

# THE SENTINEL

## OF KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY

VOLUME 45 ISSUE 8

SERVING SINCE 1966

Tuesday, Oct. 13, 2009

### Vision 2010-2015 forums discuss university's future

Fees may increase by \$35 next fall; "football exploratory committee" to form

CAITLYN VAN ORDEN  
NEWS EDITOR

The Student Government Association (SGA) and President Daniel Papp are holding a series of open forums this week called KSU Vision 2010-2015 to discuss the future of the university and seek students' input.

The first two forums were held Sunday at 5:30 p.m. and Monday at 12:30 p.m. Additional forums will be held today 5 p.m.-6:15 p.m. in the Student Center University Rooms, Wednesday 12 p.m.-1:15 p.m. on the Student Center Terrace (or in the Student Center Dining Room in case of rain) and Thursday 3:30 p.m.-4:45 p.m. during SGA's weekly meeting in University Room B of the Student Center.

Questions emailed to [ksuvision@gmail.com](mailto:ksuvision@gmail.com) will be answered both at the next forum and via email. A video of the Sunday forum is posted on [ksusga.com](http://ksusga.com).

The forums begin with a presentation by Papp followed by Q and A time.

Topics focus on proposed new academic programs and buildings, recreational facilities and intercollegiate athletic facilities, as well as the possible impact of such projects on student fees.

Papp said the only increase in fees he would request that SGA consider for the

2010-2011 academic year would be \$35 per student to fund completion of the Sports and Recreation Park on Busbee Parkway.

According to Papp's presentation, Valdosta State University has the highest fees in the University System of Georgia and UGA has the second highest. KSU ranks 11th highest with \$473 in mandatory fees for fiscal year 2010.

Papp also reported that construction of the new \$60 million Health Sciences Building is "under budget and ahead of schedule."

Football is also a major topic of discussion at the forums; Papp said he has been asked when KSU will get a football team at nearly every presentation he has given in his three years as president.

"Before we get a football team - if we get a football team - four questions have to be answered," said Papp in his presentation, citing "land and facilities, a place to play, annual operating funds and Title IX compliance."

Football would likely raise student fees by \$50 to \$85 per semester to pay for \$2 million to \$4 million in annual operations and \$1 million to \$3 million in compliance with Title IX.

Papp said he plans to put together a "football exploratory committee" in the



Karlee Gonzalez | The Sentinel  
President Daniel Papp begins his presentation at KSU Vision 2010-2015 Monday afternoon.

next month or two consisting of students, faculty, staff, alumni and businesspeople to decide if football is plausible.

"If we ever do football here, we're

going to do it the right way," said Papp on Sunday.

According to Papp's presentation, offi-

See **VISION**, page 2

### Student to run for Georgia House of Representatives

REBECCA HOOD  
STAFF WRITER

Michael Caldwell, 20, has decided to challenge incumbent Rep. Charlice Byrd for the Republican seat in 2010.

Caldwell decided four months ago that he would challenge Republican Byrd for the seat in District 20.

"Party doesn't matter. I don't care about party at all. I'm running as a Republican because that's how I'll win," Caldwell said.

Rep. Byrd is in her third two-year term in the state house. She serves on five committees and holds the position of Vice Chairman of Children and Youth. Caldwell said that despite Rep. Byrd's experience, he thinks he will win the primary.

"That's the part I like," said Caldwell. "I don't have experience. I'm just an average guy representing the average guy."

If elected, Caldwell would be the youngest member of the House by about 10 years. He said he has received phone calls from people who feel his age is a positive factor.

"If I'm capable and able, and age is the only problem, I don't think I'll really have a problem," he said.

Caldwell is currently drafting a bill that will deal with term limits for representatives that he said he will introduce as soon as he is elected.

"I'm going to upset coworkers by proposing a bill as soon as I get there," he said.

Caldwell said he needs about 2,250



Michael Caldwell

votes to win the primary. A member of Hillside United Methodist Church of Woodstock, he said he hopes to get the vote of the more than 2,700 church members.

"Then, if I can win the primary, I've won the election," said Caldwell.

Caldwell is running a non-traditional campaign in the sense that he uses social networking sites to get his name known in his community. He currently has more than 1,100 followers on his

See **CALDWELL**, page 2

### Flood water may have been contaminated



Karlee Gonzalez | The Sentinel  
Students waded through the Village in KSU Housing during the flooding on Sept. 21. The water appeared to contain sewage and could have been contaminated with E. coli.

CAITLYN NEWMAYER  
STAFF WRITER

Students may have come in contact with contaminated water during campus flooding.

When KSU closed due to flooding the week of Sept. 21, many students played in the flooded areas, throwing a football and wrestling in waters on the Campus Green.

One student was even spotted tubing in the water on Campus Loop Road. Other students waded through waters while leaving the campus.

Many of these students may have been unaware of the presence of raw sewage and disease-causing bacteria in the waters.

"Brown water was geysering up 18-24 inches above street level through sewer access hole covers and, based upon the smell, it appears likely that actual raw sewage was mixed in the [rain] runoff," said Kemper Anderson, deputy chief of KSU Police.

Derek Wright, who lives on campus, was playing Frisbee on the Campus Green Monday, Sept. 21 during the flooding.

"Well, we play all the time in the rain, so it's normal for us. It's something we deal with," said Wright. "It's kinda gross. If you slide around in it enough, you can smell the actual sewage."

"Nobody really knew about the sewage as far

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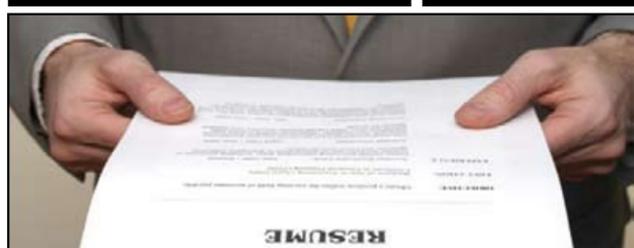
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# Plus/minus grading system proposed

REBECCA HOOD  
STAFF WRITER

A plus/minus grading system to be effective 2010 is being drafted by officials.

The system would change the current value assigned to each letter grade. The value of an A would equate to a 4.0, an A- would earn a 3.7, B+ a 3.3, B a 3.0, B- a 2.7, C+ a 2.3, C a 2.0, C- a 1.7, D a 1.0 and an F would equal a 0.0.

The draft of the proposal states that the new system will reward academic achievement by allowing professors the ability to "more accurately assess and report a student's performance."

Proponents of the system say it will encourage higher GPAs and make it fair for students who are currently rewarded equally for grades that can differ up to nine points. Those in opposition argue the system creates an unfair spread on the 4.0 grading scale.

The draft of the plus/minus grading system proposal mentions the use of this system by top schools such as California Institute of Technology, Emory University, Northwestern and University of Michigan. Both The University of Georgia and Georgia State University use plus/minus grading systems for undergraduate and graduate programs.

"It would really hurt people who

made a low C," said senior Jason Reeves. "I think the scale is a good idea, but a 4.0 should start at a 90, that way an 80 would still be a 3.0 average."

Some students say the system does encourage a higher GPA.

"I like it because this system gives students more of a sense of where they stand and gives them more of a boost to pull up their grades," said Dennis Murphy, a senior at the University of Pennsylvania. "If they have a B+, they'll strive to get that A."

Neda Javan, a student at the University of Georgia, said she has mixed feelings about the system.

"I hate it when it comes to the A and B, but when you get a C+ versus a normal C, it is nice," said Javan.

Javan said she would not recommend the grading system to KSU, because "Hope [scholarship] doesn't acknowledge the plus minus system, and most graduate schools don't either, and it just makes getting good grades a little more complicated."

The drafted proposal at KSU does not mention how the GPA requirement of the Hope Scholarship will be taken into consideration under the new system.

SGA plans to discuss the proposal at its weekly meeting Thursday, Oct. 15 at 3:30 p.m. in University Room B of the Student Center.



Caitlyn Van Orden | The Sentinel

Students look on as President Daniel Papp makes his presentation about the future of the university at the first session of KSU Vision 2010-2015 Sunday evening in the Science Building. Papp presented proposals for buildings and programs to be added in the next few years.

### • VISION from front page

Officials hope to eventually increase the size of KSU both on the west, "core campus" and the area on Busbee Parkway by the new Sports and Recreation Park.

"We're really talking about an east and west campus," said Norman Radow, KSU Foundation chairman.

Proposals for later years include a recreation center, a football team, a campus shuttle transportation system and increased technology on campus. Officials have also made proposals for new programs at the bachelor's, master's and doctorate levels.

The recreation center would cost between \$35 million and \$85 million depending on the size and grandeur of the facility, increasing student fees between \$45 and \$120 per semester.

Officials are also proposing building a \$23 mil-

lion stadium in the future that could seat 15,000 for KSU women's soccer in the fall, women's professional soccer in the spring and for concerts. A donor has offered to contribute \$4 million.

"We could bring in Usher or U2," Papp said with a laugh. "There would be a killer sound system in there as well."

During the Q and A on Sunday, a student asked Papp if there were plans for school-sponsored Greek housing, to which he replied, "It's very much on our agenda."

Papp was also asked about extending the dining hall hours of operation, and he said that dining hall officials plan to extend them "possibly as soon as spring semester."

One student expressed concern that KSU's reputation was not reaching beyond the metro Atlanta area, and Radow said offi-

cial are considering hiring a public relations specialist.

