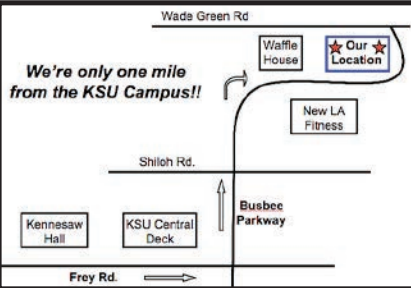


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TUESDAY
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VOLUME 44
ISSUE 11

The SENTINEL

OF KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY

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Another fee hike possible in Fall 2009

Student Fee Committee approves increase to purchase athletic fields

CAITLYN VAN ORDEN
ASST. NEWS EDITOR

Students could potentially see a \$40 increase in their student fees for Fall 2009 in order for the University to purchase land for intramural athletic use.

The KSU Foundation has contracted to purchase over 50 acres of land on the east side of I-75. The total cost will be an estimated \$300,000 per acre, or \$15 million total.

KSU president Dan Papp made a presentation to the SGA on Aug. 28 proposing the additional fee. The SGA Senate discussed the fee's pros and cons, citing concern about adding on an addi-

tional fee to the student body, according to SGA president Punit Patel.

"Clearly, we all know we need to expand," said Patel, mentioning that KSU is in dire need of space for more labs.

Patel said that his top priority was ensuring that students have a say in how much their fees are increased. Student fees currently sit at \$364 per semester, but will increase in Fall 2009 when all full-time undergraduate students will be required to purchase a meal plan.

"I believe we're about close to second or third in the University System for lowest student fees," said Patel.

The vote then went to the Student Fee

Committee, which anonymously voted to approve the fee. The final decision is now in the Board of Regents' hands and will be approved or denied in April, when the Board does its annual fee approvals.

If approved, construction for the intramural fields will begin in April. Eleven fields are planned, and "a couple" will be available for use beginning Fall 2009, according to Patel. The fields will serve as practice fields for club sports such as track and field and will also feature a nature trail.

"We only have 1.7 acres for intramural use by 21,300 students now," said Papp in September.

See **LAND**, page 2

Two KSU beauties featured in nationwide contest

MICHAEL ROMEO
STAFF WRITER

Two students from KSU are being featured on a deck of cards being sold by College Mansion. Only 52 girls were selected to be in this set.

College Mansion is the second business venture of David Luber and Brian Novitsky, with their first being College Slogans. College Mansion is a Web site that is designed to show the hottest girls from different colleges and universities around the country.

Even though the contest was for girls, they were not the only ones who tried to apply. "You'd be surprised. We [got] a wide range of submissions: men, women and...even characters like the Easter Bunny have tried to become a part of our contest. However, we only accept college girls for the contest," said Novitsky.

The Absolute 52 contest served many purposes. "[It] features 52 of the nation's favorite college girls for the entire country to view, providing college students with a safe and fun way to socialize. We also help advertisers reach their target market by placing their name on the back of each card. Most importantly, we sell the packs to help raise money for a great cause: the Susan G. Komen Foundation," said Novitsky.

When asked about the idea behind producing a deck of cards, Novitsky said, "85% of college students use playing cards to fulfill their nightlife entertainment. When we were in college, we loved playing cards and it was our way to get a break from the books. We're also an advertiser's dream, because it allows the user community to have fun with their brand through experiential marketing at the most cost effective level."

Since the contest was the Absolute 52, there is a different girl on each card of the deck. Novitsky comments, "When you have 52 of the nation's hottest college girls, no hand is really a bad hand."

The two girls from KSU featured in the Absolute 52 are Melissa Graham and Stephanie LeBeau. Graham is a sophomore while LeBeau is a senior.

Each girl was able to

See **CARDS**, page 2



Clark Barrow | The Sentinel

Student Government President Punit Patel oversees the collection of ballots while Brittney Watts, freshman and business management major and Katie Gaustad, freshman and early childhood education major cast their votes in the mock-election last Thurs. Oct. 30. The event was co-sponsored by Dr. Kerwin Swint's Campaigns and Elections class, Student Government, the KSU Young Democrats and Republicans, the American Democracy Project and the Political Engagement Project of KSU.

Students get political in mock election

JENNIFER SUKHRAJ
STAFF WRITER

Four hundred and fifty-five students voiced their opinion in the mock election that SGA held last Thursday in the Student Center.

Punit Patel, president of SGA, stated that 54 percent of students chose Senator Barack Obama and 38 percent of students chose Senator John McCain.

Libertarian Bob Barr captured seven percent of the student vote.

The purpose of the mock election was to find out which candidate students felt should be the next leader of the United States of America. The mock election also engaged students in the political process and encouraged them to vote in the real election on November 4th.

"I feel that mock elections are important because

it promotes students to vote in the election," said Mannie Rivers, KSU junior. "It's important to vote because whoever becomes President determines the direction of the economy, the war and how we live."

"It was great that our school held a mock election because it made students aware of the campaign issues and the power of their ballot," said

See **ELECTION**, page 2

'Gaggle' of students holds fundraiser for Central Asia Institute

ANDY NELSON
STAFF WRITER

Greg Mortenson's Central Asia Institute is working with the KSU 2290 classes in order to raise enough money to build a school in either Afghanistan or Pakistan. All sections of the class have closely been following the book "Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace... One School at a Time," of which Mortenson is a co-author. Each class section has been assigned the task of organizing a fundraising event in order to reach KSU's goal of raising \$15,000 for the Central Asia Institute.

One such project was "Quack for a Cause," which was organized by Professor Ken Hill's class, and took place on Oct. 30 on the Campus Green. The event consisted of a game of Duck, Duck, Goose, which cost students \$1 to attend. The participants were allowed to stay as long as they wanted, and all proceeds went to the Central Asia Institute.

"I thought it was amazing how he [Mortenson] was so selfless and passionate about helping other people, and it inspired me to try it as well," said Kim Watson, one of the event coordinators and a freshman in Hill's class. "We wanted to do something fun that would attract a lot of people," she replied when asked why they

chose Duck, Duck, Goose as the game to be played.

Scott Gladin, the Web site designer for the project, added that Mortenson's book "really opened our eyes to the fact that these kids could not get an education." In regards to the fundraiser itself, he stated that "whenever you turn on the TV or read the newspaper, the news is mostly negative. We feel that this story is positive because it is about a group of college students trying to fight for less fortunate kids who cannot afford an education."

While the group's main purpose was to raise money for the Central Asia Institute, a secondary

See **DUCK**, page 2

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Everything but gold

Weekly weather



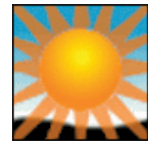
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THURSDAY
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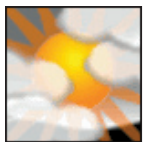
FRIDAY
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LOW 43°



SATURDAY
HIGH 63°
LOW 34°



SUNDAY
HIGH 59°
LOW 36°



MONDAY
HIGH 63°
LOW 39°

Around campus

What: AIDS awareness week information booth
When: Mon. Nov. 3 - Thurs. Nov. 6
Where: Student Center Atrium

What: Free HIV testing
When: Tues. Nov. 4 and Wed. Nov. 5, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Where: Student Center Atrium

What: Atlantic Sun Conference Championship
When: Wed. Nov. 5 - Sat. Nov. 8
Where: KSU Soccer Complex

Details: Owls play Thurs. Nov. 6 at 4 p.m. for a chance to move on to the conference final on Sat. Nov. 8 at 7:30 p.m.

What: Post-mock election roundtable discussion
When: Thurs. Nov. 6, 12:30 p.m. - 2 p.m.
Where: Social Science Building room 1029

What: Homecoming kickoff party
When: Sun. Nov. 9, 9 p.m.
Where: University Village Center

• **ELECTION** from front page

Sarah Chapman, KSU sophomore.

KSU Democrats and Republicans had tables set up on campus encouraging students to vote in the election. Both parties presented students with information about each candidate and provided pamphlets on where each candidate stood on the issues.

Students were also asked on the ballot whether they favored or opposed lowering the drinking age from 21 to 18. Forty-nine percent of students favored lowering the drinking age and 51 percent of students opposed it.

"This is just another example that shows why it is important to vote," said Rivers. "Questions like this one provide a valuable source of information in finding out what the student body feels about a particular subject."

"Obviously this question was on the ballot because it is one of the many debated issues among college students," said Melissa

Beechy, KSU junior. "It is clearly a hot topic because people are split down the middle on the issue."

Not only was SGA involved in the election season, but Dr. Kerwin Swint, professor of political science, held a mock debate in his class, although no winner was declared. The class debated issues that ranged from the economy to the war, health care, foreign affairs and the environment.

"Well, nobody really won it or lost it. The McCain side [Kevin Schmidt and Matt Nix] did do extremely well though," said Dr. Swint.

Students will also be able to voice their political opinions again in a post-election forum on Thursday, November 6th in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences in room 1029. The forum will discuss different aspects of the election and its impact on the economy, the war and other important interests.

• **DUCK** from front page

goal was to use the opportunity to break the world record for the largest game of Duck, Duck, Goose, which is currently held by Georgetown University with 1668 participants. The game kicked off at 2:00 p.m., with mostly Professor Hill's students participating, as well as some faculty members. Some of the participants attempted to appeal to passers-by and get them to join the game, but the core group remained mostly Hill's students. Half an hour later, the sunny conditions and constant running began to take their toll on some of the participants, who left the game prematurely.

As the event drew to a close the numbers

were counted up, where it was discovered that, as a whole, around 40 people attended, which was not enough to break the record. "I think it went well" said Khristy Montgomery, another of the event organizers, despite not breaking the record. "It was not supposed to be taken seriously, and was mostly about raising money. I think everyone had a lot of fun."

