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OF KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY

VOLUME 45 ISSUE 16
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Tuesday, Feb. 2, 2010

Thefts from student vehicles continue

CAITLYN NEWMAYER
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Police are investigating several cases of theft from student vehicles. Sixteen cases of theft from vehicles parked on campus have occurred in the past three months, with residential parking areas hit hardest.

Most cases happened during the night in areas such as the North Parking Deck. These areas hold large numbers of vehicles and are easily accessed by foot or vehicle.

In more than half the cases, car doors were left unlocked and valuable items were in plain view. Other cases involved smashed windows or doors that were pried open.

"In over 50 percent of the entering auto cases reported, GPS units and iPod/MP3 players in plain view were stolen," said Jennifer Elliot, lead investigator for KSU police. "In dash stereos and visible after market speakers, amplifiers and subwoofers are also popular items to steal."

Other items stolen include parts and accessories of vehicles, such as license plates. No arrests have been made in connection to the thefts, although the investigation is ongoing.

"There has not been any pattern identified with regard to make, model, year or color; they are all just random cars" Elliot said. "The pattern lies with the access inside the vehicle and the visible valuables in the vehicle."

Elliot encourages students, faculty and staff not to leave valuable items in plain sight and make sure car doors are locked when parked.

Elliot also suggests keeping serial numbers and information of valuable items like GPS systems and iPods on file.



Photo courtesy of KSU police

A stereo is missing from a vehicle after the dashboard was pried open by a thief.

Resident Assistant Laura Cox recalled her experience when her car was broken into while parked on campus.

"I was parked in the KSU Place visitor spots because that was the only spot left that day," she said "They broke through my driver's side window and stole my GPS and my iPod docking station."

"When I first noticed it, I thought my window had just broken. I didn't believe anyone would just break in. Then I came to my senses and called the police. It was while I was on the phone with the police that I noticed the missing items."

Cox said despite the event, she still feels

safe parking on campus. She does not leave valuable items in her car and encourages her friends to do the same.

Security cameras have been installed in both the North and Central Parking Decks. However, poor quality video and lack of surveillance footage sometimes hinders police from identifying suspects.

Once a case has been reported, KSU police collect information about the vehicle and items stolen and attempt to pinpoint a time frame in which the theft may have occurred. Officers document any damage to the vehicle and determine whether quality fingerprints can be lifted from the scene.



Photo courtesy of Jennifer Dickey

Students express differing views over the property formerly owned by Cora Harris.

Papp accepts Cora Harris land donation

KAREN EDWARDS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

KSU has made the final decision to accept the donation of the controversial property in Bartow County once belonging to Georgia author Cora Harris.

Sam Hose, a black worker, was publically lynched in 1899 for an alleged murder and raping. *The New York Independent* published an article condemning the lynching. Harris wrote a response entitled "A Southern Woman's View," in which she defended the practice of lynching.

University President Dan Papp signed the gift agreement between KSU and the land donor, Jodie Hill, on Dec. 29, 2008.

Hill, a preservationist, bought the land, known as "In the Valley," in 1996 to restore it to its original state and prevent it from becoming farmland.

The 56-acre property has a long history of racial injustices. The original property owner, Cherokee Chief Pine Log, was forced off the land and onto the Trail of Tears.

Aside from her newspaper article, Harris is historically recognized for her accomplishments as an author. She was the first Georgian to have a best seller with her 1910 novel, "A Circuit Rider's Wife."

Her property also includes sites recognized by the National Register of Historic Places.

The land donation has caused controversy among members of the KSU community.

"This [newspaper] article is sickening," said junior Alyssa Craig. "I know that the property is a gift, but the thought of taking classes where racism was promoted is horrible."

Lisa Russel, Web manager of the Georgia Writers Association, offered a different view: "I am so glad KSU is going to use the property in Bartow County for righteous reasons. I live just a few miles from this property and visited it several years ago when it was being renovated. It is a beautiful piece of property and I am proud that it will part of KSU."

