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Former Bagwell dean arrested, tenders resignation

KELLY BLAINE
STAFF WRITER

Former Bagwell College of Education dean, Dr. Yiping Wan, officially resigned Dec. 31 after the Georgia Bureau of Investigation charged him with stealing funds from KSU.

Wan, 53, turned himself in to the Cobb County jail Nov. 27 on a felony theft charge and was later released on \$5,000 bond. Police say Wan allegedly requested that a travel agency intentionally overcharge KSU by \$2,710 for airline tickets. According to police, Wan received the difference back in a check and deposited it into his personal account. Wan's attorneys have denied any criminal wrongdoing and the investigation is ongoing.

This incident is one of many investigations involving the former dean. Wan's troubles began in Dec. 2006 when faculty accused him of discrimination and misconduct. Although an internal investigation did not find any evidence of discrimination, they reported "certain irregular business practices" and

"low morale among faculty members" within Wan's department.

On Feb. 8, 2007 the review panel reported that Wan misused state resources, could not account for thousands of dollars in expenses, and had funneled money into a consulting company owned by his wife and housed at their residence in Roswell. Soon thereafter Wan was ousted as dean and in Aug. 2007, President Dan Papp asked Wan to resign but was refused.

On Sept. 18 the KSU began the long process required to fire Wan; however, this process was complicated by Wan's status as a tenured professor.

Throughout the investigations Wan remained on the university's payroll as Professor of Educational Administration, earning a \$100,402 salary. That ended in November when Wan changed his mind and agreed to resign.

In a Nov. 15 email sent to faculty and staff, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Lendley Black stated that Wan had tendered his resignation from the university effective Dec. 31, 2007 and his resignation had been formally accepted.



Parking lots **FULL** as semester begins

Both the east and west parking decks were full on Monday, January 14, as the spring semester gets under way. "It's definitely worse than last year," said sophomore Adam Simrell. "That's for sure!"

Photos by Carl Zornes

KSU to celebrate Black History long past February

MASHAUN D SIMON
STAFF WRITER

Each year, KSU's Black History and Martin Luther King, Jr. observances are designed to educate, celebrate and enlighten.

While this year is no different, Nicole Phillips, assistant director of KSU's Minority Student Retention Services, expects that this year's celebration will also motivate attendees and revive something she believes has been lost: driven activism.

Phillips believes we are living in an age of complacency.



Nicole Phillips

She hopes that this year's Black History programming will spark KSU's student body to be more

activist-minded.

The annual MLK observance, taking place Jan. 21, will kick-off the school's semester-long Black History celebration.

Carlton Ridenhouer, better known to most as Chuck D, the founder of the rap group Public Enemy will serve as the 2008 keynote speaker.

"[Chuck D] comes to us as a highly recommended MLK speaker by the Keppler Speaker's Bureau," said Phillips. "(He) is also highly regarded as an activist, author, and artist."

Having Chuck D this year is a risky deviation from speakers

usually invited to participate. Normally, according to Phillips, they invite speakers who have survived something. Chuck D fits the mold because he, along with past speakers, has done something monumental.

"We are excited to have him. He comes from an era when Hip Hop was serious and the lyrics were laced with activism and consciousness," said Phillips, who was a teenager at the time of Public Enemy. "We believe he is a strong voice of activism that all people can connect with."

Immediately following the MLK event, the second annual

MLK March will take place.

"KSU registered student organizations have been invited to join in exercising their commitment to diversity at KSU, while honoring one of this nation's greatest leaders," said Phillips.

Continuing the semester-long Black History observance and celebration shows KSU's commitment to diversity, said Phillips. She believes that one group's history is everyone's history; which is why it is important, and always has been a priority, to extend Black History past February.

"The intention is to honor

the legacy and struggles of the civil rights movement as well as to showcase Kennesaw State University's commitment to establishing a campus environment that is acceptant and tolerant of diversity."

With the theme, "Remembering Our Heritage & Our Strength to Push Forward," Phillips believes they will do just that.

For more information on the annual MLK observance and the semester-long Black History programming, visit kennesaw.edu/stu_dev/mhrs/celebration_calendar.shtml.

SACS Commission re-affirms university's accreditation

KSU degrees guaranteed for another ten years

CASEY CHILDERS
STAFF WRITER

President Dan Papp announced Dec. 11 that the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools re-affirmed KSU's accreditation for the next ten years. The accreditation was announced during the SACS' annual meeting in New Orleans.

"This is wonderful news for the students, faculty, staff and administrators of Kennesaw State University," Papp said.

"This re-affirmation of our accreditation formally documents and verifies that KSU meets the high aca-

ademic and operation standards set forth by SACS, which allow us to provide our students with a first-class learning environment."

A large portion of the re-affirmation process is the institution's Quality Enhancement Plan. KSU's QEP is entitled the "Global Learning for Engaged Citizenship" initiative. This plan focuses on the increase of opportunities for global-learning experiences for students, faculty, staff and administrators.

According to the school's website, the QEP plan will be implemented from 2007 to 2012. It explains that, "Over the next five years, there will be a focus on providing more visibility to

KSU's current global learning opportunities and increasing opportunities for students, faculty, staff and administrators. The 'Get Global' and QEP initiatives

This... verifies that KSU meets the high academic and operation standards set forth by SACS

support KSU's 2007-2012 strategic plan of "preparing students to be leaders and creating a campus culture

that assures an appreciation of diversity."

Some of the QEP's objectives include the enhancement of students' knowledge of different cultures and nations, increasing skills in communication, diversity and creating more career options.

The website explains that KSU will base its success on the accomplishment of a set of goals that support the plan's overall purpose. The goals are categorized by the tracking of progress, expanding opportunities and expanding participation.

Future plans for the QEP initiative include implementing a global-learning certification program and increasing financial support for the study-abroad activities.

Kennesaw receives \$17,900 grant for highway safety

JORDAN WARD
STAFF WRITER

KSU received a \$17,900 grant from the Georgia Governor's Office of Highway Safety on Dec. 20. The grant, scheduled to run until Sept. 30, 2008, will focus on keeping students safe on Georgia's highways by raising awareness campaigns and making the high-risk student groups more educated on awareness.

The grant is initiated through the GOHS and applied by the Georgia Young Adult Program. The GYAP is a peer-educating plan to decrease the fatalities of drivers from 18 to 24 years old, for whom car crashes are the number one cause of death. From 2003 to 2005 this age group accounted for 38 percent of all car accidents, fatalities

and injuries in Cobb County. This number of fatalities increased 22 percent during this period as well.

KSU plans to use this grant in order to train student peer educators to educate students on the importance of seat-belt use, to warn about the dangers of drinking and driving, and to promote the prevention of impaired drivers.

"At Kennesaw State, the emphasis will be upon social norming of healthy, positive behaviors that will reduce the risk of death or injury from car crashes on our highways," said Sherry Grable, the Director of the Center for Health Promotion and Wellness. "For example, instead of saying that a certain percentage of students are drinking and driving, we will

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promote the majority who are not."

KSU will eventually create an outreach program for future college students through programs in local high schools. This is planned to take place later in 2008.

According to Grable, posters and banners will be placed at strategic locations around campus to get positive messages to students. Postcards will also be mailed out at certain times of the year to types of high-risk students, such as first year students, and around Spring Break and St. Patrick's Day.

This grant will also allow students to access websites to raise more awareness.

Mystudentbody.com is a website devoted to educating college students on the dangers of drinking and driving. This site has a confidential risk evaluation where students can rate themselves based on whether or not they feel their drinking habits are deadly. The site is also beneficial for students looking for research-based articles, tools, or strategies to help manage college life.

This will be the second grant on highway safety the GOHS has given. Professor Alan LeBaron is currently using a \$47,000 grant from GOHS to educate the Hispanic population on highway safety.

"As an RAI believe this is a great opportunity for students

to become more aware of the dangers of alcohol and alcohol poisoning," said Sophomore Zachary Heine. "I hope this will discourage students from binge drinking and making decisions that could affect their future."

The GOHS goal is to educate everyone on the road about drinking and driving and also keeping others safe, including police officers. In 2003, a new law was introduced called the Move-over Law. This law requires all drivers to slow down below the speed limit while changing lanes. The Move-over Law was implemented in 2003 to prevent harm to police officers on the road.

KSU is awarded top honors for customer service and is named "Customer Service Institution of the Year"

CASEY CHILDERS
STAFF WRITER

The University System of Georgia has recognized KSU for its campus-wide commitment to customer service. Cited for excellence in initiative and leadership, the Board of Regents presented KSU with top honors at the Nov. 15 meeting in Atlanta.

With the first customer service awards ever given by USG, KSU has shown "the highest commitment, the highest performances and the most improvement in customer service across the organization over the last year," a Board of Regents spokesperson said.

The school was presented with two other top "gold" customer service awards. The Michael J. Coles College of Business was awarded for its "Customer Service Improvement Initiative." Richard Franza, chair of the Department of Management and Entrepreneurship, and Victor Marshall, an instructor of management, headed a project team that imple-

mented techniques to develop a schedule of course offerings to better fulfill student demand in terms of courses offered, the number of sections and seats for each course, the times of the courses, and modes of delivery.

"I think it's great that [the college of business] is doing so much to make classes more available," said international business major, Angela Edwards.

"That allows me and other students to get [the classes] we need to finish our degrees on time."

USG also recognized Linda Lyons, director of the Center for University Learning, for "Outstanding Customer Service Leadership" by implementing a program that rewards outstanding work performance in customer service, communication and building relationships.

"I am really excited that Kennesaw State has been recognized for this honor," Lyons said. "It demonstrates the commitment that Dr. Papp, his leadership cabinet, and all

of us here have to promote a culture of service throughout our campus community."

Many feel that this is one more step forward in cementing KSU's reputation as one of the best universities in the state of Georgia. KSU President Dan Papp said, "Kennesaw State University's continuous emphasis on its positive strides toward excellence in customer service has complemented our growth and visibility to the outside community."

The release asserts that while KSU has long embraced the concept of providing quality customer service, Papp has taken that mantra further, in concert with Governor Sonny Perdue's statewide customer service initiative.

"Achievements like this are great because they display the University's excellence and promote an environment that future students will want to be a part of," said English education major, Shelley Riney.

The "silver" awards will be presented at a later date.

Outreach Clinic for autism in Kennesaw

PETER DYE
STAFF WRITER

On Jan. 18 and 19, an outreach clinic is being held in Kennesaw for children and adults with Autism, PDD, AD(H)D, diabetes, immune dysfunction, hormonal imbalances and various other ailments.

The clinic is working in association with the Great Plains Laboratory, Inc., whose mission is to "provide both patients and doctors with the most reliable, complete, accurate and understandable scientific analysis available, using the latest technology and proven techniques."

The clinic will be incorporating integrative medicine and biomedical treatment options. Patients will be able to take advantage

of specialized testing that is not generally offered at most clinics. These tests will provide a comprehensive analysis of the individual's condition and highlight the best treatments that are available.

Patients will be seen by Dr. Janine Romaner, a naturopathic doctor and DAN (Defeat Autism Now) practitioner who resides in Kennesaw. She is prominent in her field and has often been featured on radio health programs. She has also had numerous articles printed in various health-related publications.

The clinic is open to patients from 9:00 am to 5:30 pm on Friday and Saturday. For additional information or to schedule appointments contact Linda Brozanic or Bryan Olson at 913-341-8949.

From student to staff

MASHAUN D SIMON
STAFF WRITER

Brent Obleton has made the transition from KSU student and alum to now member of the staff of his alma mater, a transition that has been both exciting and daunting.

Obleton joined the KSU staff as Administrative Specialist/Program Coordinator for Minority Student Retention Services. His first day on the job was Dec. 2, 2007.

