



SERVING SINCE 1966

## New club to hone students' public speaking skills

NADIA ABDULAH  
STAFF WRITER

The new student organization Toastmasters International (TI) is not, as one might think upon first mention, a club for breakfast aficionados. What it is, an organization that helps members improve their public speaking and leadership abilities, proves much more useful to students and their futures.

The motto for Toastmasters International is "Become the speaker and leader you want to be." Toastmasters International was incorporated under California law on Dec. 19, 1932. In 2008, there are more than 226,000 members and over 11,500 clubs located across the U.S. and in 92 other countries.

At KSU, Legacy Owls Toastmasters (LOT) gives students the opportunity to better their public speaking skills, develop leadership skills and gain access to well-paying jobs. LOT was started in Aug. 2005 and established its charter with TI on Apr. 23, 2007. The club is open to students, faculty and staff.

"We do need to have six paid members registered by June 30 to keep our charter," said Todd Powell, assistant director of Adult Learner Programs. "Once we have our officers in place, then we have the opportunity to receive further funding." The officers needed for the organization include president, vice president, VP membership, VP public relations, secretary, treasurer and sergeant of arms.

The new member fee is \$20 and is followed by \$27 membership dues per semester. However, there will be a limited number of sponsorships provided for students who need financial help with the initial membership dues.

As new members of LOT, students are offered training opportunities to further their leadership skills and to prepare the officers for their new roles. The first Toastmasters District Training program will be held on Sat., July 19 at the Gwinnett Civic Center (7:30 a.m. until 2 p.m.).

"It is a great network of Toastmasters," Powell said. "You never know who you might meet there and it might very well be your entry into a well-paying job."

Numerous studies have also shown that presentation skills are crucial to success in the workplace and many people pay high fees for public speaking seminars. LOT provides students with a less-expensive alternative to seminars and TI is a well-regarded organization in business circles. In addition, LOT offers a promising prospect for students to overcome fears of public speaking. Communication majors might also be interested in joining LOT in correlation with their gateway courses such



Maria Yanovsky | The Sentinel

## AthFest

Annual festival attracts audience from all over the south

The infamous annual celebration of music was held in Athens, Ga on June 18-22. AthFest has captivated audiences and attracted music fanatics from all over the south for twelve years, this year having the largest turnout yet. With 175 bands performing all over downtown, thousands attended to see the live music. Student Whitney Miley said, "I've never been to AthFest before, and frankly never realized how much culture Athens has to offer until I went to AthFest 2008."

FULL STORY on page 5

## K-9 unit honored at memorial service

JESSICA EDENS  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Within the KSU community, there are plenty of hardworking students, faculty and staff, but one slightly unorthodox employee was honored this summer, for his decade of time serving and protecting campus. The KSU police department held a memorial service June 3, honoring the life of K-9 Benni and his work at KSU from 1998 until 2007.

The K-9 unit, comprised of K-9 Benni and K-9 Handler Sergeant James A. Zebley, made the first university in the southeastern United States to have a K-9 Unit. Since they were established, other universities followed suit, and every campus in Georgia now has its own K-9 unit.

K-9 Benni aided in uncovering, "tens of thousands of dollars of drugs" over the years, according to KSU police Officer D.M. Ferree. He was also involved in several car chases on campus, and helped maintain security for nearly a decade.

Like all K-9 units, K-9

Benni was extensively trained, as Ferree illustrated with an anecdote during the memorial service. Unloading his patrol car one evening, he was accompanied by several other officers, Sergeant Zebley and K-9 Benni, when one of the officers started to bang on Ferree's plastic file

had to pull me back, so that K-9 Benni would not hurt me."

"There's no better job," said Sergeant Zebley of his time as part of the K-9 Unit. Now a Corporal at Johns Creek police department, Zebley was influential in creating the K-9 Unit within the campus police de-



John Stubbs | The Sentinel

Police chief Ted Cochran (at right) presents honors to Corporal James Zebley, who, along with K-9 Benni, made up the KSU K-9 unit.

cabinet.

"What I did not know at the time was that K-9 Benni thought this was a game, and [anything you banged] on became his," he said. "I went to reach down and stop [him] from attacking my file cabinet and Sergeant Zebley

partment. "I spent more time with him than my own family," he said. "It's a 24/7 relationship."

In May 2007, K-9 Benni retired due to his health. In his age, and due to his life-long work, his hip was causing him too much

pain. He retired to Zebley's home, where he could play with Zebley's toddler son Alex and rest. In Jan. of this year, he became ill; doctors believed it to be a brain tumor, but were not certain. K-9 Benni then underwent surgery in April, to stop internal bleeding in his nose, and did not survive.

At the memorial service, KSU Police Chief Ted Cochran presented a plaque honoring Zebley for his role in K-9 Benni's life and in securing the start of a K-9 unit on campus. Cochran was the one who initially approved the new K-9 unit, and worked closely with Zebley throughout the entire process.

K-9 Benni's life spanned 77 "dog years," or about ten years and one month. "He was someone I could always count on," Zebley said, noting that he was happy that the dog was being "honored for all his hard work."

"K-9 Benni was the hardest working unpaid employee Kennesaw State University ever had, and ever will have," said Ferree.

## Guest professor clarifies western latino history

CLARK BARROW  
NEWS EDITOR

A University of California professor spoke to KSU students earlier this summer about Spanish women who migrated from Mexico to what is now the Western United States in the 16th Century to 1900.

Dr. Vicki Ruiz, a Professor of History at the University of California Irvine and recent co-editor of "Latinas in the United States: A Historical Encyclopedia," spoke to students May 7 in the Social Science Building.

Ruiz told students that she wanted to dispel the notion that Mexicans have only recently been migrating north to the U.S.. Ruiz presented material from her new book that dated back to 1540, when Spanish-speaking women began migrating north.

When highlighting the roles women had in the immigrant colonies, Ruiz described the roles of women as cowgirls, landowners, dressmakers and their own doctors. Ruiz said many arrived with the beginning of the Coronado expedition of 1540 as wives of soldiers or land owners but would prove to be essential to the survival of the new community.

Ruiz told the audience several stories of Mexicans migrating north more than 200 years before the U.S. became a country. Ruiz also highlighted the thriving communities that were created by the immigrants in what is now New Mexico, California, Arizona and California.

According to Ruiz, by 1848 northern migration became so popular that Mexico lost nearly one-half of its national population and more than 75,000 of its colonist-citizens.

"I wanted to bridge the stories I heard at home with the history I learned at school," Ruiz said in regards to her book. "At school, I heard about Ponce de Leon, the Alamo, Poncho Villa and that was the extent of Latino history."

Ruiz said that most of the Latina history that her book presents is left out of text books because of the need to focus on colonial history and the American Revolution during that time period. Ruiz hopes to bridge the gap between the geographic regions and include stories from both in U.S. history.

Associate Professor of English, Dr. Nina Morgan, required her World Literature class to attend the event for extra credit. Morgan said she liked the idea of students meeting professors from around the world and thought Ruiz gave a complex understanding of the western part of the U.S.

## In this issue

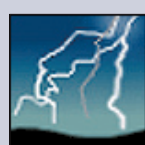
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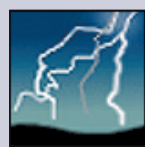
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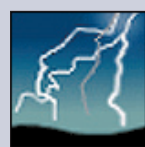
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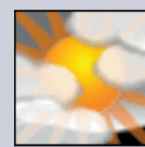
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## Around campus

What: Book Art, Art in Books, Books as Art  
When: Through July 19  
Where: Horace W. Sturgis Library Art Gallery

What: ABLE Third Annual Open House  
When: July 14-16, 8:30am-

3:00pm  
Where: University Rooms, Carmichael Student Center

What: The Persuasions in Concert: Musical performance  
When: July 13, 7:30pm  
Where: KSU Legacy Gazebo  
Details: \$5 cover

# Ex-Tufts officials charged with embezzling to see Celine Dion

GATEHOUSE NEWS SERVICE  
METROWEST DAILY NEWS

Two former Tufts University administrators, including a Wayland woman, face charges they stole nearly \$1 million from the university in separate schemes, spending money on trips to Foxwoods, Paris and Montreal, buying concert tickets to see Madonna and Celine Dion and charging high-end designer goods by Gucci, Tiffany and Co., and Louis Vuitton.

Middlesex District Attorney Gerry Leone said in a press release that Josephine Nealley of Wayland, director of the Massachusetts Universities Office of Students Activities between 1996 and 2007, and Raymond Rodriguez of Belmont, the budget and fiscal coordinator for the Office of Student Activities between 2001 and 2007, were indicted Tuesday by a Middlesex Grand Jury.

Leone said Nealley was indicted on three counts of larceny over \$250 after allegedly stealing \$372,576. Rodriguez, who was indicted on two counts of larceny over \$250, is accused of stealing \$604,873.

"These two employees abused the access that they were entrusted with to steal literally hundreds of thousands of dollars for their own personal use," Leone said in a statement.

In the same statement, Patricia Campbell, executive vice president of the university, said, "We are deeply disappointed that two individuals who were trusted by students and colleagues abused that trust.