At 3:00 p.m., the event wrapped up, and the revenue from the donations was totaled. The class was able to raise over \$175. All in all, the class was proud of their achievements. "It was a beautiful day and we had plenty of support from the faculty and students," said Professor Hill. "It was a good lesson in project management."



Andy Nelson | The Sentinel

• **LAND** from front page

"This is a wonderful opportunity for Kennesaw State. We're excited, obviously."

KSU's rapid growth has led the University to seek other expansion opportunities as well. The new dining hall, set to open Fall 2009, will cost \$21 million and is being paid for by the mandatory meal plan. This semester, the University added the Central Parking Deck for \$45 million.

In addition, construction on a new health sciences building, set to open in the summer

of 2010, has already begun and will cost \$60 million to build. Forty-seven million of the cost will be paid for by state funds, and the remaining \$13 million will come from private funds, according to John Anderson, Assistant VP of Facilities Services and director of Facility Planning and Design Service.

Papp said in his annual state of the university speech last spring, "Unless more land is acquired, the reality is we are running out of land and space."

• **CARDS** from front page

have pictures of herself on her profile page for viewers to vote on. While many of the girls who are featured in the Absolute 52 had professional photographs, Melissa Graham did not.

"I had no idea [that] all the other contestants had professional pictures. As for me I had no experience modeling or anything like that," said Graham.

When asked about future contests with College Mansion, Graham said, "It was a really fun competition and great exposure. If there is another contest this upcoming year, you can bet I'm going to do it!"

Decks of cards can be purchased on the College Mansion Web site, www.collegemansion.com for a price of \$5.00, with a portion going directly to the Susan G. Komen Foundation.

School internships lead to real jobs after college

PATRICIA ALEX
THE RECORD

College internships can provide a critical leg up in an ever-tightening job market, experts say.

Just ask John Miseo, who interned at MTV while still a student at Fairleigh Dickinson University. He landed a full-time job with the television network in Manhattan before graduating in May.

"The internship really paid off in terms of learning and in terms of money," said Miseo, of Morris County. "It helped especially in today's economy. Some of my friends are still looking for work."

Miseo's internship was unpaid, as are many in the media, where companies take advantage of abundant student interest, said Rosalie Sabatino, the career center director at FDU. But internships can run the gamut, she said. Some pay stipends or transportation costs, and some provide a nice weekly salary.

"We try to fight for the students to have a stipend or hourly pay rate," said Sabatino. Business internships average about \$15 per hour, she said, while liberal arts assignments can be considerably less.

But even without pay, the experience can prove invaluable, and internships are increasingly popular.

"That internship on your

resume is going to count much more than the typical job you would be doing in the summer, whether bartending or baby-sitting," Sabatino said. "The internship shows you are willing to take the next step and get some experience in your major."

Over half of students at FDU take part in internships, and an increasing number do more than one, she said. Of late, there has been a spike in interest in internships involving graphic arts and animation, she said.

And businesses are increasingly interested in such arrangements. "Were getting more and more companies, both large and small, who are looking for interns _ especially with downsizing," Sabatino said.

Some interns play a supporting role, others have more responsibility and some job-shadow one FDU student is accompanying a cardiologist as he goes about his work. Some interns at a program at Montclair State University even spend time in big-headed costumes as \$8-an-hour characters at Disney World.

Sabatino advises students to be proactive if their internships turn out to be filled with grunt work. Apart from the actual work, Sabatino said, the internships can provide a window on the relationships of the working world and corpo-

rate culture.

"It's an eye-opener," she said. And sometimes internships can help steer a student away from a career path that's not for them after all.

But one thing is certain they are a resume-builder.

"Internships are becoming more important. It's vital for students on their resumes," Sabatino said. "It's a very competitive job market, and it's something employers are looking for."

Ann Limberg, president of Bank of America New Jersey, agrees. "Internships enhance resumes incredibly," she said. "What's better than hands-on learning internships?"

Bank of America's Student Leader Program places high school interns in paying jobs with community and non-profit groups.

"You can't start early enough," said Limberg. The aim of the program is two-fold, to promote young leaders and help bolster the groups."

Ellen Chiu interned at the Wayne and Pequannock Boys & Girls clubs as both a camp counselor and performing development work.

"Of course it's good for college," said Chiu, "and it also increases my interest level in business."

College internships can provide a critical leg up in an ever-tightening job market, experts say.

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Recording Arts and Sciences®. **Guest presenters will include Kendrick Dean and Jan Smith.** Representatives from the GRAMMY University Network (GRAMMY U)® will also be in attendance to talk with students about how to prepare for careers in the recording industry.

Sound Check will take place at the KSU Center, located at 3333 Busbee Drive in Kennesaw. A limited number of tickets are available. Attendees should register online at www.kennesaw.edu/ConEd or call 770-423-6765. Registration fee is \$79 per person.



Kendrick Dean



Jan Smith

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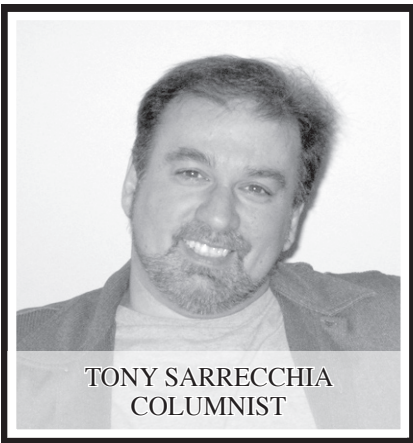
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OPINIONS & EDITORIALS

McCain? Obama?

Either way, you and I are in charge



TONY SARRECCHIA
COLUMNIST

Election day is today. Unfortunately, either Barack Obama or John McCain will be the next president. My first thought was to drive tire irons into my eyes—but I don't believe even that level of pain would dull my disappointment in so many of you are excited about either of these two guys. If you remember when this election cycle started, neither of these guys were the favorites—which goes to show that in our current two party system, we don't look for the best, just the least offensive.

The other thing that kept me from running naked out of the poll was the knowl-

edge that you and I are in charge. We may not be as powerful as we once were—I think too many people have bought into the government-as-rulers myth rather than the government-as-public-servants reality. Many politicians are confused about their place on the food chain and it is our job as citizens to remind the public servants to whom they are accountable. Economics—the flow of money goes a long way to defining who is in charge. Since we know that money is the drug of choice for politicians, we the people need to have a nationwide intervention with these bottom feeding looters.

As a taxpayer, I like to know where my money is going. I think paying for battleships, cruise missiles, Kevlar vests and other tools for national defense is a perfectly acceptable use of my money. And make no mistake about it—the money belongs to you and me. We earn it by selling our time to employers. It is not through the government that we earn (unless you work for the government), but through our initiative and skills. The government (even if you work for them) survives by

taxing our income. According to the Tax Foundation (taxfoundation.org), we worked 113 days in 2008 just to pay the feds. More telling perhaps is in 2008, the feds required 30.8 percent of your income for their operating expenses: out of every dollar, the feds allowed you to keep 69.2 cents. That's not a good ratio when you consider the feds weren't there when you had to unload that truckload of bricks or when you missed your child's recital because you had to work mandatory overtime. Yet they get a huge chunk of your money every week.

I don't know about you, but if I give my child money, I want to know what she is doing with it—and I love her. I certainly want full accountability of what the feds are doing with my money. For example, I know that they should not spend (but do) on campaigns to persuade us to quit smoking and then subsidize tobacco farmers because sales of their products are down. Or spend on fat boy projects in districts that do little for us but help these tax-addicted bureaucrats get reelected. And let's not forget the thousands of government

departments and agencies that exist to continue their growth and act as money sucking tarts on the working taxpayer. A quick glimpse at the Citizens Against Government Waste website (cagw.org), a non-partisan, non-profit organization whose mission is to "eliminate waste, mismanagement, and inefficiency in the federal government," reveals the following cavalier spending of our money:

- \$355,000 of taxpayers' money to sponsor a NASCAR driver from FCC Commission Chairman Kevin Martin's home state of North Carolina. The ill-fated car, which crashed in its first race, was supposed to draw attention to the switch to digital television in Feb. 2009.
- \$22.1 million for 33 FEMA State and Local Programs projects overseen by 35 members, spread among 19 states, including towns such as Poynette, Wisc. (population 2,520), and Bellerose, N.Y. (population 1,120).
- Anyone remember that \$800 billion dollar bailout for a problem that wouldn't have occurred except for government meddling in businesses it didn't under-

stand?

The feds should spend money on two things—defending our rights; and protecting us from foreign attack. Equality, fairness, education and business are not the areas where the feds should be involved. And yet defending our rights has dropped to somewhere below the manufacturing of wooden arrows and the mating habits of frogs. Barney Frank, a man who should be in federal prison for his role in the Fannie Mae/Freddy Mac fiasco yet continues to be a Senator for Massachusetts, suggested that the US military can do with a budget 25 percent less than current spending. Does that sound like a government official interested in defending our country?

Our federal government has grown to leviathan size by gorging itself on the sweat of our labor. Regardless of which team wins today, you and I have the responsibility to remind them that they serve at the pleasure of the governed, and what the governed give, the governed can take away. We are the power behind the throne—and we must never let those who sit on that throne forget it.

Global warming to the rescue

What we need is a good, old-fashioned catastrophe

It is with a heavy heart that I have to announce to you that either Barack Obama or John McCain is now the President Elect of the United States of America. They both suck egg-water in their own unique ways. Obama is a Marxist, class-war monger. McCain is a crotchety old man with a penchant for pissing off both sides of the aisle. The economy is in the toilet, and the water is rising. About the only bright spot on the horizon –for now- is that oil prices continue to tumble and that we might, perhaps, see \$1.99 a gallon in time for Christmas, Kwanza, Chanukah, Beltane, Saturnalia, or whatever you call your end of December holy day. Bring on the road rage!