Freshman Lauren Reid said she found attending Monday's forum beneficial. "I like that they told us how it was going to affect our fees. I thought it was going to be like \$100, but it's only \$35 and that's not bad at all," said Reid.

"Kennesaw State University is on the verge of becoming a national university," said Papp on Monday. "We've got some decisions to make this year and next year."

SGA is also requesting that students provide feedback on the future of KSU by responding to its Participate in the Process "Vision 2010-2015" Survey, which students can access by logging on to Owl Express and clicking on "Current Surveys." The survey will be available until Monday, Oct. 19 at 11:59 p.m.

### • CALDWELL from front page

Facebook account, while Representative Byrd currently has 47. His main forms of communication are e-mail, Facebook and CaldwellForHouse.com. Caldwell's campaign plans include passing out trick-or-treat bags on Halloween, attending as many town hall meetings as possible and running canned food drives while going door to door meeting citizens of District 20.

The primary election will be in July, and if elected, he will serve a two-year

term before being up for reelection. Caldwell said he is not interested in making a career out of politics and that the highest office he is interested in running for is governor.

In addition to holding office, Caldwell said he has an entrepreneurial endeavor he hopes to pursue with his father.

Caldwell will graduate in May with a degree in Business Finance, having earned his degree in less than three years.

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## CORRECTIONS

In the 10-6-09 issue, the front page story "Rec. Center shirt policy to take effect in spring" was incorrectly attributed to Caitlyn Newmeyer. It was written by Heather Cook. In the story "Three new doctorate-level degrees offered," the new doctorates were incorrectly referred to as "Ph.Ds"; they are Ed.Ds. In "Restaurant review: Thai Ginger," the restaurant's Web site should be [www.thaingingerga.com](http://www.thaingingerga.com), not [www.thainginger.com](http://www.thainginger.com). It is the policy of The Sentinel to correct all errors of fact.

# Personal auto insurance pays for flood damage

ALAN MOORE  
STAFF WRITER

Students, faculty and staff whose vehicles were damaged in the severe flooding Sept. 21 found out shortly after that their personal insurance coverage is the financial outlet for repairs.

In a statement e-mailed to members of the KSU community on the evening of Sept. 22, university President Daniel Papp said, "We have been advised by the state Department of Administrative Services that the state is not responsible for weather-related damage to personal vehicles. Thus, KSU students, faculty or staff who experienced damage to their personal vehicles while parked on campus should pursue the matter with your personal insurers."

Flora DeVine, university Attorney and Special Assistant to the President for Legal Affairs, echoed the statement last week: "The Department of Administrative Services handles issues such as these that happen on state property, and they advised us that the state is not responsible for handling matters such as this. We're concerned about the flooded vehicles, but the policy is that we are not responsible for damages."

A point of mild disagreement throughout campus has been the actual number of cars that were damaged during the torrential rains.

"We don't have a number on how many vehicles were damaged as the claims are being handled through outside insurance agencies rather than with the state," said DeVine.

According to Randy Hinds, vice president for Operations, in the days after the flooding events, videos were posted on YouTube showing that

most vehicles parked on the lowest levels of the East Deck were removed from the facility before the water subsided. The East Deck and the parking lots for houses on Campus Loop Road were the main parking areas on campus that flooded.

"The cause of the flooding was the amount of rain, which was reported to be more than 14 inches within a 12-hour period. This measurement was taken from the rain gauge of a building contractor that is working on a campus project," said Hinds.

During the height of the flooding Sept. 21, news outlets throughout metro-Atlanta began reporting that forecasters and scientists believed this event was known as the "500 year flood," meaning that the odds of such an occurrence are once in every 500 years.

Hinds said the university is taking steps to prevent future issues.

"While we cannot guarantee that this type of rain will not occur again, the university is taking steps to review the areas that flooded and to make any possible improvements," said Hinds. "One of the improvements to the East Parking Deck will be to add an additional storm drain on the deck's west side. Also, because dirt and silt normally get into the storm drain system, we can expect more dirt and silt as a result of this huge amount of rain and flooding. So, we have cleaned most of the storm drain pipes around campus of any silt build-up."

According to Hinds, total damage to the campus as a result of the flooding was between \$1 million and \$1.5 million. Approximately \$5,000 of that is devoted to the East Deck draining improvements.

• **SEWAGE from front page**

as I know. I personally didn't get sick or even know anybody who did either," said resident assistant Jameson Cumrick. "Hopefully it was all just a result of the flood combined with an area that wasn't exactly built for preparation for floods. Either way, I had a blast."

Residents of the northwest metropolitan Atlanta areas were advised to boil water before consumption because of the high levels of coliform bacteria reported in the water.

According to the CDC, "during and after a natural disaster, water can become contaminated with microorganisms (for example, bacteria), sewage, agricultural or industrial waste, chemicals, and other substances that can illness or death."

Stagnant water that is present after flooding can also be breeding grounds for mosquitoes, which may carry diseases such as West Nile Virus.

Torrential rains overwhelmed sewage treatment plants in Fulton, Cobb and Gwinnett

counties, dumping untreated, raw sewage in local waterways.

"Sewage may contain many types of disease-causing organisms" according to the EPA. One of these bacterias is Escherichia Coli, or E. coli.

Certain levels of E.coli may indicate whether other potentially harmful bacteria may be present in water.

The Chattahoochee River, which provides water to many Atlanta residents, experienced unsafe levels of E. coli after the R.M Clayton sewage treatment plant was overwhelmed, dumping untreated water into the river.

"Some kinds of E. coli can cause diarrhea, while others cause urinary tract infections, respiratory illness and pneumonia and other illnesses," according to the CDC. "Still other kinds of E. coli are used as markers for water contamination—so you might hear about E. coli being found in drinking water, which are not themselves harmful, but indicate the water is contaminated."

## KSU VISION 2010-2015: PARTICIPATE IN THE PROCESS

The KSU Student Government Association, in conjunction with the Office of the President, announces "KSU Vision 2010-2015: Participate in the Process," a series of Forums for information-sharing and feedback-gathering.



**KSU President Daniel S. Papp will update the student body on major opportunities impacting Kennesaw State's future.**

**These include:**

- Academic Expansion
- Recreational Facilities
- Intercollegiate Athletic Facilities
- Prospects for Football at KSU
- Impact of these Projects on Student Fees

### VISION FORUMS:

- TUESDAY, OCT. 13, 5-6:15pm, Student Center, Univ. Rooms
- WEDNESDAY, OCT. 14, noon-1:15pm, Student Center Terrace (in event of rain, Student Center Main Dining Room)
- THURSDAY, OCT. 15, 3:30-5pm (SGA meeting), Student Center, Univ. Room B

For more information on "KSU Vision 2010-2015: Participate in the Process" go to

**www.ksusga.com**

Watch a forum on KSU TV: go to <http://ksutv>

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# OPINIONS

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## Hollywood approves the victimization of women and children

Once again, Hollywood stars have shown that think they are above the law. The story that has taken over headlines has many of us confused. Roman Polanski, a 75-year-old Hollywood director, was indicted on six felony counts. These felonies were committed against a 13-year-old aspiring model that Polanski lured, drugged and raped.

Polanski was indicted on a few felonies, including sodomy, child molestation and rape with the use of drugs. Polanski was finally arrested and taken into custody when accepting an achievement award on September 26, 2009 after he had fled the United States in the attempt to escape his warrant that had been issued in 1978.

On the popular television show "The View," Whoopie Goldberg proceeded to address the topic of Polanski to show her support for the director. The despicable comments seemed to have shown the ignorance that some people hold about rape or any forced sexual act. Goldberg explains "I know it wasn't rape-rape. I think it was something else, but I don't believe it was rape-rape... We're a different kind

of society. We see things differently. The world sees 13-year-olds and 14-year-olds in the rest of Europe... not everybody agrees with the way we see things..."

Goldberg's insensitive comments have caused mixed feelings in many people. Who are we to put a level and a degree on rape? According to reports, the young girl requested to be taken home several times and each plea was ignored by Polanski. The young girl also reportedly stated that she declined his request to have sex but stopped refuting it after Polanski attempted many times.

It is wrong for any person, especially people who have not been a victim of any assault, to judge the situation. Whoopie Goldberg and Polanski's supporters have misrepresented the seriousness of these crimes. They have seriously disrespected any victim of sexual assault by showing their dedicated support to this man.

Since Polanski's arrest, Hollywood stars have started to petition for his release and freedom. Polanski should be sentenced for this heinous crime, regardless of the time past. Justice needs to be served not only for this woman, but for all

women who have been victims of molestation and rape. As for Ms. Goldberg, she was right. This is not "rape-rape." This is rape and sodomy committed on a drugged 13-year-old child.

As college students, it is important to remember this story when we are at parties drinking around people we do not know or even people we do know. I believe I can speak for many women in college when I say that we have had an unpleasant experience whether that is a touch, a grab or even rape. These are serious issues that are being hidden and not addressed. The CDC reports the following statistics:

- An estimated 20% to 25% of college women in the United States experience attempted or complete rape during their college career.
- In the United States, 1 in 6 women and 1 in 33 men reported experiencing an attempted or complete rape at some time in their lives.

Once again, these statistics seriously misrepresent these crimes. Most rapes or assaults that occur are never reported by minors or adults. Survivors of rape or sexual assault often feel as though they are responsible for crimes like these. They often feel a sense of shame that can



JENNY KASCSEK  
GUEST COLUMNIST

cause a victim to stay quiet about the attack. Attackers should be held responsible for their actions regardless of their social status. Tell someone if you experience sexual assault because everyone deserves respect and justice. To learn more facts about rape and sexual assault, please visit the Center for Disease Control Web site at CDC.gov.