"Student activity funds were handled differently than other university business. That is no longer the case. We have significantly improved student activities systems to prevent

future incidents. We have also taken steps to assure that no student activities programs are adversely affected."

The DA said a member of the Tufts Internal Audit Department who had received an anonymous tip discovered the schemes.

Leone said Nealley had control over bank accounts associated with the Office of Student Activities and used one of these accounts to deposit student activity funds. She then would transfer that money into her personal bank accounts. She also used the account to withdraw cash and make personal purchases. Bank records indicate that Nealley used a debit/ATM card to make purchases at Foxwoods Resort and Casino, IKEA, Whole Foods, The Disney Store, Talbots and from the mail-order company Omaha Steaks.

According to the district attorney's office, from 2001 to 2007 Nealley "transferred \$63,500 to her personal line of credit, \$91,000 to her personal checking account and also withdrew \$174,908 in cash."

In total, she is alleged to have stolen \$372,576 from the university through this scheme, even though she was "not authorized to take or spend any of this money by the

university," Leone's office said.

During the investigation, auditors also discovered that Rodriguez stole \$604,873 from university student activity accounts. Auditors discovered that Rodriguez wrote himself a check from a Tufts account in the amount of \$100,000, then deposited that check into an account he opened in his name, and used the money to pay credit card bills, the DA's office said. Rodriguez also opened numerous credit cards in his name and in the name of Tufts University. He then used the cards to purchase personal items

and then pay the credit cards with checks drawn from the Tufts University student activity account.

From October 2005 to September 2007, Rodriguez is alleged to have used Tufts money to purchase trips to Paris, Montreal, New York, Las Vegas, Chicago, and other destinations; tickets to concerts such as

Madonna, Celine Dion, Rent, and opera performances; and to buy hundreds of thousands of dollars in luxury goods from Gucci, Tiffany and Co., Bloomingdale's, Louis Vuitton, Hermes, Coach and Prada, Leone's office reported.

An arraignment date for Nealley and Rodriguez has not yet been set.

"These two employees abused the access that they were entrusted with to steal literally hundreds of thousands of dollars for their own personal use," Leone said in a statement.

## Editors sue Ga. college over cuts to student paper's budget

ROB ARCAMONA  
SPLC STAFF WRITER

Student editors at Armstrong Atlantic State University's student newspaper, "The Inkwell," filed a lawsuit Monday against the university, claiming the school stifled their right to free speech when the paper's budget was slashed in March.

The civil suit, filed in the Superior Court of Chatham County in Georgia, said the 2008-2009 budget cut was in retaliation for a more aggressive and critical approach to covering the university's administration.

According to the complaint, the budget reduction "was motivated wholly or in substantial part by the disagreement of AASU officials with the content and viewpoint of 'The Inkwell' newspaper."

In March, "The Inkwell" was allotted \$39,740 from student activity fees, a reduction of \$14,760 from the year before. Angela Mensing, former editor in chief of "The Inkwell" and a plaintiff in the case, said that the reduction was a way to get back at the newspaper.

"The university didn't like our content choices; they didn't like the stories and they didn't like the way we covered the student government. It wasn't how they wanted to be covered," Mensing said.

During a Feb. 16 budget hearing, Mensing said, members of the Student Government Association Finance Committee criticized the paper's coverage of SGA events. She said the meeting was just one example in which it seemed the university was using the newspaper's content as a reason to cut the paper's budget.

The complaint asserts that the budget cut oc-

incided with an "Inkwell" investigation into the university's failure to fully satisfy all disclosure obligations under the Clery Act, a federal law that gives the public access to certain campus crime information.

In addition to getting funding from student fees, the newspaper also receives money by selling space for advertisements. That amount, which was projected in March for the upcoming year, rose from \$15,000 to \$25,500.

The university set "The Inkwell"'s total budget, combining what the newspaper will receive from student fees and advertisement space, at \$65,240. That is a net reduction of \$4,260 from the 2007-2008 year.

Francisco Duque, spokesperson for the university, had "no comment" on the lawsuit.

Gerald Weber, an attorney representing editors at

"The Inkwell," said the university's actions were out of step with the First Amendment.

"The Armstrong Atlantic student journalists were taught the wrong lesson when a university responded to good and critical journalism by cutting the funding for the paper," Weber wrote in an e-mail to the Student Press Law Center.

Weber took the case through the SPLC's Attorney Referral Network. The suit alleges violations of the rights of three current and former "Inkwell" editors: Mensing, Kristen Alonso and Brian Anderson under the federal and state constitutions. The complaint asks the court to restore student activity fee funding to its 2007-2008 level.

Chris Nowicki, an SGA Finance Committee member and Al Harris, director of student activities and one of the defendants in the lawsuit, referred all of the SPLC's questions to Duque and the university.

## Intramural & Recreation Services

### Hours of Operation Fall & Spring:

#### STUDENT RECREATION FACILITY

Monday - Thursday 6am - midnight

Friday 6am - 9pm

Saturday 8am - 8pm

Sunday 11am - 11pm

#### INTRAMURAL & RECREATION SERVICES OFFICE

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For complete hours, schedules and information, pick up your copy of the INSIDER at the Student Recreation & Wellness Center and Student Life office!

Contact Intramural & Recreation Services for more information at 770-423-6913

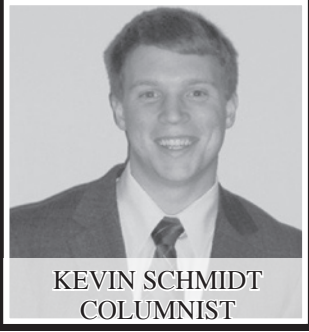
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# OPINIONS & EDITORIALS

Tell us about it  
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## The burden of pork spending

When Governor Sonny Perdue signed Georgia's \$21.1 billion budget for fiscal 2009, it contained \$6 million for Local Assistance Grants (LAG), funds appropriated and allocated to a specific recipient or local government for a specific purpose. Lawmakers try to use the fact that these handouts are a relatively small part of the state budget - about 0.03 percent of the '09



KEVIN SCHMIDT  
COLUMNIST

budget - to defend the spending.

The size notwithstanding, taxpayers need to question these appropriations. Does the specified program constitute a legitimate function of government? Is this program a local, rather than state, responsibility? Does it pose an undue burden on the local government's budget?

The evidence shows that a vast majority of these special projects to which the funds are allocated pose no undue burden on the local government's budget. Of the 224 cities allotted grants, only 16 of the grants were larger than 5 percent of their fiscal 2006 budget. None of the grants for county government projects would have cost more than 1.75 percent of their budget. If the projects are of such minimal cost to the local government and the projects are so important, why wouldn't local government pay for it?

This year, DeKalb County received a \$5,000 grant for materials and supplies to help Park Pride-Druid Hills Civic Association construct a low activity neighborhood pocket park. One could reasonably assume it to be a legitimate function of government.

The questions, however, are whether it should have been a local responsibility and whether it put an undue burden on DeKalb's budget.

This project could have been paid in full, without assistance by the state, without Dekalb even blinking. At \$5,000, it was just 0.0008 percent of the county's fiscal 2006 budget. The conclusion? The grant was not based on any financial need by DeKalb government. And it's only one of many examples of money wasted on Local Assistance Grants. Here are the projects grant money went to: \$15,000 for replacing water heaters and retrofit for water conservation for the QLS Apartments in Fulton County; \$20,000 for renovating the Baxley Livestock Barn and Arena in Appling County; \$10,000 on new football uniforms for Pebblebrook High School in Cobb County.

These projects can be correctly called "pork." The fact that these projects could be paid for easily at the local level shows how state lawmakers are using the grants as gifts to constituents.

Despite the wasted money, there are some Local Assistance Grants being used for legitimate functions of state government. For example, the City of Fargo is getting \$10,000 to purchase a used fire truck. This would have been 10 percent of Fargo's \$97,163 budget. The City of Payne received \$7,500 to help buy fire hydrants and leak detection and prevention equipment. The cost would have been 30 percent of Payne's budget. These grants were allocated to important health and safety projects whose funding would have put an undue burden on the local governments.