"It is crazy because I literally grew up in this office," said the 2006 graduate. "My growth as a man happened here, and was profoundly impacted by the people in this office."

Nicole Phillips, assistant director of KSU's Minority Student Retention Services, believes that Obleton's background with the office and KSU is what made him ideal for the job.

"I have always encouraged students to leave after graduation because it is always so hard for them to do so," she said. "But Brent's passion and knowledge of the office and his relationship with the students made this situation fitting."

While studying at KSU, Obleton served as president of the KSU African

American Student Alliance, a member of the KSU African American Male Initiative Task Force, co-founder and president of Distinguished Black Gentlemen and University Village Resident Assistant.

After graduation he became president of the KSU Black Alumni Society and served as a committee member for the University System of Georgia's inaugural AAMI Conference, hosted at KSU last fall.

In his new role he will be responsible for providing support to Minority Student Retention Services' primary service population that will include:

- Planning co-curricular workshops for students;
- Advising the organizational activities of the African American Student Alliance;
- Creating and distributing semester newsletter to minority students, faculty, staff, alumni, and administrators at KSU;
- Coordinating mentoring programs for minority students through this office; and
- Supporting the Cultivating Academic Excellence incentive program.

And while he is doing all of that, he will be working very hard to ensure that people's perception of him be adjusted



Brent Obleton

as well.

Obleton believes the hard part will be getting the students, his peers, to see him as their "elder."

"Two years ago I was one of them, just a student," he said. "Today I am an administrator. The hard part will be to get them to respect that."

He has spent some time toying with what he would have students call him: Mr. Obleton, Mr. Brent or Mr. B. They all seem odd to him, for now.

But what they call him is not as important as what he plans to put much of his energy into on campus -- making sure that there is a surge of black male leadership at KSU. It is an initiative that is near and dear to his heart.

Spring 2008 Events

January 19 & 20

Backpacking - Pine Mtn. Trail
Sign-up begins January 7

February 23

Lookout Mtn. Day Hike
Sign-up begins February 11

March 1 - 7

Spring Break Backpacking / Camping
Location TBD
Sign-up begins February 18

March 15

Horseback Riding: Location TBD
Sign-up begins March 3

March 29

Climbing: Location TBD
Sign-up begins March 17

April 5

Kangaroo Conservation Center
Sign-up begins March 24

April 12

Backpacking: Location TBD
Sign-up begins March 28

April 19

White Water Rafting
Sign-up begins April 7



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KSU receives two awards from Board of Regents

KIM HARLESS
STAFF WRITER

The Board of Regents presented KSU with two Awards for Excellence in Teaching on Nov. 13.

The recipients of the awards were Mary Garner, an associate professor of mathematics and mathematics education, and the professional sales degree program in the Michael J. Coles College of Business.

"[I feel] honored. KSU has so many excellent, devoted teachers, that I find it hard to believe I'm being singled out," Garner said.

Garner was nominated for the award because of her unique approach to teaching. "I try to challenge [students] to think deeply about mathematics, ask questions about the

mathematics, and I try to help [students] answer their own questions. Mathematics is not and should not be 'easy.' You must struggle to truly understand and appreciate it," Garner said.

Garner's assignments include having students write complete sentences about answers to test questions and having her students read books about mathematics, mathematicians, or books that have a mathematical theme.

KSU's professional sales degree program also received the award for its continuous improvements on curriculum and its ties to the surrounding business community.

"The award was a great honor and an affirmation for how good our program is," said Scott Widmier, the associ-

ate director for the Center of Professional Selling

According to Widmier, the professional sales degree program is adding more hands-on classes and working towards the addition of a new sales lab. "It will be the best facility of its kind, in the world, when completed and allow for a major increase in the use of hands-on learning curriculum. Selling is a skill and the best way to learn is by doing," Widmier said.

Widmier says the professional sales degree program is involved with the business community by having business leaders on the board of advisors and hosting the National Collegiate Sales Competition, among other things.

2007 marks the second year in a row that KSU has received these awards.

Holder Construction Company CEO receives 11th KSU Honorary Doctorate

ASHE JOHNSON
STAFF WRITER

What do KSU and the Holder Construction company have in common? Quite a lot, it seems.

On Dec. 12, Dan Papp presented Thomas M. Holder, the chairman and CEO of Holder Construction Company, with an honorary doctorate.

"Holder has made enormous contributions to the growth and success of Kennesaw State," Papp said. He also added that his excellent business skills have greatly benefited not only KSU, but the entire greater Atlanta area.

The doctorate of humane letters is one of the highest honors that a university can grant an individual. Honorary doctorates are generally given to individuals with a long record of positive impact on the university, their profession, the local community, or on a national level.

Thomas Holder graduated from Georgia Tech in 1979. He joined the Board of Trustees for the Kennesaw State Foundation in 1995 and served as

chairman for five years. Holder joined the Holder Construction Company in 1978 and worked his way up to his current status as CEO and chairman.

Holder Construction Company is based out of Atlanta and has experience in 25 states. It is consistently ranked as one of the nation's top 100 contractors. In Atlanta, the company's projects include the Georgia Dome, the World Headquarters of the Coca-Cola Company, the World of Coke, Philips Arena and the Gwinnett Arena. The University of Georgia, Georgia Tech and Emory have also worked with Holder Construction Company. The company generates revenue of over \$1 billion annually.

The doctorate given to Holder is the eleventh doctorate that KSU has given since it began the honor in 1997. Those who received the doctorate in the past include Clarice C. Bagwell, Bobbie Bailey, Michael J. Coles, Fred D. Bentley Sr., John Clendenin, Fred Stillwell, James C. Kennedy, Bob M. Prillaman, Jack Dinos and Dennis Cooper.

Beating the odds: African American college graduates

KATIE DWYER
STAFF WRITER

African American male enrollment in colleges and universities has significantly increased throughout the years thanks to the available resource and guidance programs.

The American Council of Education found that there are many more white males enrolled in school than African American males. An estimated 708,000 African American males, versus 4.6 million white males, were enrolled in education programs in 2007. Georgia has committed to producing resource programs for African American students.

Senior Vance Patton said that college, "has always been a priority in my life. I know about the other bad things out there, but I want to grow and be successful." Patton also mentioned that an increase in population has helped the African American male statistics grow in Georgia.

The Cultural Awareness and Resource

Center at KSU has many sources of guidance for African American students. Darius Robinson, a student and staff member for the CARC, said that it helps him to interact with students by tutoring math, advising and forming relationships with his fellow peers.

The University System of Georgia's African-American Male Initiative has dedicated their time and efforts into making sure these males receive the opportunities that will allow them to succeed and graduate with a degree. The AAMI has been awarded the ability to give \$60,000-\$100,000 to Georgia colleges by the Board of Regents. The AAMI has given \$10,000 to Albany State University, Atlanta Metropolitan College, Coastal Georgia Community College, Fort Valley State University, Savannah State University and the University of Georgia according to Board of Regents.

The AAMI is devoting the money to these universities and colleges to help maintain and continue the progression of the African American males in the community.

Calling all students to 'Gear Up'

NADIA ABDULAH
STAFF WRITER

Marietta Middle School began hosting a federally funded program called GEAR UP in 2005. It is designed to aid the class of 2011 on their path to obtaining higher education.

"This year our students are in the 9th grade at Marietta High School. The program focuses on academic advising, career counseling, college and university exposure through field trips, tutoring, etc.," said program coordinator Jennifer Knowles. "In addition, we have an after school program at Marietta High School for approximately fifty of the 9th grade students."

This past summer, the students attended summer camps at KSU and Chattahoochee

Technical College.

"The summer camps are designed to give the students exposure to different colleges/universities in the area as well as different businesses and career options. For example, last summer we took the students to a Braves baseball game. Before the game, they got to meet with Braves Marketing Staff to learn about careers in the sports industry," Knowles said.

The program faced a minor roadblock in 2007 when President Bush recommended the eradication of the GEAR UP program. Fortunately, the program was saved by students writing support letters to Georgia senators and representatives.

"The GEAR UP program has the ability to motivate many and impact the lives of others. I am convinced the GEAR UP program should be given an op-

portunity to continue changing the lives of today and molding the future of tomorrow," Likeam Wise (possibly a student - see next sentence. "other students"???) said. His words among many other students' were heard, and the program is back in motion.

The staff is working on activities for GEAR UP's 'College Club' this fall. For the summer, "We plan to take the students to the State Capital and Atlanta university campuses (like Morehouse, Spellman, etc.). We also plan to take the students to the CNN Center and Lockheed," Knowles said.

With new innovations and plans for the 2008, GEAR UP's future is looking bright. For more information about how you can help with the program, please visit GEAR UP's Web site mariettagearup.org/.



Join us for general meetings
Thursdays at 3:30 pm

January 17th	University Rooms CDE
January 24th	Leadership Room
January 31st	University Rooms CDE
February 7th	University Rooms CDE
February 14th	University Rooms CDE
February 21st	University Rooms CDE
February 28th	University Rooms CDE
March 13th	Leadership Room
March 20th	Staff Lounge
March 27th	University Rooms CDE
April 3rd	Leadership Rooms
April 10th	University Rooms CDE
April 17th	Leadership Room
April 24th	University Rooms CDE

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One Voice at a Time

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Kennesaw's Wildman "heritage shop" needs to leave



CHRISTOPHER SMITH
COLUMNIST

What grabs your attention as you drive through downtown Kennesaw? Sure, the train is pretty big, the park is nice, and the buildings are quaint and historic. The first thing I notice is the large storefront adjacent to the café. You've seen it: it's the two story brick building that looks like it was covered in glue in 1962 and has had various flyers, signs and flags thrown at it ever since. This monstrosity is called "Wildman's." It's been open for 35 years at its present location; I think it's time for the "Wildman" to leave.

The store is run by an old "white pride"-ist named Dent Meyers. This gentleman looks like one of the lost members of ZZ Top. As you enter, he greets you in some kind of language that loosely resembles English and tells you to donate a quarter if you want to go into the museum in the rear. The store looks like a garage sale sponsored by the Ku Klux Klan, and that's more or less what it is. Inside you can buy everything from Ku Klux Klan uniform items to the latest book by Grand Wizard David Duke. Looking at the website, you would think that this store deals in antiques and Civil War-era military regalia, but



Photo by Adeolu Adebayo | The Sentinel

Dent Meyers' Civil War surplus shop, located in beautiful, scenic downtown Kennesaw, prominently displays the divisive Stars and Bars rebel flag.

obviously it's not so innocent.

I am a proponent of free speech and ideas, but this guy tests the limits of patience. For the last 30-or-so years, the South at large has tried to reinvent itself. No longer are we the region associated with tear gas and riots. No longer are we the site of weekly Klan parades and protests. We are the "New South," the South that is home to Coca-Cola and Turner Broadcasting. We have big business, well-known hospitality, beautiful women and great food.

I, as a southerner, am a part of this revolution, and so are you. It's not an easy thing to change one's image, but we are trying and succeeding. Not only is it heinous that the public isn't more vocal, but the elected officials of Kennesaw don't seem to care either.

In the recent city election, one of the key issues on the candidate's platforms was the development of local business and industry. I'm wondering what the CEO of a Fortune 500 company thinks when they plan on relocating to

Kennesaw. "Wow, great schools and low traffic volume, but only for our white employees." You know, one of the deciding factors in the Civil Rights movement was bad press. When one of the city commissioners of Birmingham was in Japan, he saw his city's name on the front page. The picture that appeared with the city was a municipal bus in flames. Perhaps once Dent gets more publicity, the city will decide to act.