The Georgia Writers Association, a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting writers, is among those who have a positive outlook for the donated land.

The school can use the property for learning purposes. Some departments have expressed interest in conducting fieldwork on the property, enabling students to obtain hands-on experience in their course of study.

Papp, in conjunction with the African American Teachers Caucus, created a set of committees to review all aspects of the land. These committees worked together to examine the property's complex history and create a positive working environment for its acceptance.

According to Papp, the land will be kept "to build a Center for Reconciliation...to be used for agricultural purposes to help support the Commons, [and] to use the virgin land for biological or scientific studies."

College of Humanities and Social Sciences names Ismaili associate dean

MELISSA BUTZ
STAFF WRITER

The new associate dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences is Dr. Karim Ismaili.

Ismaili will assume his position on July 1, replacing Dr. Lana Wachniak, who retired in December.

The College of Humanities and Social

Sciences conducted a national search, which attracted more than 50 applicants from around the world. Ismaili stood out among the other candidates.

Aisha Jackson, secretary to the college's dean, said Ismaili was the top choice at the end of the interview process.

"The new associate dean must have a Ph.D. in their field and lots of administrative background," Jackson said. "Ismaili had this, and that made him a good fit for the job."

Requirements for the job included: a doctorate in a teacher education-related field; university administrative experience; teaching experience; academic credentials; commitment to diversity, equity, and educational opportunity; and communication and public relations skills.

A few of Ismaili's primary functions as associate dean will be to oversee graduate programs, assist with research and grants and coordinate with other deans, directors and staff. Also, he will be required to teach a course in his field.

"He will bring his experience, scholarship and leadership to the oversight of graduate programs, the social sciences and the college as a whole," said Dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences Richard Vengroff.

Ismaili's research and

publishing expertise lies in criminal justice policy and analysis, penology, criminological theory, crime and inequality and crime and security developments after Sept. 11.

Ismaili taught criminal justice at Radford University in Virginia for one year. He then taught in New York City at St. John's University from 1997 to 2006.

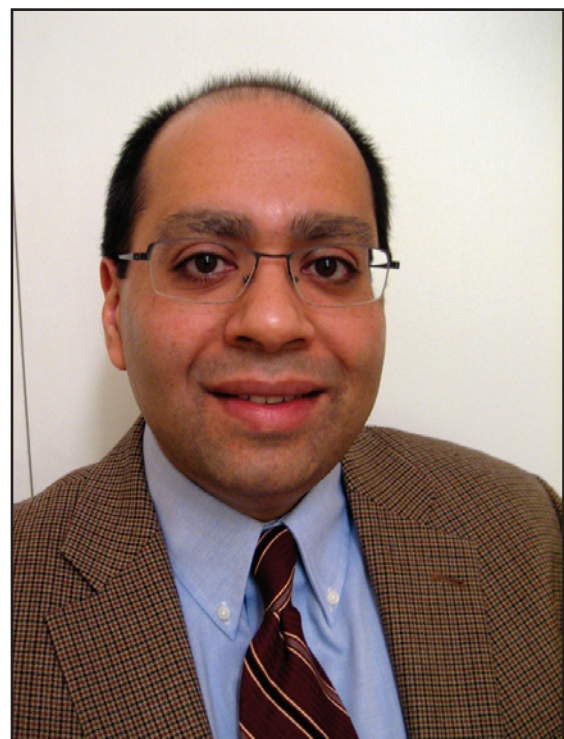
He also was a visiting professor in the New York City Police Department, and a research and policy advisor in the Ministry of the Solicitor General Canada and Department of Justice Canada.

Employed at Ryerson University in Toronto, he served as the Inaugural Chair of the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology from 2006 to the present.

Ismaili attended Simon Fraser University to earn his Bachelor of Arts in Criminology, and he received his Master of Philosophy in Criminology from the University of Cambridge. He obtained his Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Western Ontario.

He is working on two publications about modern crime policy. The first compilation centers around the U.S.'s criminal justice policy and the effects of war on immigrants after Sept. 11. These publications are expected to be released later this year.