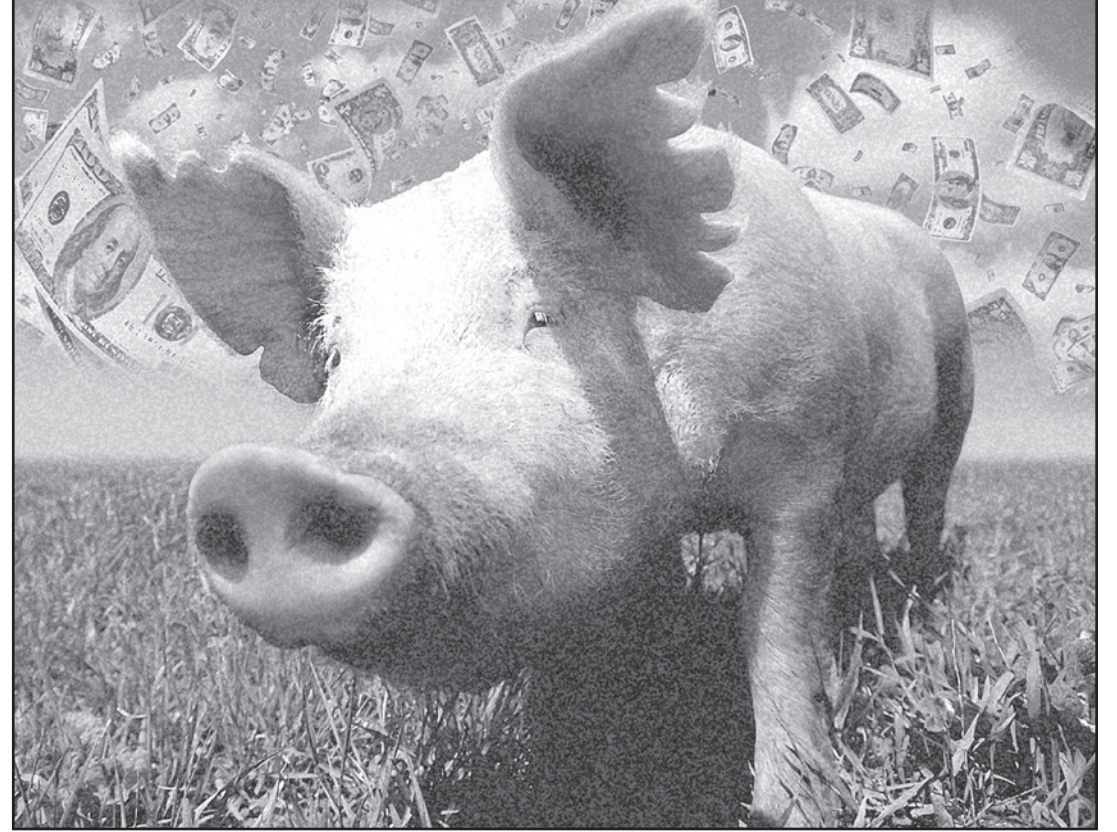
The larger problem with Local Assistance Grants isn't the cost (though it is a problem), but rather the corruption that goes along with them. Want a LAG for your district? Keep the powers that be happy and vote for their bills. If you don't you could lose your grants. Want to get someone

to vote for your bills? Persuade them with the offer of some hefty grants. It happens time and again. At the federal level, the Medicare prescription drug bill in 2003 was short of votes in the House, but it passed after those who wanted votes threatened to take away the pork of naysayers.

Georgia lawmakers insist the grants go through an evaluation process and the money goes to the places it's needed. Given the grants' diversity, it's impossible to decipher any sort of evaluation

process or find out how grants are being prioritized. Relatively rich counties could afford all the projects they are getting grants to pay for. A close look at the 470 Local Assistance Grants clarifies that most of the allocation is based on politics, not good public policy.

Pork spending has become so engrained in politics that a longtime senator suggested that taking away his highway money was like slapping his wife. Based on all the wasted money, a slapping might be necessary.



## Commercialized Christianity



Graphic by Adeolu Adebayo



MICHAEL CALDWELL  
COLUMNIST

From T-Shirts to bumper stickers, neckties to silverware, even as far as pencils and erasers with "Jesus erases Sin" imprinted on them, has the movement lost sight of its roots? The common fish that you see on the back of the car in front of you is to signify that there is a Christian inside of the car. The "Jesus is My Homeboy" T-shirt lets you know that the person underneath that billboard of cotton is a "Christ Follower." The Christian cause has, as so much else in the midst of capitalism, become overly commercialized.

In the book of Matthew, Christ tells his followers to keep the service reaped by their faith a secret, and not to "announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men." I must ask modern Christians who are purchasing these homeboy t-shirts how they can reconcile their cheap advertisement of this movement of love.

Should you not share your message through the love and service that dominates your life? I once heard a man pose the question, "If you were put on trial for being a Christian, would you be found guilty?" I must take this further. Aside from your clothing, CDs and bumper stickers, would those around you be able to identify your Christian "faith"? Is your life yielding an effect that shows your faith, or is it the clothing that you wear that is making those around you aware of the "love" that you hold?

This is the irony of the matter: the Christians who are easy to spot before speaking to them are oftentimes the people who shouldn't be wearing those shirts. Christians who truly believe what would be inscribed in thread across their chest are quite often

the ones who choose not to sport it. These sort of followers are the kind that you would not pick out as the modern commercialized Christian. They wear average clothing, drive cars absent of obnoxious bumper stickers and are least likely to pass out pamphlets containing the Gospel with no act of love to accompany a message of love.

Though the people purchasing this paraphernalia are certainly a part of this article, those that I feel most obliged to bring to your attention are those producing it. I'm sure you believe you know exactly which way this article is going now; the corrupt "Christian" aristocracy producing and growing wealthy, much like the "Pastor Money-Bags" living down the street in the 150 bedroom mansion. Sorry to disappoint, but on average the producers of these sort of items are not companies with any Christian affiliation.

For example, up until a few years ago, the vast majority of Christian musicians signed with secular labels. This was not due to a lack of Christian record labels, but the secular labels had become very aware of the benefit of signing a Christian artist. You see, when a label releases a new album, they must then begin advertising it using resources like MTV, the radio, etc. They noticed though, that whenever a Christian album was released, it always sold. No marketing was needed because word of mouth throughout the Christian community nearly always sold an album.

Those who are making money off of the Christian community with these Christ-stamped items are not often returning the money to the community; they are growing very wealthy.

So, am I saying never to wear these shirts, or to berate those you see in them? Absolutely not. My entire point is that to wear a shirt does not make you any more or less affiliated with the cause imprinted on that shirt. Whatever it is that you find yourself tying into, be sure that it is your lifestyle that allows you to show your faith to others, not the things that you surround yourself with. Character and love cannot be so cheaply bought as a T-shirt and an eraser.

### 2004-05 National Newspaper Pacemaker Award



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**FIRST PLACE**, Best Campus Community Service Sports, 2004  
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**FIRST PLACE**, General Excellence, GCPA, Senior A Level, 1998

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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.
- 5.) If it is determined that a letter writer's political or professional capacity or position has a bearing on the topic addressed, then that capacity or position will be identified at the editor's discretion.
- 6.) While we do not publish letters from groups endorsing

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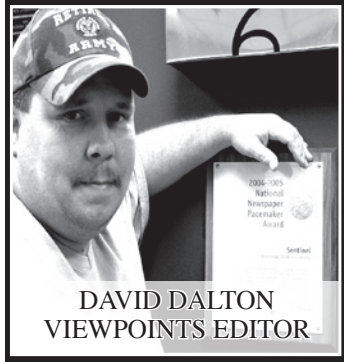
# Let freedom ring

## Just don't step out of the freedom of speech box

I'm a simpleton. On a good day, I can muster enough brain-power to outwit the bread so I can make a sandwich. On a bad day, I struggle to understand the simplest of things. For example, some of the sayings we use are truly baffling. Has anyone ever said that you should "have a little faith" about something? To me, a little faith just isn't enough. The notion of faith makes me think about the story of Job from the Bible. That fellow had faith by the bucketful. If he had only a little faith, he'd have failed. So when someone says a little faith goes a long way, it really throws me. A little faith is useless.

Likewise, a little freedom is a small thing indeed. If you haven't ambled around the campus green lately, then you probably haven't noticed the free speech zones, tactically installed a safe distance from anything useful. I presume that these little islands of freedom are the campus' reaction to the right-wing-nut pseudo-Christian evangelicals who visit our sleepy campus once a semester.

Surely you remember being pelted with their harsh words about your wicked, sinful ways, or perhaps they were gay-bashing that day. At any rate, those folks really aren't suitable ambassa-



DAVID DALTON  
VIEWPOINTS EDITOR

dors for the Christian faith, and they certainly don't speak for a majority of Christians, but they certainly manage to piss a lot of students off.

I get that. No one wants to be told they are going to Hell. On the other side of the coin, the campus can't just tell them to go away since this is a public institution. It was certainly a difficult situation, and I applaud the effort of whomever decided that the free speech zone, located away from high traffic areas, would be a solution. I, of course, disagree.

Free speech, especially disagreeable speech, is the most important of freedoms. Without speech, religion, political dissent and citizen action groups would all flounder and fail. Speech is the power to persuade, and almost no limits are acceptable. Of course pragmatic concerns like yelling

"fire" in a crowded theatre have already been addressed by the court system. That's not the situation that our little freedom-in-a-box zones are aimed at. It's a response to a student body who is too pampered and too spoiled to simply move along.

Some of you folks really border on nauseating. You'll watch porn, use foul language and dress like strippers heading to work - not that I object to any of those activities, mind you - but a lone voice telling you to think about your actions is too much to bear? You deify the most violent, wanton, depraved people that the media can find, but walking near someone who is preaching about salvation sends you running to the complaint department. All this on a college campus.

I'm not saying the lunatic, itinerant preacher is a good guy or that you should listen to him, but why should his right to speak be stuffed in a box while your right to lead meaningless, petty unexamined lives goes unchecked? Truthfully, I disagree with the preacher, his message and his means, but I didn't go bleed in the sand so that I could watch a pack of spoiled, affluent twits whine away our most precious freedom.