## Palestinians, Gitmo detainees congratulate Obama's Nobel

Ducking into an abandoned barbershop, Hawaida, 12, barely found cover from the rain of white phosphor fired from encroaching Israeli soldiers. "If that doesn't get you, their teenaged foot soldiers will!" she remarked, wincing from an unseen pain. "This is really getting old." Hawaida's family, having lived in the now-occupied region of Palestine (re-named Israel by allied forces after WWII) for nearly 2,000 years, are forced to live in a infertile territory west of her old home. "It was either this or mass slaughter," she sighed before breaking into a soft, bitter laugh. "But they keep killing us, anyway."

When the din of fire subsided, Hawaida hurriedly exposed part of her shoulder, revealing a wound that was growing aggressively. "Great. White phosphor." She poured sand on it, gritting her teeth. "It'll burn through your flesh until your blood cools it and cuts it off from the air. It's illegal to fire this at us, you know." She ripped her clothing to fashion a pressure cloth and tied it tightly before her eyes lit up.

"Oh! Did you hear? Obama won the Nobel Peace Prize!" She stood and looked outside at the growing presence of Israel's soldiers. She pinched her good arm. "It still feels like I'm dreaming, it's so wonderful." She pulled pictures from her wallet of relatives killed in the Gaza attacks and kissed them. "We really must celebrate. I mean I know American money helps to fund outfits like this, of course. I know that even the President of the United States doesn't dare challenge the genocide that Israel continues to commit, but wow. You don't just get a Nobel for nothing, right? Right? Surely he's doing something about this!" She stared dreamily at the ruins. "An incredible day for the world, indeed." Blood began to seep from the cloth. "Do you think I should get him a card?"

On the other side of the world, in a darkened room fashioned hastily by the United States military, Abraham, 46, awaits his trial for charges that do not yet exist. By American legal standards, this is illegal. In the safe-zone of foreign soil known as Guantanamo Bay in Cuba, however, the United States Constitution has been intentionally gagged. Tally marks on the wall count the days that Abraham has been subjected to this wait. "According to this, it's been nearly seven years since I was dragged from my home and beaten right in front of my family." When prodded about what the beat-



BERLIN VALENCOURT  
SENIOR COLUMNIST

ing was for, Abraham opined: "I think they were asking me for names of terrorists, but I don't know any terrorists. I run a motel with my family. That's my life—not car bombing, as I've been informally accused this week. It'll change next week to something else, like harboring Al-Qaeda members in my motel or planting IEDs. Again." Dried blood stains his bruised face. He notices and wipes at it, seemingly embarrassed. "I don't like sodomy, so I try to fight back, you know? Sometimes it works, but mostly it helps when you can make up 'information' about terrorists." Air-quotes show his disgust at the situation. "Had I only known that's all they wanted when I was back home, sheesh!"

Before long, triumphant shouting was heard through the halls. The translation came through that Obama had won the Nobel Prize for peace, turning Gitmo into a virtual party-house. Abraham clasped his hands and began to weep softly. He prayed for a moment before apologizing. "I'm sorry. I'm really sorry—it's just such a beautiful moment for me. Here I was thinking that I'd never see my family again! Clearly, Obama has agreed to shut this torture camp down and send me home!" His joyful sobs were cut short when informed that this was not the case. Upon learning that Obama is in support of his prolonged detention, the graying father of six attempted to sit up. Unsuccessful, he fell back onto his mat. "You know, that's all right. At least the committee thinks he's headed in the right direction, right? That's good to know, good to know." He leaned over, struck another tally onto his wall, and settled back in. "What's important is that it looks like he's trying, right?"

## Freedom of speech vs. the right to bear arms: A different point of view

In my fellow columnist James Swift's most recent piece, "Freedom of speech v. the right to bear arms," he makes the argument that freedom of speech should have primacy over our Second Amendment right to bear arms. Should this same line of thinking apply to every other amendment in the Constitution?

Should the First Amendment have primacy over the Fourth Amendment? Would Mr. Swift be okay with the government entering his home without a search warrant as long as he still had his freedom of speech?

The Bill of Rights was not placed in the Constitution as an order of most important rights to least important ones. Each right in the first ten amendments were what the founding fathers believed to be essential to a free society.

Before I refute Mr. Swift's argument about the Second Amendment, I think it's important to look at some of his claims about the First Amendment. He says that the vagueness of the First Amendment makes it hard to apply to "today's America."

As an example, he writes that "there's nary a mention of 'hate speech'" in the amendment. Besides the fact that the phrase 'hate speech' was probably not around at that time, the founding fathers left no mention of this sort of speech, because they realized that any form of prohibition of speech is bad. It is also a dangerous path toward tyranny when the government starts to determine the motivation (i.e. hatred or anger) behind a person's speech.

In regards to the Second Amendment, I do not believe that Mr. Swift understands the true purpose behind its addition to the Bill of Rights. It was not intended to show those "no-good redcoats what-for," but to protect the citizens of America from the intrusion of a tyrannical government, foreign or domestic. It was a vital check on the power of government and a way for the American people to preserve their liberties.

The founding fathers, taking their cues from the great political minds of John Locke and others, realized that humans had a natural right to self-defense. We have a right to defend ourselves from the ability of others, whether it is another individual or the government, to infringe upon our life, liberty or property. The Second Amendment is there to protect that right.

Mr. Swift boldly assumes that "the Second Amendment has killed more Americans than any non-organic, biosocial element in our nation's history." This is a horribly misguided argument because the Second Amendment does not protect the right to murder. If someone uses a gun to kill another person or commit homicide (not in self-defense), then of course, that is an illegal act. Maybe Mr. Swift



JUSTIN HAYES  
SENIOR COLUMNIST

should look at some statistics on the ability of people to own guns and crime rates.

After Washington, D.C. instituted their ban on guns in 1976, their murder rate rose 134 percent from that point until 2002. In 1997, just 12 months after a new gun-control law went into effect in Australia, homicides jumped 3.2 percent, armed robberies went up 44 percent and assaults rose 8.6 percent. From 1987 to 1996, after Florida implemented its right-to-carry law, the firearm homicide rate decreased by 37 percent while the handgun homicide rate decreased by 41 percent.

Let's look at our wonderful city of Kennesaw. After it passed an ordinance requiring every household (with a few exceptions) to own a handgun, the violent crime-rate fell by 74 percent compared to the previous year. Even in spite of Kennesaw's dramatic increase in population over the last two decades, crime rates still remain significantly lower than the metro area or even national averages.

Law-abiding citizens, as in those who have no intention of committing a crime with a gun, become defenseless when a maniac decides to go on a shooting spree if they do not have the right to bear arms. If guns are banned, just as in the case of alcohol during prohibition and drugs today, those willing to break the law will still be able to buy firearms on the black market.

Lastly, I do not really understand his reference to Nazi Germany or fascism, but let it be noted that Germany did establish gun control laws in 1938—as did China in 1935, the Soviet Union in 1929, Uganda in 1970 and other oppressive regimes. The phrase "mass extermination" comes to mind for each of these cases.

Agree? Disagree? Call into The Gerb Report, Thursdays from 7-9 p.m. on KSU Owl Radio. Listen: ksusradio.com. Call in: 678-797-2665.

### 2004-05 National Newspaper Pacemaker Award



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The Sentinel is the student newspaper of Kennesaw State University, and is partially funded through student activity funds. Questions about billing, display ads or classified ads should be directed to 770-423-6470 before 5 p.m.. Editorial questions should be directed to the editor in chief, 770-423-6278.

The Sentinel is published weekly (Tuesdays) during the school year.

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# Dalai Lama: Illusion vs. reality

One of the favorite icons of the hippie left was recently given a human rights award by Nancy Pelosi on behalf of the Lantos Foundation. I am referring to Tenzin Gyatso, the 14th Dalai Lama. He has certainly acquired a reputation for being an outspoken advocate of human rights and democracy. Canada granted him honorary citizenship. He has received numerous human rights awards and honorary doctorates. He is even a distinguished professor at Emory University. Is his noble reputation really deserved? Behind the charming illusion cast by his goofy smile is a huge disparity between his actual human rights record and the image presented to the world.

The "Free Tibet" crowd that recently made an appearance at the G-20 protests would have us believe that Tibet was a peaceful idyllic place that is currently being oppressed by China. This image is more myth than reality. Contrary to their spiritualist image, the monks who ran Tibet were very focused on material things. They engaged in trade, carried weapons that they used to fight rival Tibetan monasteries and even ran harems.

The vast majority of Tibetans were serfs or slaves. The serfs were taxed excessively, with the end result being many who couldn't pay their taxes were forced into slavery. There was no pretense of equal rights. The serfs and slaves lived under

a different law than the aristocratic and monastic elite who ran Tibet. Body mutilation of serfs and slaves was common. The Tibetan government had a particular affinity for gouging out their eyes. The parasitic elite lived in luxury by enslaving the rest of the population. At the head of this oppressive theocracy was the Dalai Lama.

In 1951, China assumed control over Tibet by forcing the Dalai Lama to sign the Seventeen Point Agreement for the Peaceful Liberation of Tibet, which granted Chinese sovereignty over Tibet, but allowed Tibet to retain enough autonomy so that the Dalai Lama would still be the head of this feudal theocracy.

