pool costs \$4.00 per hour in the game room.

The Panther Express carries students between Turner Field and campus. Two of the seven students interviewed use the shuttle weekly.

While one student has no problem with the way the shuttle runs or how many buses there are, the other student clearly saw the need for improvements. She suggested the need for more buses and that the busses need to be on a schedule.

As a result of limited buses, they are usually crowded, leaving

most students standing.

In addition, the shuttle stop in front of General Classroom Building is often very congested. Students trying to get into the GCB have to fight their way through the crowd to get to class.

The overcrowding of the shuttle is potentially dangerous, especially in the event of a sudden stop.

According to the university catalog, there is a \$33 transportation fee under the mandatory student fee that each student pays for the shuttle.

The Board of Regents decides the amount of student fees, as well as the number of schools being charged this fee. Compared to four other colleges in the state, Georgia State University has one of the lowest student fees.

A member of the faculty says that all students pay the mandatory student fee, and it is unlikely that the fee would be waived. The only exception would be a student taking one class because he is not on campus as often as a full-time student and would not have access to any of the services the fees provide.

In addition to the technology fee each semester, students are now required to buy a supply card for the classrooms or labs with computers. The supply card goes towards the use of the printers, paper and projectors; however, most of these services

are covered in the technology fee.

If there were no mandatory student fees, would benefits on campus be any less and would it affect education? Each student would probably need a computer at home, instead of using the labs on campus, and maybe ride Marta, instead of riding the shuttle to and from campus.

While some students choose to use the gym or ride the shuttle because it's a part of the student fee,

other's don't. "We should be given a choice on paying the mandatory student fees, and it shouldn't be so expensive," said Tandi Greene.

The mandatory student fee was put in place to benefit the entire student body, whether by riding the shuttle, using the gym or the computer labs. How and if each student benefits from the services the mandatory fees provides is up to that individual in the end.

Student

from page 4
and she would put her feet up, and I would massage her feet," she said.

Deborah said she did not comprehend it at the time, but she had used massage to comfort crying babies, to calm patients at her previous jobs, and even for self-relaxation.

"I have attention deficit disorder," she said. "To soothe myself, I always did this little thing with my fingers." Now, she incorporates what she learned at massage school into her daily life.

Deborah began classes in September 2003 and graduated last semester. She is establishing a clientele, but she has not quit her day job.

She eventually wants to be self-employed, but says she realizes the importance of careful planning and not taking on too many tasks at one time. She learned that lesson one Thursday

night three years ago.

"That lady was my wakeup call; I shouldn't have been at work that night," she said. "I was never at work on Thursdays that late. I was in the wrong place at the wrong time, but for me it was all right."

"The day I left that job someone just pulled a mask of 10 years off my face," she said. "I'm not even the same person. I had energy I didn't even know I had. That job was sucking it all out."

Deborah no longer has the nervousness that plagued her on her first day of classes, and she even noticed that her attention deficit disorder is less of an issue.

"What I try to tell people when they say things like 'I wish I had done this, or I wish I had done that' - to me I don't want any what ifs anymore," she said. "I have spent my last days of what if I had done this, what if I had done that. I say go for it and give it all that you've got."

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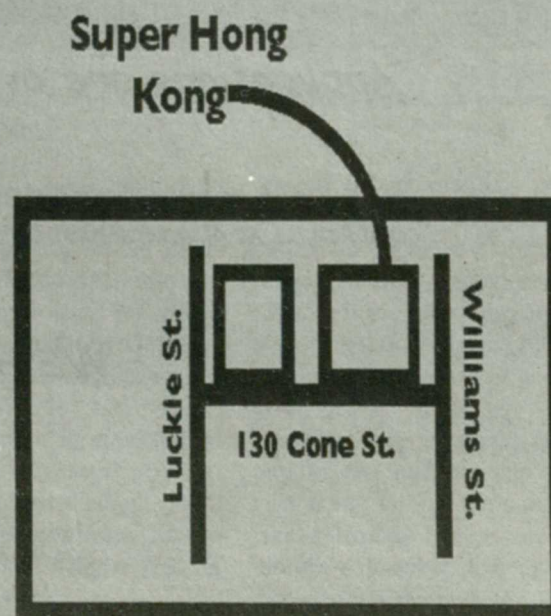
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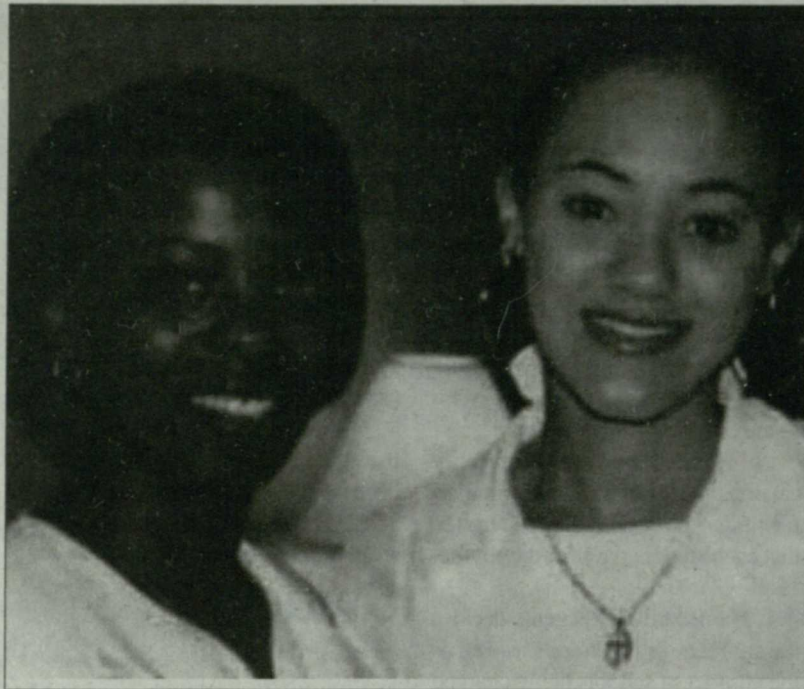
Hazing

from page 1

members were fully aware of the hazing policies of both the university and the sorority. "Our organization's policy is stricter than the university's policy. The university's hazing policy is very vague," she stated. "The policies were read to all the members during the informational, and they signed off on them"

According to Wakeel everyone received a personal copy of the sorority's policy as well. "The policy clearly explains our stance on hazing, intimidation and coercion," she said.

Based upon the information and evidence presented at the judicial hearing, the Student Judicial Board found Sigma Gamma Rho not responsible for viola-



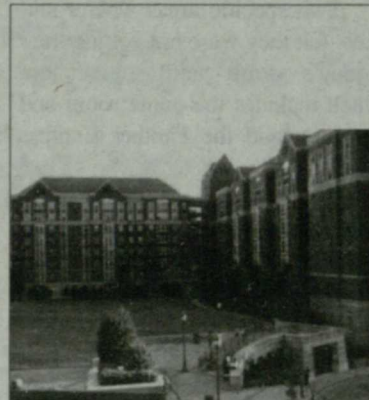
Special | Signal

Sigma Gamma Rho found not guilty of violating codes of conduct provided by Georgia State.

tion either Section III (a) 5 or Section III (a) 15 of Georgia State University Student Code of Conduct. The Dean of Students concurred with the finding of the Student Judicial Board.

The Georgia State Village is moving

By CHARMAINE HENRY
chenry@gsusignal.com



Special | Signal

The new village will open in fall 2007.

Georgia State University's dorm is moving. Plans are being drawn up for a new dormitory in downtown Atlanta to open fall 2007.

The new facility will house 2,000 students on a 7-acre site, downtown on the corner of Piedmont Avenue and Ellis Street.

There is a small invitation-only event Feb. 11.

One student said building a new dorm would be a welcomed change because of the current conditions in the Village. She said the water shuts off sometimes without notice and that there is not enough maintenance staff to handle the needs of almost 2,000 students.

Another student said a new dorm would be more appealing, but for the amount of money necessary to live in the Village, getting an apartment is better. The Georgia State dorm is currently located on 9 acres in downtown Atlanta, near Centennial Olympic Park.

The GSU Village houses up to 2,000 undergraduates and consists of four residence halls named after Greek cities. In the Village, students have access to a gym, two parking decks, a mailroom and a classroom.

In addition to the cost of living in the Village, the parking deck costs an additional \$300 per semester. Some students claim there are not enough parking spaces for the number of students who live in the dorms.

The Village offers four- and six-bedroom apartments; each includes one bathroom for every two residents, a fully equipped kitchen and a shared living area. All bedrooms are private singles.

For Georgia State students not currently Village residents who would like to live in the Village, fall semester applications are accepted starting Feb. 1.

Applicants are encouraged to submit a completed application and a \$25 fee as soon as possible because there is a waiting list; however, submitting an application does not guarantee a housing assignment. The rooms are assigned on a first come, first serve basis.

Current Village residents must submit the housing application and \$25 application fee by Feb. 11 for priority consideration.

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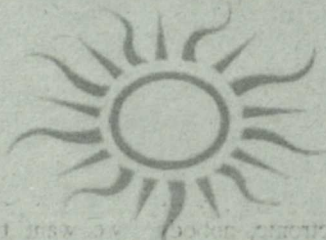
Do you want to gain some excellent skills in cross cultural communication?

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Living Editor:
Erica Meyers

**A Monthly Look
at College Living**

College Living

Break-away this spring

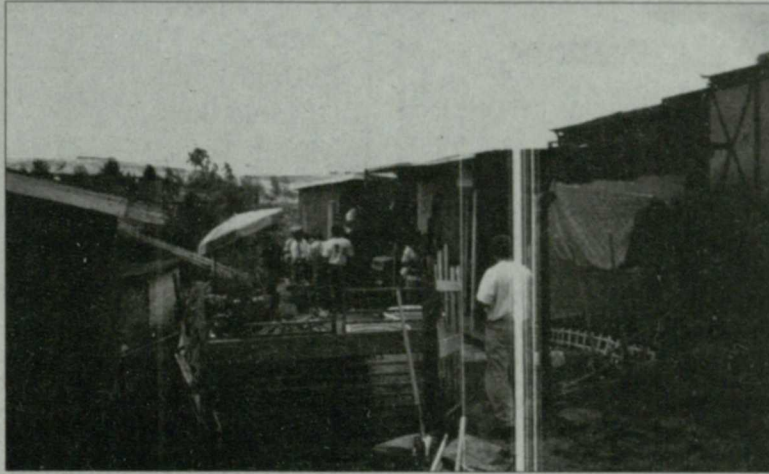
**Student group
offers alternative
spring break
options**

By ERICA MEYERS
emeyers@gsusignal.com

When Samantha Seaman did it the first time, it changed her life. She had never seen anything like it, and she had never thought it would be so much fun. So now, as a graduate assistant, she is the advisor to the group that allows other students to do it, that is to go on an alternative spring break.

Panther Breakaway is a new organization that organizes service trips during spring break. This trip allows students to engage in community service projects instead of going on a more traditional spring break vacation.

Although Georgia State students have organized alternative spring break trips in the past, Panther Breakaway was chartered



This Mexican village was so dilapidated, its residents lived in paper shacks with mud floors.

for the first time for the 2004-2005 school year.

In its charter year, Panther Breakaway is offering two alternative spring breaks. The first, an environmental project to the Florida Everglades, leaves the first Saturday of spring break and returns the following Saturday.

During the Everglades trip students will work to repair damaged coral reef through a nursery

program, rescue wildlife in Key Largo, work to clean a turtle nesting area in the Biscayne National Park and restore damaged farmland.

The second trip is a human service oriented trip to Jacksonville, Fla. Students will work with after school programs, repair homes for the disabled and elderly, collect new clothes for needy families and help homeless

people transition to a more stable lifestyle. This trip leaves Atlanta on the first Sunday of spring break and returns the following Saturday.

Seaman's first trip was to the impoverished Tijuana, Mexico. Her team's mission was to build a home in one week.

"I had never seen that kind of poverty," Seaman said. "The family had been living in a shack with no floor."

They built a home out of stucco and chicken wire, a good home for the area.

"Each day a 5-year-old little boy would gather rocks for the cement we had to make for the floor," said Seaman.

The team finished the home in a week. The moment that sticks out in Seaman's mind was when the mother stood in her doorway for the first time, her children gathered all around her like chicks around a hen, tearful because she finally had a home for her family with a cement floor that would help the family prevent illnesses.

"Seeing that gratitude and knowing you can affect a complete stranger's life in a critical way in such a short time is awesome," said Seaman.

Seaman has since been on two more service trips to Mexico, and she maintains that they are a lot of fun.

"This experience provides students with the opportunity to challenge social injustice and tackle social problems," Seaman said. "Students get to build relationships with others and get pushed to the outside of their comfort zone. They also get to be active citizens and part of the resolution, while at the same time have fun and be with their peers outside of Atlanta."

Trips cost \$160 and include meals, lodging and transportation for the entire week. Spaces are still available on both trips. An informational meeting will be held Feb. 9 at 5 p.m. in the Office of Community Service, room 320 of the Student Center. For more information visit www.gsu.edu/pantherbreakaway.

On Pointe

**Private apartment complex
offers dorm-like
experience**

By ERICA MEYERS
emeyers@gsusignal.com

Between the University Village and Lofts, Georgia State can house 2,435 students. That is 9 percent of the total number of students and 12 percent of the undergraduate students alone.

The lack of available student housing and the competitive market for apartments in Atlanta creates a problem for thousands of students who do not want to commute to school.

In steps MetroPointe Lofts.