As a university, we should be more vocal. There are umpteen-

million student groups which strive to end oppression and racism in foreign nations. Why not start down the street? KSU officials need to involve themselves too. I can't walk three feet with being inundated with propaganda advising me to be a "global citizen" and to "get involved." How many prospective students have been en route to the campus and turned around when they passed Dent's store with the sign out front that prohibits "Negroes" from entering? Maybe ten, maybe none,

but the point is that our school calls Kennesaw home and so does this purveyor of hatred souvenirs and racist literature.

There is a law in Germany that prohibits "speech which incites ethnic hatred." I don't think that is such a bad idea. This gentleman's store is bad for the image of KSU, the City of Kennesaw and the South. Since there is no law to restrict his speech or the operation of his store, we need to answer; not with silence but with a unified voice that's louder than his.

Nobody is perfect, and that's just how we like our stars



CASEY CHILDERS
STAFF WRITER

Unless you've been living in a spider hole in Timbuktu over the last few years, chances are you have heard the particulars of just about every scenario involving Britney Spears, Paris Hilton, Lindsay Lohan and Jamie Lynn Spears.

Why is it that the world is so fascinated with a star's many downs? The ups are curiously not as interesting. It's such an easy pattern to follow. As a public, we celebrate the building-up of these individuals, and as soon as no one can stand to hear one more nice thing about a person in the spotlight, we triumphantly begin to tear them down.

For instance, over the past couple of years, has anyone been able to escape aware-



ness of the presence of Miley Cyrus and her alter-ego Hannah Montana? Cyrus is sweet, humble, wholesome, cute and friendly. Chances are, you're pretty tired of hearing about her. Don't worry. The media is already anxious to begin the customary ripping apart of her character. What are some of the things you've heard lately? Miley Cyrus is pregnant. Miley Cyrus is a lesbian. Miley Cyrus was seen shopping at Victoria's Secret. She must be a slut. The list goes on. Wait ten years and Miley Cyrus will be unrecognizable from the little girl we know now. You heard it from me first.

However, when does the world's obsession with a celebrity stop being funny and start being sick? Remember 16-year-old Britney Spears? She too was sweet, humble, whole-



some, clean-cut and friendly. Sound familiar? Fast-forward to Britney Spears ten years later. She's shaving her head, being photographed without underwear, and she is too far out of it to perform her hit single. Most recently, we've seen her being carried out of her mansion strapped down to a gurney. Take a step back and think about this as a visual: Britney Spears in the center of a Roman arena, and we've released the lion on her. We watch amused, pointing and laughing, as the lion tears her apart limb by limb.

I think it's the sadist in all of us. I think it's the same reason why people used to flock to public hangings, beheadings and floggings. We can't get enough of it. Remember Marilyn Monroe, Elvis Presley, Princess Diana and, most recently, Anna Nicole Smith?



It's nothing new to add Britney Spears as the next candidate for a tormented celebrity death.

Look at Michael Jackson: then and now. It's literally horrifying what fame does to a person, and what unending media attention is capable of stimulating in a celebrity. Don't get me wrong, I definitely think that the attention of the world is only a catalyst to what eventually happens to these celebrities. Yet, I believe it has to be difficult to see things clearly in front of the glare of lights-camera-action. It's not impossible I'm sure, but it can't be easy to feel normal when your every move is a subject of public analysis.

This is definitely a source of contention for the general public as a whole. On one end of the spectrum you have those with the very good point that a



person placing themselves in the public eye has to take responsibility for themselves, that they asked for this. Then, you have the other excellent point, which says that no budding celebrity asks for this kind of fame. I do wonder if someone had shown 16-year-old Britney Spears the video tape of her being carried out of her mansion strapped to a gurney in ten years, if she wouldn't have high-tailed back to her grandmother's crawfish shop in Louisiana?

The biggest question, I suppose, that stands is: What part do we play in the destruction of these celebrities? Are we in some way enabling them by participating in every act they commit for attention? Is the attention we give them every time they make themselves ridiculous only adding fuel to their fire of derangement? The



answer is: I think we do our part.

Every one of us craves the validation that these huge celebrities are human. We want to see them face their mortality. We want to know that these people really aren't as perfect as they were originally depicted to us. It's some kind of relief. However, as we go on with our now-certainly superior lives, feeling better that we can't possibly be as miserable as they are, do we ever stop and ask ourselves if this obsession is going too far? Where does the carnage end? Why are we so surprised when these people are found dead amidst all their finery? It is definitely the ultimate validation—that being rich doesn't buy happiness. I just hope that eventually we will find it in us to choose empathy over remorse.

2004-05 National Newspaper Pacemaker Award

The SENTINEL

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- 2.) The writer must include full name, year and major if a student, professional title if a KSU employee, and city if a Georgia resident.
- 3.) For verification purposes, students must also supply the last four digits of their student ID number and a phone number. This information will not be published. E-mail addresses will be included with letters published in the web edition.
- 4.) Contributors are limited to one letter every 30 days. Letters thanking individuals or organizations for personal services rendered cannot be accepted. We do not publish individual consumer complaints about specific businesses.
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- 6.) While we do not publish letters from groups endorsing

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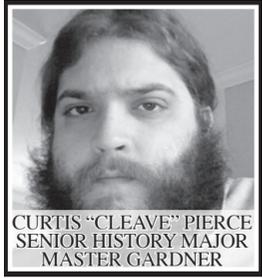
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Apathy? Well, DUH!



CURTIS "CLEAVE" PIERCE
SENIOR HISTORY MAJOR
MASTER GARDNER

I am not going to talk about the election. I am not going to talk about the election. Just keep repeating it, like a mantra, because talking about the election is probably the last thing that any of us should be doing. Now, I know what you are thinking: "Well Cleave, looks like you are doing a great job not talking about the election." Don't worry, I already thought of a clever response to that—I'm immune because I am writing about it. More importantly, I am writing about why no one else should write about it or talk about it—just me, and only this once.

So, lets get to the "meat and potatoes" of the issue at hand here. It's time for the 2008 presidential primaries. Well, I guess it has been time since the first candidate announced his intention to run one million years ago (that is one year in Fox News time). I am sure we can all agree that presidential elections are at least a bit annoying and any of you who don't agree (that one guy in the corner with the Ron Paul sign) might at least agree that the seemingly endless campaigning beginning over a year before the primaries is at least a bit...horrid.

Let's take a realistic look at the group of people who are vying for an opportunity to run the Imperial American Empire. I am not going to list all of the potential George Bush replacements—suffice it to say that, as of today, there are 13 of them, they are all rich, they all derive their power from the same concentrated money soup that feeds they top one percent, they are all but one white, and for the

most part all of their policies (or I suppose the policies of their handlers—lets be honest) are basically identical.

No candidate running for President speaks about or seems to have any real concern—beyond the rhetorical—for social justice, social equality, gender and race discrimination, non-imperialist foreign policy, free and equitable higher education and health-care—basically all things human. Don't get me wrong, they certainly would have no problem spewing out a sound bite or two for a vote but as far as anything really radical or situation changing—forget it. I can already hear the Ron Paul supporters chomping at the bit.

I definitely don't have space in this article to explain why Ron Paul is one of the most dangerous candidates in the history of the United States, one complicated issue at a time please. United Stations (this is not a typo but rather my term for citizens of the United States—a little geography lesson for you—the U.S. is not the only country in the Americas) participate in a very limited political sphere. It has become smaller over the years through the crafting of very specific and calculated policies by the U.S. government, business elites and all of their respective cronies. These measures were an establishment response to the proverbial jolt they received during Vietnam; a time when those pesky citizens starting acting like free people—marching around and demanding stuff. By establishing the unofficial propaganda organ of the United States, namely the corporate media, through the de-regulation of the airwaves, corporate owned media has seen to it that the range of candidates that are acceptable for public consumption meet a set of criteria. They must "play ball" and maintain the status quo—oh yeah, they have to have a swimming pool filled with money too. The corporate media is the arbiter of all things television and print

in the United States.

The corporations that own the media outlets are chaired by members of society who have one very specific ideology: the drive for profit. Thus it is in the interest of media owners, like GE (the largest nuclear bomb manufacturer) to use their control of the media to further their own agenda. All advertisements, campaign ads and information disseminated must meet the sometimes ideological and all the time monetary standards of the corporate media. It is very expensive to advertise and in order to run a successful political campaign a candidate must have a lot of currency. It is for this reason that candidates like Dennis Kucinich and yes, even Ron Paul, don't get the same kind of air time that other more "viable" candidates receive. They don't play ball and they don't support the status quo and thus they don't get elected.

The candidates are all the same. Seriously, I challenge anyone to really point out some fundamental differences—and since the electoral college elects the president for us anyway (many states do not require the electorates to even vote the same way the citizens voted), there really is no reason to spend more than ten minutes thinking about who you will vote for. All of the information is readily accessible and mostly right in front of you; you barely have to dig for it. Trying to decide which candidate to vote for is like trying to decide whether to buy your ketchup from Wal-Mart or Sam's Club—they both represent the same thing and they all represent unbridled mediocrity. We can do better than this. If you want to spend your time really participating in society then volunteer, go get educated, join grassroots organizations, participate in civil disobedience—and if you feel like it, cast your vote, but please remember—the outcome of this election has already been determined: no matter which side wins, we lose.

If money could vote

Recently, ex-president Bill Clinton expressed excessive concern over Michael Bloomberg's potential white-house run and self-financed campaigns by saying, "We are very frustrated because we have a Supreme Court that seems determined to say that the wealthier have more right to free speech than the rest of us." He complains that such spending "violates the spirit of campaign finance reform." When we glance into ol' Bill's wallet, however, we find that he is not exactly headed for the soup kitchen. Actually, he just happens to be *filthy rich* from speaking fees and investments. How is it that he fits into the "rest of us" category? You would think that it might come across as a bit hypocritical, since he believes that campaign contributions are free speech, and yet he supports publicly-funded elections.

Amidst the cries of "vote buying," the question must be asked: Does one only need money to win an election? If so, then why didn't hopefuls such as Ross Perot, Ralph Nader and Steve Forbes spend their way to the presidency? The fallacy of hating money in politics is the belief that because candidates have money to pay for organization and ads, they will gain followers and "buy" the election. According to this, forget a candidate's policy positions, because money is most important to voters. Right? When was the last time you voted for someone because they had the most money? In the age of 24/7

media, advertisements and organization can only go so far. Every advertisement aired on TV gets a review and fact check from the New York Times along with other publications and web sites. What's so different from a television ad paid for by a PAC (Political Action Committee) and an editorial or political talk show? Both could be as negative, positive, or unfair to any candidate. So why regulate one and not the other?

The fact that money never wins elections was also shown in the 2006 Congressional races and the 2008 Republican Primary. Think of the conveniently recent Mike Huckabee win in Iowa. Despite the fact that Romney outspent Huckabee 15 to one, he was smoked by Huckabee; beaten by nine points. For Nebraska's Senate seat, Ben Nelson (D) was out-raised by \$5.8 million by Pete Ricketts, (R) and still won. For the Senate race in Ohio, Sherrod Brown (D) defeated the incumbent Mike DeWine (R) despite being out-raised by \$6 million. But why care about the facts when you can demagogue an issue for political gain?