In 1956, the Chinese government levied taxes on trade in Tibet. The Dalai Lama saw this as a threat to his power and thus began the CIA-backed Tibetan uprising. Using this emergency as an excuse for personal gain, the Dalai Lama collected 120 tons of gold and jewels to build a new throne for himself, in order to dispel "bad omens." The Dalai Lama knows better than anyone that he is no more holy than the common serf, but that didn't stop him from using his theocratic title to exploit his people in a way that rivals even the most corrupt leaders in Africa.

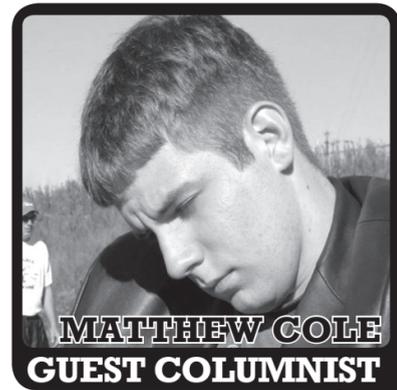
In 1959, he fled to India, where he established the Tibetan Government-in-Exile in the Tibetan en-

clave of Dharamsala. Only after his exile to India did words like "democracy" or "human rights" enter his vocabulary. Ironically, the Chinese takeover was actually an improvement for the barbaric human rights situation of Tibet.

Since 1987, he has demanded political autonomy for Tibet. He also claims to be the divinely ordained autocratic ruler. That is very convenient for him. Despite his public proclamations of non-violence and calls for a nuke-free world, he was quick to support India's nuclear weapons testing.

His statements on religious tolerance are similarly insincere, as demonstrated by his attempts to ban worship of Derge Shugden by Tibetan Buddhists. The worship of this once venerated deity was banned on the whim of the Dalai Lama, who denounced these devotees as "murderers and beaters" and Chinese agents. Those who defied this edict have been ostracized from Tibetan enclaves, assaulted and even killed.

The Dalai Lama claims to be half-Marxist and half-Buddhist in his philosophy. Of course, true Marxism is nothing like the feudal of pre-1959 Tibet, but I consider both systems to be forms of slavery. The concept of individual autonomy is nowhere to be found in his philosophy. Like the medieval Catholic Church, the Dalai Lama is not above selling "indulgences" to donors like Steven



**MATTHEW COLE**  
GUEST COLUMNIST

Seagal. When Shoko Asahara, leader of the Aum Shinrikyo terrorist organization that launched a sarin gas attack in a Japanese subway, donated 45 million rupees to the Dalai Lama, he was granted a private audience. Of course, the Dalai Lama doesn't speak for all Tibetans. There are many who would like Chinese oppression of Tibet to end, but don't want a revival of the old Tibetan theocracy. It's time we stopped idolizing hypocritical opportunists.

## The New Chri\$tianity Has the almighty dollar become the new messiah of the masses?

Two news stories have come out of Florida recently, both involving the secular affairs of so-called "megachurches." An Uber-congregation in Brandon recently began a boycott of Pepsi, claiming that the soda makers are furtively advocating homosexuality through advertisements. Erstwhile, the grandson of noted pastor Billy Graham was nearly ousted from the pulpit of his Fort Lauderdale assembly, due to his conservative stance on public issues (namely, the notion that his views weren't extreme enough for the congregants' liking).

These little items bring up some rather interesting questions about the state of evangelical Christianity in America. I suppose my first inquiry is "Why in the hell does anybody need a church the size of an NBA arena to begin with?"

I've scoured through the bible plenty of times, and I've uncovered many a nugget of wisdom in its gilded folios. I've read about the proper way to sell your daughter into prostitution and etiquette for buying slaves. I've also discovered that one is condemned to hellfire for eating shrimp and wearing dual polymer blend clothing, but not once did I come across a passage that gave the A-OK for worshippers to construct churches garish enough to woo a potential NHL team. In fact, aren't such lavish expenditures of money kind of counter-intuitive to the entire teachings of that one guy with the mullet haircut you Christian types are so fond of?

Recently, I came across a list of the most respected figures in the American public, per a gaggle of evangelical Christian constituents. Of course, the list was comprised of your conservative stalwarts (Surprise! Not a single democrat made the countdown) and the occasional quizzical selection (Boy, I bet Marty Luther and Henry Ford are glad to see that Mel Gibson is still held in high esteem by the church-going Protestants of America), but what puzzled me most was the number one spot holder. In a nation of bible thumpers and political pundits and stewards of so-called "family values" who is the most adulated man in white-bread Christian America?

Dave Ramsey. Yes, the financial talk-show guru. Apparently, he has more clout with the Christians of this country than any pastor, politician, filmmaker or media head in the land. Right off the bat, that should give you a pretty good idea where the prime interests lie within the moral fibers of the Christian.

For the life of me, I cannot recall the precise chronological point in which the Christian faith was hijacked by fiscal conservatives; regardless, the notion of capitalistic gain has become, essentially, a modernized virtue of the religion at the concurrent.

Yes, love, charity, prudence and supply-side economics; honor the Sabbath, respect thy mother and father, and be all thy mutual funds, diversified. Thusly Jesus spake, now back to Neil Cavuto at the



**JAMES SWIFT**  
COLUMNIST

Fox News Desk. I know this may be hard for some to believe, but Jesus, for all intents and purposes, was not a staunch proponent of capitalism. Nowhere in the bible does he mention a 401K, or a frugal savings plan or anything even remotely resembling Keynesian philosophy. He never held stock in Jehovah's Masonry, Inc. nor was he an investor in General Camels, Ltd. In fact, one could argue that, if anything, Jesus favored a Socialist economic system (try giving Acts 2:42 and 4:32 a read if you need further validation of such).

I do, however, recall Jesus speaking of helping out the poor, and being selfless and refusing to dictate one's existence vis-à-vis material accumulation. And in a country with record unemployment, rampant homelessness and a multitude of hungry children, how do the new-wave Christians respond?

By opening up the \$75 million Lakewood Church in Houston, the \$73 million Willow Creek Worship Center in Illinois and the 188,000-square-foot Buckhead Church, which resides in the safe, lily-white penumbra of a state capitol eaten alive by a 21 percent poverty rate.

In that, I suppose the most fitting motto for the neo-Christian would be "Jesus may save, but my stock portfolio returns a higher yield percentage."

A lot has been made of the current economic crisis, and you know what I think would be a dynamite solution to the whole ordeal? Since Christian types want to intermingle with the worlds of economics and politics so much, why don't we let them do so officially by renouncing their tax exempt statuses? Whoa, talk about a sudden increase in revenue! We could wipe out the National Debt on one Sunday, and if you factor in those Wednesday night shindigs, the Social Security problem is solved!

Assuredly, Christians scoff at such, as they are quick to point out that church and state are separate entities in this country. Funny how they don't realize that until it affects their pocketbooks.

## And the award goes to...

It was like watching a music awards show gone horribly wrong. Up for the nomination of Best Male Vocalist was Pavarotti, Josh Groban, Michael Jackson and William Hung. As William Hung was announced the winner of Best Male Vocalist the crowd gasped in horror as the most unqualified singer somehow won the award.

That is pretty much the best way to describe what happened with the announcement that President Obama won the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize. I woke up thinking it was April Fools' Day. The main headline on The Drudge Report seemed to sum up everyone's feelings, "For What?!" At least now Michelle Obama can be proud of her country for a second time.

For once, though, I cannot fault Obama on the award; after all, he didn't choose to win, but tragically it fuels the arrogant and narcissistic disposition he has displayed over the past 10 months.

Fellow columnist Tony Sarrecchia defined the Peace Prize as one of those high school yearbook superlatives: fun to get yet completely meaningless.

Many of the commentators on the right claim that Obama winning is a complete mockery of the Nobel Peace Prize, failing to realize that the Nobel Peace Prize has been a mockery since 1994. Here is a short list of winners: Yasser Arafat, Kofi Annan, the United Nations, Jimmy Carter and Al Gore. These winners basically have one thing in common; they did nothing to bring about peace, all talk and no action. It looks like the president will fit right in with this crowd.

But just why was Obama selected to receive the prize? The reason listed on The Nobel Prize Web site states that, "the Nobel Peace Prize for 2009 is to be awarded to President Barack Obama for his extraordinary efforts to strengthen international diplomacy and cooperation between peoples."

The key word in the press release, "effort." Saturday Night Live best portrayed Obama's efforts, or lack thereof, last weekend. Between the time he was inaugurated and the deadline for the Peace Prize nomination, Obama managed to count to one trillion, making him more qualified for the Nobel Prize in Mathematics, too bad it's nonexistent. But even 10 months after his inauguration, it is hard to point to



**AUSTIN JAMES GREEN**  
COLUMNIST

one single thing the president has successfully accomplished. Healthcare? Nope. Guantanamo? Still open. Iraq? Still over there. Afghanistan? Let's hold some more meetings.

But we must also consider the people who make the final selection process: a bunch of Europeans. Keep in mind, their view of "peace" is directly aligned with Obama's perception of "peace." It's pretty obvious to say that the Europeans love that America is no longer the "big man on the playground." We are a weaker nation economically, politically and internationally and the Europeans along with Jimmy Carter are relishing in it. I can only imagine the surprise of the committee when they came across Obama's name; in fact, it was probably a no-brainer for them. What better person to give the Nobel Peace Prize to than someone who agrees with their view of peace?

The nomination of Barack Obama for the Nobel Peace Prize is not a mockery of the Nobel Peace Prize, it is just what one should expect. It is nothing but political nonsense and given to people who have not earned it, which ironically fits into Obama's "redistribution of wealth" theme. He has received it and the best we can do now is echo the remarks of Michael Moore: "Congratulations President Obama on the Nobel Peace Prize—now earn it!"