A \$76 million project, MetroPointe Lofts is independent apartment living but with all the dorm-life extras. The apartments are set up much like the Village or Lofts with individual rooms and a

shared kitchen and living area. The payment is much the same too; students rent their room and are only responsible for their room.

The 120 square foot bedrooms are fully furnished with a desk, nightstand, double bed, dresser and a closet. Each student also gets a private bathroom. The exposed ceilings, industrial-style windows and concrete floors add extra style.

The living room features a full-sized sofa, chair, bar stools and entertainment center with a television. The kitchen comes equipped with a stove, refrigerator and microwave. Each bedroom and living room is wired to receive high-speed internet from either Comcast or Bellsouth. The bedrooms are telephone and cable TV ready. And each room has its own washer and dryer.

The creators of MetroPointe did not stop at the room, however. Every resident also has access to a fitness facility, study room and computer lab with high-speed connectivity, a 5,000 square foot swimming pool and basketball and

beach volleyball courts. Secured parking is \$45 per month, and friends park for free when they visit. And, although the complex is located just 3.5 miles from Georgia State, students who do not have cars are not stranded either, a free shuttle runs from the complex to the Marta station and even to the grocery.

"Our lofts are built towards a student environment," said Marlyn DuMont, business manager at MetroPointe Lofts. "Students have the privacy of their own suite and the ability to share expenses. There was an absolute need for student housing in the marketplace."

MetroPointe is secure, too. Every bedroom has a panic button in case of an emergency, security personnel are on site 24 hours a day, and visitors have to sign in at the parking deck. Next-generation electronic keys also help ensure security. Each key is coded to allow the student into all the amenities, the student's apartment and the student's room only. And since it is all electronic, nobody



The kitchen and living room offer students a spacious environment to work and play.

can jimmy a lock with any tool to break in.

The leasing office is even planning a traditional dorm-like activities program featuring safety instruction, financial planning, meals during finals and intramural games.

The complex is expected to get a majority of its residents from Georgia State and Georgia Tech, with light additions from Emory University and the Atlanta University Center.

"We have a couple of niches we want to fill," said DuMont.

"One is the international students who don't want to be deal with having to move out during the summer or during the winter break. Another is the sororities and fraternities who don't have their own house; they can get their own floor here."

The lease is a standard 12-months, but students who wish to visit home during the summer or take a trip to Europe for a few months can sublet their apartment or re-lease if they want to leave.

Eat Cheap-Eat Healthy

Students could save more if they eat fewer unhealthy meals around campus

By SHERRY SHIPSKIE
Guest Writer

Let's face it, most college students don't have much money. Some are downright broke. School is expensive!

With the cost of books, supplies and other school related expenses, not to mention clothes



Special | Signal
Stands in the downtown area provide students with an abundant amount of fruits and vegetables to choose from on the way to school.

and a hot social life, deciding where to spend cash can be tough. Food may be low on the list of considerations.

Many students make it through school subsisting on fast food and instant noodle soup. They taste good and are cheap, but they are not healthy. Besides being void of good nutrition – with very lit-

Consider planning ahead, grocery shopping and packing lunch, dinner and snacks to improve your diet AND save a bundle! Eating (poorly) on and around campus costs about \$5.00 per meal, but if you do a little planning, you can eat healthy for a lot less.

Here is an example of how you can save money by bringing

mayonnaise, a couple of lettuce leaves and a tomato slice. Add a bag of reduced fat chips (\$0.60), a piece of fruit (\$0.30) and a carton of milk (\$1.00), and now you have a healthy and delicious

sweet rolls, candy bars and more. These foods are cheap, but they are not healthy. You can buy fruit and vegetable snacks on campus, but they are expensive!

<u>Item</u>	<u>Approximate Cost</u>
Whole Wheat Bread	\$1.25/20 slices
Turkey	\$6.00/16 ounces
Cheese (2% milk)	\$4.00/16 slices
Tomato	\$0.50/each
Lettuce	\$1.00/head
Fat-free mayonnaise	\$2.00/jar
Total Cost	\$14.75/8 sandwiches = \$1.84/each plus leftovers!

tle vitamins and minerals to offer – these foods are also high in sugar, fat and calories.

So what can you do?

your lunch from home:

Each sandwich is made with two ounces of turkey, two cheese slices, one tablespoon of

<u>Snack</u>	<u>Approximate Cost</u>
Apple or Banana	\$0.30
Baby Carrots	\$1.00
Grapes	\$1.00
Bottled Water	\$0.95
Granola Bar	\$0.33
Nonfat Yogurt	\$0.60
Nonfat Pudding Cup	\$0.40

lunch that costs less than \$4.00. This meal saves money and reduces your calorie intake while adding vitamins and minerals that would have been nonexistent in a fast-food lunch. Just remember to keep cold foods cold – use an ice pack!

It's not just about meals. Snacks are another way you can eat nutritiously and save money. Vending machines are filled with empty calories:

Here are some examples of inexpensive and easy snacks to pack:

There are many other examples; be creative. It just takes a little planning to eat healthier and save money! Graduate student Amanda Griffin says it best, "Packing my lunch is a way that I can take care of my body by eating healthy and take care of my pocketbook by saving money."

Rock.

MetroPointe Lofts offer a fully-furnished living room with an entertainment center (TV included), so you can party all you want.

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Pointe

from page 9

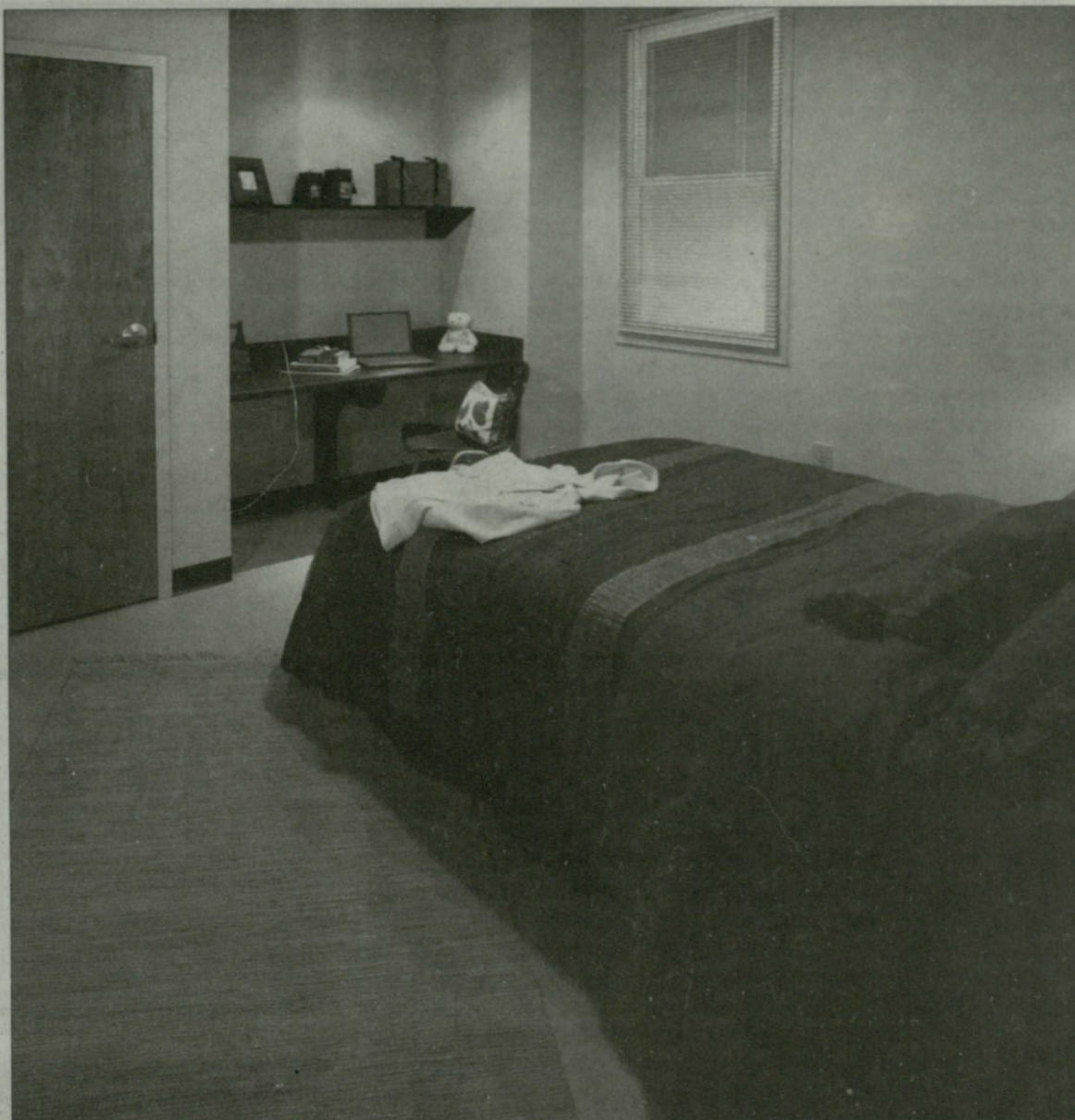
"This is really for students who want to be independent," said DuMont.

According to DuMont, universities like the MetroPointe concept.

"They recognize the need to meet the deficit in housing," Marilyn said. "We are not competing with the university dorms; we are looking for a partnership with the universities. In fact, we are supporting the universities by providing housing for students who otherwise would not go to their school because of a lack of housing."

The 368-unit, 1,216 bedroom development will offer a small percentage of Georgia State students the opportunity to have both independence and community.

Friday kicks off a campaign to fill the complex. Twelve-month leases are being signed for August. Two-bedroom apartments cost \$715 for each resident, while four-bedroom apartments run between \$665 and \$685. Students split the utilities. Anyone who visits the leasing office and takes a tour between Friday and March 27 will receive a free t-shirt and the chance to win \$500. Scratch and win cards also be distributed with a chance to win a month of free rent. Residents who lease before July get free parking for the first year.



Each bedroom is furnished with a double bed, a desk, a dresser and a nightstand. A full closet and a bathroom also highlight the resident's amenities.

Special | Signal

MetroPointe Lofts at a glance:

- 1,216 rooms available
- 2 and 4-bedroom units
- 3.5 miles away from Georgia State
- Shuttle service to and from Marta
- \$665-\$715 per bedroom
- Fully furnished
- Amenities: pool, study room, game room, volleyball, basketball, computer lounge
- Free parking for the first year for residents who sign their lease by July
- Secure facility
- Friends park free

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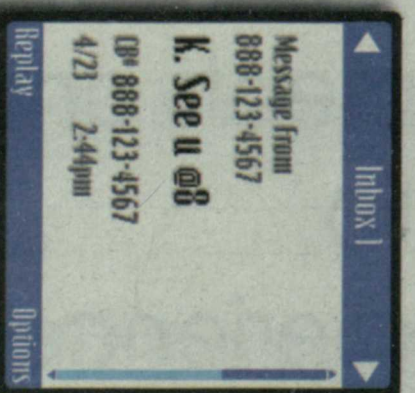
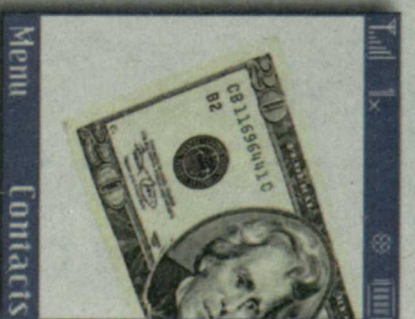
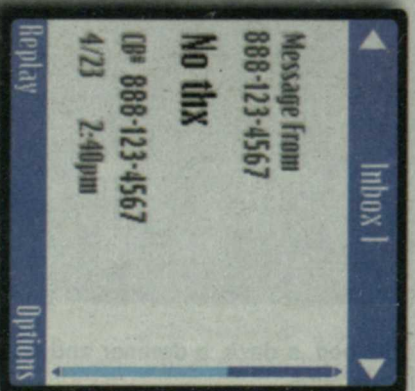
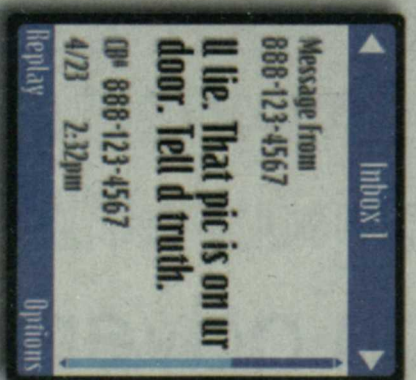
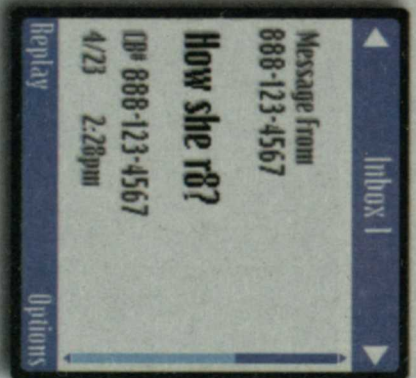
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Sports Editor:
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Assoc. Editors
DJ Kunovac
Matt Simmons

Sports

Men make up ground in North Carolina

By DJ KUNOVAC
dkunovac@gsusignal.com

The Georgia State men's basketball team capped off its three-game road trip by posting two come-from-behind wins against conference rivals Gardner-Webb and Campbell. The Panthers will head into the Homecoming weekend tied for third place in the Atlantic Sun Conference and looking to move up even more

after the two crucial games on Friday against Belmont and Sunday against Lipscomb.