Wouldn't it make more sense to scrap these worthless campaign finance regulations and just mandate transparency? If you know where a politician is getting their money from and believe they are corrupted or misusing it, then do not vote for them. But instead of this common sense solution, many liberals advocate for publicly-funded elections to solve the problem. You don't mind having your tax dollars pay for the cam-



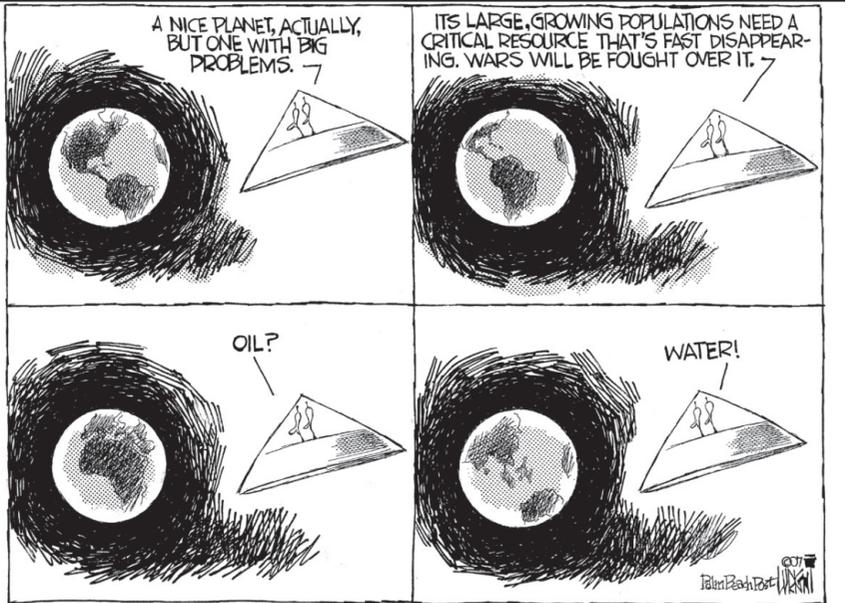
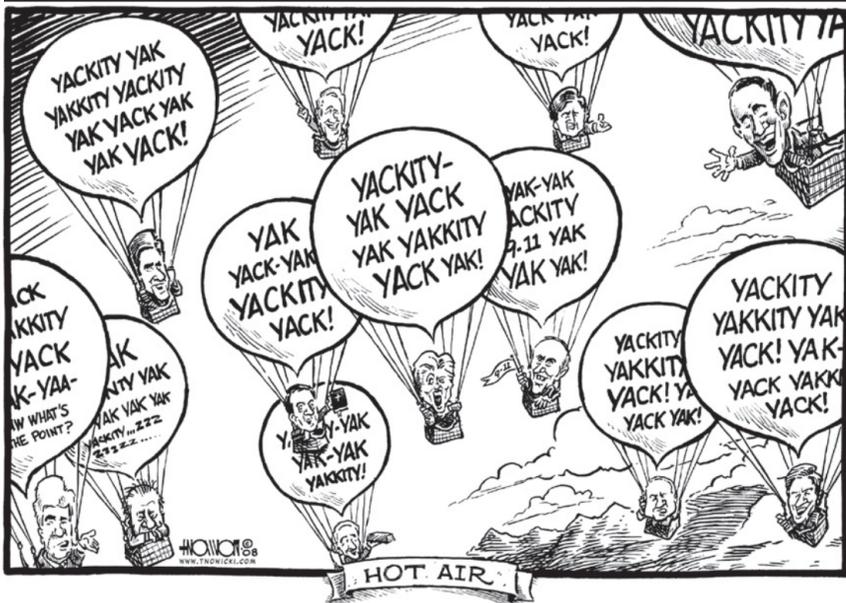
KEVIN SCHMIDT
COLUMNIST

paings of Mike Gravel or Alan Keyes do you? (Not to mention the Congressman from Mars who shall remain nameless.)

A good example of setting limits or penalties on money is seen in major league baseball. There is a luxury tax for spending over a certain limit. Only the Red Sox and Yankees spend over that limit and both made the playoffs. But consider, out of the eight teams to make the playoffs in 2007, three of them were at the bottom in the league in team salary. Arizona is 26th, Cleveland is 23th and Colorado 25th out of thirty. Cleveland would beat the Yankees 3-1 and come one game away from the World Series losing to the Red Sox in Game seven. Colorado swept the playoffs to the World Series, but eventually lost. The amount of money a team spends, does not necessarily make a better team, just like the amount of money a candidate spends doesn't make a better or more popular candidate.

Baseball, like politics, is ruled by the same misunderstanding of money's role in making a good team, or candidate. Money without restrictions is not a problem as long as there is full transparency. I should be able to donate as much money as I want to a candidate. Even Bill Clinton thinks that is part of my freedom of speech. After all, when was the last time you saw money vote?

“Wouldn't it make more sense to scrap these worthless campaign finance regulations and just mandate transparency?”



THE OWL FORUM

Fond farewell to Joe Biden

Dear Editor,

Joe Biden's withdrawal from the Democratic race this week was disheartening. The election seems largely controlled by who has the money and celebrity status, and Biden's level headed policies were barely heard over the deafening noise of other campaigns. Biden initially voted for the Iraq war, but has become one of its most outspoken critics. Rather than irresponsibly suggest that we should leave Iraq immediately, and in its current state, or leave our troops there indefinitely, Biden has suggested a plan that would create a central government with three regions, where oil revenues would be shared across regions and a non-aggression pact signed. At home, his plan on immigration is to increase border security but to provide a path to citizenship based on merit for the 12 million illegals currently here. He is for the current partial birth abortion ban, but has worked diligently for women's rights in stopping violence against women and working for workplace equality. He wants education and healthcare available for all

children in this country, and wants to make it more easily accessible for adults. He has been largely overlooked because he does not appeal to extremists on either side, but he's the only one talking any sense. Joe Biden wants what's best for America. Do we?

Elisabeth Dixon
Senior Biology

Flipping right to Police Beat

Dear Editor,

Thanks for adding the "Flip through the Pages" option to the online Sentinel Version! Now I won't miss the Police Beat!

Ellen Chance
Junior Accounting

The Monkey Wrench Are we committed to multiculturalism?

DAVID DALTON
VIEWPOINTS EDITOR

Whether or not you believe the allegations of misconduct that were levied against former Bagwell College of Education Dean, Dr. Yiping Wan, he is now gone. Although the gender and racial discrimination charges never managed to gain traction, cooked books and other violations of Generally Accepted Accounting Practice were enough to force his resignation as dean and eventually land him in criminal proceedings.

I have different questions to ask you. Where is your respect for cultural diversity? Does multiculturalism only apply to food and holidays?

It is well known that many other cultures practice different methods of business than our own. Does our willingness to integrate other cultures end at the ledger book? What many are calling naked greed could simply be a case of cultural misunderstanding.

In many places, what we consider a bribe is simply business as usual. Slipping \$50 to the traffic cop who nailed you on Chastain would, hopefully, cause you additional prob-

lems, but a failure to do so in Eastern Europe is just bad form.

Where we see conflicts of interest, many other cultures see only shrewd business practice. What's wrong with using your wife's travel agency? American companies have long complained that being held to our own standards of ethics is a critical handicap when operating overseas, and now the issue is demonstrated right in our backyard.

With or without Wan the Greedy, the Bagwell is going to crank out highly motivated, professional teachers. Dr. Papp and the rest of the hard-working crew in the Puzzle Palace will find a replacement and all will be well. However that really doesn't address my question.

I am not opposing our current trend toward multiculturalism when I ask the question, "Where does it end?" At what point do we draw a line and retain the values and practices that differentiate our culture from others'? As an aspiring teacher myself, I am interested in the answer. Send your letters to the editor through the internet at ksusentinel.com. Click "letters to the editor" on the right toolbar.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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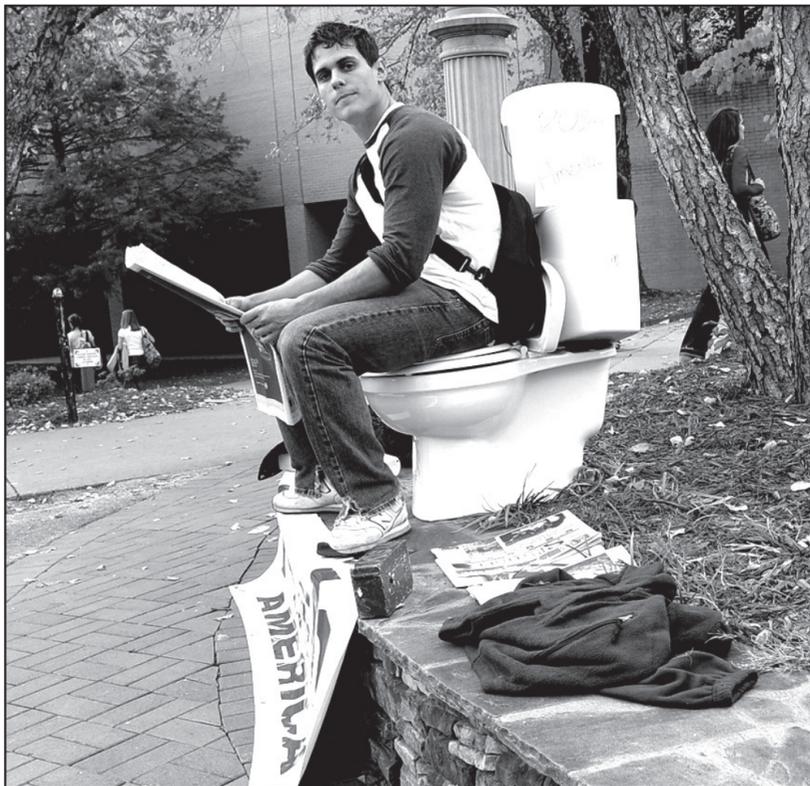
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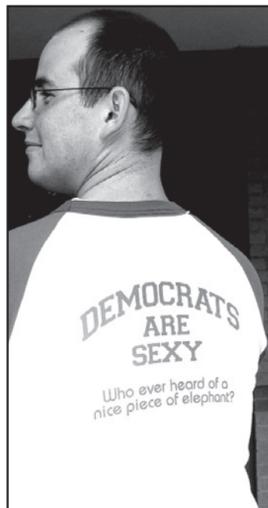
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Students take action



(left) A student gets active with his Fraternity's "Push America" campaign, where they raise money for assistance for Americans with disabilities. (below) JL Chitwood of the Young Democrats of Kennesaw shows off the club T-shirts.



Photos by Maria Yanovsky | The Sentinel

KSU is a campus bursting with educated young people who are getting excited about the upcoming election and expressing opinions on vital issues. This is not particular to the election, but also to causes that students feel strongly about. Student organizations such as the Young Democrats of Kennesaw are tabling, urging all students to register to vote, regardless of political affiliation. Other organizations are putting up posters urging students to get involved and become aware of important issues. Erin Collins explains, "I believe that every student should research and learn to understand politics and figure out who they actually believe in and not go on what their friends say."

Many students seem to share this idea, and are spreading the word about action and awareness. Adair Moore describes, "It is important for young people to get involved with politics and vote because they are doing a service to the interests of other young people. If enough young people show up and vote, the politicians will get the message that young people are a political force that should be taken into more serious consideration."

It's not difficult to see that students at KSU care. Many bumpers in the parking lots display a favorite candidate or some political opinion. And it's not hard to find someone with an opinion. Just walking by the Social Sciences Building, one can eavesdrop on numerous conversations regarding change in America or a particular candidate.

Surprisingly, the atmosphere seems to be moderate, even though KSU is located in a polarized part of the country. "It's refreshing to see so many students forming their own opinions," continues Adair. "We live in a predetermined part of the state and country, and students do not seem to be phased by that."

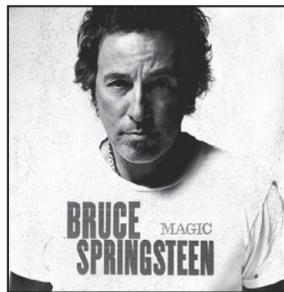
Erin concludes, "It is apparent that we can make a difference, and are finally taking action, and full advantage of this upcoming, and sure to be historic election."

The Boss is back

Springsteen's "Magic" is no illusion

MATT LOGAN
STAFF WRITER

On his new album "Magic," Bruce Springsteen continues earning his keep as America's favorite



song-writing son, taking us down familiar roads and crafting an album that rivals anything released in 2007. All the things that make a Springsteen album a

Springsteen album are present on the new album, but somehow it manages to feel new and relevant.