The other work is on Canada, with Jane Sprott and Kim Varma. It will be published by Oxford University Press and is expected to be released in 2011.



Karlee Gonzalez | The Sentinel

Ismaili is named the new associate dean for College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

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Hoo's Hoo: Haitian Student Alliance leads quake relief efforts

AMIE FLANAGAN
STAFF WRITER

KSU students have rallied in great numbers for the support of Haiti after a devastating 7.0 magnitude earthquake killed more than a reported 150,000 people and left 2 million homeless. Heading the efforts was the Haitian Student Alliance.

Within a few days of the quake the HSA became the official registered student organization to receive donations, employing the help of President Papp and the offices of Financial Aid, the Registrar and the Bursar.

The HSA and their supporting departments helped students who have family in Haiti by setting up a monetary donation account and organizing a candlelight vigil.

"When I first heard about it all, I felt so helpless," said junior Errold Michel, founder and former president of the HSA. "I was in disbelief. But the response has been amazing. Students are putting forth so much effort. There are students who aren't even Haitian who are crying and devastated. Everybody wants to come together."

The HSA and Caribbean Student Alliance hosted a candlelight vigil that brought an estimated 300 students, faculty and locals together in remembrance for those lost.

KSU students have donated more than 75 boxes of necessities and nearly \$1,500

and yet there is still so much to be done.

One week after the quake, an aftershock with the magnitude of a 6.0 hit. This event strengthened the resolve of the HSA to continue on its mission, helping send clothing, food, water, money and other supplies.

On Jan. 24, the Haitian government declared an end to its search and rescue phase in order to focus on recovery. Yet many have not accepted the end of the search and continue to look for survivors.

"It's a hard call to make," said senior Nechemia Hilaire, secretary of the HSA and Student Coordinator of KSU's Haiti Relief effort. "We need to start fixing our country. But, how do you start repairing when there are bodies everywhere?"

There is one thing that the HSA wishes the media would clear up. "The media is always referring to Haiti as the 'poorest country in the world'," said senior Gnima Diop. "They conveniently forget to mention Haiti's history and why they are in this situation; that they were the country that produced the most profit in the world, but it was stolen. And that the country has continued to be exploited by dominant nations such as the French. These are the facts that are always left aside."

These sentiments have been shared by students across campus.

"We are a proud nation," said Hilaire. "If we could, we probably wouldn't ask for help. But we need help and are grateful for it. I want to be able to take my kids to Haiti to share with them a different culture. I want our culture to survive."

New parking citation system in place

TORI WESTER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Parking Operations, an operating unit of Auxiliary Services and Programs, enacted a new citation system that kicked off Jan. 25.

This new system is called the T2 system, which is already in use by many other schools in the University System of Georgia.

The T2 system is a streamlined, automated system that not only eases the workload of Parking Operations, but can also ease the stress level of students.

With the old system, parking officials issued a paper citation to go on the offending car; wrote a second one for their records; entered the citation information into a database for the Bursar's Office; and then waited for the Bursar to update paid or unpaid status.

Now, the Parking Operations official puts students' information into a tiny handheld computer and prints a citation on waterproof paper. Then the information is automatically synchronized to Owl Express.

With the citation charges on Owl Express, it's much easier for a student to pay his or her ticket without getting account holds. The student will be reminded by e-mail of the charge before a hold is ever placed.

Sophomore Sarah Plemmons, a student at the University of Georgia, received her first ticket on campus last spring.

"I'm glad they put it on UGA Oasis [their version of Owl Express]. Otherwise I would have read the ticket then thrown it in my car, and I wouldn't have paid it. The e-mails reminded me before my account was frozen."

The T2 system also helps Parking Operations by cutting down the man hours it takes to issue tickets and decreases human error in the ticket writing process. Students are not involved in this process at all.

According to Beth Tindel, director of Parking Operations, the T2 system will penalize parking offenders and leave more spaces for people who follow the regulations. She also believes this new system will make Parking Operations more effective.