# During Gay Pride Month, we need to address broader issues

HEATHER TIRADO GILLIGAN  
MCT

As Gay Pride Month comes to a close, we need to take stock. It's difficult to turn critical during an annual pride celebration, especially in this year marked by historic gains, like the legalization of gay marriage in California.

But we should pause to acknowledge that the state of the movement is a good news-bad news situation.

First the good news: We are on the cusp of an epic shift in the public face of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people in the United States. Same-sex couples are self-identifying in record numbers across the farm belt, according to census data analyzed by the Williams Institute at UCLA. Between 2000 and 2005, the number of same-sex couples jumped 71 percent in Nebraska, 68 percent in Kansas and 59 percent in Iowa.

These numbers indicate not an increase in the gay and lesbian population living in these states, but in the willingness of people to acknowledge their own identity, according to Gary Gates, the demographer who authored the study.

Gates is predicting that we'll also see startling increases in same-sex couples in every ethnic, racial and geographical community in the United States when he's finished studying the data.

Finally, people across a diverse cross-segment of communities are coming out. That is real progress.

But now the bad news: The LGBT movement is focusing on conservative issues like tax reforms, rights of inheritance and enacting state laws to approximate marriage for same-sex couples.

These fiscal issues appeal broadly to a cross section of the American public. They make gay rights more palatable to more people. However, they also leave significant sections of the LGBT population behind.

The problem with placing a conservative agenda at the heart of an LGBT movement in the midst of a demographic shift may not be readily apparent. But it is profoundly alienating to segments of the popu-

lation who already feel outside of the mainstream LGBT movement.

In poorer segments of the community, the lack of federal entitlements, including Social Security and Medicare, are far more important to same-sex couples than employer-sponsored partner health care or a set of state laws approximating marriage.

Even hate crime legislation is a more complex issue than it might seem. Many African Americans who are LGBT are reluctant to embrace new and stringent laws that could easily be aimed at other members of their already overpoliced communities.

Diversity \_ of opinion, of class, of race and of ethnicity \_ is a challenge within any civil rights movement. It is also an opportunity. The LGBT community gains strength with increased numbers of community members willing to identify themselves publicly, no matter their socioeconomic position.

But the increasing number of visible LGBTs will not translate into political strength until we develop an agenda that speaks to the needs of all gay people, not just the privileged few.

Heather Tirado Gilligan is a freelance writer who lives in San Francisco. She wrote this for Progressive Media Project, a source of commentary on domestic and international issues. It is affiliated with The Progressive Magazine. Readers may write to the author at: Progressive Media Project, 409 East Main Street, Madison, Wis. 53703; e-mail: pmp@progressive.org; Web site: www.progressive.org. For information on PMP's funding, please visit <http://www.progressive.org/pmpabout.html> anchorsupport.

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# Obama's rejection of public funds calls into question his image as reformer

(MCT)  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Take your pick: Sen. Barack Obama's change of position on public campaign financing makes him (1) a flip-flopper; (2) a formidable fundraiser; (3) a calculating politician; (4) all of the above. If you said (4), you win, but there's no reason to celebrate.

The Illinois senator and presumptive Democratic nominee for president made a 180-degree turn by renegeing on a promise to accept public financing for the general election. This represents a decision to rely on private fundraising and forgo spending restrictions. The change was based on the discovery that he could raise more money through the Internet than the \$84 million the government would give him.

The senator has already raked in about \$265 million through April, a record amount, and some Democrats think \$500 million more is not out of the question for the general election. Formidable indeed.

Which brings us to the calculating part. Again, the shoe fits. The senator wants to portray himself as a reformer, but he also wants to win. He reckons that the public won't care where the money comes from, and that any harm to his campaign will be far outweighed by the benefit of having more money than Sen. John McCain, the expected Republican nominee.

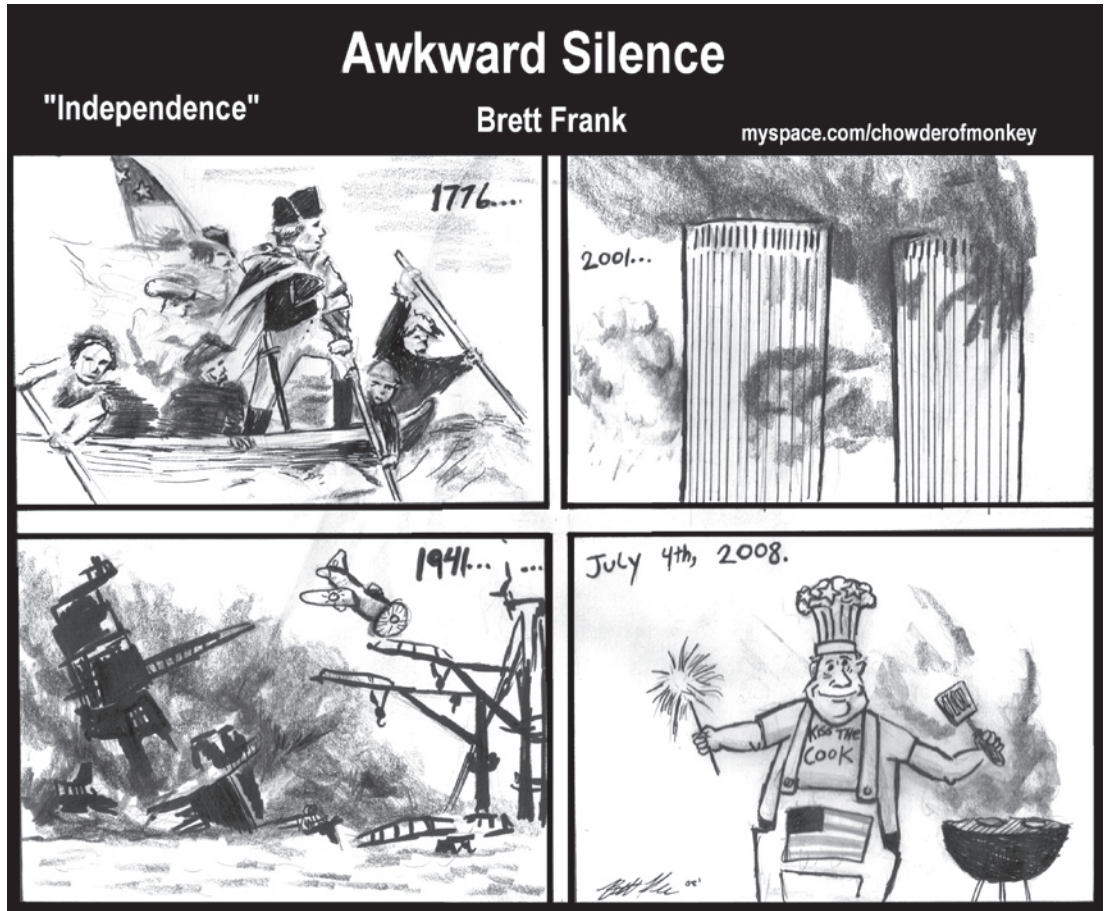
In his own defense, Sen. Obama argues that raising small donations via the Internet accomplishes the same objective as the campaign financing law because it is truly "public" money that comes in small amounts. He also says that he will need more money to fight a two-front war against both Sen. McCain and the so-called 527 groups that operate independently and helped to sink Democrat John Kerry's campaign in 2004.

There is some truth in this, but only up to a point. About 55 percent of the senator's contributions so far have been from large

donors (those who give \$200 or more), not small ones, according to figures from the Center for Responsive Politics. Also, pro-Obama 527 groups will wage their own campaigns to rebut smear tactics, while also attacking Sen. McCain.

The public financing law was a reform that grew out of the Watergate scandals of the 1970s. Although far from perfect, it has done much to clean up campaign financing and level the playing field between the major party candidates in the general election.

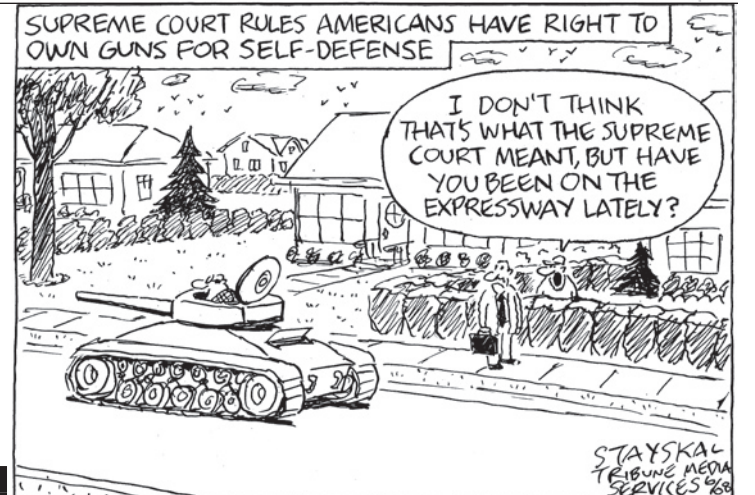
Sen. Obama's decision to abandon public financing calls into question his reputation as a reformer. The law, however, was written decades before the Internet age and badly needs updating. Whether he wins the election or not, Obama should do his utmost to overhaul the political finance system to dispel the notion that victory is determined by which candidate has the biggest wallet.