The opening track and first single "Radio Nowhere" is a guitar-heavy lament about the state of U.S. radio waves, and it definitely does its part to help clean them up (appreciate that, Bruce!). While "Radio Nowhere" is a great single, "Last to Die" is the stand-out track.

Springsteen has never shied away from political issues and this track may be his most rousing, asking "Who'll be the last to die for a mistake," apparently in reference to U.S. involvement in Iraq. The last song on the album, "Terry's Song," slows things down, ending the album on a somber but still uplifting note, with Springsteen paying tribute to his long-time friend Terry Magovern.

Throughout the album, the tiny marvels of production shine. Brendan O'Brien did a good job with the softer folk of 2005's "Devils and Dust" and he does a fine job here as well. The intro on "Radio Nowhere" is particularly reflective of the depth that O'Brien achieves—the percussive sounds of guitar picking is left in the mix, and they really add to the sound.

The drums all sound great too; they're loud and bright (anyone who has seen Max Weinberg drum on Late Night with Conan O'Brien knows he drums like he's got something to prove). Other touches are more

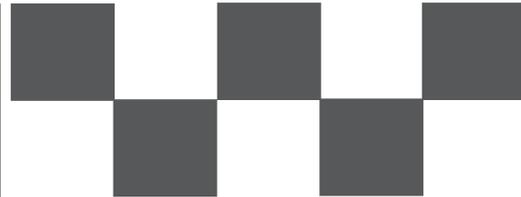
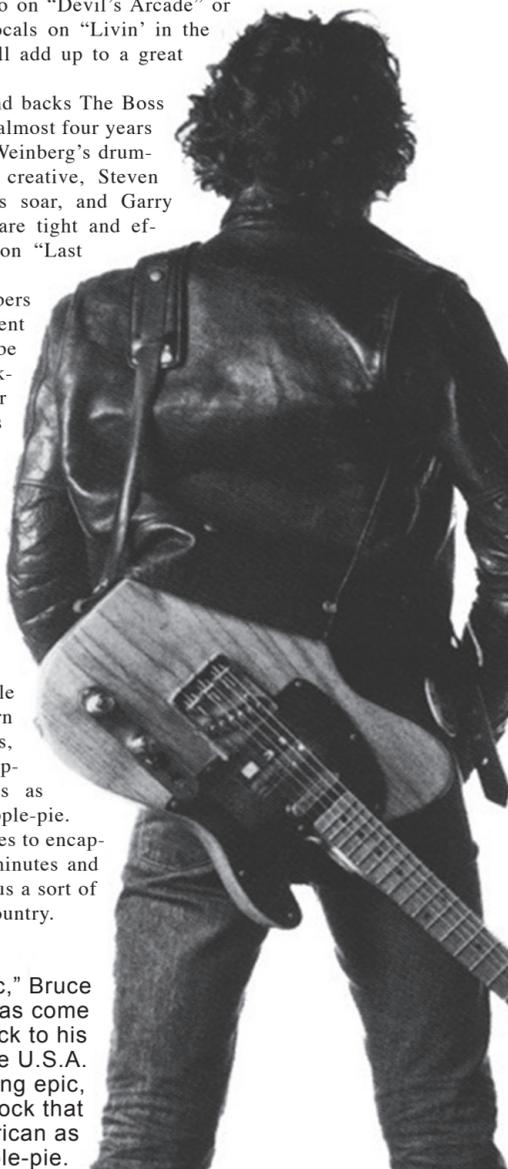
subtle, like the cello on "Devil's Arcade" or the soft backing vocals on "Livin' in the Future," but they all add up to a great sounding CD.

The E Street Band backs The Boss for the first time in almost four years on "Magic." Max Weinberg's drumming is crisp and creative, Steven Van Zandt's guitars soar, and Garry Tallent's basslines are tight and effective, especially on "Last to Die."

The other members all sound excellent too, whether it be Patti Scialfa on background vocals or Clarence Clemons on saxophone. Nebraska proved The Boss could handle an album by himself, but with the E Street Band behind him he's at his best.

With "Magic," Bruce Springsteen has come full circle back to his Born in the U.S.A. days, producing epic, pop-tinged rock that is as American as apple-pie. Somehow he manages to encapsulate it all in 47 minutes and 51 seconds, giving us a sort of soundtrack to our country.

“With "Magic," Bruce Springsteen has come full circle back to his Born in the U.S.A. days, producing epic, pop-tinged rock that is as American as apple-pie.”



DELIGHT IN A GREASY BROWN BAG

It's much more than a rumor: Five Guys Famous Burgers & Fries is coming to Kennesaw

NADIA ABDULAH
STAFF WRITER

Twenty years ago, the history of Five Guys started with Jerry Murrell, who gave his three eldest sons a life-changing ultimatum. They could either take his money and go to college or use it to start a business. The three eldest sons chose to take a chance and joined their two youngest brothers in opening their first Five Guys restaurant in Virginia.

In 2003, with the restaurant's growing popularity mainly by word-of-mouth, the Murrells chose to franchise the store. "It's an incredibly simple concept: They serve hamburgers and fries, and that's all they serve," franchisee TC Thompkins says.

Building a fan base is what Five Guys hope to do each year. Many KSU students had excellent experiences at Five Guys and would visit them again. "It's been a while, but I remember loving their French fries. Nice setting. Very easy-going atmosphere with local character. I'd go there again. Very inexpensive and good for the college crowd," junior Martha Ricketson says.

In addition to their fries, their burgers are a favorite among many consumers. In March 2006, *The Alexandria Times* claimed that Five Guys were "A phenomenon that wins 'Best Burger' in nearly every market it enters."

"The first time I ate at Five Guys was in northern Virginia about ten years ago. The burger was huge and the best I'd ever had. I've gone back to Five Guys many times and in many different places since and the burgers only got better," junior Aubrey Ingalls adds.

In July 2006, the first Five Guys in Georgia opened in Acworth. Construction recently began at The Village on Chastain Road where the Five Guys will move-in next to Taco Mac. Students who are looking for a fun and exciting environment to work in are encouraged to apply for a position.

"Our aspirations for all our stores is to be the best. We thrive on customer service, quality of the product and cleanliness of the store. We hope to get involved with Kennesaw State in all aspects," managing partner Tony Fratoe says. "For instance, we look to get involved with the sports program."

When can we expect to see Five Guys open? "Right now, we are targeting for the second or third week of February," Mr. Fratoe mentioned. Mr. Fratoe also co-manages the Acworth and Woodstock-Towne Lake stores.

THE SENTINEL MUSIC CORNER

Staff Favorites: Guilty Pleasures...

- Sisqo - "Thong Song"
- Shakira - "Hips Don't Lie"
- Backstreet Boys - "The Call"
- Hillary Duff - "Come Clean"
- Frankie Goes to Hollywood - "Relax"
- Billy Ray Cyrus - "Achy Breaky Heart"
- Biz Markie - "Just a Friend"
- Men at Work - "Land Down Under"
- Dream Academy - "Life in a Northern Town"
- Pat Benatar - "Love is a Battlefield"
- ABBA - "Dancing Queen"
- Spice Girls - "2 Become 1"
- The Bangles - "Walk Like an Egyptian"
- Go-Go's - "This Town"
- Falco - "Rock Me Amadeus"



The Sentinel presents...

A DOUBLE FEATURE

Hilarity ensues in typical comedy "27 Dresses" Irreverent sentimentality in "Juno"

NADIA ABDULAH
STAFF WRITER

On Sunday, girls [and guys] lined up at Regal Town Center 16 to get a sneak preview of the romantic comedy, "27 Dresses." The film begins with Jane (Katherine Heigl) explaining how she found her "calling" in life. We flash forward to an adult Jane who is still pursuing her calling as a bridesmaid.

The film contains many hilarious scenes and pays homage to the romantic comedy genre. Jane has had a crush on her supervisor, George (Edward Burns), but he has failed to notice her. Then, Jane's little sister, Tess (Malin Akerman), comes to live with her. That same night of Tess's arrival, Jane invites her sister to come to a company party. To Jane's dismay, Tess snags the man that she is in love with. In an unrealistic time frame, Jane suddenly finds herself planning her little sister's wedding.

In addition, Jane refuses to date a writer she meets because of her crush on her supervisor. However, Jane reluctantly chooses to go out on a date with him and becomes friends with him. In a similar "Hitch" scene, an article printed about Jane threatens her and Kevin's relationship.

Another supporting actress, Judy Greer pulls it off again as the comedic best friend, Casey. It would be nice to see Greer in a lead role in the future.

Towards the end of the film, numerous scenes turn out to be unrealistic but not

unfamiliar in a romantic comedy. It seems like most romantic comedy filmmakers [for the sake of time] leave loose ends to a film's plotline.

Several explanations and reactions to events are left out so that the film ends with a happy ending. Overall "27 Dresses" will most likely turn out to be a successful 'chick flick' or date movie.



LEAH HALE
STAFF WRITER

There is a lot talk going on about the independent film "Juno" directed by Jason Reitman and written by ex-stripper, Diablo Cody. Roger Ebert called it "just about the best movie of the year." It's also nominated for three Golden Globes (though the event was cancelled after a protest by the on-strike Writers Guild of America). Yes, there is a lot of talk and a lot of praise for the film's heartwarming aspects, it's lovable characters, and it's focus on family, all of which it contains, but if you go expecting something sentimental and serious, you will be pleasantly surprised.

Unsuspecting me, I do not usually turn on a T.V., watch trailers, stare at movie posters, or engage in any other activity that lets me know what is currently playing in theaters until I am in one. So when I was dragged to see "Juno" by a friend a few weeks ago, I bought a ticket, found a spot in the crowd of high school students, and sat through the entire previews assuming the film was about Alaska...or a dog. What I got was an hour and 31 minutes of sitting on the edge of my popcorn-crusting seat, repeating clever lines to myself, pretending to rub at my eye makeup while brushing off tears...and laughing like a lunatic.

There is one thing I must make clear about the movie "Juno" that seems to shock most people I have talked to: before it is anything else, "Juno" is a comedy. A rather irreverent comedy at that.

The basic, one-line description of "Juno" is this: a 16-year-old girl gets pregnant. Now please forget the one-line description because everything you associate with stories about teen pregnancy are rejected in this film. Juno MacGuff, played by the Canadian Ellen Page, doesn't lose her head when she sees the "unholy" pink plus sign on her pregnancy test, and instead of watching her spend 91 minutes fretting about whether she will have to drop out of school, what her parents will think, or how huge she is going to get,

she takes everything with a healthy dose of wit and sarcasm.

The biggest laughs show up in the least likely places: at an abortion clinic, when she breaks the news to her family, and while meeting the adop-

“The biggest laughs show up in the least likely places: at an abortion clinic, when she breaks the news to her family, and while meeting the adoptive parents.”

tive parents. In fact, on the day she finds out she is pregnant, Juno's main concern is hauling a set of abandoned living room furniture to the front lawn of her friend and one-time lover, Paulie Bleeker (Canadian Michael Cera of Superbad). "Bleeker" is also not radically shaken by the news; in fact, his utter lack of involvement with the baby he helped create is somewhat shocking.

Contrary to the way we might imagine an unplanned pregnancy to shake a teenager's life, Juno does not appear ashamed or frightened by it, and the strength and grit of Page's character are perhaps the most striking elements of this unconventional film.

"Juno" is not just a film about pregnancy; it begins with pregnancy and uses it like a diving board to jump off into the dynamics of friendship, adolescence, parenthood, and to inspire laughs. It is about finding humor in the worst situations and not letting problems bring you down. Morals are discussed and lessons are learned, but the greatest message of "Juno" is adopting a sense of humor.