As I sit here pondering our collective fate, it occurs to me that all the worry means little. Somehow I forgot a basic component of our government. See, the founding fathers were even more cynical and distrustful of government than I am. Gasp! I know, who would have thought it possible. Anyway, they carefully arranged things in a way that protects us from the ill-intent and incompetence inherent to the type of person who seeks political power. I forgot about the bureaucracy.

For years, President Bush –may God have mercy on the absence of his soul-dealt with those left behind by an eight year Clintonian Presidency: ingrained deeply into the bureaucracies that run the country, Clinton operatives continued to function. However, eight years of an unpopular war have managed to root out many of the moldering Clintonians, left behind like forgotten landmines, and allowed King George II to place his own folks into those positions. So, whether or not the Congress and the White House are divided by party or aligned, the loyal opposition will remain a factor.

I hope you all did your civic duty and cast your vote, though. Your opinion matters. I'm sure that Georgia will have gone to McCain, despite the spate of early voters that the DNC has claimed are all for Obama, but just taking part in the



DAVID DALTON
VIEWPOINTS EDITOR

process is important. All accounts hold this election to have the highest turn-out in several decades. While that may or may not be true –and honestly, I rather doubt it- if more people actually take the initiative to become voters, perhaps the government will be more responsive.

Obama's campaign has moved heaven and earth, sparing no expense to make sure that people are registered to vote. Kudos to them, but if folks took that much initiative to get jobs and take care of their children, half of our problems would be over. Imagine a world where there is no government safety net holding you back! Imagine a nation of workers who helped their neighbors instead of mugging them! Imagine a state where everyone went to work and was too proud to accept the government's extorted handouts! Of course you have to imagine that kind of world since it will never be a reality.

For too many years we have coddled society's weak and unwilling, allowing three or more generations to suckle at the teat of big government –Republican and Democrat alike! Now the entitlement mentality has taken root and it will take a major catastrophe to shake it loose. Unfortunately, John Galt won't be riding in to lead the revolt, but maybe Al Gore's global warming crisis will rescue us from ourselves.

My taxes? Who cares. Let's all worry about the rich

Psst. Calling Obama's tax plan (with its ambitious relaxation on high-taxes for the middle-class) "socialist" is like calling that kid who missed your Wednesday bible-study "atheist." It's just not sticking (in case you haven't noticed) and there's a reason for it. Stay with me here- this is a what some would call "liberal Kool-Aid," but what I call a fresh-from-the-oven heapin' helpin' of common sense with a side-dish of heart-healthy fact. However, you're free to feed it under the table to the dog, if you like- I'm pretty easy like that. But check it out:

To embrace an American reality, you're gonna have to get over the (absolutely terrifying! Communist!) phrase "spread the wealth," 'cause it's been happening since the dawn of taxes in America. True, it appears it was (in retrospect ONLY) a mistake of a phrase to use, since the smeers are married (with children) to it at the moment, but let's not mistake the "redistribution of wealth" ideology to belong to an expressly socialistic agenda, alright? If you'll stop googling "Obama socialism" over and over, I'll clear something up for you. Do you mind if I wax factual for a second?

Back in the (way far away) day, Adam Smith (capitalist) penned a book called (in short) "The Wealth of Nations." This guy Adam was an old-school economist (I'm talking 1770s America, y'all) whose love for the budding capitalism in America moved him to write the most influential book on modern economics of his time. (You did read capitalism and capitalist, right? Okay, just checking.) Now, not only did our boy Adam encourage letting the market "fix itself" without government interference, he also advocated and outlined OTHER things we (capitalists) love in America, like interest rates on stocks, the division of labor and why it's a good thing, the impor-

tance of a healthy agricultural commission, wages and their relation to the market, but he also rapped a good bit about taxes. Hope you don't mind if I'm sick of MLA, but I'm gonna quote from the influential capitalist's publishing without it. You ready?

"It is not very unreasonable that the rich should contribute to the public expence, and not only in proportion to their revenue, but something more than in that proportion."

Whoa! Did that capitalistic crazy-man just say the rich should pay more or am I hearing things? If one were to utter the above statement aloud, smack in the midst of this festering political boil of smear and exaggeration, one would be accused of socialist battlecrying. Apparently, McCain's campaign behind-the-scenes fashionistas think calling America-loving-Americans Marxists is the new black.

It's simple, really. A tax plan that cuts taxes for the poor and middle class is not an example of socialism. Really, my love, you must stop crying for the rich, 'cause believe me--they ain't cryin' for you. As a matter of fact, they're crying ABOUT you and you're joining in on the "I Hate Poor People" chorusline. Why? Because you're being trained to worry about their money, darling. Wake up. Joe the Plumber, in his ostensible anxiety over his millionaire bosses getting taxed more, can toss his handkerchief into the wind when he saves a bit of money on next year's taxes. But, as we can tell from his deep-seated fear of his own tax-cut, Joe won't be keeping the money for himself. Oh no, he'll furiously cash his checks, rush out and buy some money orders and then send the extra income back to his bosses. No, seriously--he's just THAT worried about their fortunes and this on-camera tough-guy isn't just the act of a know-nothing smartass like



BERLIN VALENCOURT
COLUMNIST

you "bright ones" thought it was.

The fact of the matter is: the rich have planted their fortune-seeds in the fruitful garden of America that millions of people have helped keep fertile. I really don't wanna hear any boo-hooing when someone is told they can't barge in, harvest their crop, and leave the ground chewed up for the next guy. Please, just stop. You have to re-water that very soil like it was for you, good sir, and taxes are the way in which we keep this garden so green. Taxes, if you'll take note, is the system by which the redistribution of wealth for Americans takes place and they in no way threaten our capitalistic nature like socialism does. Nothing about Obama's tax plan is set to override (the feverishly protected greed we call) capitalism, so if you must cry that the rich are paying taxes, cry that we all are. Otherwise, enjoy the renewed opportunity to close the gaping space between us "poor people" and the jillionaires, yeah?

Or, you can say, "To hell with ALL of this liberal nonsense! I'm not listening to this! This idea of more taxes for the wealthy is JUST what Karl Marx was up to and I'm not spreading my money anywhere!" Then you'll stop paying taxes, default on your duty as an American, and come under fire from the IRS. You know--like your shining example of a great American, Joe the Plumber.

2004-05 National Newspaper Pacemaker Award

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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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Stevens’ sad spectacle is no surprise

THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER (MCT)

The following editorial appeared in the Orange County Register on Oct. 28.

Alaska Sen. Ted Stevens’ conviction Monday on all seven federal corruption charges is being viewed in terms of the Nov. 4 general election, which is understandable given that the nation is in the final week of a long and grueling presidential race. From that horse-race perspective, it’s obvious that this is more bad news for an already flailing Republican ticket. As Ben Smith of Politico.com put it, “If life were fair, it would bit a boost for McCain, an old intramural Stevens foe and enemy of Stevens’ earmarks. But (Sarah) Palin’s mixed relationship with Stevens complicates that, as does the fact that much of what filters through will just be another Republican going down.”

Sen. Stevens, 84, also is embroiled in an unusually tough re-election fight, largely because of the trial. Although he has no plans to resign from his seat (the Senate has no rules against its members being convicted felons), this development should bolster Democratic attempts to gain a filibuster-proof 60-seat majority. The national Democratic Party is investing heavily in a Senate race in the reddest of red states, Alaska.

We find it unsurprising that a senator who has mastered the art of redirecting tax dollars toward his state through earmarks and other budget games apparently

had no trouble redirecting dollars toward his own home. The amount of money at issue in the Stevens case is relatively trivial (in the scheme of federal budgets). As the Associated Press reported, he was “charged with lying on Senate financial forms about \$250,000 in home renovations and other gifts he received from an oil contractor.”

The bigger crime in our mind isn’t even illegal: the abuse of the taxpayer to benefit political cronies and constituents – something practiced by most members of Congress, although Sen. Stevens was a maestro. The Anchorage Daily News reported this week that he moved ahead a \$2.7 million road-paving project that benefited a close personal friend who owns the Double Musty Inn. This is nothing new. Citizens Against Government Waste, a conservative group that battles wasteful federal spending, noted recently that Stevens “has helped bring home a total of 1,452 pork-barrel projects, worth \$3.4 billion, between 1995 and 2008.”

“The Stevens trial will go down in history alongside the trials of lobbyists Jack Abramoff and former Rep. Randy ‘Duke’ Cunningham as just another sad, but not surprising, spectacle of corruption and cynicism in the nation’s capital,” CAGW President Tom Schatz, said in a statement Monday. “Members of Congress, who have so far been unwilling to police themselves and stop the grotesque, runaway federal spending spree, ought to view Stevens’ conviction as a cautionary tale.”

One can always hope.

Iraq: Withdrawal creep

MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL (MCT)

The following appeared in the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel on Oct. 29.

When it has come to Iraq and the presidential campaign, the debate has swirled mostly around withdrawal.

But a funny thing has happened as the current economic tempest has pushed Iraq off front pages. Withdrawal seems to be creeping up on us. And it’s being talked about both by Iraqis and the U.S. commanders calling the shots there.

You’d think this would get more play in the presidential election, if only for political gain – more credence to the Democratic nominee’s withdrawal plan or proof that the surge has worked. And this last assertion would be OK with us if it means declaring “victory” gets the United States out sooner. Please, someone go ahead and declare it.

The U.S. withdrawal is contained in the status of forces agreement, which the Iraqis have just requested be reopened for negotiations. The document has been long in the making, and the Iraqis don’t appear to be happy with it. But one thing is clear. In it at the moment is a U.S. withdrawal by the end of 2011 – unless both sides agree that the U.S. should stay or if the situation on the ground doesn’t allow a withdrawal.