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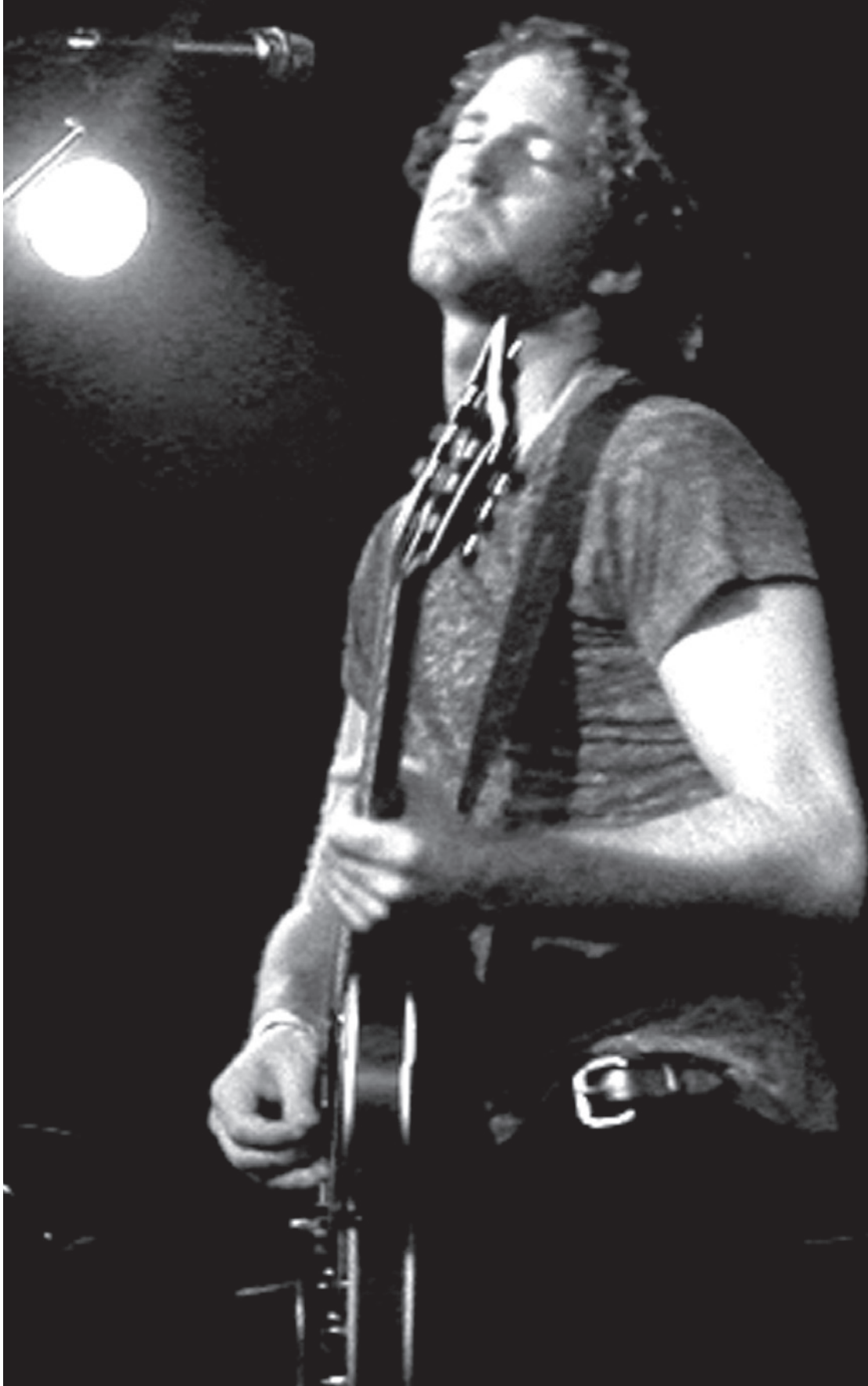
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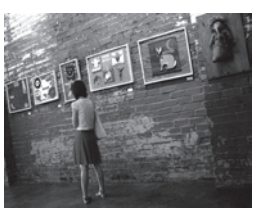
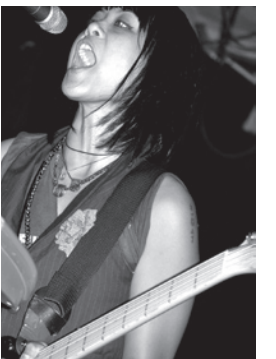
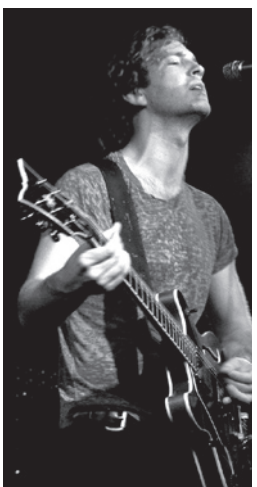
# ATHFEST



AthFest is a non-profit annual music festival in Athens, Ga that showcases music and art from the Athens musical community. The festival spans over five days and is mostly free. However, some events cost money, though a wristband could get you in to all of the paid events for free.

Continued on the next page.

All Photos by Maria Yanovsky | The Sentinel





# AthFest

## *It's kind of a big deal*

MARIA YANOVSKY  
ARTS & LIVING EDITOR

**A**thFest is a non-profit annual music festival in Athens, Ga that showcases music and art from the Athens musical community. The festival spans over five days and is mostly free. However, some events cost money, though a wristband could get you in to all of the paid events for free.

### The history

It all began when the owner of *Flagpole Magazine* and the co-owner of the 40 Watt Club, Jared Bailey, visited the South by Southwest Festival in Austin, TX back in 1989.

He was so pleased with the support that the local music scene received from the community that he grew disappointed that Athens did no such thing. Once he arrived back to Georgia, he wrote an editorial in *Flagpole* titled "Why Can't Athens Support Our Music Scene?"

Jared Bailey recalls, "Seeing that the issue was important to our community, the Athens Area Chamber of Commerce decided to start the Arts-As-Industry Task Force to study the economic impact of local artists and musicians."

The first AthFest took place on May 13, 1997 and only featured music. The front steps of the courthouse acted as the one stage, along with 12 venues downtown. Jared Bailey recalls, "We had about 60 total bands play. It was a blast, but still in the experimental stage."

### The music

This year's AthFest featured over 175 bands from June 18-22. Upon arrival, I felt that the festival had a rocky start. After catching dinner at The Grit, then heading downtown on the first night, Athens felt pretty empty. The festivities began with movies shown at the downtown theater. With a wristband, the movies were free.

This year's outstanding movie was a documentary from 1986 called "Athens Inside/Out."

The theater was crowded with enthusiastic adults who cheered and reminisced throughout the entire film. Bands such as the BBQ Killers, R.E.M. and B-52's appeared in the film, along with about ten other acts out of Athens. The movie was narrated by musicians and artists that are Athens based. For someone with little to no interest in Athens and its past, this movie would most definitely make them want to live in Athens.

This was a fantastic kick off to AthFest, and need I mention, it got a standing ovation.

The following night, there were some good shows at the 40 Watt Club. King of Prussia played at around 11pm. Jessie Mangum, the bassist, said, "I love playing at the 40 Watt, Athens in general. I think that the music scene out here is so fun and nobody really cares about making it big, they just want to have fun. And most of the band members of the bands that you'll see at AthFest actually work around downtown. I work at Starbucks and people will come in and recognize me and tell me about how much they liked our last show. It's really awesome."

There wasn't much music until 5pm on Friday, where the lineup led up to the headliner performance by Dark Meat a band consisting of a million members.

An energetic band, Kite to the Moon, played one of the first sets. They were rightfully pumped up, too, because they took home the Sprockets award for best music video. Out of the opening performers, they stood out the most, and drew the biggest crowd.

Dark Meat performed at 9:10. The performance was definitely not mainstream. Not only are there more than ten members of the band on stage, but they also wear really fun costumes, which the crowd seemed to thoroughly enjoy. They threw inflatable toys out to the audience, including monkeys and beachballs, which the crowd passed around.

Dark Meat played a couple of songs, which were all around 15 minutes long... each. If you don't think that's insane, then maybe you didn't notice how out of breath the jazz ensemble was. Usually when music lasts that long, the crowd gets tired of the same thing over and over again, but this was not the case. The props and costumes kept the crowd pumped.

Following that show, many of the venues around town featured more artists. If you did not have a wristband, most admission prices were \$5 or less, which is cheap compared to prices in Atlanta.

### The best act: Snowden

Honestly, not too many bands stood out besides the obvious headliners, The Modern Skirts and Folklore. But one band gave a performance of a lifetime: Snowden.

"Athens is definitely my favorite place to come and perform," said Jordan Jeffares, the lead singer.

Snowden played a long set at the 40 Watt Club on Friday night, around 11pm. They put on the absolute best show that I've ever seen.

Their sound could be described as a combination of Interpol's lyrics and Joy Division's music. Very avant-garde, in a way, and classic to many. >>>

They have been featured in *Spin Magazine* and many others, and are my favorite band to come out of Atlanta.