Buon Giorno, Italia!

AUDRA PAGANO
STAFF WRITER

"Montepulciano is the highest of the hill towns in Tuscany. It combines breathtaking views of the vineyards and olive groves of the Tuscan countryside with a history that stretches back to the pre-Roman Etruscans," recounts Professor Howard Shealy.

I have always wanted to go to Italy, but I never really had the opportunity. Beginning college, I knew that I would be looking into Study Abroad. Everyone I talked to about Study Abroad had said the same thing: you must be a college upperclassman to take part in the program. I am not swayed easily from my dreams, and I continued to search for a way to go to Italy.

Summer 2007, before I started my freshman year at KSU, I went through the list of clubs that KSU offered and I contacted all the clubs that interested me through e-mail. Of course the Italian club was the first on my list of interests. Before long the president of the Italian club, Elizabeth Vazquez, and I were e-mailing back and forth. One message to Elizabeth, and I was turned once more in the right direction.

"I would really like to go to Italy this summer...I heard that there's a program in Tuscany, do you know anything about that?" I asked Vazquez.

She responded, "There are two programs: One goes to Montepulciano and this is for lower level Italian students...I know that the information for the Montepulciano is located on the second floor of the English Building."

Soon I found myself searching the English building for the Study Abroad Office. When I found it, I immediately entered in an attempt to speak with an advisor. Unfortunately, I did not know that you

needed an appointment to talk to an advisor, and I had to make an appointment with an advisor for the following week. As I walked out of the office, I saw a wall covered with pamphlets on different programs that the office offered for Study Abroad. I quickly grabbed the pamphlet about the program in Tuscany.

The little two-page pamphlet kept my interest throughout the next week until the day of my appointment came. I arrived at the Study Abroad office a few minutes early, eager to speak with the advisor about the program. The meeting was helpful, I was told about the different summer programs, the costs, and scholarships available to aid the expenses. But I felt as if the meeting was more of a dead end than a beginning.

For a short while later, my search for Italy had begun to dwindle. The only place my dream felt real was in my Introduction to Italian I class. The more I was around the language, the more my love grew for the Italian language and culture.

After another week or so, something amazing happened. I was walking one day with a friend and we were speaking Italian to each other when a student in front of us dropped his books. We stopped to help him when another professor stopped to help him as well. When the student had all his things together again we all got up and continued walking. My friend and I continued speaking fragments of Italian very enthusiastically when the professor in front of us finally turned around introduced himself. He was Dr. Howard Shealy, the Chair of the Department of History and Philosophy. He explained that he was the director of the program to Montepulciano. Then, he handed my friend and I his last two business cards telling us to send him an e-mail about Study

Abroad.

I e-mailed Professor Shealy and he offered to show my friend and me a PowerPoint that he put together about the past programs to Montepulciano. After the PowerPoint presentation, he showed us a video featuring students' feedback regarding Study Abroad that had been on past programs to Italy. It was the first time I realized that someone else believed in the possibility of my dream. After both presentations, Professor Shealy began to tell us of a new opportunity to go to Montepulciano. The cost of the program was only a thousand dollars more than the summer program and the duration was for twice the time. He was speaking of the brand new fall program to Tuscany, a ten-week long program. Once Professor Shealy had given me all the information, I knew which program I wanted to apply for. Before long I was able to make the down payment for the new Fall 2008 program to Montepulciano. I was immediately accepted into it and welcomed by Professor Shealy, Margaret Anderson, the peer adviser to Study Abroad students, and Colleen O'Hara, the Study Abroad Coordinator.

Professor Shealy explains, "Study Abroad is an opportunity that you won't ever have again once you graduate. It's an opportunity to live in and learn about another culture rather than visiting it as a tourist. It's a learning experience that is different from what you'll ever have on campus. Participating in Study Abroad will also give you a competitive advantage when you graduate."

Now having become a part of the first semester-long program, I've begun a journey to one of the most beautiful places in the world. There are a series of steps I must take to get to Italy. Follow me on my journey to Montepulciano!



The Remix Dance Squad is doing it again!!
Spring 2008 Tryouts have been set!
Interviews will be held on January 29th,
with the tryout being held on
January 31st at 9:30pm
in the dance studio located within the
KSU Center.
The interviews will take place
from 5:30pm - 10pm.

For more information or to set up an interview,
contact us at: remix@kennesaw.edu.

SPREAD THE WORD to anyone
who you know
is interested in the Remix Dance Squad,
Kennesaw State's
FIRST and ONLY Hip Hop Dance Team!!

Thank you for your interest
and we hope to see
you at tryouts! Please contact us should
you have any questions.

[earthtalk]*

Climate change and the election

The outcome of the 2008 presidential election could very well have a big impact on a wide range of environmental issues, especially climate change.

All of the Democratic candidates — Hillary Clinton, Barack Obama, John Edwards, Bill Richardson and Dennis Kucinich — support reducing carbon dioxide emissions nationally upwards of 80 percent by 2050 in order to stave off global warming. Likewise, each would like to see fuel efficiency standards for cars and light trucks raised to at least 40 miles per gallon within the next few decades. Meanwhile, only one of the major Republican contenders, John McCain, has even articulated a position on the issue of global warming, with most favoring expanding our base of greenhouse gas-spewing coal-fired power plants.

As for specific track records, Clinton has an impressive record of introducing pro-environment legislation into Congress, and for her time in the Senate scores a 90 (out of 100) on green voting from the nonprofit, non-partisan League of Conservation Voters (LCV). Obama is newer to the politics of the environment, but scored a 96 for his two years in the Senate



All of the 2008 Democratic presidential candidates support reducing CO2 emissions upwards of 80 percent by 2050. Major Republican contenders have barely articulated positions on the issue of global warming, with most favoring expanding our base of greenhouse gas-spewing coal-fired power plants. Pictured here: Top, left to right: Democratic candidates Barack Obama, John Edwards and Hillary Clinton; Bottom, left to right: Republican contenders Mike Huckabee and Mitt Romney.

LCV, and has garnered kudos from environmental leaders for the aggressive climate and energy plan he unveiled in October 2007.

Ohio Congressman Dennis Kucinich wants to launch a Works Green Administration similar to the Works Progress Administration of the Great Depression, only this time to benefit the environment through the development of alternative energy technologies and infrastructures. Bill Richardson, who served as Secretary of Energy under Bill Clinton and more recently as governor of New Mexico, wants to be the "energy president," and has an 82 lifetime rating from LCV to back it up. He has proposed the most ambitious carbon reduction plan of any of the candidates (90 percent by 2050). John Edwards was the first candidate to make his campaign carbon neutral in March 2007, and greens consider him perhaps the most progressive of all the Democrats on the climate issue.

On the Republican side, the environmental bright spots are few and far between. McCain is really the only choice with any declared concern for the environment. In 2003 he co-sponsored

the first Senate bill aimed at mandatory economy-wide reductions. While the bill didn't garner enough votes to pass, it set the stage for future iterations that could put the U.S. on par with European nations as leaders in the fight to cut carbon emissions. McCain is also the only Republican candidate specifically opposed to drilling for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Mike Huckabee scores some points with greens for his willingness to consider a specific increase in automotive fuel efficiency standards and for his (limited) embrace of alternative energy. Mitt Romney is willing to consider a cap on emissions, but only if enacted on a global basis (including China and India, that is). The remaining Republicans (Rudy Giuliani, Fred Thompson and Ron Paul) have best been non-committal on climate change and environmental issues in general.

CONTACT: For more detailed information on specific candidates' positions and track records on environmental issues, check out the *League of Conservation Voters' Voter Guide*, www.lcv.org/voterguide.

KSU EVENTS CALENDAR

What: Annual Art Faculty and Staff Exhibition

When: Tues, Jan 15 – Feb 28
Where: Sturgis Library Gallery

Cost: Free
Details: Showcase exhibition of the works of the artists of the Kennesaw State University visual arts faculty and staff, demonstrating a wide range of media including sculpture, painting, drawing, photography, ceramics, mixed media, printmaking and graphic design.

What: Welcome Back Wellness

When: Wed, Jan 16: 9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Where: Wellness Classroom
Cost: Free
Details: With starting back a New Year get yourself back on track to stay healthy!

What: Dance Team Competition

When: Fri, Jan 18: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Where: CC 2000 Atrium
Cost: --
Details: KSU Owl's Dance Team competes.

What: NO CLASSES – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

When: Mon, Jan 21
Where: KSU

What: Robert Sherer: Blood Works, Portraits of Love and Loss in the Age of AIDS

When: Until March 11
Where: Fine Arts Gallery

Cost: Free

Details: Blood Works is the subject of an upcoming documentary film and an art book to be published by the KSU Press in the spring of 2008. The artworks use floral imagery and unconventional media to address serious issues surrounding this global epidemic.

Would you like your club or organization to be featured on our KSU Events Calendar? E-mail The Sentinel.

GOT AN ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTION? Send it to: EarthTalk, c/o E/The Environmental Magazine, P.O. Box 5098, Westport, CT 06881; submit it at: www.emagazine.com/earthtalk/ thisweek/, or e-mail: earthtalk@emagazine.com. Read past columns at: www.emagazine.com/earthtalk/archives.

A BAD ROBOT PRODUCTION

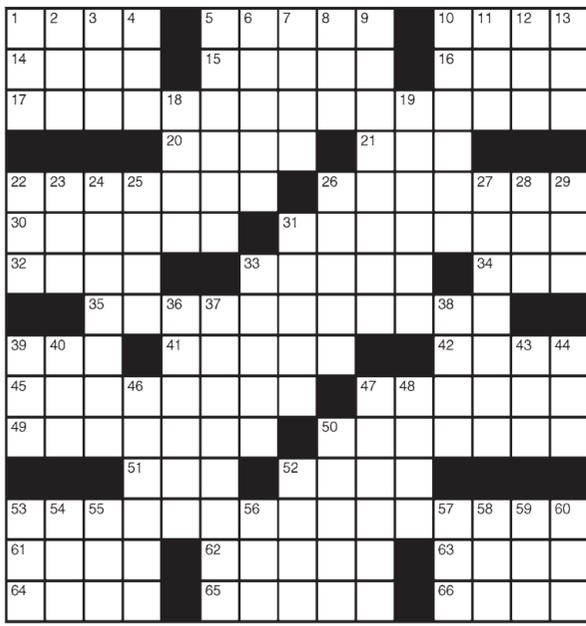
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THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

- ACROSS**
 1 Arsenal stash
 5 Buzz off!
 10 Aberdonian
 14 Table extension
 15 Singer Abdul
 16 Magnetic recording
 17 About average
 20 ___-do-well
 21 Dada artist
 Jean
 22 Policeman
 26 Double-crosser
 30 Thins out
 31 Vetoed
 32 Civil wrong
 33 Kentucky frontiersman of note
 34 Shooter missile
 35 What you'd expect
 39 Gabor sister
 41 Charged particle
 42 Carrot or beet, essentially
 45 Permit supplier
 47 Spanish sheep
 49 More violent
 50 Green garnish
 51 Consumed
 52 Ungentlemanly fellows
 53 Been there, done that
 61 Land of shamrocks
 62 French secondary school
 63 "Quando rapita in estasi," e.g.
 64 Close at hand
 65 Hunger (for)
 66 Reaction to a pinch
- DOWN**
 1 Mont Blanc, for one
 2 ___ culpa (Sorry 'bout that)
 3 Besmirch
 4 Wide of the mark
 5 Indulgent flings
 6 Supply food and service



By Diane C. Baldwin
 Columbia, MD 1/14/08

- 7 German industrial region
 8 Tankard fill
 9 Popular pasta
 10 Dim-witted
 11 Tram unit
 12 Wife of Saturn
 13 Jersey, for short
 18 As soon as
 19 Speaks pompously
 22 Make a choice
 23 To's companion
 24 Incinerator
 25 Keen on
 26 Rose protector
 27 Planting layer
 28 Be in debt
 29 Genetic material
 31 Extreme lethargy
 33 Prickly plant
 36 Holy places
 37 Inappropriate
 38 Gets off track
 39 North Pole worker?