Not as ironclad as we’d like, but still clearly indicating an Iraqi desire for U.S. withdrawal. It’s a longer period than Democratic nominee Barack Obama has proposed but, given that he includes the word “flexible” in his proposal, not out of the ballpark. GOP nominee John McCain has dismissed announced withdrawals as something tantamount to giving succor to the enemy.

Iraqis, it appears, are unswayed by who’s saying what in this particular part of the world. But another development has the U.S. military imposing withdrawal as tantamount to an ultimatum.

According to a report Sunday by McClatchy newspapers, the U.S. military is threatening to shut down military operations and other services by Jan. 1 if the Iraqis don’t agree to the status of forces agreement. And this doesn’t seem to have any flexibility at all. Some in the Iraqi government, in fact, view it as blackmail.

So whatever happened to the notion that withdrawal shouldn’t be used as a tool to hurry the Iraqis along? It’s plain: Withdrawal will occur, though perhaps not as soon as this Editorial Board would like, and it will likely occur no matter what either presidential candidate is saying about the issue at the moment.

We take a pause from this loooooong campaign to cheer the prospect, though wishing it would occur sooner rather than later.

With ethanol blend, drivers should get what they pay for

MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS (MCT)

The following editorial appeared in the Kansas City Star on Oct. 28.

Drivers who fill up their gas tanks believing they’re pumping 10 percent ethanol may be surprised to learn it could be much more.

The resulting damage can mean costly car repairs.

Experts blame a process called “splash blending,” which often doesn’t thoroughly mix gasoline and ethanol.

Splash blending is frowned upon in other countries such as Britain, but it’s widely practiced in the U.S. It’s a challenge

for state regulators, who only check fuel makeup periodically.

Such checks should come more frequently, especially when the price of ethanol drops below that of gasoline.

The Kansas City Star reported Sunday that while it’s not known how much excess ethanol is finding its way into our fuel tanks, people who conduct fuel tests frequently find proportions that are badly out of whack.

For example, the service manager at a Lawrence, Kan., car dealership complained of low mileage. The cause: His tank had 20 percent ethanol.

Splash blending occurs when the ethanol

and gasoline are pumped into a tanker truck or filling station storage tank separately. At wholesale terminals, fuels are more likely to be pre-blended.

If they’re not mixed thoroughly, they can stratify into layers. Similar problems can occur with bio-diesel, where vegetable oil and animal fat are mixed with conventional diesel.

The overall contents of a storage tank or tanker may be 10 percent ethanol, but individual customers may end up with much more than that in their gas tanks.

Since ethanol doesn’t have the same energy content as gasoline, the result is lower fuel mileage. At high levels, excess

ethanol can cause damage to catalytic converters and engine parts, including fuel pumps.

Gasoline prices have dropped recently. But when ethanol is cheaper than gasoline, the fuel industry has an incentive to put in too much of the cheaper fuel, using splash blending.

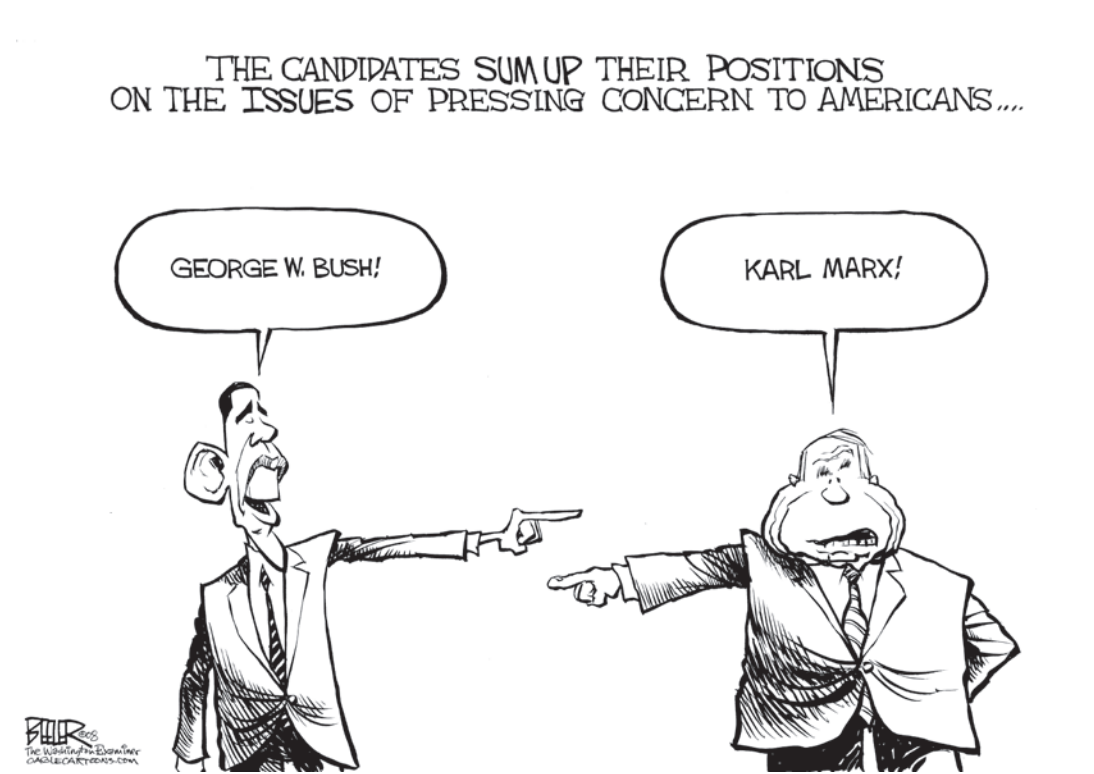
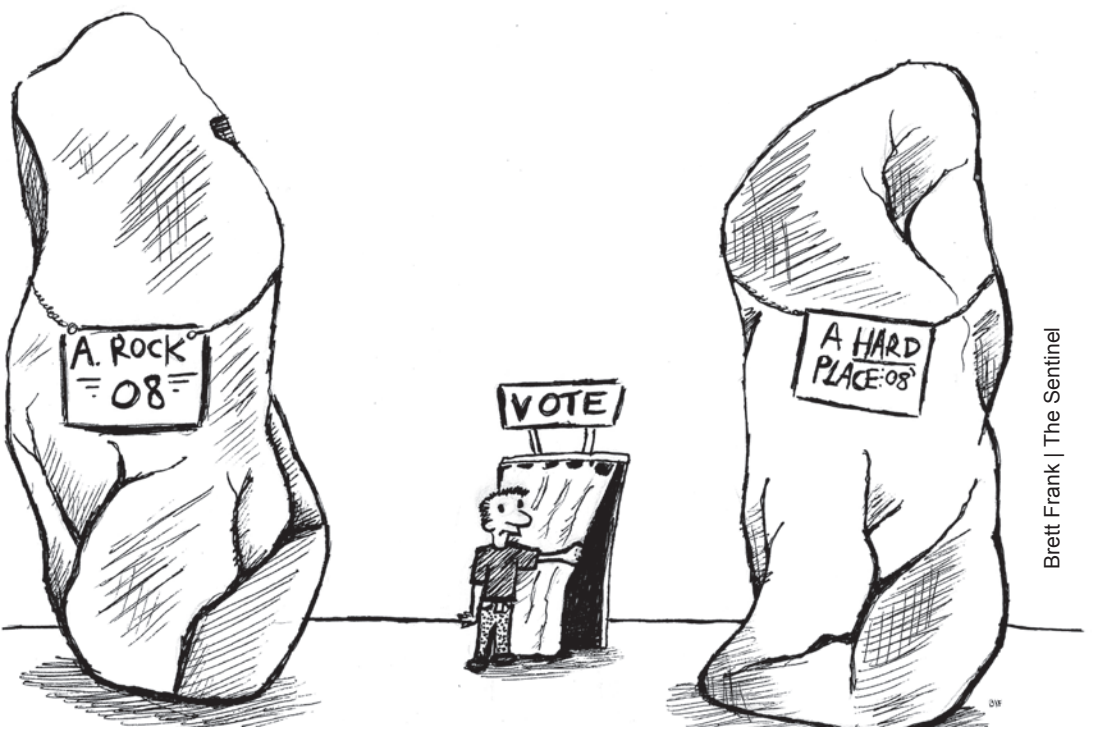
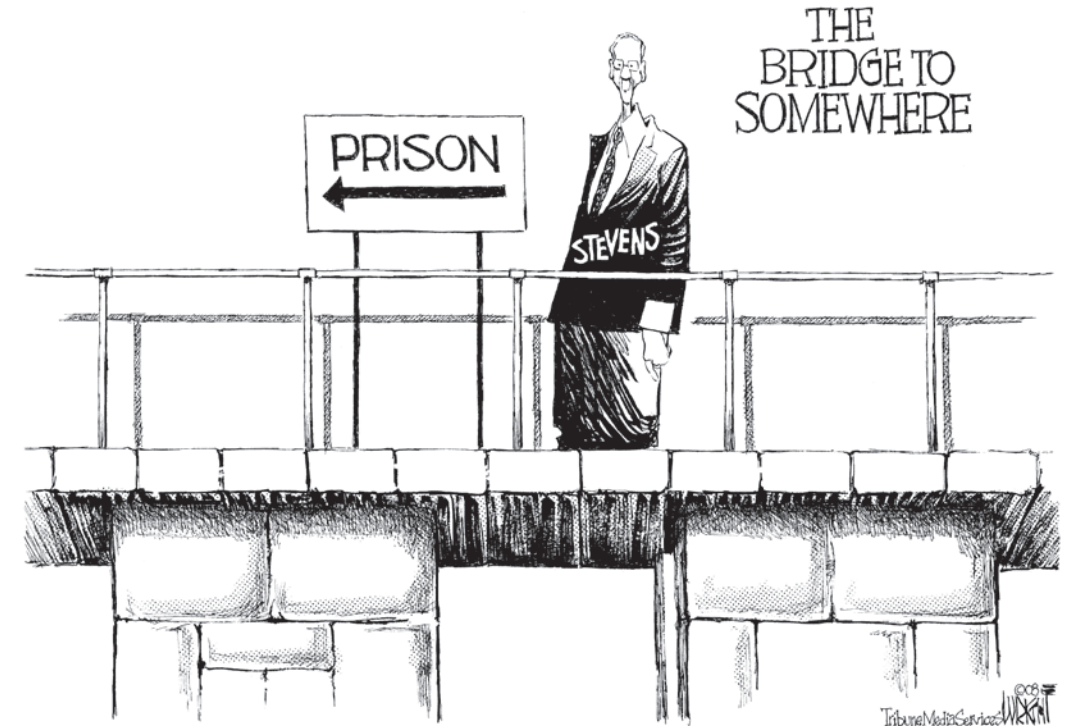
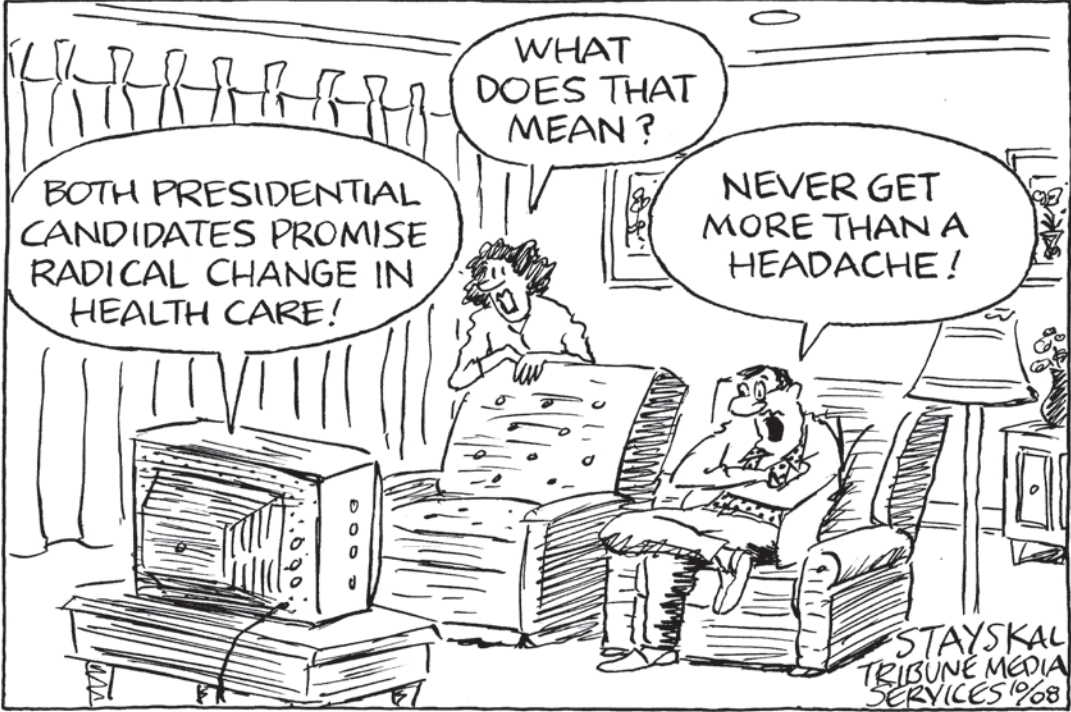
In an Iowa case, the attorney general sued one retailer for selling fuel with 18 percent ethanol. The retailer had been telling customers the fuel’s ethanol content was zero. Kansas tests the ethanol content of retail outlets every 18 months. In Missouri, the checks take place every 20 months. Officials say they haven’t found