Following their season sweep of archrival Mercer, the Panthers traveled to Boiling Springs, N.C., for a rematch against Gardner-Webb—a team that handed the Panthers their first home loss of the season a few weeks earlier. Georgia State returned the favor by coming from 14 points down at the half with a buzzer-beating shot to upset the Bulldogs, 70-68, at Lutz-Yelton Convention Center. This ended Gardner-Webb's 10-game home winning streak since their loss to Georgia State last year. Visiting Georgia State found themselves down by 14 points at the half with poor shooting and a 16-rebound deficit.

"Folks do not want to know what I told the team at halftime," said Georgia State head coach Michael Perry. "I was well into the gray area of crossing my Christian beliefs with what I said. But the guys gave great, great effort on defense in the second half. This is a huge win for us against a good team on the road."

Indeed, Perry's words in the locker room and on-court intensity gave Panthers the spark they needed. Georgia State began its second half comeback by scoring on its first nine possessions to cut the lead to 47-44 with 13:54 to play. State's defense then held the Bulldogs without a point from 11:48 down to 5:02 in the



Coach Perry finally has his guys clicking away from the friendly confines of GSU Arena.

second half and had a 58-53 lead with 5:35 to go.

The Panthers maintained a four-point lead with just 28 seconds to play, but Tim Jennings of Gardner-Webb hit a basket and a free throw with 20 seconds to cut the lead to one. Georgia State's guard Malcolm Manier made two clutch free throws with 13.7 seconds left. Gardner-Webb's Brian Bender then hit a three-point basket with 6.3 seconds to tie the game at 68. Georgia State took a time out at 6.3 seconds to set up a play and got the ball to guard Herman Favors, the smallest and quickest player on the court, who

drove down the right side of the lane and scooped in a bank shot with just .3 left on the clock.

Point guard Boyd Copeland led Georgia State offensively with 18 points. Marcus Brown added 15 points, Herman Favors 13 points and Malcolm Manier 12 points. Copeland had 16 of his 18 points in the second half with a key basket at 4:40, two free throws at 2:58 and a basket with 2:06 left. Favors scored 12 of his 13 points in the second half as well.

Chris Gash provided a game-

See B-BALL | Page 15



Special | Signal
Brown is still shooting just over fifty percent from three-point land.

Not given any Favors

By RAVEN BECK
rbeck@gsusignal.com

"I just like to play hard. Regardless. I can't stand to lose." With the heart of a champion, and the eye of the tiger, Georgia State basketball player Herman Favors has backed up his love of playing hard with results. Along with his fellow Panthers, and head coach Michael Perry, Herman has helped his team become one of the best in the Southeast, and put them well on their way to an Atlantic Sun Conference Championship. Although the



Special | Signal
Favors has lost his famous sleeves this year, but he hasn't lost the touch.

men's success is a team effort, no one can deny that Favors, 21, has made a healthy contribution. Despite breaking his hand over the Christmas holidays, Herman has continued to make his appearance known on the court, playing with one hand for the 2005 portion of the basketball season.

Born on Feb. 1, 1984, Atlanta native Herman Favors II has spent the greater part of his life on the basketball court. After being

Women take four straight

By MATT SIMMONS
msimmons@gsusignal.com

A team expects their stars to shine brightest in the lime-light, but quite the opposite occurred when the Georgia State Lady Panthers basketball team defeated in-state rival Mercer on Feb. 2 at the GSU Sports Arena in a televised contest.

Atlantic Sun Conference Player of the Week senior guard Patechia Hartman struggled mightily against conference foe Mercer University (7-11, 5-6), scoring only six points in a 64-46 drubbing of the Mercer Bears. Hartman made only one field goal, a two-point basket in the first half, in a dismal 1-of-17 shooting performance. She recorded four points from the charity stripe in the second half.



Special | Signal

Of late, Thomas has played well off the bench.

picked up the slack while Hartman struggled. Junior Monica Thomas provided a spark from the bench scoring 19 points. Thomas dropped four first half three-point field goals carrying the Lady Panthers to a slim 26-22 halftime edge. Senior center April Clyburn showed flashes of dominance in the paint, scoring 15 points and pulling 14 rebounds, 10 boards off the offensive glass. Sophomore Kelcey Roegiers-Jensen chipped in with 13 points and seven rebounds.

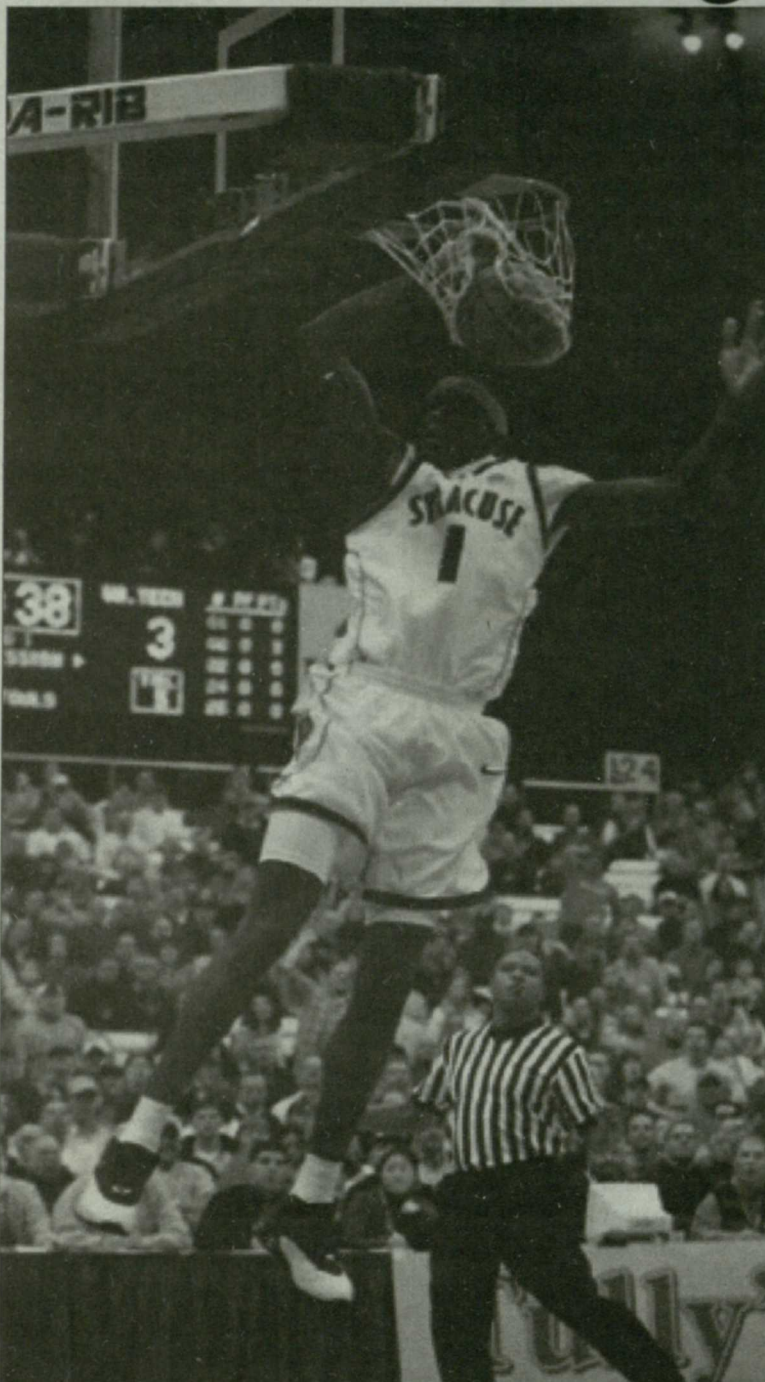
"It's good that our team can win in that situation [when Patechia Hartman is struggling]," said head coach Lea Henry. "I thought our role players stepped up. It showed that when Patechia is having an

See WOMEN | Page 15

See FAVORS | Page 15

Georgia State's role players

Inside College Basketball's top 25



Hakim Warwick has the Orangemen playing some of their best ball since they took home the NCAA championship.

By JOSH MOYNIHAN
jmoynihan@gsusignal.com

College basketball continues to push toward conference tournament time. The separation of teams becomes more apparent by the week. Toss out early rankings because college basketball's for real teams have been taking center stage, while inconsistent teams slip down or off the top 25 rankings.

Some of college basketball's most impressive teams include Illinois, North Carolina, Wake Forest, Kentucky and Syracuse. Illinois, led by their killer trio of Dee Brown, Luther Head and Deron Williams still leads the pack after surviving games against hungry conference foes Wisconsin and Michigan State. The possibility of an undefeated season becomes attainable by the week for the Illini. North Carolina has been demolishing teams ever since their loss to Wake Forest. Tar Heel standouts, Rashad McCants and Sean May have been flat out beating people up with their game. Their latest victims include Virginia and NC State, both double-digit wins. Staying in the ACC, Wake Forest knocked off Duke this week to hand the Blue Devils their second loss in as many weeks.

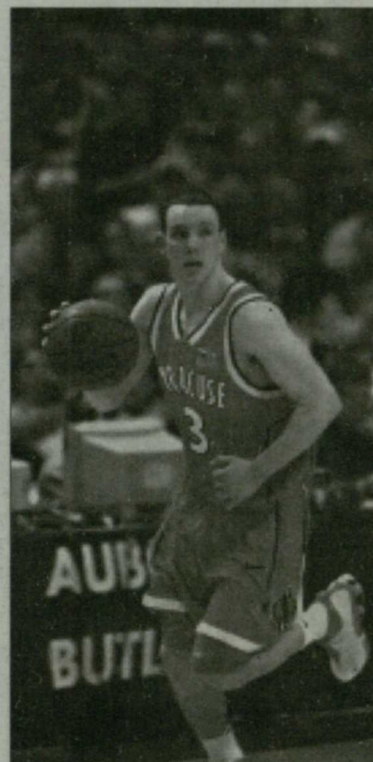
When Player of the Year candidate Chris Paul plays well for Wake's Demon Deacons, they ring an almost unbeatable tone. The recent play of UNC and Wake clearly separates the two at the top of the ACC. Shifting to the SEC, Kentucky continues to lead and holds as the clear favorite. The

Wildcats continue to power through the conference, but the SEC's strength remains questionable. Syracuse appears to be the best team in the Big East, although conference foe Boston College is still undefeated. The superb inside-outside combination of Hakim Warrick and Gerry McNamara makes the Orangemen an extremely difficult team to defend.

Sometimes play in January does not always reflect what may happen in March. While not standing out as one of the best yet, these serious teams could make noise in March. Despite some questionable blemishes on their record, Louisville, Kansas and Duke have all the ingredients to attempt to make that six game run to the national title. The play of these teams depends largely on the play of their starters. Some of the nation's brightest stars fill the lineups of these schools. Francisco Garcia and Taquan Dean hold Louisville's lineup together, super guards Daniel Ewing and J.J. Redick score points at will for Duke, and the terrific trio of Wayne Simeon, Aaron Miles and Keith Langford gives coaches of all caliber nightmares. While susceptible to foul trouble, the talent of these teams' starting five cannot be denied. Stay healthy and get hot in March, and anything is possible.

College basketball has more than just powerhouses though. Some teams have been college basketball enigmas, losing to teams they should not and beating the best of the best. To find such a team, look no further than the city of Atlanta. The Georgia Tech

Yellow Jackets recently beat top 10 Wake Forest, after losing to Virginia Tech at home. The up and down play of the Jackets, partly caused by a lingering injury to last year's leading scorer B.J. Elder, has left voters not knowing where to rank the Ramblin' Wreck. Another team with huge inconsistencies resides in the same conference as the Jackets. The Maryland Terrapins handed Duke their first

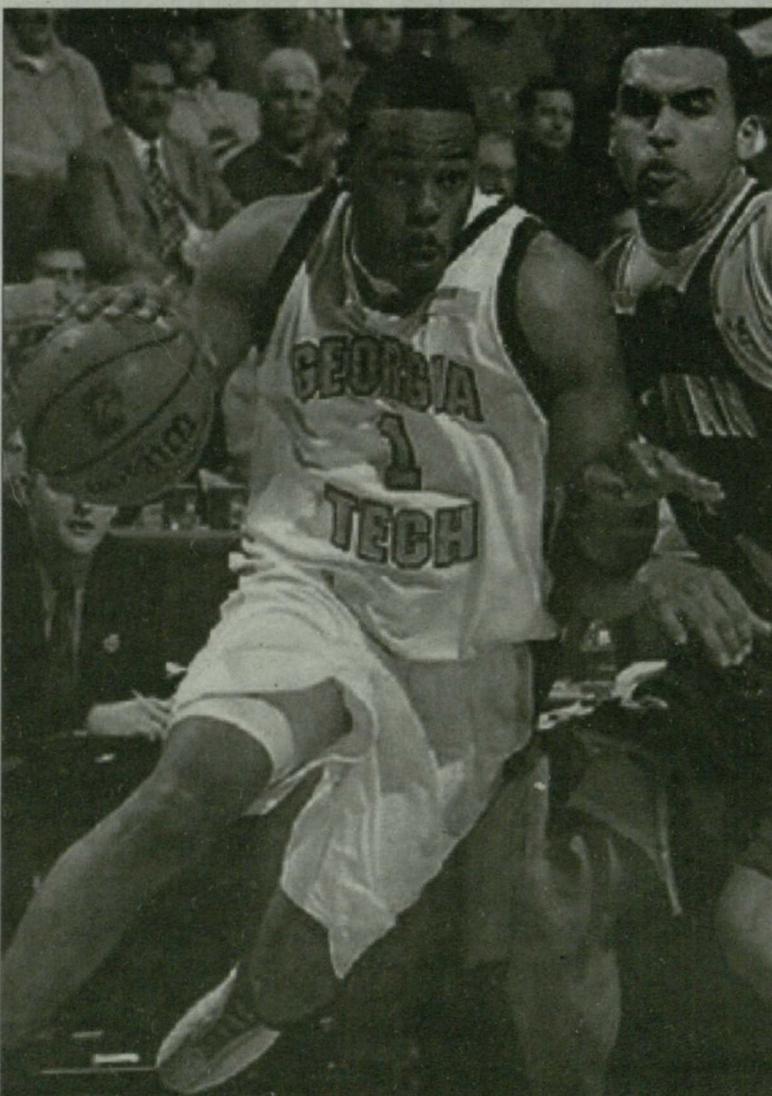


Special | Signal
Carmello Anthony may be long gone, but McNamara hopes to bring another title to Syracuse.

loss of the season last week, thanks to great play from point guard John Gilchrist and super sophomore Nik Caner-Medley, only to lose to Clemson this week. The Terps will have to play more consistently to solidify a spot in the nation's top 25.