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

P	O	T	T	E	D	S	T	O	P	C	O	C	K	
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- 40 Seven for Cato
 43 Hydrogen's number
 44 Plaything
 46 Blackboard tool
 47 Drive crazy
 48 Once, once
 50 Not as vibrant
 52 ___ Cola
- 53 Sawbuck
 54 Step on it!
 55 Remarkable time
 56 Storm center
 57 Horse chow
 58 High dudgeon
 59 Zero
 60 Discontinuity

Roaming Reporter

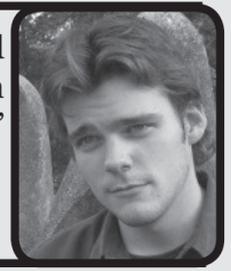
"What qualities do you look for in a presidential candidate?"



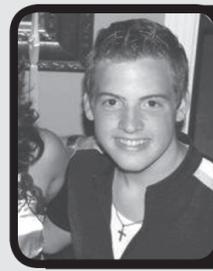
"I appreciate a candidate who can stay true to who they are and stand up for the party they represent."

-Erin Collins

"I value their awareness and ownership over their own faults and shortcomings."



-Andrew Puckett



"Someone who is true to themselves and their Morals and does not change just because of pressure or political gain."

-Tyler Cohen

"Above all else, a good leader should be fair and should appreciate and support the young people of the country."



-Natasha Chargois

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Kennesaw State University

2008 Black History Celebration

"Remembering Our Heritage And Our Strength To Push Forward"

Calendar of Events

KSU Black History Committee • African American Student Alliance
<http://www.kennesaw.edu/clubs/aasa/> • ksuaasa@yahoo.com • 770-423-6712

JANUARY

Annual Observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday with guest speaker, Chuck D, the founder of the rap group "Public Enemy"

January 21, 2008 – 1:00 pm - 2:15 pm

KSU Performance Hall • 770-423-6512

Chuck D. redefined hip-hop as music with a message, and his strident radicalism ushered in an era when rap was closely scrutinized for its content.

2nd Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration March

January 21, 2008 – 2:15 pm - 2:45 pm

Between KSU Performance Hall to KSU Convocation Center • 770-420-4366

All KSU student organizations are invited to participate in the march by designing banners for representation during the march. The march will convene immediately after the formal Annual Observance of MLK Birthday celebration program

Black Alumni Society Post MLK Day Celebration Reception

January 21, 2008 – 2:30 pm

KSU Convocation Center Hospitality Suite – 3rd Floor • (678) 797-2526

The reception is open to all attendees of the MLK Day celebration presentation being held at the Bobbie Bailey Performance Center.

Black History Bowl

January 22, 2008 – 12:30 pm - 1:45 pm

University Room B • 678-797-2526

Test your knowledge of African American history in education, politics, performing and visual arts, science, literature and more. Each team may include one member of the KSU faculty/staff. Sign up at the Office of Minority Student Retention Services.

AASA Black History Pageant

January 31st, 2008 Thursday, 7:30 pm - 10:00 pm

University Rooms CDE • 770-423-671

We will have different segments such as, formal wear, evening wear, and Black History Information. Prizes will be given to the winner of this event.

FEBRUARY

From Whence We've Come: Preserving Black History and Framing Diversity, Part 2

February 7, 2008 – 12:30 pm - 2:30 pm

Student Center - Leadership Room • 770-928-0269

The black faculty and staff will open what can be referred to as a time capsule of black history and diversity at KSU. Come join in the discussion of this journey.

Relationship 102

February 12th, 2008 Tuesday, 7:30 pm - 10:00 pm

Leadership Room and Fireside Lounge • 770-423-6712

Relationship 102 is a continuation of Relationship 101. There will be catering by Sodexo and prize giveaways as well.

Mirror Images: Fact or Fiction?

Tuesday February 19, 2008 - 12:30 pm - 2 pm

University Room C-E • 678-978-5778

Come out and educate yourself about how life really is in Africa. This is an open panel discussion dismissing and addressing myths thought about Africans as a whole.

Dr. David Satcher, U.S. Surgeon General and Assistant U.S. Secretary for Health, "The Role of Leadership in the Reduction and Ultimate Elimination of Disparities in Health."

February 19, 2008, 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm – \$15 to the community, \$10 to KSU

KSU Center, Room 400 • 678-797-2000

Dr. David Satcher, the 16th Surgeon General of the United States (1998-2002) and the Assistant Secretary for Health (1998-2001), was the first person in history to hold both of these positions simultaneously. He is also the first African-American to hold the Surgeon General position since it was created during the Civil War.

MARCH

Spoken Word

March 20th, 2008 Thursday – 7:30 pm - 10:00 pm

Leadership Room • 770-423-6712

This is a competition where participants will recite their own poetry and works.

APRIL

Senior Citizen Luncheon

April 11, 2008, 11:00 am - 2:00 pm

University Room A or Dining Room Addition (Pending) • 770-423-6700

An informal, educational, and social event to the seniors on topics pertinent to Black history.

Kennesaw
State UNIVERSITY

2008 Black History Celebration

You absolutely need to read this book

MARIA YANOVSKY
ARTS & LIVING EDITOR

It is shocking to find that this book remains an underrated mystery, especially on a college campus. "The Perks of Being a Wallflower" is a must-have for anyone who is, or ever has been, a teenager. This book is the most endearing read, and has slipped through the cracks of mainstream fiction.

This novel is arguably the "Catcher in the Rye" for the modern generation. First published by MTV in 1999, the novel changed the lives of the people who read it.

The story is a series of letters to an anonymous friend, written by the narrator, who takes the identity of Charlie, although that is not his real name. He is a shy wallflower, an unconventional thinker and an extremely introverted soul.

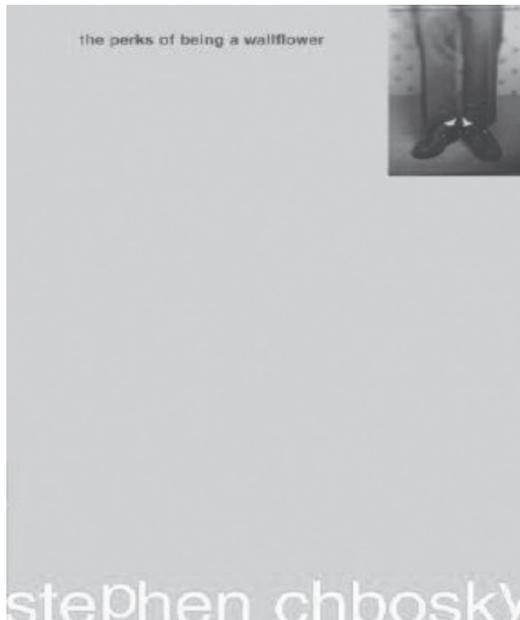
"I am writing you because she said you listen and understand and didn't try and sleep with that person at that party even though you could have," Charlie explains as the purpose for writing to this specific stranger.

Early on, we are thrust into Charlie's world of trivial problems. However, the descriptions and emotional epics that entice the reader right away change the tone from pathetic to tentative. In no time at all, Charlie is the most lovable character. We learn of his sister, whose experiences and attitudes are just downright depressing; we learn of his homophobia and conflicted friends. We meet his jock brother and his iconic English teacher, the latter of who lades out assignments like a soup nazi.

Charlie gets by relying on what he holds dear, his newfound love for theater, music and literature.

The entire book is filled with obscure pop culture references. This "Rocky Horror" fanatic introduces all of his favorite films, songs and books to the reader. The most refreshing aspect of this is that he tends to stay away from anything too mainstream.

In order to gain inspiration, Charlie turns to his love of books. Some of the authors that he mentions include F. Scott Fitzgerald,



Nick Drake to name a few.

Charlie is deeply affecting, and the coming-of-age trials that he deals with are easily relateable to any teenager or young adult.

The letters that he writes are both hilarious and devastating, unique and mysterious. We know nothing of this character, yet we can escape with him, on that perfect drive to that perfect song.

This book is a well-written, thoughtful, relevant and realistic depiction of high school. But do not be discouraged from reading this if you are well out of those teen years, because the insight one can gain from this book is not to be matched. Charlie provides us with a haunting, yet fantastic reality that would serve as a life lesson for anyone.

I will be honest: I was really turned off at first, over reading a book about some depressed kid who is almost pathetic. However, there is something about the tone of his character that is unbelievably endearing. I have read this book seven times, not because I have too much time on my hands, but because it gets better and better with each read. And I have yet to meet somebody who has read this book in more than two or three sittings.

Now I am not claiming that this is the best book ever - far from it actually. It would be an easy claim to make for someone who doesn't read many books. However, if you read constantly, like myself, you will find that this book easily rivals much of what has come out in the last 15 to 20 years. Every generation has a great coming-of-age tale, and this is undoubtedly ours. I whole-heartedly recommend everyone in college read this book, preferably by moonlight or flashlight, curled under the covers. You will remember those high school years fondly. You will laugh out loud, and probably get teary-eyed throughout; this is a book that takes you to a beautiful, emotional place, where you can find peace with Charlie, a tentative voice coming into his own.



Don't miss these Uptown events!

- 1/15 **Jose Gonzales**
Variety Playhouse
- 1/16 **Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey**
James Brown Arena
- 1/18 **Hotel Cafe Tour**
Center Stage Theatre
- 1/19 **Take Action Tour**
Masquerade
- 1/24 **Tracy Morgan**
Center Stage Theatre
- 1/25 **Ron White**
Bell Auditorium
- 1/28 **Matchbox Twenty**
Philips Arena
- 2/02 **Brad Paisley**
Macon Centreplex Coliseum
- 2/23 **Jill Scott**
Fabulous Fox Theater
- 2/25 **Van Halen**
The Arena At Gwinnett Center



“Every generation has a great coming-of-age tale, and this is undoubtedly ours. I whole-heartedly recommend everyone in college read this book, preferably to moonlight and flashlight, curled under the covers.”

J.M. Barrie, Jack Kerouac and William S. Burroughs, to name a few. He also has a list of dreamy music that helps him cope with the awkwardness and bleak reality of life. Some of the songs (which find room on the mixed tapes that he makes) are "Asleep," by The Smiths, "Vapour Trail," by Ride, "Time of No Reply," by

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SPORTS

Women's soccer celebrates best season yet

DANIEL LEWIS
STAFF WRITER

KSU's women's soccer team finished their best season yet in 2007, going 17-4-0 on the season and winning the Atlantic Sun Championship for the first time.

Despite being a heavy favorite, the Owls finished the 2006 season with a shocking loss to Jacksonville in the conference tournament. Needless to say, the Owls began the 2007 season with something to prove.

"We were optimistic as a squad coming into the season," said assistant coach Frank Pitt. "We had a couple of early injuries when our training started, so we thought we might have finished with a few more losses, but overall we were pleased with our results."

After two early losses to Samford and Mississippi State, the Owls won a crucial game against Alabama in Tuscaloosa. After having a player ejected with a red card, KSU came

from behind to defeat the Crimson Tide 3-2.

"Beating Alabama on the road was a huge turning point for us," said Pitt. "It definitely helped us get back on the right track with our season."

Following the victory of Alabama, KSU went on a twelve game winning streak. They then went on to make a run through the Atlantic Sun Conference Tournament, defeating Mercer in the final game 3-1.