any problems.

But an Atlanta company that sells fuel-test devices lists Missouri as among the six states with the most reports of excess ethanol.

When the price of ethanol dips below that of gasoline, the frequency of fuel tests by state officials should increase. At the same time, state lawmakers should look at whether regulators are doing enough to protect consumers.

As Todd Sneller of the Nebraska Ethanol Board put it, “The consumer has a right to know that if E10 (10 percent ethanol) is what is on the pump, that is what is being sold.”



THE OWL FORUM

Dear Editor,

Why do the major media outlets of this country choose to provide almost all the election coverage to only two presidential parties? If I only watched TV or read the newspaper everyday then I wouldn’t know that there are 14 presidential candidates, and six of those are on enough state ballots that they could actually win the majority in the Electoral College.

The media should have a sense of duty to give their consumers a full review of all candidates. Senators McCain and Obama have spent well

over \$700 million on their campaigns just so “those two” can bash each other in the national spotlight; and not to mention that this is occurring during a recession like our country has not experienced [since] the Great Depression. How does this qualify either of them as a change from the past eight years? The people of this country deserve to know that better candidates are out there looking out for our interests.

Jason Roberts
Senior
Communication

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Photos courtesy of Kebba Samvateh

Graduate students visit Egypt to better understand area’s conflict

KEBBA SAMATEH
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Master of Science in Conflict Management program at KSU continues to spread its wings around the world to increase dialogue and cooperation across cultural, geographic, linguistic and religious lines. The most recent example of its expansion was a ten-day trip to Egypt, from Oct. 11 to Oct. 19, which enabled 21 MSCM students to gain a better understanding of Egypt’s culture and the forces creating conflict within its borders and within the Middle East.

Over the course of centuries, the Middle East has known many destructive conflicts, and no other country has had a better seat in this historical and ongoing drama than Egypt. In addition to regional conflicts, there have been internal flare-ups: Although Islam dominates the nation’s religious life, Egypt has a very strong Coptic Christian minority and also a small Jewish community. Relations between the religious groups have not always been smooth, but their members have succeeded at coexisting with some degree of cooperation.

For all of these reasons, there may be no better place in the world to study conflict, its destructive ramifications and how it might be overcome through dialogue and respect.

The First Secretary of the Ministry of Education received us in Cairo. He was very interested in our mission to Egypt and offered the full support of the Egyptian government through his ministry. We felt the support of the government throughout our trip; in fact, we were provided with an armed guard and police escort at all times. From day one, we knew that the government and the people of Egypt would help us on our journey of learning and discovery.

Among the places we visited in Cairo was the Al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies, which examines issues of international politics that have a bearing on the Middle East. According to Dr. Linda Johnston, who directs the MSCM program and coordinated

our trip, the center’s research work helps facilitate and encourage dialogue in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. The center played an important role in the Oslo Accords signed in 1993, which represented a furtive step toward peace between Palestine and Israel. We had a spirited discussion at the center, whose representatives were excited at the possibilities for future cooperation with KSU and the MSCM program.

We also visited a women’s cooperative located in Manshiyat naser, a giant slum in Cairo where the residents, known as the Zabbaleen (“garbage people”), sort through the city’s refuse in search of things that might be reusable or sellable. The Zabbaleen often have no running water, sewage or electricity, and their homes are built on

land that is unstable. Three weeks before our visit, dozens of homes dotting a hillside collapsed in a landslide, killing an untold number of people. The women’s cooperative receives assistance from the Association for the Protection of the Environment, a literacy and job-skills training center for girls and young women living in Manshiyat naser. Women learn to weave, quilt and recycle paper as well as to read and write, which empowers them to support their families and have a voice in their communities.

We happily bought trinkets and other goodies from the women as a way of supporting their cause. We left the area with a new appreciation for being American and living in the U.S.. On the other hand, there is much we in the U.S. could learn from people who recycle 80% of their garbage! The cooperative is like an oasis in a desert; it gives the women of Manshiyat naser a hope they would not have otherwise.

During our stay, we toured two universities: the Helwan University in Cairo and Alexandria University in Alexandria, which is on the Mediterranean Sea northwest of Cairo. Our Egyptian host, Professor Ibrahim El Sawy, lectures at Alexandria University; he has been a visiting scholar at KSU’s Center for Conflict Management. While at Alexandria University, we also visited the Institute for Peace Studies, located in the world-famous Bibliotheca Alexandrina, or Library of Alexandria, a vast new complex that includes museums, art galleries and specialized libraries for the blind, for young people and for children. Both universities boast more than 160,000 students (and we thought KSU was big!) and received us warmly. Their representatives were thrilled to learn the MSCM program is looking

into establishing a study-abroad program that would send KSU students to Egypt for one or two semesters.

Egypt is unquestionably one of the most exciting tourism destinations in the world; it continues to modernize while retaining those aspects of its culture and ancient civilization that tend to be romanticized. Its geographic proximity to biblical sites in Israel and Jordan makes it even more enticing. The crime rate is extremely low compared with that of the U.S.. Due to an increase in the number of American students studying Arabic and the influx of American businesses, Egypt has a large American presence, and almost everybody

speaks some level of English or French.

Egyptians seem to want to strengthen relations with the West and the U.S., in particular, especially after the events of September 11, 2001. There is an army of security guards within the Department of Tourism dedicated to the protection of visitors, and the Egyptian people are eager to cooperate because they know that any trouble might have economic implications. Generally speaking, Egyptians are very friendly, sophisticated and hip, with an incredible sense of humor. Our host, Prof Ibrahim El Sawy, gave us a taste of Egyptian humor one day. Commenting on the difference between U.S. history and Egyptian history, he said, “When you Americans talk about old, it is only a hundred years. I bet you I can find something that old in my home!”