## THE OWL FORUM

### Re: Facebook aids students' procrastination

I really enjoyed this article. As a student, and a member of Facebook it was nice to see the statistics of how much wasted time is used on the site. It says 32 out of 45 students spend more than 2 hours on Facebook a day, and one member checks his 20 times an hour. Wow, I couldn't believe that! I believe Facebook was originally for social networking, but has transformed into a way to stalk, waste time, and post random thoughts. The stats that Jeff Dearman wrote about really makes me question whether I'm truly putting mine into good use, and how in one site, the use of Internet in today's youth has transformed.

Kimberly Terrell  
Communication Major  
Junior

Read comments posted in response to these and other editorials at  
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Get the conversation started by posting your own response.

# FEATURES

oooh! CRAYONS!

## Chivalry is not dead, it just doesn't matter anymore

ANASTASIA BARTOLUCCI  
STAFF WRITER

When a guy no longer holds a door open, pulls out the seat or offers his jacket on a cold day, women tend to broadcast this social headline: "Chivalry is dead."

Men having to prove themselves as knights-in-armor, rescuing their damsels, has been a timeless and no less expected tradition. Everyone has an account of that girlfriend who refused to get out of the car before her door is opened and the story where she dumped "that guy" because he didn't introduce her to his friend's upon entering the room.

Don't worry guys. You can now sigh with relief, because although that quixotic mentality is still present, its numbers are shrinking, which gives rise to the timeless question—is chivalry dead or does it just not matter anymore?

By definition, chivalry is a medieval system of the ideal qualifications for a knight. This includes the full package of courtesy, generosity, valor and dexterity in arms.

Now, the average young college girl is just thrilled if the guy picks up the tab at dinner. To much surprise, most girls aren't looking for the perfect knight in shining armor, even despite childhood memories of Cinderella and her handsome prince. The question as to what a girl wants isn't so hard to define—most desire courtesy and some Aretha Franklin kind of respect.

Courtney Koerner expresses disappointment on the slack allotted to guys nowadays. Koerner said, "I know things have changed a lot, especially within the job industry and women's equality, but chivalry

doesn't have to be dead."

According to Koerner, there is a double-standard surrounding men's contemporary view of women: "Men think they are better than us, always rubbing it in our face how they are the boss and in-charge. But then when it comes time for the bill, they tell me it's my turn to pay! What's with that?"

Romance doesn't even hold a spot in the thesaurus outside of synonyms like "story" and "legend"—leaving question as to how this ideology of consideration fell under fiction.

Questions surrounding the accurate definition of chivalrous action have aroused major confusion for all ages and both sides of gender.

"I don't think that men should always have to do things for women because I think it puts women down," Crystal Howes said. "Chivalry in general was made to control the women of the century, so why would you still keep that going? I thought we wanted equal rights?"

This is a huge shift from the traditional mindset of courtship, even from what it was 10 years ago. This contemporaneous attitude, however, seems to be an epidemic among the current female population.

It seems as women become more autonomous with their careers and lifestyles, their dependence on a man to take care of them has simultaneously relaxed. These days, it is not uncommon to see women picking up the tab.

Howes said she won't go on a date without the ability to manage her share: "I get upset when I can't afford to pay for a guy because I want to give my part, even if that means switching it up from time

to time."

Although many women don't agree with Howe with regards to a surmounting liberation from chivalry, most girls have accepted a more equal and fairer role within romance. Shannon Cameron, a history education major, defines chivalry as being an overall act of kindness.

"In a relationship it takes two people, so I think chivalry, too, should go both ways. I don't think chivalry is dead per se, the archaic idea of chivalry has gone past its usage," Cameron said.

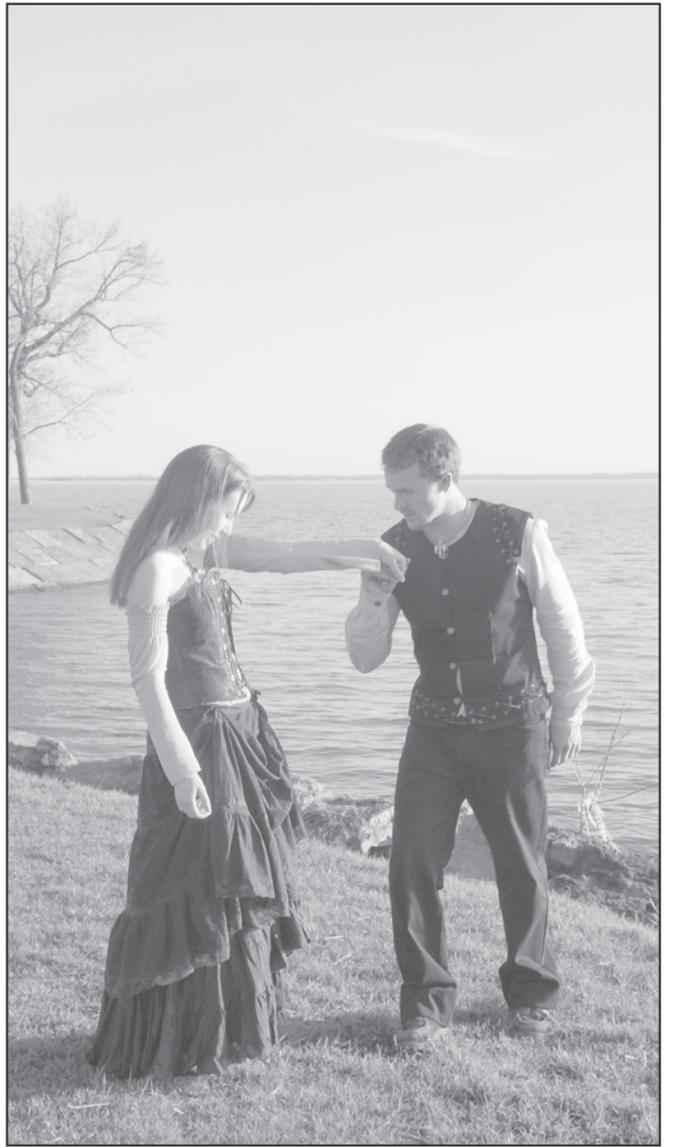
Modern attitudes of chivalry and romance have made exponential leaps. However many girls are still in favor of the antiquated notion of romance.

Sophomore Danielle Hostetler said, "My boyfriend still does all those romantic things for me and I think it's cute."

Like Hostetler, other girls still view the old-time valor of their grandparents as a main criterion in choosing their significant other.

The question remains: what is an appropriate amount of romance? The standard resolution appears to be that there is no exact answer. Each definition of romance is completely relative with very little consistency.

The only harmonious conception of chivalry appears to be in respect with fairness, where both parties exert equal courtesy, valor and arms. Perhaps that's what chivalry is—the choice to do the right things, for the right reasons, at the right times—acts of consideration that are not limited to gender. Chivalry has transformed into a motto of kindness that both men and women want in a relationship.



## German professor encourages students to study abroad with presentation

JENNY HARRISON  
STAFF WRITER

"Willkommen zur deutschen Kulturwoche! (Welcome to German culture week)," said Professor of German Jeff Ritter, greeting students and faculty Oct. 1.

Ritter, a new professor at KSU, presented "An American in Europe" lecture to give American students a glimpse of the lives of students in German classrooms and of German culture as a whole.

Ritter has experienced European school systems as both a student and as an educator—he completed a year-long exchange program and taught as an English teacher for two

years. His first foreign experience was as a student at Die Universität Regensburg in Germany, where he studied linguistics.

While studying, Ritter experienced firsthand many difference between American and German students. One of the more noticeable differences was the tuition costs between American and German universities. A student at the German university would pay around 500 euros (\$700-\$750) for a semester. Most American universities, including KSU, charge at least twice this amount.

German students also have alternative modes of transportation. As a

university with a large number of commuter students, KSU offers on-site parking for its students.

However, if you're a student in Germany, Ritter recommends taking the train; it provides reliable and punctual transportation at no added cost. Passes for train rides are included on students' ID cards.

For entertainment after classes, Ritter suggests the Staatliches Hofbräuhaus in München (Munich), which means state-court brewery. Ritter said the Hofbräuhaus is a great place to enjoy food and drinks while socializing with friends.

Following his time as a student in Germany, Ritter taught English

at a school in Vienna, Austria, one that adhered to many similar policies of German schools.

Ritter said the teachers in these schools are much more relaxed than those in American schools. "It's not unusual to see teachers dressing more casually in Germany and Austria," Ritter said. "You might see instructors in jeans and t-shirts."

Ritter also said that classroom arrangement is different in Germany than in America. As a teacher, he had to move around between classrooms while the students stayed in one single classroom for several subjects with a separate teacher for each class.

James Gilbert, a junior history major, is pursuing a minor in German and considering enrolling in a study abroad course in Germany.

"Herr Ritter answered questions I had about the day-to-day life of students in German universities," said Gilbert. "I liked the laid back atmosphere that seems to be present in German schools." Gilbert also said that he enjoyed learning about unusual differences between German and American culture in general that Ritter included in the presentation.

"I thought it was interesting that Professor Ritter said Germans are responsible for bringing their own sacks

with them to the grocery store," Gilbert said. "You would never feel the need to bring your own bags here in America. It's information like this that would be extremely helpful while in a foreign country yet not typically found in information provided about a country's culture."