The squad earned its first NCAA tournament bid with the win over Mercer. However, they ran into some bad luck when they were matched up against one of the best schools in the nation, Florida State.

"We were very excited about getting into the tournament," said Pitt. "But, we got stuck against one of the top two teams in the country, we felt if we played our best and Florida State made a few mistakes we had a shot, but it was definitely a tough match-up."

Florida State asserted their domi-

nance over KSU by scoring three first half goals. The Owls played even with the Seminoles in the second half and even had some late scoring opportunities, but they failed to capitalize.

"The loss wasn't as dejecting as the loss the previous year to Jacksonville," said Pitt. "We walked out of there with our heads held high. Florida State has a great program, but we still had some opportunities to score."

Annie Phillips and Whitney Marler played in their final games of their college careers against Florida State. Phillips went out on top earning the Atlantic Sun Conference Player of the Year for the 2007 season.

Though they are losing a key goal scorer in Phillips, the coaching staff is optimistic about the 2008 season.

"We definitely want to repeat again as conference champions," said Pitt. With our new recruits, this should be the best team we've ever had at KSU."



Photo courtesy of KSU SID
KSU women's soccer team poses with A-Sun trophy after defeating Mercer in Nov. 2007.

Men's b-ball ends losing streak Owls stop 9-game skid with game against North Florida

CAITLIN DINGLE
STAFF WRITER

The KSU men's basketball team ended an eight game losing streak with an 80-59 victory over University of North Florida. The UNF Ospreys are a former Division II Peach Belt Conference rival that the Owls have defeated four of the last five times they have met. Going into the match Saturday night

in the Convocation Center, both teams were struggling in their seasons. Before this game, neither team had been able to win an Atlantic Sun Conference game this season.

The Owls trailed the Ospreys for the first eight minutes of the competition until J.D. Pollock's 3-pointer with 11:21 to play put the Owls in front for the first time of the match.

It ignited a game-changing 12-0 run for KSU. They led 39-27 at halftime, and never let up in the second half, ending the game with a 21-point victory. This marks the first win for KSU since early December.

Outstanding offensive play from seniors Ronnell Wooten and Shuan Stegall led the Owls to their first Atlantic Sun Conference win of the season. Wooten

led the scoring with 17 points and Stegall tallied 16. The Owls also illustrated exceptional defensive play, allowing a season-low 13 turnovers and creating 10 steals.

"We needed a win," said KSU head coach Tony Ingle about the game. "We really pulled together and maintained our composure. Once we got the lead we really did some good things."

Lady Owls off to hot start Team tied for first place in Atlantic Sun Conference

CAITLIN DINGLE
STAFF WRITER

The Lady Owls played the UNF Ospreys for a 69-54 win Saturday afternoon at home in the Convocation Center. The KSU women's basketball team clinched their best start since joining the Atlantic Sun Conference. This win was posted against a former rival from the Division II Peach Belt Conference, The University of North Florida, and marks the first time the team has started out the A-Sun regular season with a 2-0 record.

After an early Osprey lead, the Lady Owls put it together at the 15:30 minute mark of the competition and never let up. KSU hit 45.8 percent of their shots from the floor, and ended half time with a 3-point shot at the buzzer by Ashley Johnson, which put the Owls up by 12 points at half.

Johnson then opened the second half in the same fashion, making another long shot for 3 points in the first minute of the half. The Owls continued to dominate finishing the game with a 15 point victory. Brittney Henderson, who led all scorers with 16 points, was one of four KSU players making it into

double digits.

"We've been playing hard defensively, causing a lot of turnovers and making it difficult for the other team," KSU head coach Colby Tilley said.

Those defensive strides include forcing 30 UNF turnovers and 16 steals. Greteya Kelley was a defensive threat for the Owls, making 7 steals, as her teammate Brittney Henderson notched 6 steals in the game.

This convincing win puts KSU at a 7-7 overall record, and the 2-0 A-Sun record is keeping the players motivated to reach their goals.

Junior Guard Nikki Gurley has high hopes for her team. "We're really excited that we've started off with this conference record of 2-0," Gurley said. "The team can't wait to expand on this already great season."

Making it to the Women's National Invitational Tournament (WNIT) is another goal that the Lady Owls have set for their team. "The players are playing like they're really on a mission," Coach Tilley said. "They all know that if they win the regular season they'll be in a good place to go to the WNIT."



Photo courtesy of KSU SID
Golfer Mike Tulacz celebrates after sinking a putt.

Looking back on the front nine Golf team reflects on success halfway through season

AUBREY INGALLS
STAFF WRITER

The 119th ranked Owls are midway through their season and head coach Blake Smart is pleased with his team's first half performance and future potential. The KSU men's golf team finished the 2006-07 season on an up-swing, highlighted by Kris Sheppard's pair of dominant tournament wins. The fall half of the current 2007-08 season saw the team continue their strong play with impressive team finishes in each of the first two events. The Owls began the season by finishing third and setting a new school DI record for the lowest 18-hole round (274) at the USA Jaguar Intercollegiate in Mobile, Al. They quickly followed up with a fifth place team finish at the Brickyard Collegiate Golf Championship. Coach Smart is especially pleased with the team's performance at the Brickyard, as the only teams to place ahead of the Owls were southern juggernauts Georgia, Clemson, Georgia Tech, and South Carolina. Coach Smart credits the team's early successes to "good ball striking" and that "the entire team contributed."

KSU golf cannot be discussed before the name Mike Tulacz comes up. Not only has Tulacz led the Owls in scor-

ing, he set school DI records for lowest round (65) and lowest 54 hole score (206). He finished third at the Brickyard, just three strokes behind the tournament winner. Tulacz is now ranked 41st of all college level golfers by golfstat.com and qualified to compete in the U.S. Amateur at the Olympic Club.

Transfer student Bryan Alred found his way into the school records books as well by scoring a 66 during second round play at the Sam Hall Intercollegiate. He is now tied for the school's second all-time low score over 18 holes. Coach Smart modestly describes Alred as a "very solid number two player."

With the second half of the season in his sights, Coach Smart is "expecting for [the] team to continue their strong play and to see improvements, too."

Highlighting the second half will be Mercer's Linger Longer Invitational in Greensboro, Ga. where Smart would like to see his players put up a solid score against a deep and talented field. Scheduled before the conference championship will be the first ever KSU hosted event. Named for the Hall of Fame golfer and KSU alum, the two day Larry Nelson Collegiate Invitational will take place at Chateau Elan and field a total of 33 men's and women's teams from across the country. Coach Blake Smart is especially excited for the Larry Nelson Invitational but he has his eyes set on winning the conference championship or earning a 65th or better national ranking at season's end.

Baseball has high hopes this season

KELLY BLAINE
STAFF WRITER

In just its second season of NCAA Division I play, the 2007 KSU baseball team produced the second best overall record in the league at 32-23 including wins over the University of Georgia, Georgia Southern and Georgia Tech in front of a capacity crowd at Stillwell Stadium.

The Owls, however, struggled in conference games going 13-14 which landed them fifth in the Atlantic Sun Conference. According to Head Coach, Mike Sansing, the Owls are expected to improve their conference play in 2008.

"We are going to focus on doing better in the conference," said Sansing. "As young as we were [last year], experience is going to be the key."

The Owls will lose only one starter going in to the 2008 season and all of 07's young stars will be returning as seasoned veterans. Among the veterans, junior shortstop Jacob Robbins,

who was named to the All A-Sun Second Team after leading the conference with a .383 batting average, which included a 35 game hitting streak, the second longest in school history.

Also returning, are pitcher Kyle Heckathorn and catcher Jace Whitmer who were named to the Ping All-Freshman Team. Heckathorn finished the season with a 4-2 record, a 3.31 earned run average, and in 11 appearances he struck out a team high 77 batters. Whitmer finished the year with a .293 batting average and led the team in home runs (4) and RBIs (43).

Coach Sansing is highly optimistic about next season. "Last year we lacked in power, but this year we have added a lot of depth offensively," said Sansing.

Owl fans have a lot to look forward to as they open the season with a six-game home stand beginning February 22 against Samford. The Owls will also face rivals Troy, UGA, Georgia Tech and Georgia Southern in 2008.

BCS needs a makeover

Another college football season has wrapped up and still the same question is asked: when is there going to be a playoff? Division I football is the only sport where the NCAA does not have a tournament or some type of playoff to determine a champion. Instead they have come up with a wonderful system known as the Bowl Championship Series, or BCS for short. This system supposedly determines the best teams to fight it out for a championship, only it is not determined on the field, but by voters.

If ever a season called for a playoff it's this one. There was no single team that separated themselves from anyone else during the season. Let me give you some numbers; 32, 31, 3, 20, 14. Now those aren't my math test scores, (although eerily similar), but rather the margin of victory for the Rose, Sugar, Orange and Fiesta Bowls, as well as the BCS title game. That gives you an average margin of victory of 20 points. 20 points, are you kidding me? These scores were not even close and the games were about as exciting as watching C-Span! The only game that was close was the Orange Bowl between Kansas and Virginia Tech. According to the Nielson Ratings, the Orange Bowl game placed 13th in most viewers for the week of Dec. 31 to Jan. 6. The game didn't even make the top 10 in viewership. This shows the lack of excitement so many people had about the bowl games.

What can be done to remedy the situation? Like it or not the bowl games are not going away, which is good news for those who eagerly anticipate the Meineke Car Care Bowl. My proposal

would be to make the BCS bowls a mini playoff. Take the top eight ranked teams and match them up in the Rose, Orange, Sugar, and Fiesta Bowls. Then have the winners of those games play each other and then the winners of that match-up meet each other in the championship game. This will not only give us a clear champion, but also create major excitement for the games. Every year college basketball has the NCAA tournament in March that seems to take over America with "March Madness."

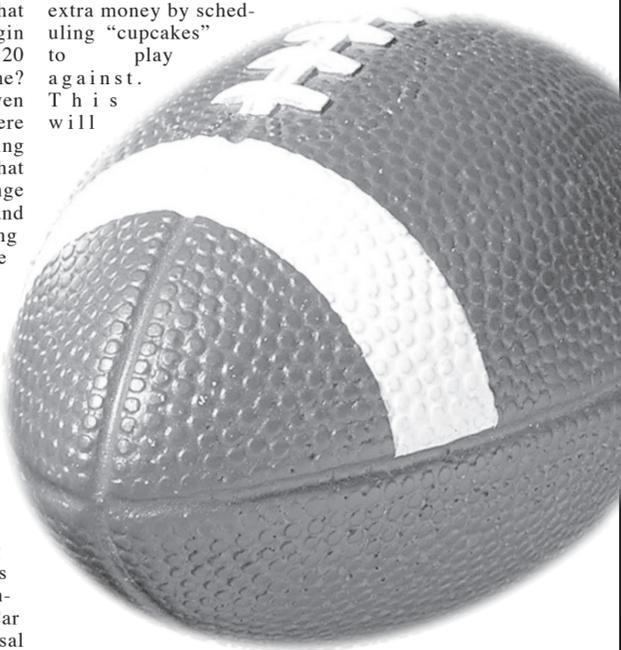
Why can't college football do the same with a playoff tournament? Imagine how excited college football fans would be, watching playoff games I will dub "January Jubilation" (trademark pending). Keep all the other bowls and get rid of the ridiculous 12th game that college football added purely for greed so the big time programs can make some extra money by scheduling "cupcakes" to play against. This will



JOE HURST
SPORTS EDITOR

give an extra week that can be added to the end of the season so the football schedule will not be extended for a playoff.

I know this method may not be the best, but it is unequivocally better than the current system. The bottom line is that some type of change needs to occur. Hopefully this time next year the same questions won't be asked after another college football season and fans will instead talk about "January Jubilation."



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