"We need tighter control," said Tindel. "We are already at 95 percent capacity and trying to decide where to put our next parking deck and talking about a transportation system."

T2 is the most advanced system available for parking services at this time. But students beware: With the change to T2 comes an update on Owl Express from all the unpaid citations that have been issued.

Check your Owl Express for any outstanding tickets before registering for summer and fall courses.

Save gas station on Jan. 18 in regard to reckless driving. A Swifty Save employee advised police that the driver of a Pontiac was intoxicated and driving erratically. While in route to gas station, the officer spotted the Pontiac northbound on Frey Road. The Pontiac was later located in the North Parking Deck. When questioning the driver of the Pontiac, officers noticed a strong odor of alcohol on the driver's person. The driver agreed to sobriety evaluations during which he stumbled and swayed in an unsafe manner. The driver was issued a citation for minor in possession of alcohol while operating a motor vehicle and underage consumption of alcohol.

Smoking marijuana in the car

On Jan. 23, an officer pulled over a Nissan for disregarding a traffic stop at the North Parking Deck and Canton Place. The officer immediately smelled the odor of marijuana when talking to the driver, who said that some of his friends had smoked marijuana in his car earlier. The officer searched the vehicle and found marijuana seeds and stems underneath the driver's seat. The officer also found a clear, plastic bag in the back seat containing a small amount of marijuana seeds and stems. The officer advised the driver to dispose of the contraband and issued a warning citation for disregarding a stop sign.

Stolen iPhone

Police arrived at the Public Safety Lobby on Jan. 14 in reference to a stolen iPhone. The owner of the iPhone stated she was sitting outside of a room in the Clendenin building talking to a friend. She stated she placed her iPhone on top of her notebook. When she got up to leave, she noticed the iPhone missing. The owner of the iPhone provided police with the serial number and value of the phone.

CORRECTIONS

In the 01-27-10 issue, the front page story "Social media experts to gather for SoCon10" incorrectly noted that this is the tenth year of the SoCon gathering. It is actually the fourth year. Also, the center photo for the story was incorrectly labeled as Leonard Witt. The photo is of a Tom Warhover, an associate professor at the University of Missouri School of Journalism. An accurate photo of Witt is below. On page 5, Rebecca Duffield was incorrectly labeled as News Editor. She is a guest columnist.

It is the policy of The Sentinel to correct all errors of fact.