But what makes them so special? How do they stand out amongst 174 other acts? Justin's atmospheric vocals are phenomenal, sure. And their music takes you back to the good ole days when The Cure and The Smiths were topping the charts worldwide. But personally, the one thing that makes them stand out as a live act would have to be Corinne Lee.

Corinne is one of the best performers of today, I'm convinced. Not only does she rock out on bass, but she also holds a drum stick and drums. At the same time as playing the bass. Oh and she sings too. All at the same time, perfectly. Corinne plays with so much passion, slipping a tear or two, and rocks out like no chick I've ever seen. No offense to Justin or the other band mates, but she stole the show.

She might be a badass rocker chick on stage, but after the show, she surprises her fans by being such a sweetie. "I love my fans and hearing what they have to say about our performance," says Corinne.

Justin says, "Everything about the Athens crowd hypes me up. There's just so much culture here, in the middle of Georgia. Although we aren't from Athens, we still travel out to perform here."

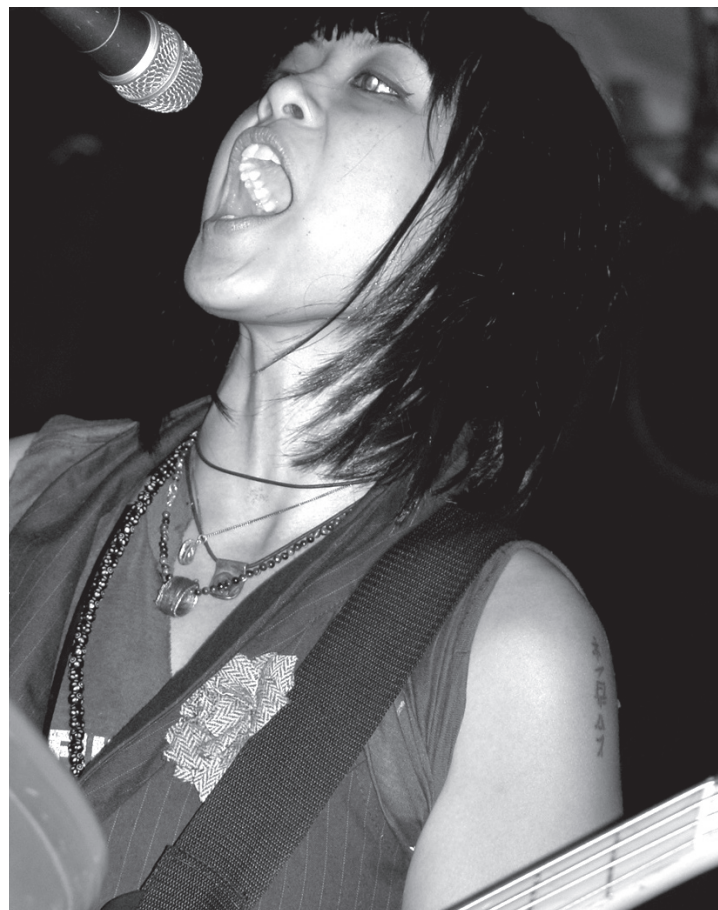
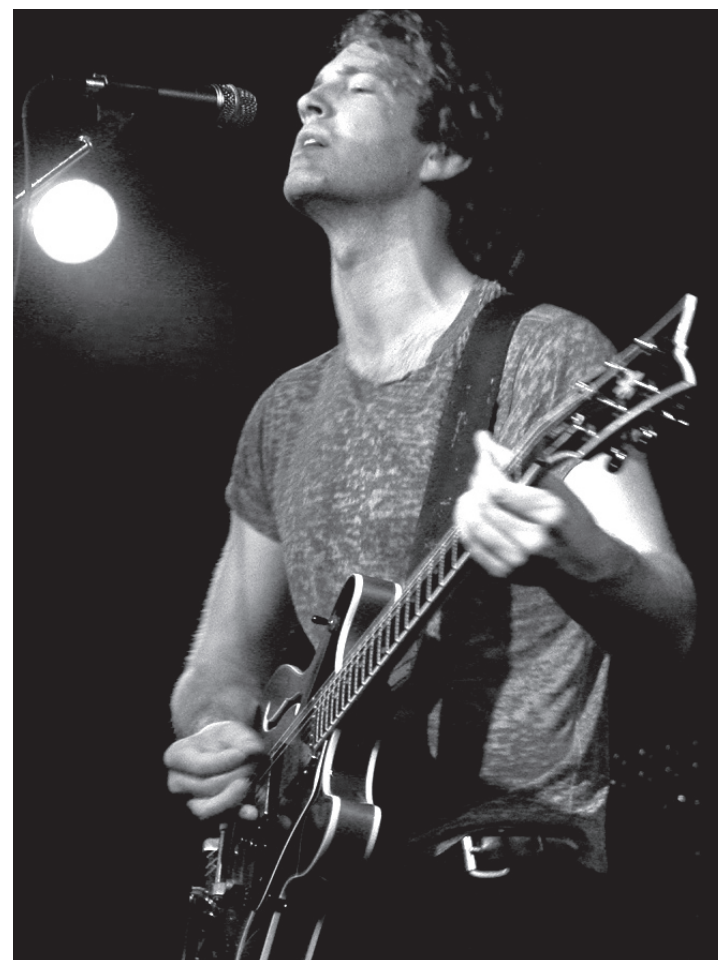
"We tend to attract more of the indie crowd in Athens. Yes, there's a huge music following, despite the stereotypical frat town that Athens is expected to be."

Justin, the self-pronounced "Oprah for indie kids," wants to inspire alternative kids around the south to come and be a part of Athens in some way.

And there are talks of a Snowden performance in Kennesaw, Ga.

### Why Athens?

It's surprising to many that Athens has so much culture and history. But why Athens? Well, Brandon Hanick of King of Prussia says, "I think that Athens is such a big deal because it has a fun downtown where it is affordable to live. The musicians at AthFest, and in Athens in general all live and work in the area, and can afford to live and play. Athens has many places where musicians can work during the day, and then play during the night."



**Photography:**  
Large photo on the front page, Justin Jeffares of Snowden. On the opposite page, photos of Dark Meat's performance. To the right, clockwise, Dark Meat, Snowden, Snowden, Kite to the Moon.

# MUSICIANS THAT HAVE COME OUT OF ATHENS

**R.E.M.**  
Formed in 1980 by Michael Stipe, Peter Dinklage, Mike Mills and Bill Berry, R.E.M. is quite possibly the most famous band out of Athens. They pretty much made alternative rock popular. Once the rest of the world caught on to alternative rock, R.E.M. was viewed as its pioneer, and released its two commercially successful records, "Out of Time" and "Automatic for the People."  
Their biggest hits, "Losing My Religion," and "It's the End of the World," have been dubbed by many as some of the greatest songs of all time.

**B-52's**  
This campy act was one of the biggest bands in the 80's. They were formed in 1976 in Athens as a new wave rock band. Their fun and cheesy lyrics glorified wild love and fun. Songs like "Love Shack" and "Rock Lobster" captivated rebellious youth.  
In 2008, they dropped the apostrophe in their name and still play covers of their songs.  
In MTV's early years, the B-52's received regular airplay, launching their careers into the mainstream realm.

**BBQ Killers**  
Definitely not as popular as R.E.M., but arguably as talented, the BBQ Killers owned the Athens music scene in the late 70's. Their hardcore attitude and punk rock sound captivated those who gave them a chance.  
The singer, androgenous Laura Carter puts on one fantastic show as she dances/trips all over the stage. Their hit, "Chester Drawers," is the epitome of what rock should sound like.  
This 60's phenomenon has records out there, but it might be tougher to find.



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# What your ringtone says about you

MATT LOGAN  
 STAFF WRITER

## Do ringtones make the man?

No, but they sure say something about him.

## What your ringtone says about you: A quick guide.

Do the clothes make the man? The question has been hotly debated since we first donned fig leaves and loin cloths. I say no; clothes don't make the man. Maybe they do for some people, but a lot of us, especially college students, can't afford new clothes every year (or four). So while my clothes did say something about me four years ago, now they just say, "I can't afford new clothes."

Ringtones, though—they're a different story. Ringtones do make the man. Or at least hint at the man that's under the clothes.

A ringtone costs a measly \$1.99 (and it gets billed to your account, making it even easier to buy). And, unlike clothes, you don't have to get one.

Some people realize this and refrain from purchasing a personalized ringtone. That says one of three things: either 1. I have no personality, 2. I don't like music, or 3. I'm really, really broke. It could also say 'I don't have a cell phone' or 'my cell phone is really old and monophonic,' but that's another issue altogether.

A lot of folks are altogether anti-ringtone. These people are either old, boring, Bjork fans, or communists. Not that there's anything wrong with that...being old or a communist, that is.

That leaves people with ringtones. There's a lot of diversity in this group. We've got people who're proud of their ringtones and people who are embarrassed about them. Then there are people who didn't know what to pick and people who went searching for that one, perfect tone. But that in itself doesn't say much about you; instead, what reveals the most is the actual song or band you pick.