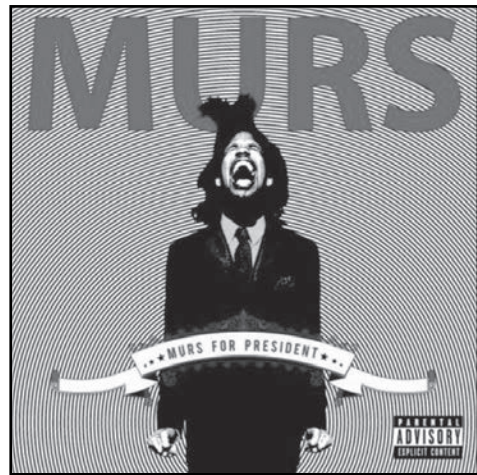


CD Review

MURS for president
L.A. rapper on a mission

BRITTNEY JOSEPH
STAFF WRITER

L.A. rapper MURS is on a mission: He wants to be the next big thing in the hip-hop world. With his drive and determination, it won't be long



For more information on MURS, check out his MySpace page at MySpace.com/murs or imeem.com/murs, which offers the full track listing of his new album. Fans can catch him on the MURS for President tour. MURS's next Atlanta appearance will be at the Masquerade (Hell Stage) on Nov. 8.

before he accomplishes his goal. Spin magazine certainly seems to think so. "Call him Barack O'Drama---the rap game's agent of change...Murs for President has a cumulative bang that's impossible to deny."

In a recent interview, MURS shared with me why he is the real deal. When asked what sets him apart from other rappers, MURS replied, "I'm not cocky or competitive. I want to be the best and I'm going to work at it until I get it." If that's not modesty, then I don't know what is.

On his major label debut "MURS For President," MURS brought in heavy hitter Snoop Dogg to record the song "Time Is Now." MURS described his experience with Snoop by saying, "He's a great guy. I was inspired by him. He's really a genuine human being."

The album as a whole is a smash. It has many songs that are sure to be hit singles. When asked which song he likes best, MURS admitted that his favorite is "Everything."

"It's one of the newest songs," he said. "I think it's the best song I have ever written."

Yes, you read that right. MURS writes his own material, every note and word. He explained that he has to. It came as a surprise to me; for some reason, I had always thought that rappers wrote no more than half of the songs on their albums. He also said that he was completely involved in the entire process of creating "MURS For President."

The inspiration for this album is also an original idea. MURS told me that "it was time to make songs about love. Songs that would comfort somebody." The idea was so simple and yet so powerful. URB Magazine agrees, saying, "Murs wants to identify—to reach out and touch his listeners—and, at his best, he does exactly that. That's what the best politicians do, and that's why Murs—founder of Paid Dues Festival—has declared his run for presidency (of rap)."

MURS fans will enjoy this album. From start to finish, it has something for everyone. It offers an energetic and versatile type of rap music that has not been around for ages. My personal favorite is "Breakin' Up." This song offers listeners a chance to see the softer side of MURS; it talks about the feelings people have when they experience a breakup, which is something everyone can relate to.

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Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Toss out
- 6 Ms. McEntire
- 10 Price ceilings
- 14 Scold mildly
- 15 Relative of etc.
- 16 Landed
- 17 Noted storytellers
- 19 Burkina Faso neighbor
- 20 Application
- 21 Municipal
- 22 Macho dude
- 23 Nightstand site
- 25 Barn storage site
- 27 Pursue busily
- 28 Three feet
- 29 Stands on hind legs
- 32 Spanish city
- 37 62
- 38 Lightning strikes
- 39 Kind of horse or will?
- 40 York, Bilko and Friday
- 42 Upright position
- 43 Bounty rival
- 44 Night before
- 45 Indian bread
- 49 Type of general
- 53 Composer Copland
- 54 Energy
- 56 Rage
- 57 Letter opening, often
- 58 Decisive victories
- 60 Trial by fire
- 61 Back then
- 62 Asinine
- 63 Hurricanes' centers
- 64 Kyle's friend on "South Park"
- 65 Conspicuous success

DOWN

- 1 Use elbow grease
- 2 Pursuit
- 3 Sieved into pellets
- 4 Commotion
- 5 Erasable writers
- 6 "Still Me" writer
- 7 Needle case
- 8 Graphic displays
- 9 Roker and Capp
- 10 Desert critter
- 11 Texas shrine
- 12 Rice dish
- 13 Job duration
- 18 In good order
- 22 Jekyll's other half
- 24 Branchlet
- 26 Circle parts
- 28 Black Sea resort
- 29 "Treasure Island" auth.
- 30 File extension
- 31 Ventilate
- 32 Good life liver
- 33 Queues
- 34 Bauxite, e.g.
- 35 ___ sequitur
- 36 Plus
- 38 Enticement
- 41 Bayh or Hunter
- 42 Rest upon
- 44 Son of Seth
- 45 Social stratum
- 46 Bill ___ and the Comets
- 47 Crop up
- 48 Actress Annie
- 49 Versifier Nash
- 50 Like some waves
- 51 Sphere of operation
- 52 Game button
- 55 Andes autocrat
- 58 ___ Gatos, CA
- 59 "Monsters, ___"

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Liz Sly | Chicago Tribune

Basma Habeeb Sifo, 28, struggles to raise her children, Mariam, 8, and Majid, 5, after her husband was killed in 2007.

What love joined together, hate put asunder

LIZ SLY
MCT

This is an Iraqi love story, and it doesn't have a happy ending. She was a Christian, Basma Habeeb Sifo, a 15-year-old student living in the now notorious neighborhood of Dora. He was a Shiite Muslim, Haitham Majid al-Saadi, an army recruit 10 years her senior.

They met in 1995 at the home of his sister, her school friend, and fell in love across the religious divide, back in the days of Saddam Hussein, before the vicious sectarianism that has torn Iraq's diverse communities apart.

Still, it was rare for Christians to marry Muslims, and Sifo's parents disapproved, according to her account. When she reached the age of 17 and asked permission to marry, they dispatched her to a nunnery. For the next two years she lived apart from the world, staying in touch with her lover only through furtive phone calls.

In 1998, when Sifo reached the age of 19, she escaped with the help of a sympathetic aunt and went straight to Saadi's home.

"Marry me, or I will find my own life," she told him. "I will marry you," he said, and they wed the very next day.

Life wasn't easy. Her family ostracized her after she converted to Islam, out of love for her husband rather than obligation, she says. Saadi had left the army and earned barely enough to get by as a car mechanic.

But they were happy. "I married him because I wanted to marry for love," Sifo says, referring to the prevalence of arranged marriages in Iraq. "But after marriage he became more than a husband. He was my best friend."

Their daughter, Mariam, arrived a little more than a year later. Then came a son, Majid, a week after conquering U.S. soldiers arrived in Baghdad in 2003. Majid was born at home because the hospitals had been looted and were closed.

Their lives began looking up. He got a job with the U.S. contracting firm KBR in the Green Zone for \$600 a month. He

bought clothes for Sifo and diapers for the baby.

Around them, however, the insurgency was taking root. Sunni militants allied to al-Qaida in Iraq were taking over the streets of Dora and hunting down anyone who worked for Americans. Later, they would set their sights on Shiites and Christians.

One day in 2005 came the inevitable threat, scrawled on a piece of paper and tossed over the wall. "Leave the Americans, or you and your family will be killed," it said.

The next morning they were gone, abandoning the job, their house and their furniture, joining an exodus of Iraqis that would displace an estimated 4 million people from their homes over the next two years.

Though they found a room with relatives in a safer neighborhood, Saadi couldn't find work and ends didn't meet. Sifo became pregnant again, this time with twins.

In early 2007 came the surge of U.S.

legs were broken, and his face had been disfigured by acid. His death certificate gives the cause of death as "multiple bullet and stab wounds."

At the age of 27, Sifo had joined the ranks of the estimated 1 million widows in Iraq. She can barely recall the weeks that followed his death. She lost the twins she was carrying. "My world went dark," she said.

And she has survived. She has found a job as a cleaner in the Green Zone, for \$450 a month, but it hardly covers the bills. She lives with her children, her mother-in-law and her sister-in-law in a rented flat in the relatively safe neighborhood of Karradeh, the sole breadwinner in a household of women and children in a male-dominated society.

Though conditions in most parts of Baghdad have improved, Sifo says it's still not safe for Shiites in Dora, where anonymous leaflets distributed in recent weeks have warned against Shiites returning to their homes.

Sifo says she is constantly afraid, convinced that militias are tracking her moves in and out of the Green Zone. As a woman living without male protection, she feels uniquely vulnerable. She cries frequently as she recounts her ordeal.

The children have paid a price too. Mariam, now 8, has adapted and is doing well at school, but Majid, her 5-year-old, has become tempera-

mental and unruly since his father's death. He has lost weight and throws tantrums.

"I am doing everything only for them," says Sifo, who sees the face of her dead husband every time she looks at her little boy. "Sometimes I think I can't go on, but I know I have to for the children."

Sifo's own relatives, who have since fled to northern Iraq, still reject her. She says that their anti-Muslim sentiments have been sharpened by the sectarianism of recent years and that they now will reconcile only if she renounces Islam and abandons her children, who were born Muslims.

That is something she vows she will never do.

troops. By fall, violence levels in Baghdad had fallen by as much as two-thirds, and even hot spots such as Dora were noticeably calmer. Sifo and Saadi began hankering to return home, encouraged by former neighbors who told them it was now safe even for Shiites to return to the Sunni-controlled area.

So one day in late October, Saadi decided to go back, just for a quick visit "to have a look," Sifo recalled. "He only wanted to check to see if it would be safe."

It wasn't.