While the idea of taking a trip into a foreign country may seem daunting, hearing a firsthand experience from a professor who has completed the process successfully is a sure way to gain confidence in the idea and to get excited to spend time immersed in a different culture.



# Artist's cityscape exhibit engages guests

SUMMER BROWN  
STAFF WRITER

Students huddled around sketchbooks and leaned toward textured paintings Oct. 8 for the opening of artist John Ferry's exhibition.

"Ferry's work reveals the aesthetic beauty of the overlooked and forgotten urban environment and brilliantly portrays the cycle of change in our cities," said Will Hipps, Director and Curator of Art Museum and Galleries.

At the show's opening, Ferry mingled with the crowd; the relaxed atmosphere and dialogue between the artist and students afforded the opportunity to become personally acquainted with the art directly through the artist. At one point during the discussion, he tossed pocket-sized sketchbooks into the crowd for guests to peruse. Surprise merged with interest as the small books made their way around the room.

These sketchbooks were finished works of art containing 810 paintings with 30 per sketchbook. Ferry said he doesn't use his sketchbooks simply for a study and canvas for finished work, but he thinks they both have the same intent.

Art is a vibrant part of Ferry's life—he quoted Dostoyevsky who said "Deprived of meaningful work, men and women lose their reason for existence; they go stark raving mad." He tells students to decide first what they are not interested in so they can find what they want and after that, don't make apologies,—just go with it.

Through Ferry's use of color, texture, light and line, the viewpoint is refashioned while the subject remains constant. He paints places where he has lived or visited for a prolonged period of time,—such as Chicago and Kansas City. Ferry usually reflects on a concept for at least a year before he begins to paint it.

Lynn Kohut, a biology education major, appreciated

the artist's value for old and damaged architecture and cityscapes. Standing absorbed in an impressionistic rendition of a building, Kohut said, "The texture makes you want to continue looking deeper into what the painting suggests, as opposed to a flat canvas." She believes it's important for younger students to maintain an appreciation for the history of a city.

Bethany Ray, a general studies freshman, lingered to shake hands with the artist. Ray noted that the scenes of the city, which can sometimes be stark or cold, felt earthy and natural through the abstract view, textures

and colors. These details capture a change in the artist's mood or suggest weather or time of day.

Nikola Kolev, an international business major, said the cityscape took him into "a daydream mood" with the excerpts of the buildings and commercial areas inside the city. Attention is taken from the business of the day-to-day and refocused on the small aspects of life that make up the whole.

Ferry's current exhibit, "Industrial Timeline," will be displayed through Dec. 3 in the Wilson Building. For more information, visit [kennesaw.edu/arts](http://kennesaw.edu/arts).



photo from [jferry.squarespace.com](http://jferry.squarespace.com)

# Berlin Wall display evokes strong sentiments

SUMMER BROWN  
STAFF WRITER

Beside the Social Sciences building is a piece of history that belongs to all of us, a full-size remnant of the Berlin Wall.

Covered with graffiti and topped with a cement dome to prevent people from climbing over it, the cries of East Germany echo throughout this physical metaphor that divided a people.

"Barren, restricted and stark" is how Meg Nelson, a student of German, described East Germany.

Images of the Berlin Wall, passports, documentation, desolation and depression resonate through students' minds when asked to define East Germany from the 1960s to the 1980s. This time period marked when architecture was built for functionality, when opportunity for advancement came only from within political parties and when freethinking was discouraged.

The presentation, given to students in honor of German culture week by Dr. Susanne Kelley and Professor Annette Haenle-Daniels, intended to convey a history of the Berlin Wall through discussion and images that Germans associate with the time period and the emotional connections engendered.

"History is there to remind us of who we are

and what we can learn from it. Students must realize how fortunate they are to be able to attend a University without adherence to a particular political party. I hope we are aware of the freedoms we share," Haenle-Daniels said.

The presentation was made memorable for the students by donuts distributed in remembrance of one of John F. Kennedy's speeches, in which he declared "Ich bin ein Berliner," which equated him with a jam-filled donut. Had the president not included the indefinite article "ein," he would have said the correct phrase, "Ich bin Berliner," meaning that he was from Berlin.

However, Haenle-Daniels explained to the students, "When you make an effort to speak a foreign language people appreciate the effort and you cannot go wrong."

The Berlin wall affected families overnight by dividing neighborhoods and friends, leaving people trapped and lonely. What had been one was split—two flags, two national anthems and two countries. The people of East Germany woke up one morning and found the beginnings of the wall cutting through their lives.

"Berliner Mauer" was a physical barrier erected by the German Democratic Republic, completely encircling West Berlin, separating

it from East Germany, including East Berlin. The border came to symbolize the Iron Curtain between Western Europe and the Eastern Bloc.

The people were left in darkness concerning the extent of what was happening. In the early stages of construction people could still pass over without too much trouble. They made simple choices based on home, family and possessions to stay in East Germany. They did not understand the progression that was taking place—as time went by, the border between East and West Germany became more defined.

The divide was made physical by Todesstreifen, the infamous "death strip," located between the wall dividing the two countries. Filled with mines, guard dogs and armed patrol, it was nearly impossible to achieve safe passage. After the erection of the wall, around 5,000 people attempted to escape by circumventing it, with estimates of the resulting death toll somewhere between 98 and 200. "Der fall der mauer" or the "fall of the wall" happened on Nov. 9, 1989.

Reunification is still happening in Germany. On Sept. 27, Angela Merkel, a former physicist from East Germany, illustrated the triumphs of a country striving for unity with her election to serve a second term as German chancellor.



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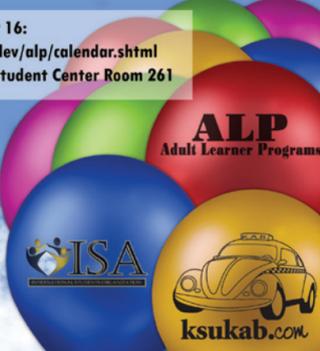
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## RateMyProfessors.com celebrates its 10th anniversary

JENNY HARRISON  
STAFF WRITER

RateMyProfessors.com, a site created for and by college students across the nation, celebrated 10 years of user-generated reviews of college professors this year.

The site was developed in 1999 to allow students to post anonymous and honest reviews of professors in order to give their peers an idea of what to expect from potential professors before enrolling in a course.

Anyone with Internet access, including students, faculty, staff and even non-students who stumble upon the Web site, can add information about any professor listed under any of the 6,000 schools which can be found. The site requires that submitters rate each professor in a series of categories such as the level of easiness, clarity, helpfulness, interest in the course and the degree of textbook use. RateMyProfessors.com is also one of the few professor rating sites where a student can evaluate an instructor as either hot or not hot.

Junior nursing major Amber Orr has researched professors on the site frequently to decide which instructors would be the most helpful for her required nursing courses.

"I use the site every semester before and during registration because availability of classes change," Orr said. "I take into consideration a few things: how often the commenting student attended class, do they mention projects and tests, is the professor educated about the topics for the class and prepared. I also like to use it to tell me if the professor uses the book for class or not."

Orr also said she thinks

students are more likely to use the site when selecting professors for lower-level courses instead of upper-level courses for their majors.

"Once you get into the classes for your major I think a lot of the professors' names and reputations get around by word of mouth instead of through these sites," Orr said.

However, not all students use RateMyProfessors.com on a regular basis. Junior business management major Joseph Stark has recently stopped using the site as a tool to help him select which professors to take.

"I realized that people from all different classes that each professor teaches

"Other sites contain actual data given from the school, such as grades and the percentage of people who withdrew from classes, in addition to reviews," Stark said.

Most KSU professors seem to lean on the same side as Stark and do not support the user-generated content on RateMyProfessors.com.

Adjunct instructor David Gregory said he disagrees with the idea that students can base the decision of whether or not to take a course on the reviews posted by other students.

"Here's the problem with the site: classroom instruction is a form of theater. The bottom line is that everybody's a

by anybody."

Gregory has taken his own advice while completing courses toward his Ph.D. at Georgia State University. While most students at this level do not tend to use the site as much, he has reviewed the comments based on 3000- and 4000-level courses. However, the information he found on the site has never been used to make a decision regarding which professor to take for a course.

Dr. Margaret Walters, an English professor, agrees that students should not take the information on the site too seriously.

"I look at this Web site as a place to air grievances about a teacher or at the very least a place to categorize teachers as 'good/bad' or 'easy/hard grader' or some such category," said Walters.

Walters also said she has no interest in reviewing what students write about her through the site and relies on more accurate methods, such as in-class student evaluations, to learn ways to improve her teaching methods and courses.

"Frankly, I rely on my in-class student evaluations for crucial input about my course design, my teaching and student learning. I obviously do not think the Web site can substitute for the evaluations I get every semester."

Although KSU students typically tend to support RateMyProfessors.com while instructors tend to shy away from such sites, the 10-year life span of this particular rating site shows that, regardless of personal opinion, Web sites such as these are growing in popularity and will continue to provide information to college students about professors at their universities.

# RATE MY PROFESSORS

could post reviews," said Stark. "A teacher may prefer to teach one subject over another, which may make some classes more enjoyable than others. A student writing a negative review about a certain class may cause another student to not give the teacher a chance when he or she may be very good at teaching material for a different course."

Both Orr and Stark mentioned other rating sites as alternatives for RateMyProfessors.com. However, while Orr said she preferred RateMyProfessors.com over other Web sites that charge users to view available content, Stark said he would rather get his information from these other sites due to the more reliable and fact-based content available there.

critic," said Gregory. "I don't mean that everyone is negative. Everyone's a critic in that everyone has an opinion. But ultimately, it's their opinion."