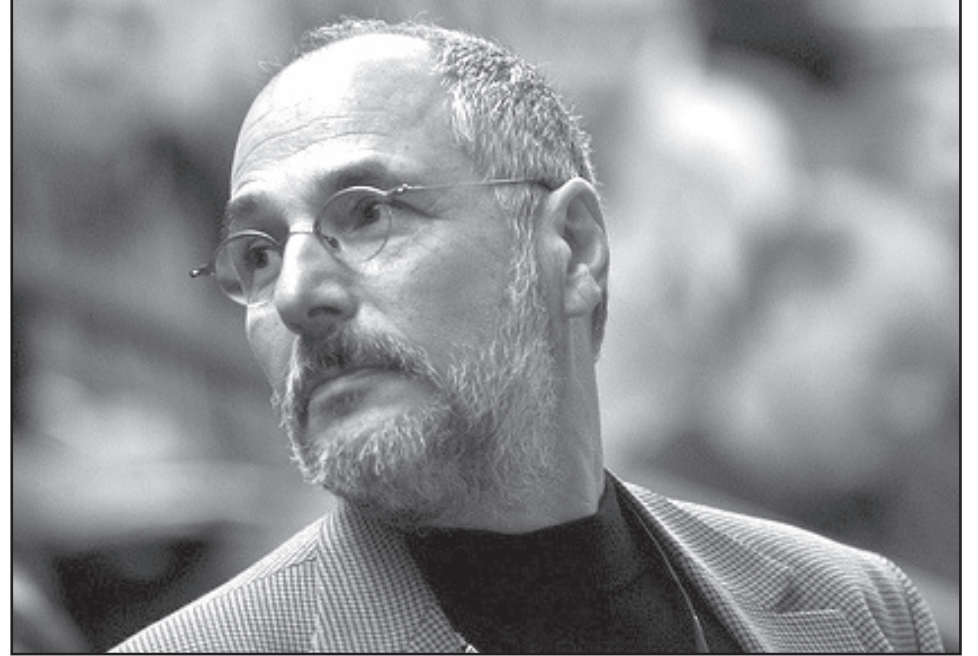


Photo courtesy of Leonard Witt

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POLICE BEAT

CAITLYN NEWMAYER
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Penske Truck Rental Shooting

On Jan. 12, an officer responded to an active shooter call at the Penske Truck Rental on Barrett Lakes Blvd. When arriving at the Penske parking lot, the officer saw a white male standing next to a small blue car. The white male advised him that the person inside the blue car had been shot in the neck. The officer saw a gunshot wound on the person's neck and checked for a pulse. While moving through the parking lot, the officer encountered another subject with a gunshot wound to the head. When moving closer to the door, the officer encountered another subject who was down on the floor. Cobb County Police arrived at the scene shortly after, had enough units to handle the case and informed KSU police that they were no longer needed.

Purse Snatch

On Jan. 11, an officer met with a student in the Public Safety Lobby in reference to stolen property. The student advised the officer that she attended class and returned home before realizing that her purse was no longer in her backpack. The student stated that she had not left her purse unattended but did fall asleep in class. She was advised to check with the Lost and Found office and to cancel her credit cards.

Drunk Driving

Police were dispatched to Swifty

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OPINIONS

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SGA endowment: More dollars than sense

Last Thursday, I had the pleasure of attending my first Student Government Association meeting. It was an eye-opener! The meeting was covered three controversial issues, two of which dealt with SGA's internal organization. Though the interworking of SGA is important, my main concern was with the third issue.

A few SGA representatives introduced a proposal calling for about \$3,000 to be spent on four massage chairs for the student center. One of the representatives explained that they would purchase three "average-sized" chairs that would cost roughly \$400 each and one "over-sized" chair that would cost approximately \$900. On top of this, each chair would need a \$99 two-year warranty.

The presentation addressing the massage chairs consisted of two PowerPoint slides. One slide explained the different prices for each chair and that SGA will have the choice of where the chairs will be placed. The other slide consisted of two pictures showing the different-sized chairs they

were planning to buy. The proposal provided no justification of the need for the chairs.

Ideally, after a representative presents their proposal, the next step is for the representative to make a motion that puts the proposal to a vote. The representatives must then vote to decide the outcome of the proposal. As of right now, a simple majority vote is required to throw away our student fees on frivolous spending.

Luckily during Thursday's meeting, there were not only representatives, but also students — non-voting members of SGA — who spoke out against the massage chair proposal. These students brought up the following points: What about spending that money on better Internet connection in the dorms? Who will be liable every time the chairs are damaged? What about the extensive traffic in the student center? There are only four chairs and more than 20,000 students at KSU.

My concern is not about the massage chairs as much as it is that no guidelines exist for how our SGA representatives spend student fees. All it takes

is one idea, a few colorful words, and these representatives can spend tens of thousands of dollars on anything their hearts desire. The only justification seems to be that it's a "nice thing to do."

I found the meeting rather ironic. Before the discussion of the massage chair proposal, two SGA representatives proposed a resolution to limit SGA spending. Specifically, this resolution would limit the representatives from using our student fees on anything that does not, "(1) promote student advocacy or campus participation, (2) address the issues facing students, or (3) does not improve the academic needs of the student body as a whole."

Unfortunately, after a brief discussion about the spending resolution, a motion was passed to end all discussion on the matter until next week's meeting. Why discuss a spending resolution when we could discuss how we want to waste \$3,000 on four massage chairs?