Not all inconsistent play happens on the East Coast. The Arizona Wildcats have recently been a headache for Pac-10 fans. All in the same week, the Cats beat then #10 Washington, but lost to unranked Washington State. One reason for their inconsistency may be Arizona's dependency on their outside shooting, led by head 3-point sniper Salim Stoudamire (over 50 percent from behind the arc on the year).

College basketball contains all types of teams. Luckily for some, a team is not measured by what they do in January but rather how they finish in March (or April if they're really lucky). The impressive must continue to solidify their spots to gain a number one or two seed in the NCAA tournament. The teams that still have a shot to be great must decide whether they are in or out of the elite group of the top teams in the nation. Teams that have been up and down all year must right the ship or risk failing to make the 65-team field that comprises the NCAA tournament. Every team will have its path. Let's just hope your favorite team's path leads to St. Louis, the home of this year's NCAA Final Four.



Special | Signal
Elder is partially responsible for Tech's rollercoaster of a season.

Numbers Game

11 Number of games out of the last 13 where Malcolm Manier has finished with double digits in the scoring column.

8 Number of wins during that 13-game span. The Panthers' strongest run of the year.

61 Number of blocked shots for Sylvester Morgan this year. The school record is 62.

32 Patechia Hartman's rank in the nation out of all female basketball players.

1 Number of fieldgoals made by Hartman out of 17 shots in a win against Mercer.

4 Number of consecutive wins for the women's basketball team- their longest streak of the year.

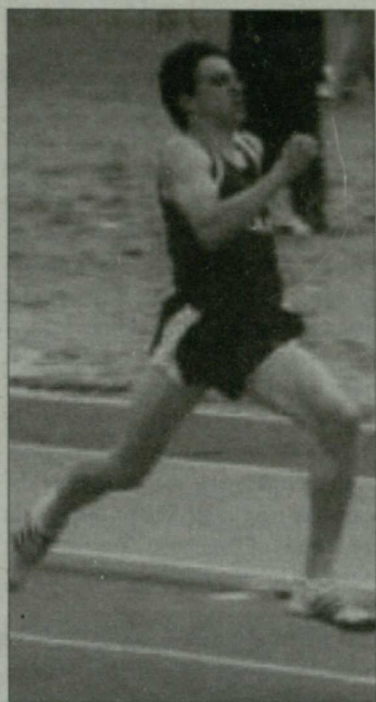
Women's and men's track racing in different directions

By JASON NICHOLS
jnichols@gsusignal.com

The women's track team is doing a great job so far as the mid-season approaches. In each of their four events, they have had someone place in the top 10 in their respective categories. Senior Princess Thomas has been getting better in each of her 400-meter races. She placed ninth in the Clemson Indoor Opener, fourth in the UNC Fast Times, and second in the Rod McCravy Memorial Meet. She also recorded her best individual time of the season at the Rod McCravy Memorial Meet with a time of 56:19 in the 400.

Senior Ashley Taylor is also doing well in the 400, placing first at the Rod McCravy Memorial with a time of 55:91. In the 60-meter events Natasha O' Conner has been very consistent, placing 14th and 11th and then sixth at the

Rod McCravy Memorial Meet. In 60-meter hurdles, Sheriee Willis has placed in the top 10 twice. In the Rod McCravy Memorial, the team dominated the 200 meters. Princess Thomas placed ninth, Ashley Taylor placed third, Natasha O' Conner placed fourth,



Special | Signal
McMaster is one of the few reasons to follow the men's team.

and Ciji Canady placed eighth. Ashley Taylor also came in first in the 400, followed by Princess Thomas who placed second.

While the women have been prolific, the men are struggling even to keep pace. Senior Matt McMaster and Jacob English are the lone bright spots on the team. He placed fifth at the Rod McCravy Memorial and won the mile at the Clemson Indoor Opener. English is doing well in the triple jump, placing 15th at the Niswonger Foundation Invitational and eighth at the Clemson Indoor Invitational. Both teams will compete at the Tyson Invitational this Friday, Feb. 11.



Special | Signal
Taylor is having one of the best seasons in the Atlantic Sun.

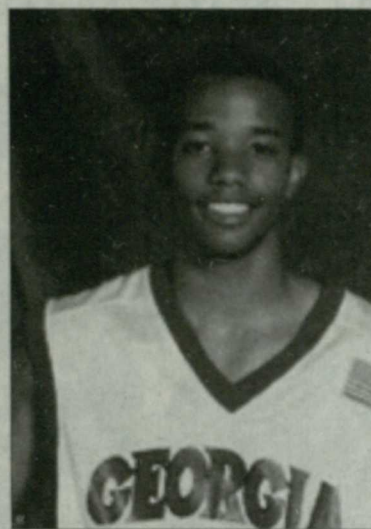
FAVORS from page 13

influenced to play ball by a friend when he was five, Herman latched on to the sport and hasn't let go since. And because of his active personality and tendency for having an excess of energy, Herman's mother Toni, a school teacher, made sure she kept the youngest of her six children busy with sports. "I had so much energy...she always told me that I used to always be in everything, so the best way to keep me out of trouble was to keep me in sports, because I had so much energy in school and everything."

During his teens, Herman made an impressive mark on the athletic department of Pace Academy, where he attended high school. On top of being named the MVP of his basketball team for four years in a row, Herman also scored an impressive 2,424 points during his run as guard. At the end of his high school career Herman's number five jersey was retired, and the four year starter for his team moved on to college level. Although he did not start out as a scholarship athlete at Georgia State due to low SAT

scores, Herman went on to earn a full ride and is currently on the Dean's List.

Herman credits the unfaltering support of his parents (father Otis is a contractor), siblings



Special | Signal
The one-time walk-on from Pace Academy has proved worthy of a scholarship and playing time.

(three brothers and two sisters) and extended family with helping him remain motivated on and off the court. "I come from a very supportive and caring [family]. I am very fortunate to have both of my parents in my life. And my brothers and sisters, they've

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always been there. Everything that I have wanted to get into, anything I have wanted to, they have always supported me. Up until this day. They might not come to all of the games like they used to do because now they have families, but they support me...they try to keep me motivated to be successful."

Herman's close family bonds reach farther than the basketball court. In the Favors' home holidays are seen as an time to get together and have fun. "Our tradition is to play Bingo. We just come together, talk, bring up old stories. And try to win a little money!"

Time can only tell what the future holds for Herman, but things only seem to be getting better for the ambitious business major. Although Herman has plans to enter the NBA, he is not letting his plans stop there. On top of being an aspiring pro player, Herman also plans to dabble in real estate, proving that his future is sure to be big! But regardless of his future plans, Herman remains upbeat. "I just love life! Every day I wake up and thank God for that day and just have fun. Because you never know when life will be taken from you."

ON DECK:

Men's Basketball:

Fri., Feb. 11 vs. Belmont (CSS-TV) @ GSU Arena 7:30 p.m.

Sun., Feb. 13 vs. Lipscomb @ GSU Arena. 2 p.m.

Women's Basketball:

Thu., Feb. 10 vs. UCF @ GSU Arena 6 p.m.

Sat., Feb. 12 vs. Florida Atlantic @ GSU Arena 2 p.m.

Men's Tennis:

Wed., Feb. 9 vs. Mercer @ Macon, Ga. 2 p.m.

Sat., Feb. 12 vs. Campbell @ Ga. State 2 p.m.

Sun., Feb. 13 vs. Gardner-Webb @ Ga. State 9:30 a.m.

Women's Tennis:

Sat., Feb. 12 vs. Campbell @ Ga. State 11 a.m.

Sun., Feb. 13 vs. Gardner-Webb @ Ga. State 9:30 a.m.

Women & Men's Track:

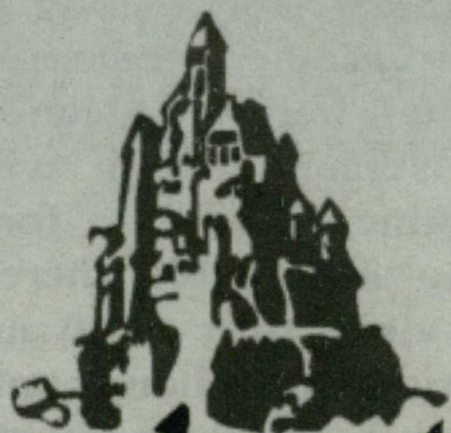
Fri., Feb. 11 @ Tyson Invitational @ Fayetteville, Ark.

Baseball:

Fri., Feb. 11 vs. Georgia Tech @ Atlanta, Ga.

Softball:

Sat. & Sun. Feb. 12 & 13 @ First Pitch Classic @ Panthersville, Ga.



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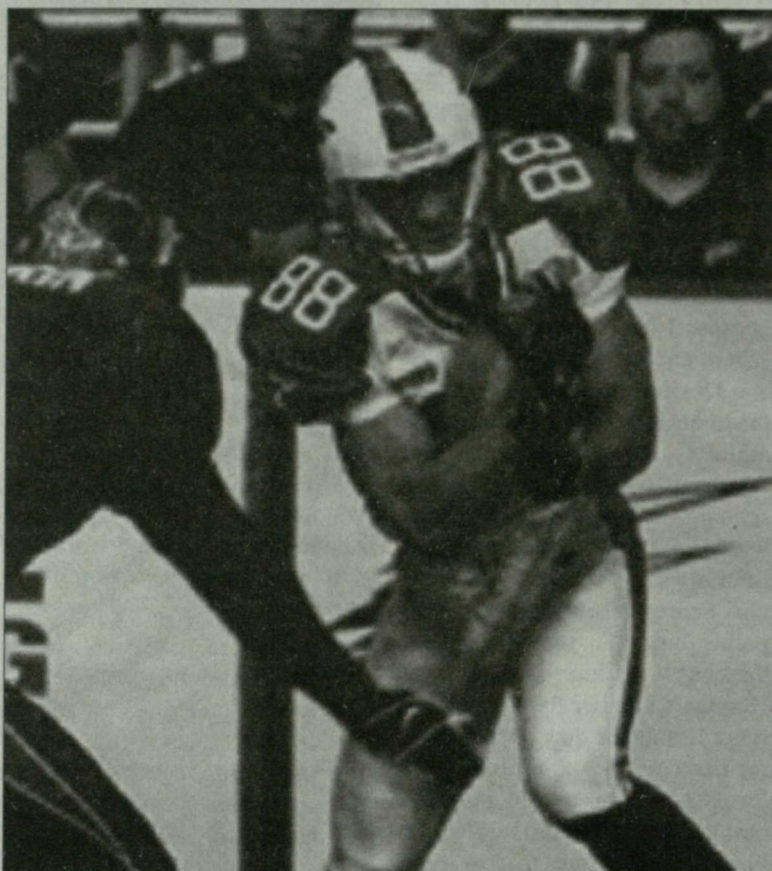
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Georgia Force gives football fans something to watch after January

By BRENT WEIRSON
bweirson@gsusignal.com

So now that the Super Bowl is over and college football has been long gone, what should crazed football fans do to quench their thirsts for violent hits and incredible touchdown passes? Yes, there is an answer, and its name is arena football. No, this is not another version of the XFL — it is a different game that takes what we all love about the NFL and college football and places it in a smaller 50-yard long arena-size field. There are more touchdowns, faster-paced action and violent hits as players are plastered against the sideline wall.

In case you have missed that start of the AFL season amid the NFL playoffs, we have our own team that plays down the street at Philips Arena. They are the Georgia Force, and they squared off against the New Orleans



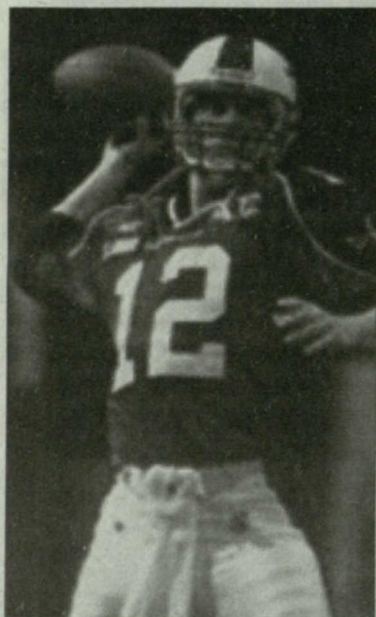
Special | Signal

Burks plays both ways, and he was the defensive player of the game against New Orleans.

that game; however, as he also threw for six touchdown passes and 319 yards. Derek Lee was his favorite target in the game who he hit for a 30-yard pass along with two touchdowns for a total of 120 yards. Neither team rushed well as the Avengers only picked up 14 yards on the ground, and the Force only managed to gain one. It was a tight game, but when the clock struck zero the Force fell five points short of victory 46-41.