Saadi's body was found the following morning in a field near their former home. He had been shot four times. His arms and



Christopher Barth | MCT

Andrew Kunka charged \$4,000 to his credit card several years ago to help pay tuition at Loyola Marymount. Now a first-year law student at Rutgers University's Newark, New Jersey campus, Kunka, struggles to make the minimum payment on a card that's nearly maxed out. "I feel like credit card companies target us because we really have no financial awareness," said Kunka, 22.

College students' credit card debt spurs concern

TONY PUGH
MCT

As the fall semester beckons and financial aid from parents and the government runs dry, more college students are turning to credit cards to pay not only for their textbooks, meals and transportation but also for tuition.

A recent survey by U.S. Public Interest Research Groups found that two-thirds of college students have at least one card, 70 percent pay their own monthly bills, and 24 percent have used their cards to help pay tuition.

That helps explain why the average survey respondent will graduate with more than \$2,600 in credit card debt, and those with student loans will owe nearly \$3,000.

Andrew Kunka charged \$4,000 to his credit card several years ago to help pay tuition at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. Now a first-year law student at Rutgers University's Newark, N.J., campus, Kunka struggles to make the minimum payment on the card, which is nearly maxed out.

"I feel like credit card companies target us because we really have no financial awareness," said Kunka, who's 22. "We're barely out of our homes, barely having experiences as adults, and they throw these things at us and they don't make you aware of what you're signing into."

In recent congressional testimony, a card industry representative said stories such as Kunka's were aberrations and that two out of three students paid their card balances in full each month.

However, concern about college students' credit card debt has led regulators, lawmakers and consumer advocates to question whether schools are making it too easy for card companies to market their plastic to students.

Of particular concern are exclusive agreements in which card companies and banks pay millions of dollars to schools or alumni associations for preferential treatment with their card-marketing efforts. The perks can include prime marketing space in high-traffic areas on campus or the use of a school's name and logo on their cards.

Three hundred of the nation's largest universities collectively pocket more than \$1 billion a year on these marketing deals, said Robert D. Manning, the director of the Center for Consumer Financial Services at the Rochester Institute of Technology, in Rochester, N.Y.

The New York Attorney General's Office is investigating the practice nationally, but Benjamin Lawsky, a deputy counselor with that office, provided few details of the probe in recent congressional testimony.

"I think when those provisions in these agreements become public, sometime relatively soon, I think it will shock many people, the kinds of relationships that some of these credit card companies have with the schools," Lawsky testified.

The agreements are usually confidential and often require the school to provide students' personal contact information, such as telephone numbers, e-mail addresses and home addresses.

This can lead to a deluge of card offers. While most issuers frown on applicants with shallow earnings and sparse credit histories, college students with similar attributes are coveted as potential long-term customers whose earnings will increase with time.

So students face aggressive card promotions on campus, where they're vulnerable to a host of marketing tactics.

One company offered free rides in a bicycle taxi if students watched a video pitch for its credit cards. Others set up tables

around campus and offer free T-shirts, movie rentals, music downloads, Frisbees and even food if students fill out card applications.

Experts say these temptations can make an already-difficult decision even harder for young adults with little financial know-how.

"It's practically impossible to be a decent consumer and have a normal thought process when you're staring at a steaming hot piece of pizza," said Christine Lindstrom, the higher education program director with U.S. Public Interest Research Groups.

John Velasco never had such conflicts. Velasco, 22, was a sophomore at West Virginia University when ads drew him to a promotion offering pizza to students who took part in a five-minute survey. "The (ads) never said a word about credit cards," Velasco recalled.

It wasn't until he reached the front of a long line that he realized that the "survey" was a credit card application, and he couldn't get pizza unless he filled it out.

"I said, 'No way.' I'm not going for that. It was ridiculous," said Velasco, who now attends State University of New York's Albany campus.

Card industry representatives say that the vast majority of college students share Velasco's discerning judgment.

"Certainly there are examples of students who took on more debt than they were ultimately able to manage, but in the vast majority of cases, students are acting responsibly in meeting their obligations," said Kenneth Clayton, the senior vice president of the card policy council of the American Bankers Association.

In testimony before Congress, Clayton told lawmakers that credit cards helped cash-strapped students stay in school, build their credit histories and provide a financial safety net in emergencies. He said that imposing new restrictions on marketing cards to college students would hurt many responsible students who need them.

In addition to the two-thirds of college cardholders who pay their balances in full each month, the rest keep an average balance of \$452, down from \$559 last year, according to a recent survey of college students by the Student Monitor, a market research firm.

The survey also found that the number of students with credit cards in their names is declining because of the increased use of debit and ATM cards, that more than half of respondents had cards before entering college, and 82 percent thought they were responsible enough to have cards. However, 42 percent said they needed more credit education from their first card issuers.

Recently, U.S. Public Interest Research Groups student chapters at 39 schools launched a "Truth About Credit" campaign to tighten card-marketing rules on campus. The groups are urging school officials to adopt a set of six principles for responsible card marketing.

The principles call for banning gifts for filling out for card applications, requiring card promotional material to meet school posting regulations, increasing student financial education, denying access to student contact information, forbidding card companies from sponsoring student groups and school departments, and discouraging credit card terms that take advantage of students.

Lindstrom said negotiations were ongoing and that schools might adopt some or all of the standards, which are supported by the American Council on Education, the National Association of College and University Business Officers and Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education.



THE AIDS MEMORIAL QUILT

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Owls on the Road

JEROME WOOLEY
STAFF WRITER

GOLF Lindsey finishes 15th at Pat Bradley Invitational

Donning pink shoe-laces in support of National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, senior Laura Lindsey led the women’s golf team to a ninth place finish at Florida International’s 31st Annual Pat Bradley Invitational on Tues., Oct. 28. Lindsey carded her best finish of the season by ending the invitational tied for 15th at the 6,118-yard, par-72 Pelican Preserve Golf and Country Club.

“We really showed up today and continued to show improvement on the course,” said head coach Rhyll Brinsmead. “I think the added motivation of helping a good cause with birdies really helped us go out there and putt with an elevated level of confidence and aggressiveness.”



Photos courtesy of SID

Junior Jordan Lazenby also performed miraculously, tying for 19th at the invitational, giving her the best finishing and lowest 54-hole total since joining the Owls.

“I am proud of the way the team responded in the last two events after a couple of tough outings against some pretty deep fields in the middle of our schedule,” said Brinsmead.

The Owls will return to action on Fri., Feb. 22 for the Kiawah Island Intercollegiate in Kiawah Island, S.C.

VOLLEYBALL Volleyball team goes three and out

The women’s volleyball team’s three match winning streak was snapped by Georgia State on Tues., Oct. 28 at the GSU Sports Arena. The 5-18 Owls lost the match 3-0 (25-29, 25-21, 25-18) to the 2-21 Panthers.

Although the Black and Gold could not top the Panthers in the 1-75 rivalry, junior setter Ginny Frederick earned her 1,000th career assist. Frederick ended the night with four kills, no errors, 14 assists and five overall points.

The Owls were at their best in the second set in which they were beaten by a mere four points, 25-21. Both teams battled back-and-forth, but the Panthers took advantage of their possessions by capitalizing on the Owls’ errors.

Georgia State proved to be the better team as they committed only 10 errors to the Owls’ 25. Because this was not a conference match, this loss does not affect the Owls standings in the playoff hunt.

Owls swept by Eagles

In a road trip to Fort Myers, Fla. on Fri., Oct. 31, the women’s volleyball was out-matched by the Florida Gulf Coast Eagles who swept the Owls 3-0 (25-9, 25-17, 25-12).

The Owls, now 5-19 overall and 4-11 in conference play, committed 23 errors on attack and were out-killed by the Eagles, 37-20. Red shirt sophomore, Sabrita Gulley, led KSU with seven kills and seven points, but it was far from enough as the Owls lost two consecutive matches.

The 16-6 Eagles maintain their first place status in the Atlantic Sun Conference as they enter the final series of conference matches.

Volleyball team downs Stetson

In a quest to snap a two match losing streak, the women’s volleyball team did so in a 3-0 sweep over the Stetson Hatters on Sat., Nov. 1.

Freshmen Rachel Albright and Callie Churchwell had marvelous performances that led the Owls to their fifth conference win of the season. Albright had 19 assists and 13 digs to give her a double-double, while Churchwell had nine kills and four blocks in the match.

“Our serving was better; our team chemistry was better,” said head coach Valerie Jones. “It was good to see our team rewarded for their efforts today.”

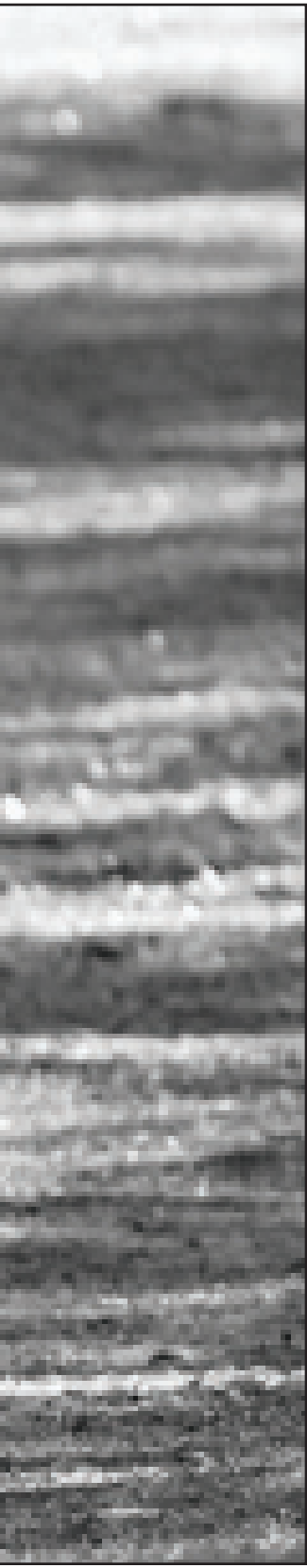
The Owls, now 6-19 overall and 5-11 in the conference, will return to action on Tues., Nov. 4, against Presbyterian in Clinton, S.C.