## HERE'S WHAT A FEW RINGTONES MIGHT SAY ABOUT THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE THEM:

- Michael Jackson-** (Pre-Thriller) 'I'm cool, laugh all you want.'
- (Post-Thriller) 'Laugh all you want.'
- The Cure-** 'I'm sad and I want you to know it, but don't talk to me.'
- The Clash-** 'I'm political. Ask me about it.'
- Hannah Montana-** 'I'm too young for a cell phone,' or 'I'm too old for Hannah Montana.'
- Rihanna-** 'I watch MTV a lot.'
- Coldplay-** 'I cried when I watched Titanic... the fifth time.'
- 50 Cent-** 'I not only watched Get Rich or Die Tryin', I liked it.'
- Saves the Day-** 'My musical taste is impeccable and unquestionable.'

See? We can learn a lot about our fellow Americans from nothing more than their ringtones. Warrantless Domestic Wiretapping? There's no need for it when you've got personalized ringtones.

**Pick up the August 2008 issue of Talon Monthly in the student center!**

What is this ambitious art student doing?  
 See page 4

**talon**

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# THE SENTINEL MUSIC CORNER

## THE CLASH

**The best Clash album for the summer: Sandinista!**

While a Clash album may not be the first thing that comes to mind when someone says "summer album," bear with me. Though overtly political and generally thought to be a "difficult" album, Sandinista has moments of summery genius. "Charlie Don't Surf" is tailor-made for summer, as are "Junco Partner" and the various dub-reggae jams. The Clash's legacy may be their political outspokenness, but underneath the heavy, socially-aware lyrics are great pop songs and, in the case of *Sandinista!*, meditative reggae beats—ideal for the back porch on a hot day.

**Essential Clash Songs**

- London Calling
- Spanish Bombs
- White Riot
- Train in Vain
- Should I Stay or Should I Go?
- Hateful
- Rock the Casbah
- Career Opportunities
- The Magnificent Seven
- English Civil War
- Tommy Gun



# CD reviews | Ear candy

Matt Logan | Staff Writer

## SHE AND HIM, her and he: Either way they're both good.

**O**n *Volume One*, She & Him create an album of pop-infused, country-folk songs that hearken back to dust-bowl folk singers and 60's-era pop all at once. The songs here don't let on that the singer, Zoëy Deschanel, is actually a successful actress, recently starring beside Mark Wahlberg in *The Happening*. While her acting there is debatable, her performance here defies all criticism. Her voice is big, bold, and a little odd, with a natural sounding country twang (though she's a California native) and a nasally, unique delivery.

The other half of *She and Him*, M. Ward, lets Deschanel lead the album, giving her plenty of space to fill. His arrangements are pitch-perfect and memorable though, lending a warm, soft backdrop for her adventurous voice.

On his solo work M. Ward is a prolific singer-songwriter, so it must've taken a Herculean effort to restrain himself on this disc.

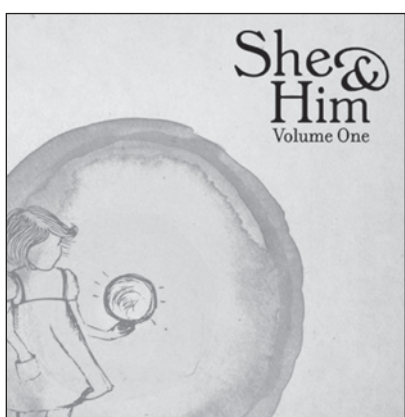
Deschanel has obvious vocal talent, but her writing is great too. On *I Thought I Saw Your Face Today*, Deschanel sings "I thought this place was heaven sent / But now it's just a monument / In my mind / In my mind." Not bad for an actress. For my money, *I Was Made for*

*You or This is Not a Test* are probably the two standouts. Leaning more towards the pop side, they bounce along like a good summertime song while still being substantive.

While the actress/singer thing can be gimmicky (listen to Scarlett Johansson's new album for proof), this album is the sound of two talented people making music together. Not a single moment sounds forced, even on the two covers: *You Really Got a Hold on Me* and The Beatles' *I Should Have Known Better*.

The only low-point of the album is *Sweet Darlin'*, a song co-written by actor Jason Schwartzman. It's not a bad song, it just drags. The soulful rendition of *Swing Low, Sweet Chariot* picks up the slack, though, and ends the album on a strong note.

With *Volume One*, She & Him doesn't break any new ground. Instead, they rearrange and reimagine classic styles of music to create timeless, singular songs.



## WEEZER continues down slope

The first CD I ever loved was probably Weezer's self-titled debut, *Pinkerton* was and is one of my favorite albums of all time, I liked the *Green Album* and *Maladroit*, and was so pissed about "Beverly Hills" that I never bothered listening to *Make Believe*. I lost faith in Weezer and wrote them off my favorite bands list, assuming I'd never hear from them again.

One day, though, I started hearing rumblings that a *Red Album* was coming out. I even heard it was going to be a throwback to old, classic Weezer. You know, four chords, thick distortion, a catchy hook, and great, often funny, lyrics. I can't speak for all Weezer fans, but I can say I was as excited for the *Red Album* as I have been for any album that came out in as long as I can remember. June 3<sup>rd</sup>, I thought, will be a great day. I'd even pay the extra \$7.00 to get the four bonus songs.

Then I heard the first single, "Pork and Beans." It was great. I saw the video. It was great. It was certifiable now; the *Red Album* was going to be a return to Weezer's former glory and I could put them back on my list.

Man, was I wrong. Not only is the album a disappointment, it's directionless, uninspired, and wholly pitiful. I can only imagine what Rivers and the guys were thinking; it isn't another radio-friendly, sell-out type album like *Make Believe*, it's just totally lacking any sign of creative drive or original thought.

The only redeeming moments are the single, "Pork and Beans," and, for pure weirdness, the eight minute long and really out of place "The Greatest Man that Ever Lived (Variations on a Shaker Hymn)." The first track "Troublemaker," is passable and maybe even funny, but it gets boring after the first chorus. "Dreamin'"



doesn't suck either, but that's not saying much. It's slow, common, and just as uninspired as the rest of the disc, but with a glimmer of their former sound.

The other six songs (and the four bonus songs) would be bad for any band, much less a band who has proven themselves to be capable songwriters and musicians. To understand the level of bad, you have to hear it for yourself, but I'll try to explain.

"Heart Songs" name drops from Rivers' favorite childhood bands, apparently in hopes that the novelty of saying Gordon Lightfoot, Slayer, and the Fresh Prince in one song would pull it through. Needless to say, it doesn't. Turntable scratches, lyrics that could be found in any 15-year-old's diary, and music that is undeniably stale round out the album, leaving the last four "bonus" tracks sounding like an attempt to get suckers like me to fork out the extra money for what are basically demos.

The *Red Album* isn't a return to glory for Weezer. Instead, it's a bland, less-than-mediocre embarrassment to their earlier efforts. Steer clear of the *Red Album*...and if you don't trust my opinion, please don't dish out the cash for the bonus songs...it will only encourage them.

## Country music

### IMPORTS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

## Essential Swedish Bands

- ABBA
- ROXETTE
- ACE OF BASE
- THE CARDIGANS
- THE HIVES
- MILLENCOLIN
- SHOUT OUT LOUDS
- REFUSED
- THE (INTERNATIONAL) NOISE CONSPIRACY
- PETER BJORN AND JOHN

# The perfect summer sound

If you're looking to stay in the summer mindset, then get these CDs on your iPod.

## VAMPIRE WEEKEND



### Vampire Weekend

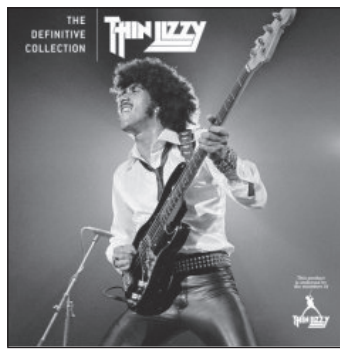
lege, but it doesn't show here.

Never kitschy, these songs are sincere attempts to recreate under-appreciated genres of music with tight hooks and catchy melodies.

The song "Oxford Comma" demonstrates their gift for hook-laden choruses, while "Walcott" is lyrically interesting, tying together musings about New England life, violins, and fresh, clean percussion that sounds like it's straight out of *The Little Mermaid*. This album is perfect for a hot summer day.

Vampire Weekend plays a blend of Caribbean reggae and afro-pop that sounds unlike anything coming out of America these days. These young men may be fresh out of col-

## THIN LIZZY



### The Definitive Collection

While they were inconsistent as a band, on their greatest hits collection classics like "The Boys are Back in Town" and "Whiskey in the Jar" are just two songs in a rock repertoire that go unappreciated by most listeners. Crisp, loud, virtuosic guitar solos on "The Cowboy Song" and "Dedication" are seemingly made for blaring through car speakers while driving at high speeds and arguably the greatest rock song ever, "Jailbreak," is a summertime anthem for the ages.

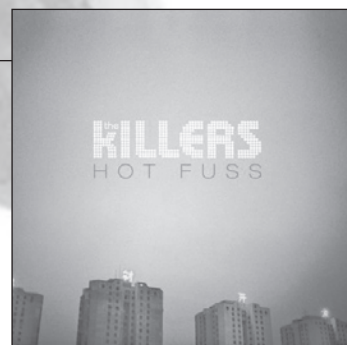
Maybe it's not an obvious pick and maybe it's even a stretch, but to your humble reviewer nothing quite says summer like Thin Lizzy.