Falcons' owner Arthur Blank has consolidated Atlanta's pro football after purchasing the Force. He has made games affordable with tickets going for as little as seven dollars at the box office. There are no bad seats in Phillips, and it should quench your thirst for football until next fall. For those who are lazy or poor, many of the

games are also broadcast on NBC where you can check out action from around the league as well.



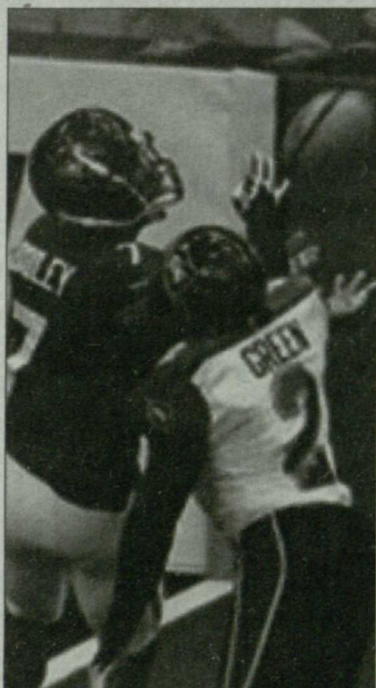
Special | Signal

Kubiak has been a human highlight reel so far this year, but the defense can't seem to keep pace.

Voodoo. The Force had a good showing and squeezed out a tight win, 46-44. Quarterback Jim Kubiak threw five touchdown passes against the Voodoo and hit Troy Bergeron for 116 yards and three touchdowns.

New Orleans' Aaron Bailey gained a total of 120 yards receiving, with two TD's from quarterback Andy Kelly, who finished the night with 356 total yards and six touchdowns. Bailey was picked off only once by wide receiver/linebacker Dialleo Burks.

The Force's second game was on Fox Sports Net late Friday night and stretched into the wee hours of Saturday morning. The Force put up a good showing against Los Angeles' sole pro football franchise, the Avengers, but a few mistakes ended up being costly — namely a fumble on a kickoff return and interception in the end zone by Avengers defensive back Brian Sump on a Kubiak pass. That was Kubiak's only blemish in



Special | Signal

Kelley played well against the Force opening day, but his defense couldn't stave off a late comeback.

B-BALL from page 13

high 20 points and 11 rebounds for the Bulldogs, while Simon Conn and Brian Bender contributed 16 and 15 points, respectively.

Georgia State continued its winning ways on the road by outlasting Campbell, 78-73, at Carter Gymnasium for a sixth win in its past eight games. The win also gave the Panthers their third consecutive win and their fourth consecutive road win.

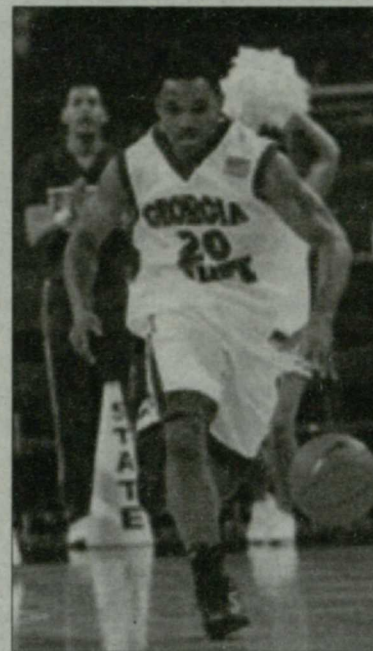
The Panthers experienced the proverbial déjà vu by finding themselves down by 14 points again against the Camels before storming back to take a 39-38 halftime lead.

"We have a lot of character on this ball club," Perry noted. "This group plays through adversity by keeping its composure and responding appropriately. We encourage the guys to play with lots of energy on both ends of the court. Now, we look forward to coming home for a pair of home games."

Brown led Georgia State in scoring by with 18 points, Manier with 16 points and Kevin Thomas with 13. The Panthers also got 22 points off the bench as Tikoyo Barnett scored seven while freshman Deven Dickerson added six points along with six rebounds, two of which came on the offensive glass in the crucial closing minutes of the game. The visiting Panthers shot 53.7 percent from the floor and 12-of-15 (80%) from the line in this

road win.

Campbell had five players in double figures led by Maurice Latham's 16 points. The Camels



Special | Signal

Copeland has played well of late, but he has picked up a few of his points in garbage time.

shot 49 percent and held a 34-26 rebound advantage.

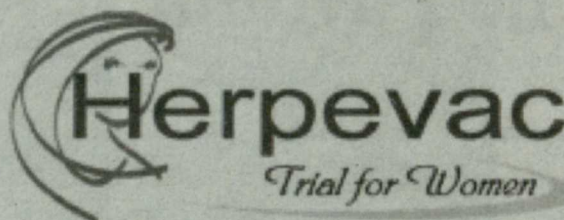
Georgia State will look for a big Homecoming crowd turnout as they attempt to avenge their losses to Belmont and Lipscomb earlier in the year. The Panthers will tipoff against the Bruins on Friday at 7:30 p.m. and finish their Homecoming with a rematch against the Bisons on Sunday at 2:00 p.m.

EMORY HEALTHCARE

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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,
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WOMEN from page 13

off night, we don't get frustrated."

After a tight first half the Lady Panthers demonstrated defensive dominance in the second; the Lady Panthers allowed one early basket to the Bears before reeling off 20 unanswered points. Georgia State cruised on to a vicious 64-46 victory, avenging an early season loss to Mercer. Georgia State's stifling defense held Mercer to 27.6 percent (8-of-29) shooting in the second half.

"The second half was a different intensity. I thought we all played well, denying shots, and we adjusted well to penetration," added Coach Henry. "We wore them down, and it showed in that second half. We were playing very good

defense, but we need to work on extending our pressure with our guards."

The Mercer victory is the third straight for Georgia State University and the third three-game win streak for the Lady Panthers this season.

Georgia State, with an Atlantic Sun record of 7-4 (9-9 overall), is tied with Lipscomb University for second place in the conference. UCF sits in sole possession of first place with a conference record of 9-2.

The Lady Panthers are undefeated in conference play at the GSU Sports Arena, 6-0, with four home games remaining. The Lady Panthers next home game is against league leaders UCF at the Georgia State Sports Arena on Thur. Feb. 10 at 6 p.m.

The Panthers beat Campbell 61-41 on Saturday to extend their win-streak to four.

Hawks could learn from surprising Bulls

By ADAM KROHN
akrohn@gsusignal.com

The members of the Atlanta Hawks are probably scratching their heads at what the Chicago



Special | Signal
James' Cavaliers haven't been able to keep up with the Bulls.

Bulls are doing. After starting the season 0-9, Chicago is now 22-21, after finishing the month of January a league best 13-3, with win streaks of seven and five games. Unlike the Clippers, Hawks and most struggling teams, the Bulls have found a way to be successful with younger players.

Kirk Hinrich, Eddy Curry, Ben Gordon, Luol Deng, Chris Duhan and Tyson Chandler, who have been major contributors to Chicago's recent success, were all born between 1981 and 1985, an average age of 23. At age 40, they have a young coach in Scott Skiles who is only four years older than team captain Antonio Davis. Though these Bulls aren't anything close to the dynasty years when Jordan, Pippen and Jackson ruled the courts, their underdog status makes them an interesting pick to compete in the playoffs this year.

Heading into the weekend, the Bulls were only 3.5 games behind the defending champion Detroit Pistons in the Central division. If the playoffs were to begin today, they would be the sixth seed ahead of Indiana and Philadelphia. Not bad for a team that was picked to finish last in a division with players named Rasheed, Jermaine and LeBron. By playing defense, rebounding and executing an aggressive offensive attack, the Bulls have managed to hold their own in the Central division. Opponents only score 92 PPG against Chicago, which is fifth best in the league. Chicago's 43.31 RPG are also good for fifth best in the league. On the offensive side, Hinrich, who leads the team in scoring and assists, runs the show by creating open shots for Gordon, Dang and Duhon. Hinrich, a sharpshooter himself, has knocked

down big shots all year long.

Taking a closer look at Chicago's personnel moves offers an explanation as to why the Bulls have been able to execute a solid game plan. Hinrich and Gordon both won the national championship in their final years with their respective college teams. Rookies Deng and Duhon are both products of Coach Krzyzewski's Duke University, a program so rich in success that it has cranked out generations of talented players. The 2001 gamble Chicago took on lottery picks Eddie Curry and Tyson Chandler (both out of high school) is finally starting to look like a good move as well, with Curry emerging as an inside scorer and Chandler leading the team in rebounding and blocked shots.

The remaining question is how long can the Bulls keep up with their sudden success? Outside of Davis, the Bulls' starting five have no playoff experience. With hungry veterans such as Reggie Miller, Shaquille O'Neal and Jason Kidd out to prove they can still win a championship, the Bulls appear to be a few years away. Realistically, the Bulls are strong enough as of now to get to the second round of the playoffs at best. However, nine games into the season, they were a next-to-last place team. The fact that the Bulls are coming up in playoff conversations is a testament to how far they have come in such a short time. In the age of salary caps and free agency, this team is young and could stay together for a few years before any significant changes are made. The amount of success the Bulls will enjoy this year remains to be seen, but one thing is for certain: they are better than the Hawks.



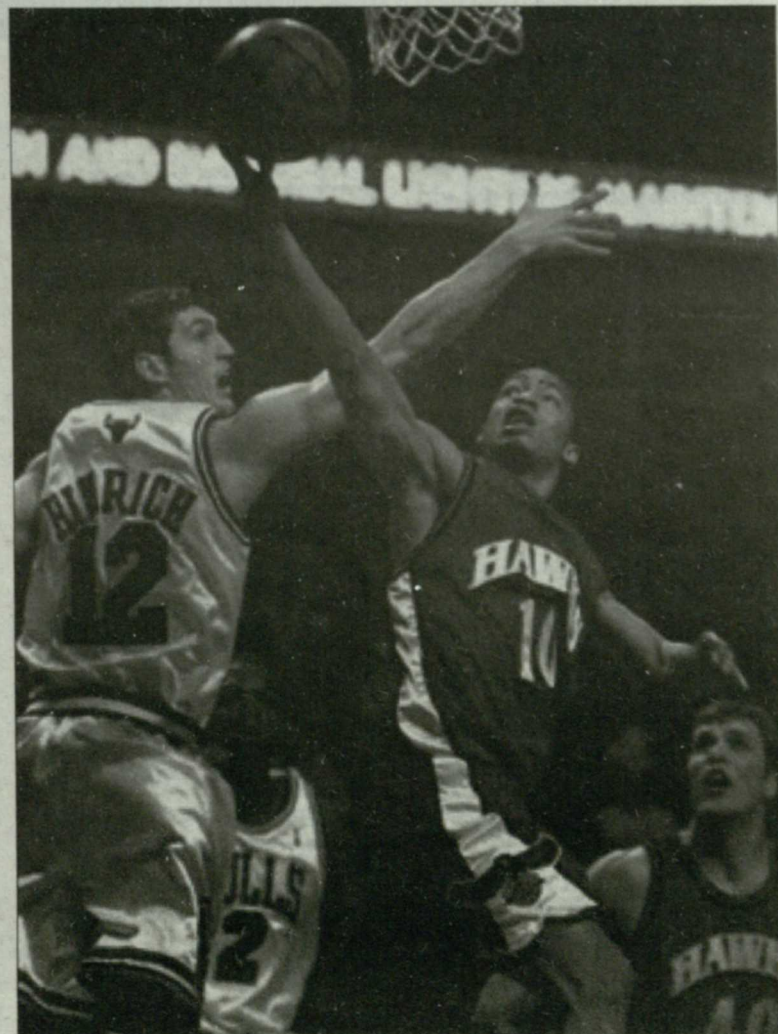
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Special | Signal
The Hawks were massacred when Chicago came to town.

A-Sun Scoreboard

Scores and more from around the conference

Women's Basketball

February 5

Troy d. Belmont, 79-65
Georgia State d. Campbell, 61-41
UCF d. Stetson, 54-49
Florida Atlantic d. Jacksonville, 89-77
Gardner-Webb d. Mercer, 60-58

February 3

#24 Florida State d. Lipscomb, 73-49

February 2

Gardner-Webb d. Campbell, 64-46
UCF d. Florida Atlantic, 61-47
Georgia State d. Mercer, 64-46
Stetson d. Jacksonville, 68-59

February 1

Belmont d. Lipscomb, 80-76

January 29

Mercer d. Campbell, 63-48
Jacksonville d. UCF, 67-59
Florida Atlantic d. Stetson, 67-66
Georgia State d. Gardner-Webb, 72-70

Men's Basketball

February 5

Jacksonville d. Belmont, 93-89
Georgia State d. Campbell, 78-73
Gardner-Webb d. Mercer, 81-72
Stetson d. Lipscomb, 73-71

February 4

UCF d. Troy, 77-73

February 3

Belmont d. Stetson, 70-69
Georgia State d. Gardner-Webb, 70-68
Lipscomb d. Jacksonville, 73-63
Mercer d. Campbell, 83-77

January 31

Belmont d. Florida Atlantic, 103-100
Jack. U. d. Gardner-Webb, 69-58
Mercer d. Troy, 105-101
Stetson d. Campbell, 70-51 U
CF d. Lipscomb, 67-58

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Perspectives



Black History Month



Capitalism and the black

**ERICA MEYERS**
Senior/Journalism
My Superior Opinion
emeyers@gsusignal.com

There is an underlying assumption in American society that the system works for the good of all the people. It is an assumption that racism, sexism and classism are separate from government and that government is neutral. This is terribly erroneous. The dominant ideology of capitalism works against most people in American society, especially minorities and women.