Gregory said the user reviews fall into three categories: very negative posts from students who received a bad grade or simply did not like the professor, a useless positive usually centered around the attractiveness of a particular professor or simply irrelevant information. He also cites the anonymity of the site as a drawback because reviewers cannot be held accountable for the information they post.

"It can only be useful if, like everything else on the internet, you take it with a grain of salt. You realize it's anonymous and not being verified or backed up

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# Music review: Blink-182 returns to Atlanta

MATT NIX  
STAFF WRITER

Blink-182's reunion tour rolled into Atlanta's Lakewood Amphitheater on its final "official date" Oct. 7. With it came opening acts Valencia and Asher Roth, as well as nearly two decades worth of nostalgia for new and long-time fans alike.

When Blink-182 announced their dissolution nearly four years ago, many fans thought that it would be the last they heard of the energetic pop-punk trio, made famous for their energetic blend of punk rock, power pop and tongue-in-cheek satire.

Yet, when Blink-182 announced earlier this year at the Grammys that they were, in fact, getting back together, a new hope arose.

Their tour kicked off

in July, with a rotating cast of support acts that comprised many of the music scene's buzzworthy names—Fall Out Boy, All American Rejects and Panic! at the Disco.

However, some fans, including Lauren Araujo from Cartersville, thought Atlanta—with opening acts Valencia and Asher Roth—got a bad deal.

"It's a shame we couldn't get Fall Out Boy or Panic to open," Araujo said with a sigh. "Who really wants to see Asher Roth?"

The sentiment seemed to echo throughout Lakewood that night, with a less than responsive reaction to either act and a moderate booing coming from the pit during Roth's most famous song, "I Love College."

Despite the disappointment in Atlanta's opening acts, Blink-182 quickly

took the stage to fan favorite "Dumpweed," a giant black curtain descending to reveal Mark, Tom and Travis backlit by giant television monitors and a colossal steel framework display. "I like writing songs about girls!" Tom exclaimed after the first song, pointing out into Lakewood's lawn seats. "Songs about pretty girls from Atlanta!" With that, Blink-182 had returned.

The rest of the set included a number of songs mostly from their most recent, self-titled release, as well as singles and other favorites from previous albums. "Stockholm Syndrome," one of the songs from Blink's last record, featured an extended drum solo from Travis Barker, backlit by bright red lights emanating from the television monitors behind him.

As this was the last "real" stop on their first tour back, the band took several occasions to thank their road crew and fans for their support. "I know this tour has meant a lot to us and we just want to thank everyone on the tour who has made this possible," bassist Mark Hoppus was quick to proclaim. "Atlanta, you rock!"

Blink-182 continued to power through their set that night, closing with "Anthem Pt. 2" and exiting the stage to an audience screaming in mass for an encore. Row by row of Lakewood was lit up by lighters and cell phones as the audience chanted "Blink! Blink!"

After a moment, the band returned to the stage, beginning with a massive drum solo performed by Barker—in which his drum kit did a complete 360, levitating and tilting above the

audience to a mashup of hip-hop, rock and techno. Following that, the band jammed through old-school favorites "M&Ms" and "Dammit."

Scott Roeger, a 27-year-old Blink-182 fan said upon leaving the concert, "I couldn't have imagined a better experience in my life." He took a moment to look back at the stage as

the crowds left, his voice faltering. "Some things you really never expect to see again. This is my fifth Blink concert and I thought I had seen my final one after I saw my fourth. It's more than music, man."

To many, it really was more than music. It was a chance to see a band that many thought was gone for good.

## THE LEGEND OF AMERICA

BY: IVAN VILLA AND BRETT FRANK



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# SPORTS

## Cross Country teams sweep Disney races

JUSTIN HOBDAY  
SPORTS EDITOR

Mackenzie Howe remained undefeated for the season and five members from the men's team finished in the top 20 to help the Owls sweep the Walt Disney World Cross Country Classic.

Howe ran the women's 5K event in 18:07.6 to win her fifth event of the season. "I thought my time could have been a little quicker, but with the sandy surface of the course and the high temperature and humidity, it affected how quick we could run," said Howe. "One runner was able to stay with me most of the way so knowing the course, and where I needed to save energy for a final kick, really helped me. I knew this would be a tough meet, and I'm glad I was able to come out of it with a win."

Britany Reily finished in 13th place with a time of 19:24, and Erin Sutton boosted the Owls with an eighth place finish in her first action since 2007. The former all-conference selection put in an encouraging time of 19:09 after spending the first half of the season out with an injury.

"Having Erin back was so huge for us today. Between Mackenzie, Erin, and Britany (Reily), we now have an incred-

ibly solid top-three," Sims said. "I'm really encouraged by how Lorena Jaime has done in the last couple of meets, including today. It will be herself, Soibhan Wolcott, Caitlin German, Kristen Gibson and Katie Charles that will determine what we can do at the conference meet. The deeper we continue to be as a team, the harder it will be for our opponents to pick up points on us."

Scott Burley led the men once again with a second place finish in the 8K events to help the Owls win their third meet out of five on the season. Freshman Nabil Hamid once again finished right behind Burley with a time of 26:04 for third place.

"This is great for the squad, to get a win like this, especially since this felt like a dress rehearsal for the [Atlantic Sun Championship]," Burley said. "I felt really good today. It was nice to run with Nabil, we really worked well together the whole way through. It's great to be able to go home with a Mickey Mouse trophy."

Jaakko Nieminen, Piotr Wiczak and Peikko Solla placed strong for the Owls as well with finishes of 12th, 14th and 16th.

"I always knew that our runners were Mickey Mouse runners, and of course here in Disney, that's a very positive thing," Sims joked. "In all seriousness,



Photo provided by KSU SID

From left to right: Jaakko Nieminen, Nabil Hamid, Scott Burley and Piotr Wiczak.

getting a performance like that from Scott is a huge psychological boost for everyone. On top of that, Nabil did today exactly what we all knew he came here to do, and that was to compete with the best of them. This was a great performance for all of our guys, and they should feel good

about themselves."

The Owls' next event is the inaugural Owl Invitational on Friday, Oct. 23. The meet takes place at Noonday Park, and will be the final tune-up before the conference championships.

Content provided by ksuowls.com.

## Women's soccer takes position atop conference standings

BEN HAMPTON  
STAFF WRITER

The KSU women's soccer team completed a sweep of the Nashville-based schools this Sunday to take first place in the Atlantic Sun Conference. The KSU Soccer Complex was the backdrop for a 7-0 drumming of Lipscomb Friday evening and a 4-2 win over Belmont Sunday afternoon.

In KSU's first match against Lipscomb, the Owls led 5-0 at halftime before beating Lipscomb by a final score of 7-0 in front of the largest crowd of the season at the KSU Soccer Complex.

The Owls (7-5-0, 5-2-0 A-Sun) wasted no time taking the early lead, scoring four minutes into the game. Caitlyn Dingle accepted a cross from Kristin Marietta at the top of the penalty box and converted the score in the bottom left corner of the goal. Less than a minute later, Dingle scored her second goal of the contest to put the Owls up 2-0.

"I had great assists on both of my goals," Dingle said. "My teammates set me up perfectly. I got the ball in front of the goal, picked my spot, kept it low and it worked out."

The Lady Bisons' (3-10-0, 1-4-0 A-Sun) only real scoring chance came in the 13th minute. Kate Spellman sent a free kick to Katie Wood whose header glanced off the cross bar.

KSU quickly resumed momentum when Brittany Vining centered the ball to Marietta, who scored her first goal of the year with a shot into the bottom right corner of the net to go up by three goals in the 14th minute.

The Owls offense scored two more goals before the half came to an end as Maylee Attin-Johnson scored her first goal of the season with a header to the top of the net in the 22nd minute. Marietta picked up her second goal of the match when she found the back of the net in the 37th minute to give KSU a 5-0 lead.

In the 53rd minute, the Owls took a 6-0 lead with the first goal of the season from Vining, who also had three assists in the match.

In the final seconds, Jade Dempster cleaned up a rebound off a header to give the Owls the 7-0 victory.

### Owls take over top spot with win over Bruins

The ladies took over first place in the A-Sun with a 4-2 victory over the Belmont Bruins, who now trail the Owls by two points in the standings.

Vining scored her second goal of the season in the 3rd minute, snapping a 381 minute scoreless streak by Bruin keeper Sari Lin. Marietta found her open on the back post with a cross, which was headed home to the left side of the goal.

The Bruins' (7-5-2, 4-1-1 A-Sun) Erica Carter nearly tied the game in the 12th minute when she found herself one-on-one with KSU goalkeeper Staci Pugh, but her shot glanced off the crossbar and out of play.

In the 42nd minute, Katie Scott received a ball down the right wing from Kranick and found the back of the net, sending the Owls into halftime with a 3-0 advantage.

The KSU defense was once again solid, as they broke up several Belmont offensive attacks, including a Bridget Gaughan defensive clearance in the final moments of the first half. Belmont's Alex Mindle accepted a pass in the box and got a shot on goal, but Gaughan cleared the ball off her goal line with a clutch header as the half came to an end.

"I was pleased to get three goals in the first half," said King. "It was a great start. We played very well and took our chances, and we put a lot of pressure on them."

Belmont took control offensively in the second half, out-shooting the Owls 7-5, which included a header from Jamie Loftis in the 53rd minute that was saved by Pugh.