Cross country teams honored at championships

Both the men’s and women’s cross country teams placed third at the conference championships in Macon, Ga.



Photos courtesy of ASunPhotos.com



Pictured above: Senior Scott Burley was selected to the All Conference Second Team after placing eighth in the 8k race, with a time of 25:12.11

Pictured left: Mackenzie Howe placed second at the Atlantic Sun Conference Championships after finishing the 5k race with a time of 17:58.46

JEROME WOOLEY
STAFF WRITER

The Fall 2008 season comes to an end for the men’s and women’s cross country teams as they both placed third at the Atlantic Sun Conference Championships in Macon, Ga. on Sat., Nov. 1.

Senior Scott Burley was the first Owl to finish the 8k race, placing an eighth best time of 25:12.11. Burley was also selected to the All Conference Second Team. Freshman teammate

Travis Holmes, who finished 21st at the championship, earned Freshman of the Year and was named to the All-Freshmen Team alongside teammate Jaakko Nieminen, who finished 25th at the championship.

“We were all very proud of Travis’ effort today,” said head coach Stan Sims. “It is the first time one of our men has earned the award since entering the Atlantic Sun.”

Sophomore Mackenzie Howe led the women’s team by finishing the 5k race

in a time of 17:58.46. Howe was followed by teammates Soibhan Wolcott and Kristen Gibson, who finished fifth and seventh. Howe, Wolcott, and Gibson earned All Conference First Team selections after the championship meet.

“We expected Mackenzie to be at the top and she was,” said Sims. “She has proved that she is one of the top runners in the conference.”

The Owls will have a break before their next meet on Fri., Jan. 9 at the Clemson Invitational in Clemson, S.C.

Freshman scores game-winner on Senior Day

JUSTIN HOBDAY
STAFF WRITER

The Owls battled their way to a hard fought, 2-1, victory over Mercer on Wednesday night at the KSU Soccer Complex.

Freshmen Katie Schwartz scored her first goal of the year in the 92nd minute to seal the win for the Owls.

“It felt amazing,” said Schwartz. “It was such a big game for our team and I thought we really played hard together.”

Although there was no scoring, the first half had its fair share of highlights. The match started out at a frantic pace with a lot of back-and-forth action. Freshman Shelby Cosby applied pressure for the Owls with two chances for a goal in the 14th and 15th minutes. Cosby chased a through ball into the box in the 15th minute that was cleaned up by Mercer goal-

keeper Jean Worts, who finished the game with three saves. One minute later Cosby broke free with the ball, but was blocked by a defender who chased her down just inside the top of the box.

Staci Pugh also finished the game with three saves, two in the 23rd minute. Pugh made two diving saves on a Mercer free-kick and a break away shot by Erin Theobald.

The Owls gained control of the first half, applying more pressure after the 25-minute mark. Senior Rachel Baer crossed a ball into the box that was controlled by fellow senior Sarah Marek on the right side of the box. Marek’s shot was blocked and hit her in the face causing blood to drip from her wound. The Owls tried to convert a corner kick in the 40th minute, but the ball was caught out of midair by Worts.

“We were a little bit cautious the

first fifteen minutes and we slowly settled down,” said head coach Rob King. “They weren’t able to pressure the ball quite as quickly about 20 or 25 minutes into the match.”

The start to the second half was similar to the start of the first. The Owls and Bears traded opportunities with a corner kick for the Bears in the 51st minute and a free kick for the Owls in the 53rd minute.

The Owls were the first to score when Brittany Vining took a shot in the 58th minute that went in off a Mercer defender for an Owl goal.

In the 61st minute, KSU fans and team held their collective breath as Pugh needed attention from the training staff after a collision with an oncoming Mercer attacker.

The Owls were able to relax in the 82nd minute after Schwartz connected for the eventual game-winning goal after Baer’s shot was deflected off of

the Mercer goalkeeper to put the Owls up 2-0.

Mercer’s Heather Manting prevented the shutout when she scored off of a free kick that went through the hands of Jamie Moroney, who came in to replace Pugh.

“It was a very important win,” said King. “To be able to sit in the first round of the conference tournament is massive.”

The Owls locked up a second place finish for the regular season

with the win over Mercer. KSU will now wait for the start of the Atlantic Sun Conference tournament which begins Nov. 5 at the KSU Soccer Complex.




Derek Wright | The Sentinel



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Basketball teams showcased at Black and Gold Scrimmage

RYAN TRIBBLE
STAFF WRITER

The men's and women's basketball programs put on a show for a crowd in the Convocation Center on Tuesday, Oct. 28. The Black and Gold scrimmage gave students a chance to see what the Fighting Owls have in store for the 2008-09 seasons.

The teams split up and wore white and black jerseys. The white team was the team to be in both games as the men's white team edged out the black team 50 to 39, the Lady Owls white team beating the black.

The men's scrimmage was officiated by a full staff of certified referees. Sophomore center John Allison established dominance in the paint, leading the white team with 14 points. Senior J.D. Pollack scored 12 and Junior "J Mac" Jon-Michael Nickerson, scored 9 points for the white team as

well. The black team made a push in the second half, led by Senior Jeff Croft's 11 points but fell short at the end. Junior Matt Heramb scored 10.

The Lady Owls' white team was lead by freshman guard Angie Smith, who established her presence as the floor general. Senior Britteny Henderson made her presence felt in the paint for the black team. Head Coach Colby Tilley also had his hands full as he was running a one-man-referee show for his Lady Owls team.

The new team mascot "Scrappy" was unveiled to-

night, boasting his new suit and pumping up the crowd. Also before the scrimmage the KSU golf, tennis, track, softball, baseball and women's soccer teams were showcased on the court.

Several students won an array of prizes from the raffle that the KSU Athletic Department hosted for the evening. The first 500 students received KSU Owls T Shirts. One lucky student walked away with a Panasonic 42" plasma television. Another student came up short \$10,000 after failing to complete four shots in a contest hosted by Colonial Bank.



Ryan Tribble | The Sentinel

SOCCER STANDINGS

| | A-Sun | | | | Overall | | | |
|-----------------------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|-------------|
| Teams | W | L | T | Pts. | W | L | T | Pct |
| Mercer | 7 | 2 | 1 | 22 | 10 | 5 | 3 | .639 |
| Kennesaw State | 6 | 2 | 2 | 20 | 11 | 4 | 4 | .684 |
| Belmont | 6 | 3 | 1 | 19 | 12 | 6 | 1 | .657 |
| Jacksonville | 6 | 4 | 0 | 18 | 9 | 8 | 1 | .527 |
| FGCU | 5 | 2 | 3 | 18 | 10 | 4 | 3 | .676 |
| ETSU | 5 | 4 | 1 | 16 | 7 | 9 | 1 | .441 |
| Stetson | 5 | 5 | 0 | 15 | 7 | 9 | 2 | .444 |
| UNF | 3 | 6 | 1 | 10 | 6 | 11 | 2 | .368 |
| Campbell | 3 | 6 | 1 | 10 | 5 | 10 | 3 | .361 |
| Lipscomb | 2 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 4 | 13 | 3 | .275 |
| USC Upstate | 1 | 9 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 16 | 0 | .157 |

Three (3) points for a win; One (1) point for a tie.

CLUB SPORTS REPORT

Owls sink Pirates in weekend doubleheader



Victoria Camac | The Sentinel

LUCAS BIGHAM
STAFF WRITER

The KSU Ice Hockey Club defeated East Carolina University in two games at the Kennesaw IceForum on Oct. 31 and Nov. 1. The Owls allowed only one all weekend, winning 5-1 on Friday and 11-0 on Saturday.

"It took a team effort to win that one," KSU goalie Ben Powers said. "I have been preparing all my life for this."

On Friday, forward Mark Berry opened up the scoring for the Owls, but the Pirates followed suit with a goal of their own, ending the game at 1-1. However, ECU ended up trailing again thanks to two goals from KSU's Chris Koutnik and Jimmy Barry by the end of the first period.

The momentum stayed with the Owls in the second period when forwards Jerry Holden and Brett Brodie added two more goals to the scoreboard. The game ended with a score of 5-1 in favor of KSU.

The Owls had 28 shots against the Pirates and KSU goalies Powers and Devon Morrison shared 25 saves.

On Saturday, the teams faced off again. KSU's Hunter Gahl and Jean-Marc Biron handled the scoring in the first period, putting the Owls up 2-0.

In the second period, KSU's Sean Devine,

Rod Johnson, Jerry Holden and Brett Lester had goals of their own. The score was 6-0 in favor of KSU by the end of the period.

The Owls came into the third with just as much tenacity as in the first. They wanted more goals and they got them. Forward Koutnik put on a scoring clinic with three goals in the third period alone, earning him a hat trick.

Berry also managed to score along with Holden, who earned his second goal of the night. The game ended with KSU winning, 11-0.

KSU's defense and penalty killing abilities remained strong throughout the entire game, even with two men in the penalty box.

"Our penalty killing, which we can get a lot of as you can tell, is getting really good," said head coach Ken Honeyman.

The Owls had 41 shots on goal and goalie Ben Powers had 25 saves. Koutnik led the team with four assists and forward Nick North followed with two.

The Owls will return home on Nov. 14 and 15 to take on the University of Kentucky.

"They're going to be a really good test for us because were two evenly matched teams," Honeyman said. "I think at that point, it becomes more of a battle of the wills and who wants to win more."



To apply for KSU Scholarships for the 2009/10 school year, there is now only one application necessary to match you to scholarships you may be eligible for!

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