Capitalism promotes competition over cooperation, it promotes individualism over community, and in essence, it promotes the degradation of one person or group in favor of another person or group. This is problematic in two key ways.

First, race is one of the primary ways the dominant culture (i.e. white men) reduces the competition. Second, since blacks are viewed as a community, the success of an individual (the American dream) is seen as a betrayal. The only way capitalism works is if someone is winning and someone is losing. Black people are, as long as they continue to work in a society where they are not the dominant culture, always the losers.

This may make some optimists

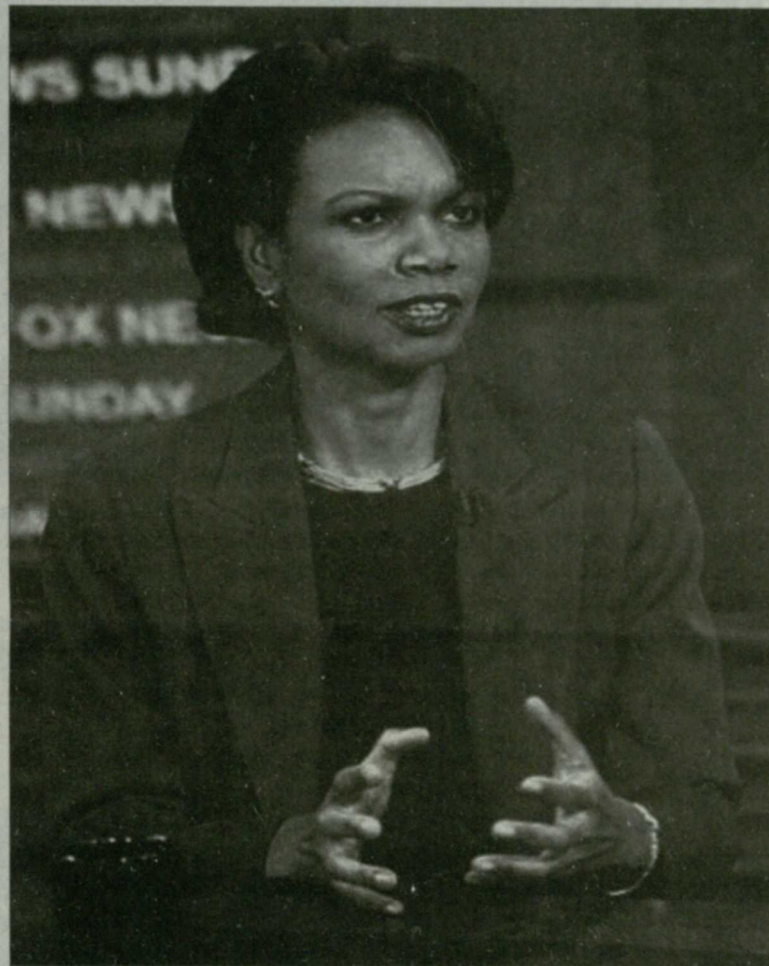
upset, but racism is not dead. Sure, people like Condoleezza Rice hold high positions, but the dominant view of her within the black community is that she is a race-trader. That she turned her back on black people.

Rice is not a race-trader; she is merely seeking the American dream in a capitalist society. She is acting as an individual, and this is problematic to the black community. If you are a member of the black community and you hold any clout and you don't use that clout to bring up other blacks, you are a race-trader. You have forgotten where you came from.

Meanwhile, Rice probably thinks she is leading the way for other blacks to follow, and she is wrong in this, too. In order to maintain power, it is in the dominant culture's interest to allow small victories for the minority groups, lest they revolt. So, especially since she is a woman, and thus nonthreatening, they will let Rice have a high position, and that will shut up the rest of the people who throw the word "racist" around.

Since capitalism feeds individuality, the most successful black people are those who act as individuals, which means the "community" is composed of people who do not have enough clout within their circles to make any significant gains for black people as a whole.

So, what is the problem? The problem is that capitalism is the big hurdle that keeps the majority of

**The dominant view in the black community of Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice is that she turned her back on other black people.**

blacks from being able to "pull themselves up by the bootstraps" because it is designed to ensure that any time that black person picks up his boot-

straps they break. This does not only happen to blacks, it happens to whites and Hispanics and Asians as well, but no other group has as much American

history as blacks and thus, blacks who are not successful are bigger failures than the Hispanics who have not been in the United States as long.

The problem is that as a minority group, blacks are rarely viewed as individuals; the success or failure of the community depends on the actions of everyone. This turns blacks against each other rather than towards each other because blacks are ready and willing to throw stones at blacks who are less successful, commit crimes, get pregnant too early or do not go to college.

The dominant culture has used hegemony to gain the consent of the subordinate groups. Blacks believe that capitalism is good, when in fact it leads to their own destruction.

The next question is: what should be done about this? Since a progressive society moves nowhere if it is at war with itself (even a silent war), it is in the best interests of everyone who has been outcast under the capitalist system and for our leaders (of all races, classes and sexes) to come together and devise a new plan. We have come to the age where Affirmative Action plans and welfare do nothing for the supposed beneficiaries, yet they manage to further divide those people from the dominant group. Further, it is impossible for any fairness to come out of the current system without them. It is time for the thinkers of our generation to think.

Give black men credit

**DOMINIQUE HUFF**
dhuff@gsusignal.com

Erica Meyers wrote a column last week answering this question: Why are black women mad? In the column, she made valid points about the issue and pointed some fingers towards black men. While there are some black men who refuse to be an asset to their families, society and their women, they are only a small few.

This small group is the subject of male-bashing plays at the Atlanta Civic Center, in the media and in conversations among black women. However, credit needs to be given to the black men who work hard and strive to do our best in everything they do.

A more appropriate question should be why are black men mad?

Some black women are always more concerned about a man's material wealth such as cars, clothes and money. These individuals are also the ones who are bitter and hold resentment towards men in general due to petty differences. All too often, a child is in

the middle of this drama.

A part of this problem is lack of self-respect. No man respects a woman who does not respect herself. To quote Goodie Mob with their 1998 song, "Beautiful Skin," "Well, I say you're my, beginning my end/ ... you're my sister, lover, and friend .../ There's no me if there is no you/ I hope, that you understand/ You got to respect yourself before I can."

Despite popular belief, there are black men taking care of their responsibilities. They are taking care of their families, communities

See BLACK MEN | Page 23

Graduation rates: Where does Georgia State rank?

**JENNY PAYNTER**
Journalism/PR
I'm Not Lost, I'm Just Exploring
jpaynter@gsusignal.com

A few weeks ago, the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* reported graduation rates for Georgia's public colleges and universities. The results were a bit disappointing.

Only two public universities out of 10 listed had graduation rates exceeding the national average of 63 percent. In fact, those

are the only two that graduated above 50 percent. And that was based on a six-year graduation plan.

The University of Georgia and Georgia Tech were the two most successful, graduating 71 percent and 69 percent of their students, respectively. Not too bad.

Then I scanned through the remainder of the list. I had to check it twice, but there it was: Georgia State University, 32 percent.

Pretty pitiful. Though when I

See GRADSI | Page 23

The decline of Western cinema

By SARAH DAY
sday@gsusignal.com

I have a theory that movies today have become similar to tabloid journalism. Despite the fact that many tabloid stories might sometimes be fabricated or exaggerated, they still publish those stories because people buy those magazines. The same thing goes for many movies in theatres today.

Although many of us know the conclusion of most romantic comedies, we still go to see them. For example, how many movies can you name off the top of your head that end with two people making up after a fight?

This sometimes involves a suspenseful chase, and then there is a kiss with a pop song playing in the background. I can name a ton of movies that end like that.

So why do they keep making these movies? The answer is: because they make money. I like romantic comedies too, and I find myself enjoying more unconventional romantic comedies like *Garden State* and *The Sweetest Thing*.

However, I recently went to see what pretty much everyone is calling a *good* movie, *Million Dollar Baby*. There was an obvious difference between this movie and others. This film actually had

character development and a real story.

Can you imagine a film that actually has a story and three-dimensional characters? To quote my brother, most movies have holes in the plot that are so big you could drive a truck through them.

I realize there are many elements that go into making a good film, and to actually produce a great film where all those elements come together in the right way is a difficult task. When a studio or a director starts out with a predictable script, or perhaps even

a good script, and morphs it into the banal, we are being cheated as an audience.

Yes, I realize that my complaints will do little to change the infrastructure of Hollywood. So for all of you future filmmakers out there, if you ever get the chance to make something different and innovative, please take it.

In fact, I would rather go see a movie that at least attempts to be different and fails than a movie that has a huge budget and leaves my mind by the time I order dinner half an hour later.



Million Dollar Baby had a good story and three-dimensional characters, as opposed to other films out right now.

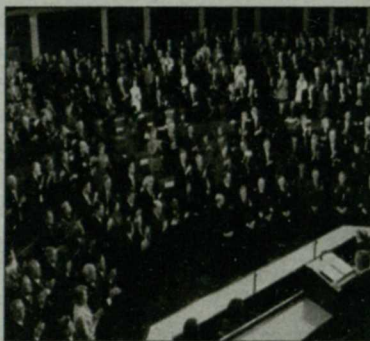
The good, bad and ugly of the State of the Union



JONATHAN SPRINGSTON
Senior/Journalism
Another Freak in the Freak Kingdom
jspringston@gsusignal.edu

After President George Bush delivered his State of the Union Address on Feb. 2, which lasted approximately 53 minutes and was interrupted by applause 68 times, CBS's Bob Schieffer called the address one of the most well-delivered speeches the president has ever given. *Sigh...* Since no one bothered to focus on what the president actually said, I will give you the rundown.

He entered at approximately 9:04 p.m., and the cameras immediately noticed the inked fingers of several congressmen, symbolizing the ink Iraqis used on their fingers to vote on Jan. 30. Later in the speech, Bush lauded the vote's success and pointed out an Iraqi woman in the audience who got a chance to vote 10 years after Saddam Hussein's regime killed her father. Admittedly, this was one of the night's high points.



Special | Signal
President Bush delivered the first State of the Union of his second term.

The president used the first half of his speech to discuss domestic issues. He noted that 2.3 million new jobs have been created, but he did not mention that number has the country breaking even or just gets us on the positive side of job creation. He promised to cut the deficit in half by 2009. If the president wants to make all those tax cuts permanent, then he ought to find another source for the federal income.

Bush wants to create better job training, strengthen community colleges and increase Pell Grants. Increasing Pell Grants is an excellent idea. This will make it easier for more students to go to college. He discussed the No Child Left Behind program and some changes and adjustments he plans to make, but Bush mentioned nothing of increased funding for the program, which is needed for the program's success.

He wants to make health-care more affordable, create medical liability reform and

"protect job creators from junk lawsuits," whatever that means. Talking about affordable health-care and actually giving it to us are completely different. The president's close relationship to pharmaceutical companies makes this goal unrealistic.

While the president wants to develop a more environmentally responsible energy plan, fund leading edge technology to find alternative resources and reduce our independence on foreign oil, Bush did not go nearly far enough. He once again did not ask the American people to sacrifice anything or call for a mass conservation effort. Saving the environment starts with the people and not with this president.

The centerpiece of the president's domestic agenda was Social Security. Basically, he wants to create private accounts so young workers can put their own money aside. Since I have yet to fully grasp the issue, I refer readers to two columns on Social Security in the Jan. 25 issue of *The Signal* for more in-depth information. Also, visit www.factcheck.org to compare Bush's plan with reality.

The second half of the speech was a mix of foreign policy and other smaller domestic plans. While the president never mentioned Osama bin Laden or Saddam Hussein, Bush hinted that Syria and Iran may be next on the U.S. agenda, with warnings to stop supporting terrorists and America stands with the people talk. Bush said Egypt can show the way to democracy in the Middle East, and he wants to bring peace between Israel and Palestine. Good luck.

The foreign policy section amounted to a ridiculous clichéd speech, using freedom, liberty and hope so many times the words lost all meaning. The president used phrases like "the history of liberty" and said how "we will add to that story," how the "force of human freedom" replaced tyranny and fear, and how freedom in Iraq has made America safer. Whatever.

Among the other shameless high-fiving over calling out activist judges, making tax cuts permanent, and supporting an amendment in favor of traditional marriage, Bush did call on supporting the military with the tools they need, helping injured soldiers at all costs so they may recover and fighting terrorists until we win.

Let's hear action and less talk. Bush has until Nov. 2006 when congressional elections may upset the balance in the republican majority. Res Ipsa Loquitur.

Letter to the editor

Dear Mr. Hodges,

I'm gay. I was raised in a Southern Baptist home. I love everyone in my family. My parents have been married for about 34 years now, and I am 27. I talked on the phone to my mom yesterday, to my dad the day before that, my little brother last night, and my older brother two days ago. I have the happiest and most functional family of anyone I know. Both sets of grandparents lived about a mile from my house the whole time they were alive. Both sets had been married to the same people their entire lives and to my knowledge were happy in their marriage.