In the 62nd minute, Belmont mounted a brief comeback when Annie Musacchio sent a corner kick in front of the net that resulted in Laura Harris' first goal of the season, shrinking the Owls' lead to 3-1.

With the game winding down, the Bruins tried frantically to get back in the match, but Pugh again



Photos provided by KSU SID

Caitlin Dingle (above) scored two goals against Lipscomb, and Thais Gibson (below) helped anchor a sturdy Owl defense.

came up big for the Owls. The Owls goalkeeper made a save in the 64th minute to stop a Loftis shot. The KSU defense attempted to clear Pugh's initial save, but the ball was deflected in front of the goal and Pugh quickly pounced on it, preserving the 3-1 lead.

"I tried to tip it because I couldn't control the first shot," said Pugh. "I looked up, saw Thais [Gibson] try to deflect the ball and just tried to collect it as fast as I could. It was a pretty big save at the time because it was 3-1 at the time and we could not let them back in it."

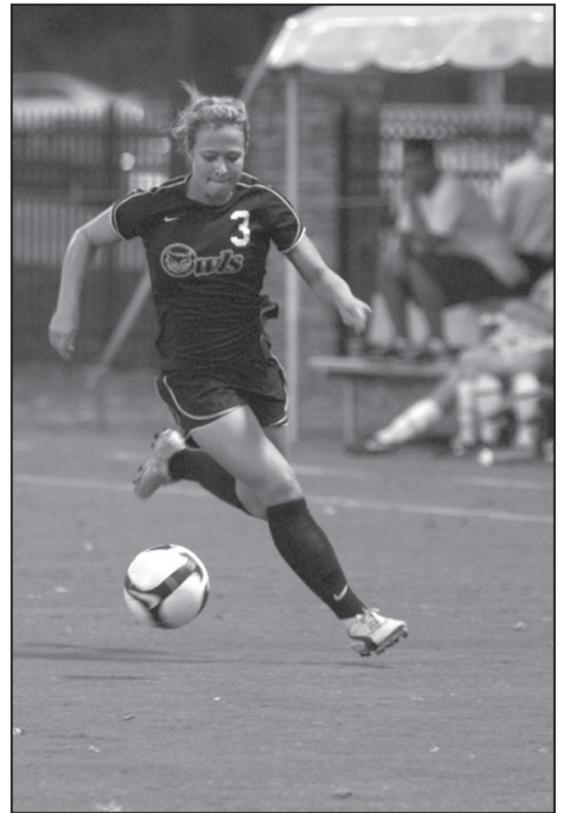
Three minutes later, the KSU offense came back to life when Jade Dempster sent a cross to Marietta who settled the ball and finished her shot past a diving Lin to give the Owls their fourth goal of the match and a three-goal advantage. The Bruins keeper had entered the match, allowing just eight goals on the season.

Belmont took advantage of a KSU foul in the box when Jayme Trocino scored her ninth goal of the year on a penalty kick in the 80th minute, narrowing the margin to two goals.

Although there was constant pressure on the KSU defense, the back-line, made up of Gaughan, Dempster, Gibson and Sadjr Williams stayed strong to move into first place in the league. The Owls out-shot the Bruins 15-8 in the match while Pugh picked up three saves.

"I thought we defended well against Belmont," added King. "Overall I am very pleased with the weekend in general. We had two good wins and are now sitting at the top of the league."

The Owls look to maintain their hold on first place next weekend when they travel to Spartanburg, S.C. to take on USC Upstate on Friday, Oct. 16 at 7:30 p.m.



# Golf teams playing well against tough competition



Photo provided by KSU SID

Freshman Schbongkosch Premuchen is currently the 203rd ranked female collegiate golfer.

JOHN MORBITZER  
STAFF WRITER

The KSU golf program has taken great strides recently, and early on this season it appears the trend will continue with solid performances by both the men's and women's teams.

Both teams have played consistently in their fall tournaments. The women have recorded a top five and the men a top three finish as their highest marks through their five combined tournaments.

"We're really excited with the start we got off to this season. We're ranked 61, which is the highest ranking the team has ever had. It is what I expected though with the recruiting class that came in, we're expecting big things," said women's golf head coach Rhyll Brinsmead.

The Lady Owls golf team has delivered early. A top 10 seventh place finish in the first tournament, followed by a fifth place finish in their second, preceded an eighth place finish in last week's Eat-A-Peach Invitational hosted by Mercer University.

"When I looked at the schedule and the recruiting class coming in, I made tournaments we could compete in, and so far we've proven ourselves worthy," Brinsmead said. "We've finished well in the tournaments, against teams we've never come close to before, so we're getting a lot of respect from the bigger schools, and that helps in the future with scheduling."

Brinsmead has not shied away from the competition. For October, the Lady Owls will travel to Iowa City, Iowa, for the Hawkeye Invitational, followed by a trip to Charleston, S.C., for the Palmetto Intercollegiate tournament. The women end the fall season in early November with a trip to Austin, TX.,

for the Challenge at Onion Creek.

"It's one of the best events of the nation. That's going to be our chance to really prove we're there to compete," said Brinsmead.

While the women's team has had a few years with Brinsmead coaching, the men's program has a new face this season in first-year head coach Jay Moseley.

"It's been fantastic, I was very grateful for the opportunity to come up here. Everything here has the makings to be a top golf program," said Moseley regarding his first season with the Owls.

The Auburn standout wasted no time preparing the men's team for strong performances early on.

"We have a good solid team that I've come into, good senior leadership and a lot of potential for these guys," said Moseley.

In the team's first tournament, the Sam Hill Intercollegiate in Hattiesburg, Miss., the Owls finished in the top third of the field with a tie for fifth. Sophomore Jeff Karlsson set a 54-hole record for KSU shooting a 10 under par 203 (71-65-67).

Following the top five showing, the team traveled to South Carolina for the Rees Jones Invitational and finished third, ahead of host Michigan State and conference foe Mercer.

"We had a good event. There was a good quality field that we needed to play well in. Obviously we would have liked to do better, but it was a great experience for our guys to play on a championship-type course," Moseley said.

The fall schedule includes two more tournaments for the Owls, as they travel the last two weeks of October to Savannah, Ga., for the Mizuno/Savannah Invitational and Chattanooga, Tenn., for the Scenic City/Aldila Invitational.

# Softball's future bright despite slipping numbers

After 25 years as head coach of the KSU softball team, Scott Whitlock is not ready to push the panic button on softball's future yet.

Participation in Little League softball has declined by 10 percent from 1997 to 2008, and local recreational and competitive league numbers are tumbling as well. The struggle continues in some youth softball organizations, but Whitlock doubts it will have an imminent effect on college softball.

"Every team is still going to be able to find 18 to 20 people to play," Whitlock said. "But will the quality of play suffer? Possibly, because fewer good players are playing, so there's fewer good players to go around. But I don't think in the next 10 to 12 years will you see any kind of decrease in schools sponsoring college softball, or college softball going away."

Although participation is down in Little League softball and various local leagues, the Amateur Softball

Association, national governing body of softball, is still going strong. An average of 83,000 girls fastpitch softball teams register with the association each year, comprising more than 1.2 million players. But what is to blame for the lack of participation in leagues outside of the amateur association?

"Young women are discovering the great sport of soccer, the great sport of lacrosse, basketball will always be a steady constant and volleyball," Whitlock said. "These were all things that were not there, say 20 years ago. It may not be a decrease in anything other than it's an increase in other opportunities."

Fighting to keep young girls interested in softball is a major challenge for Greg Viland, president of the Sandy Plains Softball Association. Sandy Plains' largest age group is 8-and-under, and participation numbers for both fastpitch and slowpitch are down from 334 last fall season to 279 this fall.

"I think we're going to have problems number-wise in the future. I'm not exactly sure how we're going to tackle this problem yet, and I don't want to be behind the curveball," Viland said. "The trick is to figure out how to get the girls in early, and to make sure that it's a positive experience for them so they want to come back."

Trying to ensure that the girls have a good experience and learn the fundamentals, Viland recently brought in coaches specifically for player development in both fastpitch and slowpitch softball. He says good coaching is one of the most essential elements in young players' development, and having fun is what makes them return to play another season.

Leagues such as the Sandy Plains Softball Association are the backbone of softball in Cobb County. Local Little Leagues have never offered softball programs because girls in Cobb County typically play in the Amateur Softball Association or slowpitch soft-

ball, according to the Little League District Administrator for District 2, Georgia. Contrary to many businesses or organizations, Viland says the different leagues in the area do not compete with one another.

"We complement each other because we strive for recreational softball and we strive for getting many girls out there to play, period," Viland said.

Gamering many players will not be an issue for college softball in the years to come. Whitlock is optimistic about the future of softball, even if eventually the quality of play were to suffer. He says that with the Amateur Softball Association still going strong, the wavering numbers in other leagues should revive.

"I think what's going to happen is that eventually the water is going to find its level. I just think it will settle itself out in time," Whitlock said. "Softball might ride that crest for awhile, and eventually it might shoot right back up again."



LAUREN MULLER  
SPORTS COLUMNIST

As for the big picture, Whitlock understands and accepts that softball is only one slice of the growing field of women's athletics.

"Obviously softball suffers from not being the only game in town, but is it bad for softball? I don't know if that's bad or not," Whitlock said. "As long as the young women are out there, they've got opportunities, they're enjoying themselves, they're active and they're playing a sport they love, I don't see a negative to that."

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