## THE KILLERS

### Hott Fuss

As the greatest mainstream rock and roll band around today, The Killers know how to do summer songs. While their first album "Hot Fuss" is perfect for any season, it's ideal for summer nights. With new wavy hits like "Somebody Told Me" and the disco punk of "Midnight Show," *Hot Fuss* is packed to the brim with big, bold, hooky hits.

Still one of my all-time favorite songs, "Smile Like You Mean It" has more drive and authenticity than any song I've heard in the last few years from an arena rock band (maybe with the exception of a few Kings of Leon songs). Put your windows down and let the tunes take you home this summer.



## THE PIPETTES



### We are The Pipettes

With 50's-inspired hair-dos, poodle skirts, and choreographed dances, Becki, Gweno, and Rosay don't seem to take themselves too seriously. Song titles like "It Hurts to See You Dance So Well," and "Your Kisses are Wasted on Me" may make some folks cringe, but don't write them off too soon.

The Pipettes are serious and, actually, damn good. "Judy," a wonderful song about a not-so-wonderful girl, is perfectly produced, complete with claps, strings, brass, and huge harmonies. The girls are extremely talented singers; not since the Beach Boys have harmonies been so spot-on (and perfect for the summer).

## THE BLACK CROWES

### Shake Your Moneymaker

Ever hear "Struttin' Blues?" No? Well, it's a Black Crowes song and it may be the greatest summer song ever written. From the album *Shake Your Moneymaker*, "Struttin' Blues" is one of many tracks on the disc that put the listener in a summer state of mind. With a swagger usually reserved

for Axl Rose or Steven Tyler, Chris Robinson and company craft anthems of southern rock that have stood the test of time. "Jealous Again," "Hard to Handle" and "She Talks to Angels" are modern classics that have the attitude and edge to keep them on summertime playlists forever.



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# SPORTS

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# Men's track wins another A-Sun championship



Photo Courtesy of A-Sun Photos

Senior Devin Jones (far right) takes second place in hurdles competition.

KELLY BLAINE  
SPORTS EDITOR

While most students were just beginning summer vacation, the men's track and field team was hard at work preparing for the outdoor championships. The efforts of the coaches and student-athletes paid off and on May 17 the team captured their second Division I title of 2008 winning the Atlantic Sun Outdoor Conference Championships. Soon after, head coach Don McGarey was named A-Sun Coach of the Year.

"Winning both the men's indoor and outdoor track and field championships was the culmination of much hard work and sacrifice from our student-athletes and our coaches," said McGarey. "These track and field competitors began their training last summer to be at their best in late February [for the

Indoor championships] and again in the middle of May [for the Outdoor championships]. Furthermore, my award as Coach of the Year adds to the KSU tradition of successful coaching and winning."

Prior to the 2008 season, no men's program in school history had won a Division I Conference Championship. Now, men's track and field joins the ranks of women's cross-country, soccer and softball to have claimed a Division I conference championship for the university.

KSU dusted their competition by a margin of 34.5 points with 170 total points at the end of the two-day meet. They did it with six first place finishes including Jerome McKinzie who defended his high jump title with a jump of 6' 8.75", Joshua McNair in the discus throw with a heave of 159' 6", Scott Burley in the 3K steeplechase (9:17.34), Gianni Catalano in the

800-meter dash (1:52.90), James Verdi in the 400-meter dash (48.71), and the 4 by 400 meter relay team of Devin Jones, Joshua James, Catalano, and Verdi.

In addition to bringing home the trophy, winning the championships has also increased the visibility of the track and field program and of KSU. According to McGarey, the number of inquiries from high school prospects has increased ten fold. "Both male and female prospects from California, Texas, Wisconsin, Indiana and New Jersey have recently contacted me to learn more about KSU and our track and field program," said McGarey. "Additionally, prospects from the Atlanta area are beginning to turn toward KSU as a first choice university instead of seeking other in-state and out-of-state programs."

The team will be back to work when the cross-country season begins in the fall.

# Baseball concludes successful season

JUSTIN HOBDAY  
STAFF WRITER

KSU baseball made a significant mark on the Atlantic Sun Conference in the 2008 season. The Owls finished second in the conference, and on five occasions Owl players earned player or pitcher of the week honors.

The team started off slow, going 8 – 14 in their first 22 games. However, the Owls went 22 – 12 in the last 34 games starting with an 8 – 6 win over UGA in Athens on March 26. This marked the second win for the Owls in Athens in as many years.

The Owls also swept ETSU and Campbell in the month of April, and finished the season with a sweep over Jacksonville on the road. "Even during the last series of the year at Jacksonville we knew we couldn't win the conference, but we swept them anyway. That says a lot about the character of our team," said pitcher Michael Bohana.

"Our expectations were high. We were really young the year before so we were returning a lot of starters and

had some guys coming off injuries. As the season went on we knew we had a shot at the conference championship and, even though Florida Gulf Coast University was playing well, we always knew we were right there," said Bohana when asked what his expectations for the team were at the outset of the season.

Jacob Robbins, Ric Bishop and Jay Morrow were the offensive leaders for the Owls with Robbins leading the team in seven offensive categories.

Robbins hit lead-off for the Owls in all 56 games, and finished the season with a .397 in-conference batting average, and a .473 on-base percentage. Robbins also earned conference player of the week honors twice this season, and was selected to the All-Conference team.

Ric Bishop tied for the team lead with nine home runs, and led the team with 47 RBI, while Morrow led the team with a .378 in-conference batting average. Morrow was also selected to the All-Conference second team.

The pitching staff was the key component for the Owls success this year.

Justin Freeman, Kyle Heckathorn and Chad Jenkins earned conference pitcher of the week honors and Michael Bohana tied for second in the conference with six saves.

Chad Jenkins led the team with a 3.96 ERA and finished with 78 strikeouts, which also led the team and tied him for second in the conference.

Kyle Heckathorn finished second on the team with a 4.98 ERA and led the team by only allowing 64 hits. Heckathorn was also selected to the pre-season All-Conference team and finished his season with a 13-strikeout performance against the Jacksonville Dolphins.

Justin Freeman pitched a complete game on March 21 against Belmont, and soon after the team turned their season around. Freeman had 13 strikeouts in the game against Belmont and finished the season with a 3.41 in-conference ERA.

Michael Bohana was the Owls ace out of the bullpen all season long. Bohana made 21 appearances including a save against eventual conference

winner FGCU in which Bohana struck out the side with the bases loaded in the eighth. Along with his six saves, Bohana also finished out 13 other games for the Owls.

Bohana and Freeman were both selected by the Cincinnati Reds in this year's MLB draft in the 26<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> rounds respectively. When asked if he expected to be drafted Bohana responded, "I always expected to get drafted and for someone to give me a shot. I didn't really know where I would go in the draft, or if it would be this season or the next. Fortunately for me the Reds saw enough in me to take me this year and give me a shot. I couldn't be happier about it."

"Luckily for me the decision was very easy. I'm very blessed, and I had my parents [along with] a few outside people that were advising me and helping me every step of the way to make the best possible decision, and that's what I feel like I have done," said Bohana about his decision to sign a contract.

Freeman and Bohana add to the increasingly long list of former Owls in

the majors. This list includes the likes of Grant Reynolds, Matt Pender, and most notably Willie Harris.

The Owls do lose a sizeable portion of their pitching with the exit of Bohana and Freeman. Bohana feels that KSU will be right on track next year anyway. "KSU is going to be strong again next year. I have no doubt that they will make a run at the conference championship again. They have power arms like Chad Jenkins and Kyle Heckathorn that are going to anchor the pitching staff, and seniors Jacob Robbins, Martin Baker, and Ric Bishop that will provide the depth of leadership and experience they'll need to be successful. KSU will continue to grow and continue to be competitive, that's their tradition. I don't think that will change anytime soon."

The Owls' forthcoming season will be previewed in our next issue. For now let's congratulate the Owls on a highly successful season in the Atlantic Sun Conference, and wish the best of luck to Justin Freeman and Michael Bohana as they work their way to the majors.

Baseball Standings		A-Sun			Overall		
Teams		W	L	Pct	W	L	Pct
>	Florida Gulf Coast	25	8	.758	38	15	.717
>	Kennesaw State	21	12	.636	30	26	.536
#1	Lipscomb	19	14	.576	33	30	.524
>	UNF	18	15	.545	29	26	.527
#2	Mercer	17	16	.515	24	33	.421
>	USC Upstate	17	16	.515	25	29	.463
#3	Belmont	16	17	.485	25	33	.431
#4	Gardner-Webb	15	18	.455	29	30	.491
#5	Stetson	15	18	.455	26	33	.441
#6	Campbell	13	20	.394	21	37	.362
	Jacksonville	13	20	.394	27	29	.482
	ETSU	9	24	.272	18	38	.321

\* - Clinched A-Sun Championship Berth

> - Not Eligible for A-Sun Tournament Play During NCAA Reclassifying Period

Graphic by Adeolu Adebayo  
information courtesy of atlanticsun.org