I just wanted to dispel a few myths before I begin.

Mr. Hodges, the "realm of logic" that you claim to "venture into" is certainly where the crooked man with a crooked house and a crooked dog live. What do ideals, those of a religious nature I assume you mean, have to do with logic? You purport that you are not concerned with utilitarianism, yet you consistently remind us of the masses who would be somehow slighted if gay marriage were allowed. This, Mr. Hodges, is utilitarian thinking. I'm frankly unconcerned with what the masses think.

But I am not arguing from your premises. Let's start there. (Incidentally, for premises, these are slanted and verbose, not typical of "premises.")

1) "Gay marriage not sanctioned causes much strife and turmoil in homo-

sexual relationships in a pragmatic and logistical sense that we could easily solve by legalizing it."—By "pragmatic and logistical" do you mean "legal?" This is unclear and indirect. If you mean "legal," then this statement is true — except for "easily." Nothing is easily solved. "Easily" is a slanted word that doesn't belong in a premise.

2) "Any traditional or spiritual values assigned to the institution of marriage are automatically inferior to logistical and pragmatic values assigned to the same institution." Again, what do traditional or spiritual values have to do with logic? It is through their illogic that they are believed (this is a Christian value). This is what you're not acknowledging: marriage may have been a religious institution, but government has dabbled. Marriage has become as legal, i.e. government regulated, as it has religious. If it weren't a legal matter, those outside religion couldn't marry. We must understand a difference between legal marriage and "holy matrimony." Those who wish holy matrimony can fight their battles somewhere else. I suppose on the altar in front of Mr. Minister. However, there are legal affairs to be discussed that are not associated with the church. To confuse the two, legal and holy marriage, is to use "horrible reasoning."

3) "We could easily cure all the terrible discrimination against homosexual couples by sanctioning gay marriage." What's with this "easily," Mr. Hodges? Nothing's easy. I've never met a homo-

sexual who believes that the answer to stopping discrimination is gay marriage. Are African-Americans discriminated against? Women? Of course, but we have made laws diametrically opposed to such actions. Creating laws that seem to equate people groups does not in fact equate them. Society is slow to change. The problem is that gay marriage bans are being used (consider the case at Druid Hills Country Club) as precedence from which to argue against any equity. So, while these laws would by no means equal level the playing field, they would withhold the legal backing for the discrimination.

If your premises were true, your conclusion would be forgone. Your conclusion, I maintain, is true. But, Mr. Hodges, you have claimed to hold yourself to logic and have created a straw man. These are easily argued premises. The root of your argument is shoddy, so nothing after it can be believed.

I hold with a friend of mine, a Masters of Divinity student at Duke University, a professing evangelical Christian and a chaplain at a home for the mentally ill, who says that the church should be conservative. The state, he continues, should be liberal. The problem is, as I have alluded to earlier, that marriage is perceived as both a government and church institution. If those who have a problem with gay marriage could distinguish the two, the problem would "easily" be solved. Corey Green

True civil servants versus politicians



LINDSEY STEPHENSON

Sophomore/
Political Science

Applicable
Optimism

lstephenson@gsusignal.com

Dear Politicians,

I believe that for a while now you have been making false claims, and it is time to own up to them. When you are asked about your line of work, what do you say? Most of you would probably answer that you are a civil servant. I beg to differ.

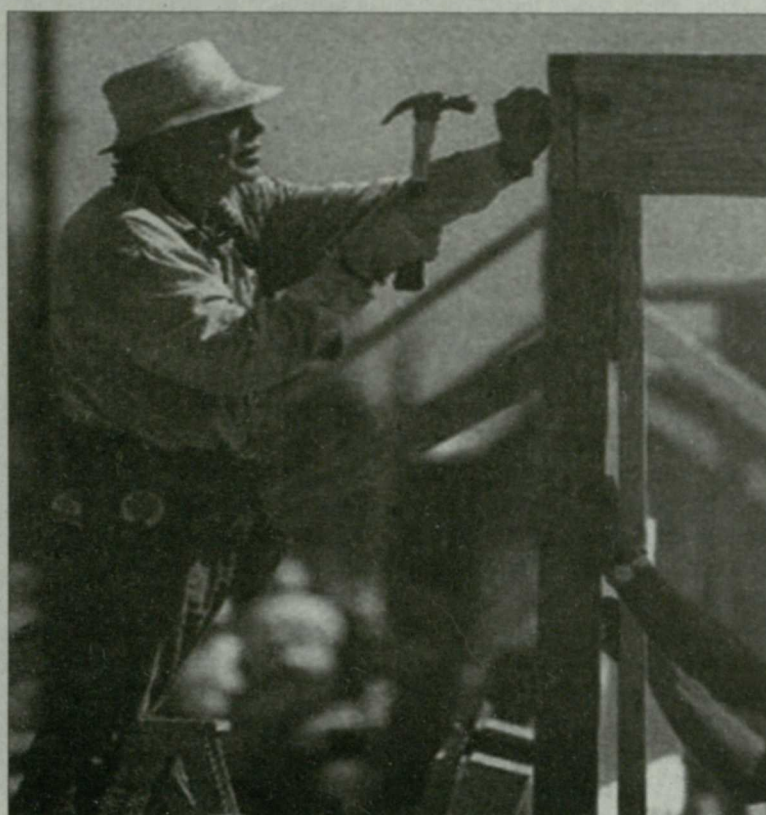
Don't get upset, now, I'm not knockin' all of those excellent little sound bites when you show up at highly-publicized events in your suits and ties, sort of shake hands and wave at everyone then hop into your BMWs and speed off to make it to the country club just in time to change clothes and play a round of golf. I am sure those clips are excellent and just enough for the community to consider you a decent person. But is this really the life of a civil servant?

The greatest civil servant to

have ever lived was Jesus Christ, and not that his status is attainable, but perhaps he could serve as a good model. He did not spend his time recreating and lolly-gagging around. He was always with the people, his constituents if you will. Every day he was teaching them how to live better lives, but in a way that compelled them to follow him mile after mile. He helped the sick and the paralyzed. He fed the tired and the hungry.

How many of you can say that you have done any of these things? It completely baffles me to see you living in excess. A civil servant should be one who humbles himself before others, giving all for the benefit of people who they may or may not even know. The very mindset of your profession should be to continuously sacrifice for the betterment of your community.

I know that many of you got into this business with the best of intentions. What I am asking for is for you to return to your aspirations because they are within reach. Just as Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, you should seek to find ways to serve your constituents.



Special | Signal
Jimmy Carter has dedicated his life after the presidency to helping others by working for Habitat for Humanity.

Whether it is helping with schools, raising money for local building projects, recycling programs, reading at elementary outreach ministries, or whatever else, the possibilities are endless.

Because you are prominent figures, you carry more weight than an average citizen and therefore have a heightened ability to draw attention, funds and volunteers to join in with you. Use your status for something worthwhile.

An excellent example of a politician with a true heart of a servant is former President Jimmy Carter. Even though he no longer has a constituency, he uses his time, money and influence to bless people who are in need. He is continually serving as a diplomat to foreign countries, staying actively involved with Habitat for Humanity, and has made a substantial contribution to human rights with the founding of the Carter Center. No matter what side of the isle you are on, you must admire this man for his servitude.

So I ask of you once more, live up to your claims. Be the civil servants that you have promised to be, and give yourselves a better name. In the words of Saint Augustine, I advise you to "find out how much God has given you and take from it what you need; the remainder is needed by others."

Hey, where's the party?

By **TONYA JONES**

tjones@gsusignal.com

"Hey...Where's the party at!" These seem to be the words spoken by many Georgia State University students this year. Buckhead was once the center of nightlife for many people, young and old. Now, people are left in disarray wondering where to go for fun.

Nicole Vincent, a Georgia State sophomore, described it as a life-changing experience. "I thought Atlanta would never be the same again," she said.

A shootout outside of a Buckhead night club resulted in the death of two men in Nov. 2003. This double murder validated Buckhead residents' and business owners' long-standing concerns of escalating crime and stagnant traffic on weekend nights.

Police statistics show nine people have been killed in this entertainment district since 2000. As a result, last December the Atlanta City Council voted to force bars to close an hour earlier in Buckhead, shifting last call to 2:30 a.m. and closing time to 3.

Nonetheless, Buckhead club owners were determined to continue generating sizeable profits



Special | Signal
Underground is traditionally a place for families, but new clubs and restaurants are slowly attracting late night party seekers.

from late-night club goers.

Club owners moved their businesses to Underground Atlanta on Dec. 31, 2004. Six new clubs and two newly renovated restaurants opened just in time for the New Year's Eve celebrations.

"The thrill is back!" says advocate clubber Nicole Vincent. "I am happy to see that Atlanta had a plan B."

Underground's newest nightlife attractions are centrally located in the heart of downtown

near Georgia State, sports arenas, hotels and other businesses that make it perfect for entertainment.

In addition to the new nightclubs, Underground has more than 100 retailers and restaurants! The new Underground Atlanta businesses include:

The Future, a high-energy house and techno dance club, featuring enormously spacious dance floors.

The Alley Cat, a rock n' roll restaurant and bar featuring live

bands and classic memorabilia.

Latin Sol, a Latin-influenced salsa club containing the largest wooden dance floors in Atlanta.

Island Oasis, Underground's premier sports bar.

Charlie Brown's Cabernet, a unique bar with live Las Vegas female-impersonator style shows.

Koko's Latin Restaurant and Bar, a breezy Caribbean style restaurant and karaoke bar.

Jamaica Jamaica, a restaurant bar with live reggae music.

Irish Bred, an Irish restaurant bar that's great for drinks after a long school or work day.

These clubs are all located in the party district of Underground Atlanta better known as Kenny's Alley. It is the only place in Atlanta where you can go from bar to bar with your drink in hand and party your pants off until four in the morning.

"In the last few years, there has been \$300 million of public and private investments made to the Central Business District area, with another \$1 billion to follow," said Dan O'Leary, Underground management partner. "We know that Underground is contributing to that, and so are the many club owners now involved in the development of

the property."

Atlanta is one of the fastest growing cities in America. Over 3,000 new residents migrate to Atlanta everyday. Also, nearly six million visitors visit annually.

Many tourists come to Atlanta to see for themselves what the hype is about. Atlanta is the home of Def Jam Records, Coca Cola, Home Depot, Turner Broadcasting and many other nationally recognized companies.

People all over the country



Special | Signal
Odd attractions like this can currently be seen at Underground Atlanta.

refer to Atlanta as "Hot Atlanta," home of the "Dirty South." Many entertainers from Atlanta are nationally recognized. As a result, Hot Atlanta must offer a large variety of entertainment spots for these late niters and their fans.

The climate scare is an irritating distraction



NICK MEIS
Junior/English

To the Right
of Rush

ameis@gsusignal.com

This past weekend, a three-day conference of climatology scientists and policy makers concluded with a plea to the United States to curb its emissions of greenhouse gasses or we "could be facing Armageddon." Margaret Beckett, the environmental minister to the British Parliament, urged Washington to become more involved with the mission to lessen the impact of global warming "before it's too late."

The scientists from 30 nations who attended the meeting were somewhat less hysterical than Minister Beckett, saying that there is need for concern and it would be prudent to limit emissions. However, they were quick to point out that they do not yet know what constitutes a "danger-

ous" level of warming and preferred to stay away from policy-making. Once again, the environmental activists are subjecting the public to their fear-mongering tactics, blaming the good ol' USA for the ills of the world and causing mayhem when we do not buy into their wild accusations.

The outrageous rants that come from the supposedly educated and refined people in the environmental movement are dangerous. Their rhetoric is similar to the witch-hunts in Europe during the 16th century and could have comparable casualties. Back then, the educated elites believed that certain people had made contracts with the devil, that witches gathered to perform horrific rites and that they flew across the sky at night. Based on these beliefs, these elites tortured and killed between 50,000 and 60,000 of their own countrymen, mostly old women. They imprisoned children until they reached adulthood because they thought it unseemly to burn them when young.

The point is this: no matter how many people believe the things they are being told by the intelligentsia are true, it ain't necessarily so. No matter how many years a belief is held, it might still be wrong. It might be very wrong. Wonder what the 60,000 in Europe thought about the theory?

Another example, one that is more contemporary, was a train of thought that infected American society in the early 20th century. It revolved around a new scientific theory that warned of imminent crisis if not acted upon by the governments of the world and every individual. Supporters included Theodore Roosevelt, Alexander Graham Bell, H. G. Wells and hundreds of others. The Carnegie and Rockefeller Foundations funded research of the theory. Institutions such as Harvard, Yale, Princeton and Johns Hopkins conducted the research. State governments all across the country passed legislation to address this crisis. We know

today that this theory that gained so much support was actually pseudoscience. The theory was eugenics and the country is still dealing with the fallout from it.

I believe we are witnessing a train of thought similar to the eugenics craze and the early European witch-hunts. The scientists conducting their climate research are being used by people who want to destroy this country and to take control of the capitalistic economy. The findings of the climate research show a measurable level of impact on the environment allegedly caused by human activity. However, that level is much lower than their models had predicted and they still do not know what effect, if any, those levels will have on the environment in the future.

From the literature I have read (I have a list if anybody is interested), the average global temperature will go up due to human activity about 0.8 degrees Celsius by the year 2100. If true, why would that cause such panic? A report released last

week from a group of "international experts" claims that their models show an increase of 11 degrees C within 20 years! My pet peeve is: where's the data?

All right, enough of the rant. I believe that we need a new environmental movement. Since the movement started in earnest 35 years ago, science has undergone a major revolution; new understanding of non-linear dynamics, complex systems modeling, chaos theory and catastrophe theory have all contributed to the way we think about the environment. Yet, these ideas have hardly changed the 1970 circa rhetoric coming from the environmental activists. We need a new way to think about the world around us. Put people out in field to measure what we can only guess at now. Computer models of complex, dynamic systems are useless without hard data that can only be collected in the field. Litigation is useless when considering the management of a complex system like the environment.

Contraception: a weapon in the class struggle



VICTOR SPOONER
Senior/Accounting

Raised
By
Wolves

vspooner@gsusignal.com

In 1960, Margaret Sanger, the founder of Planned Parenthood, vowed that she would leave the United States forever if that well-known defender of reactionary conservatism, John F. Kennedy, were ever elected to the presidency. Margaret was a fervent Marxist, a radical feminist, and, despite comical denials posted on Planned Parenthood's website, a rabid eugenicist. According to her New York Times obituary, dated Sept. 7, 1966, Sanger specifically recommended the practice of birth control to prevent procreation among those of the poor prone to producing heritably 'subnormal' children. In the early years of the 20th Century, the masthead of her feminist-socialist magazine, *The Woman Rebel*, defiantly proclaimed "No Gods! No Masters!" to its readership.

Fewer than 100 years ago, urban women still regularly succumbed to disease and died young, especially if they were poor and had repeatedly endured the physical hardships of pregnancy. In fact, Margaret's own mother had died of tuberculosis, at 48, after bearing 11 children in rapid succession.

Legend has it that it was her mother's death, coupled with her experience as a maternity nurse among the indigent, which finally convinced her to crusade for legalization of birth control. But Sanger was no mere social worker, and that particular legend omits much more than it describes.

Sanger actually coined the phrase "birth control," and she opened the nation's first birth control clinic, circa 1916. Margaret also politicized her push for legalized contraception by founding the National Birth Control League in 1921, and, later, she presided over the founding of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America. Her activism put her directly at odds with law-enforcement officials and the Catholic Church, but little discussed is the actual extent to which her early Marxism guided much of what she achieved. Her good friends included ultra-radicals like John Reed and Emma Goldman, and the truth is that Margaret's feminism, and her support for eugenic 'sexual science,' were both simply part-and-parcel of her own unique Marxist vision. Humanitarianism had little to do with what motivated Maggie Sanger.

Simply consider Sanger's horrific contradictions. For Margaret and her generation of radicals, the success of the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution in Russia largely validated Marx's promise of a pending new world order. As a proponent of

birth control, Sanger certainly sought to remedy specific health threats impacting the lives of poor women, but as a Marxist committee member of the New York Socialist Party, she also certainly anticipated the day when poor workers would be expected to rise up, kill off significant numbers of men, women and children within the American middle class, and fully seize the nation's political and productive powers in efforts to establish a communist workers' utopia. Although her own Socialist tenets likely were a bit less militant than those of many of her comrades, she accepted that such bloodshed would be required.

A political pundit recently quipped that a separate, leftist faction emerges from each and every progressive activist sporting an outsized ego. The same sort of factionalism splintered alliances among the headstrong Marxists of Sanger's era, and Margaret had her own very definite ideas about how best to run a revolution. Unlike Marx, Sanger blamed the poor for their own misery, and her hybrid views led her to sharply criticize Marx's monomaniacal obsession with economic determinants. She did not believe that the revolution's replacement of one economic system for another would miraculously transmute degraded humanity into collectivist supermen. "In pointing out the limitations and fallacies of the orthodox Marxian opinion," Sanger penned, in *The*

Pivot of Civilization, "my purpose is not to depreciate the efforts of Socialists aiming to create a new society, but...unless sexual science is incorporated...and the pivotal importance of birth control is recognized in any program of reconstruction, all efforts to create a new world and a new civilization are foredoomed to failure." Aspects of social Darwinism loomed large in the world of ideas at that time, and, for Sanger, eugenic breeding techniques were the key to molding model citizens.

Painfully aware that the miserable poor surrounding her were hardly the makings of a future political vanguard, Sanger sought to improve their revolutionary fitness by encouraging smaller families, selective breeding, and, of course, elimination of births among those deemed to be lowly intelligent. Because Marxists fundamentally believed that children were the property of society (and not that of their parents), Margaret felt fully justified in demanding that poor families begin eugenically manipulating their own procreation and that governments also mandate it. American communists eventually accreted the belief that it was counterrevolutionary to sire too many kids. Children, especially 'defective' ones, interfered with one's ability to adequately support the party.

Like all Marxist agitators, Sanger exploited the bourgeoisie to

benefit her cause. All non-Marxists were viewed as expendable non-persons to be cynically milked for whatever they might provide. Wealthy women who supported Sanger organized their own social circles to provide funding and political influence, but, as Margaret and her colleagues knew, such heartfelt support would not ultimately spare them the tumbrel's ride directly to the revolution's gallows.

It was not out of compassion for women that Sanger did what she did. Her work was aimed at benefiting only a particular class of women, and it assisted a political ideology that, at last worldwide count, was shown to have deliberately murdered nearly 100 million people. Her activities were part of a broad radical agenda calculated to upset the political, religious and social orders of the day, and, collectively, all were intended to hasten the expected collapse of bourgeois America.

Pol Pot, to take but one example, eventually achieved in Cambodia what Sanger and her Marxist friends apparently longed for in America, i.e., the deliberate extermination of millions to jumpstart a hideous revolution. Public awareness of those psychopathic hopes should suffice to bar Ms. Sanger from receiving any further posthumous accolades... that is, except from those in our midst who still believe as she once did.

Not all black men are bad

Black Men from page 19

and even their children (for those who have them). They strive to treat women like queens even when treated like second-class citizens.

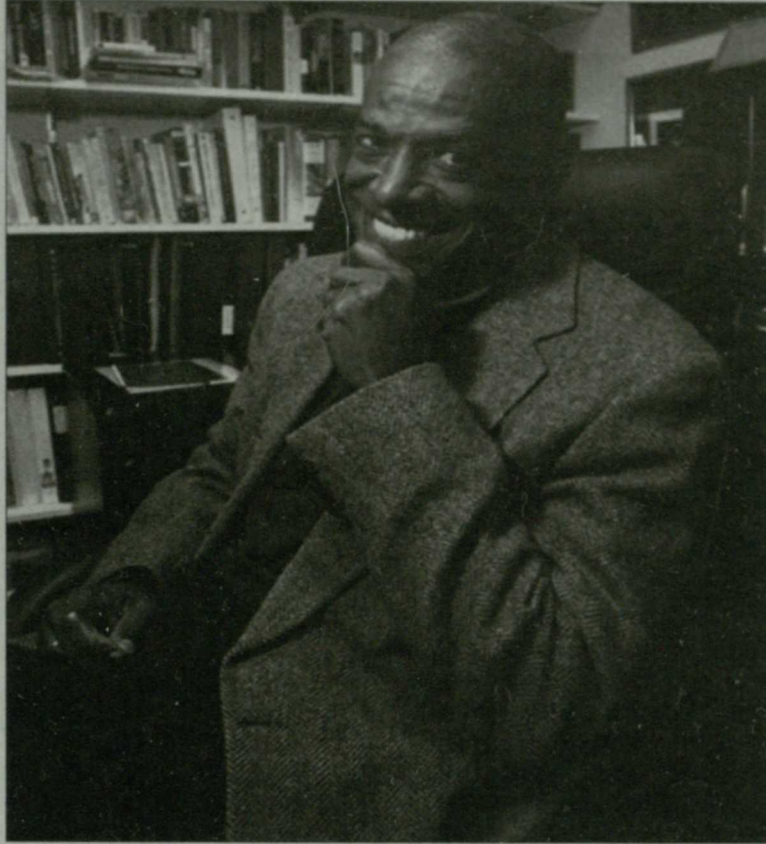
Some women take random kindness — opening doors, making small conversation and being nice — as trying to get into their pants. Ladies, not every man you will meet wants to be with you or sleep with you. There is such a thing as having friends of the opposite sex.

Even with the negative press and perception, black men are stepping up to the plate. They are found in the operating room, the boardroom, the kitchen, in the classroom and several other places engaged in positive activities.

Not all of them are in jail (or even have a criminal record), on the streets and sitting back doing nothing. Look at how many black men are in high positions and excelling in them.

Black men do not owe an apology for being men and for standing up for their convictions. Likewise, we do not expect an apology from for being women who stand up for their convictions.

Nevertheless, black women need to give black men credit. How



Special | *Signal*
Many black men in America are doing quite well, engaging in positive activities and working important jobs.

many times does one hear a song on the radio that insults men? How often do black women sing these songs?

Even though these songs are entertainment, they still convey messages. Just as the skin and booty shown in rap videos

offends black women, the male-bashing in these songs offends black men.

Some black women continue to ask where the real men are. Black men, we need to ask them to show us where the real women are.

Georgia State lagging behind

Grads from page 19

brought up this topic to those around me, I heard some convincing arguments for why our graduation rate is low.

It is common and accepted knowledge by now that a so-called "four-year" degree can quite often take longer than four years to complete. It is also widely acceptable now to switch majors once or twice (or more in my case) in the midst of a college career, possibly causing a student to attend for more than six years.

Another reason might be that Georgia State is a commuter school. We have housing, but the majority of students do not live on campus. Students who are paying their way through school by working at least part time often attend commuter schools, which could extend their stay.

Also, because we are located in a metropolitan area, we attract many students who may only wish to take a few classes here and there, not necessarily wanting to earn a degree.

All of the logic in the world cannot erase the disappointing sound of that figure: 32 percent. No matter what spin you put on it,

the fact that only one-third of the students at Georgia State graduate within six years is pretty sad.

The fact that only two of the Georgia universities listed had a rate of over 50 percent is bad enough, but then, Georgia's public education is not typically a stunner, no matter what the capacity. Last year, we finally moved up from 50th to 49th place in SAT scores.

The article gave a few insights into what might cause some schools graduate less students than others. One was academic difficulty. Out of all of those schools listed, the University of Georgia and Georgia Tech are the most selective and have the "strongest" curriculums. Put plainly, the harder the school, the more people will graduate.

It may also be worth mentioning that private schools were listed in the article as well and that Emory University by far has the highest graduation rate at 90.9 percent. Though I dare say, if you have that much money invested in tuition, the urge to graduate in a timely manner might be a bit stronger.

So basically, if a person feels there is something to lose if grad-

uation is not attained (such as a large sum of money or perhaps an academic scholarship), there is a greater likelihood that person will graduate in a reasonable amount of time. But are these the only factors? What about those students who just cannot decide what they want to do?

The article gives examples of two schools whose graduation rates were improved by implementing a better academic advisement system. It says Georgia State is beginning to implement a similar system, and in my mind, this is one of the most important things our school could do to help encourage graduation.

It seems impossible, maybe because Georgia State is such a large school, to get the attention that we need when planning for our futures. Truth be told, there is a wealth of information of what can be found at Georgia State. The trouble is finding the information.

Advisement isn't the only area lacking at Georgia State, but I think a better system could make all of the difference in the world.

Who knows, it might even help some of us stay with one major long enough to finally graduate.

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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CONTACTS:

Brian Green
Advertising Manager
bgreen@gsusignal.com
404-651-3623

Advertising Staff
404-651-3622

Signal Staff

Editor in Chief

Erica Meyers
emeyers@gsusignal.com
404-463-9329

Managing Editor

Matt Cochran
mcochran@gsusignal.com
404-463-9330

Senior Editor

Nick Meis
nmeis@gsusignal.com

News Editor

Rhonda Barnett
rbarnett@gsusignal.com
404-463-9328

Associate News Editor

Jess Toothman
jtoothman@gsusignal.com

Features Editor

Candice Morrow
cmorrow@gsusignal.com

Sports Editor

Bobby McMillin
bmcmillin@gsusignal.com
404-463-9327

Associate Sports Editors

DJ Kunovac
dkunovac@gsusignal.com
Matt Simmons
msimmons@gsusignal.com

Perspectives Editor

Jonathan Springston
jspringston@gsusignal.com
404-463-9331

Associate Perspectives Editors

Dominique Huff
dhuff@gsusignal.com
Lindsey Stephenson
lstephenson@gsusignal.com

Copy Editors

Candace Ellis
cellis@gsusignal.com
Suzanne Pharr
spharr@gsusignal.com

Photography Editor

Brandon Wiggins
bwiggins@gsusignal.com
404-463-9332

Web Director

Jianwei Zhuang
jzhuang@gsusignal.com

Production Manager

Kyla Evans
kevans@gsusignal.com

Distribution Team

Dominique Huff

Office Managers

Alana Simpson
KB

Office Fax

404-651-2242
404-651-1045



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PANTHER POLL:

Q: WHAT IS YOUR IMPRESSION OF THE IRAQI ELECTIONS?



Shin Cho
Freshman

"I have no idea."



Dan
Freshman

"I thought they were a good thing."



Jay Allen
Visitor

"We should let them handle their own business, we have enough problems here."



Chelsea Hunt
Junior

"I think they are going to hopefully turn out for the best."



Prasanna Chakravarthy
Senior Grad Student

"It's good for them coming out of dictatorship into democracy."



Anup Sudhendranodh
Grad Student

"Democracy is good. It's the first step toward democracy."

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK...

SHOULD WOMEN BE WARNED OF POTENTIAL ABORTION DANGERS PRIOR TO RECEIVING AN ABORTION?