This is not an attack on SGA as an organization, because there should be a vehicle for students to have a voice.

Also, it is important for students to stay actively involved with campus legislation. The conflict lies within SGA's bylaws, which frees the representatives from any sort of accountability when deciding how they wish to spend our fees.

Not all representatives of SGA support this spending proposal and have spoken out against it, but can only argue on grounds of principle. They have nothing in their bylaws that give them guidance to prevent this waste and abuse. As of right now, the only real check on spending comes from the few non-voting members who attend the SGA meetings to voice their concerns about the different proposals.

Spending \$3,000 on four massage chairs tells me one of two things: 1) SGA's budget is too large and their endowment should be cut next semester, or 2) the student body has no other campus concerns, which I find very hard to believe. It is time that all stu-



BRITTANY LINK
GUEST COLUMNIST

students find out who represents them in their college or department and let them know about the real issues. Students also need to hold their representatives responsible and let them know that frivolous spending of student activity fees will not be tolerated.

Brittany Link is a Junior working to attain a major in Political Science with a concentration in Professional Politics. She is also an active member of the service sorority Omega Phi Alpha.

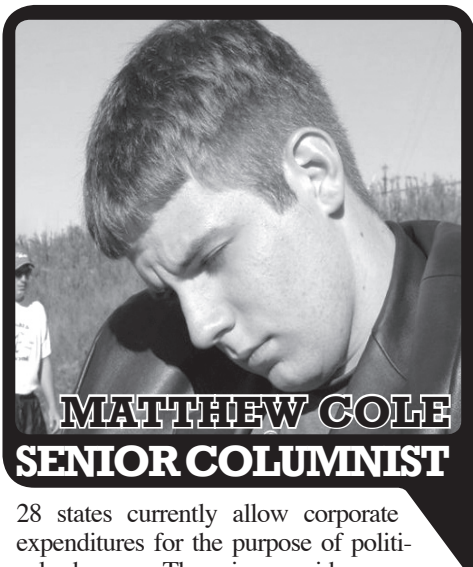
Why SCOTUS critics have it wrong

Imagine for a moment that there is an important congressional election coming up and you, as a concerned citizen, wish to remain informed of election events and information about the candidates. Now imagine that the federal government issues a decree banning the publication of politically-themed books. Undeterred in your desire for information, you download an e-book onto your Amazon Kindle. Unfortunately for you, the imperial censors have also banned downloads of certain e-books due to their political content.

This scenario might seem like something from an Orwellian dystopia, but if it weren't for the Supreme Court's recent 5-4 decision in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*, this scenario may very well have become a reality. Indeed, the first round of oral arguments before the Court included the delusional assertion by Deputy Solicitor General Malcolm Stewart that the Constitution allowed the federal government to ban the publication of books and the downloading of e-books or on-demand movies if such media contained anything that might construe to be political advocacy.

In this case the issue pressed by the government was the McCain-Feingold Act's ban on corporate and union expenditures for the purpose of political advocacy. It is the word "corporate" that seems to provoke the most hysterical reactions from those with a Howard Zinn-like anti-business reflex. During his recent State of the Union speech, President Obama inserted the following: "Last week, the Supreme Court reversed a century of law to open the floodgates for special interests — including foreign corporations — to spend without limit in our elections." MSNBC talk show host Keith Olbermann blasted the decision with more heated rhetoric, claiming *Citizens United* to be a greater affront to America than the infamous *Dred Scott* decision.

The fears of such critics border on hyperbole. In his book "Unfree Speech: The Folly of Campaign Finance Reform," former Federal Election Commission Chairman Bradley Smith says extensive research data shows that there is little evidence suggesting that the presence of corporate money in an election has any corrupting effect. In fact,



MATTHEW COLE
SENIOR COLUMNIST

28 states currently allow corporate expenditures for the purpose of political advocacy. There is no evidence suggesting that these states, which include the relatively prosperous Utah and Virginia, are in any way misgoverned because of corporate expenditures.

This case should be viewed primarily as a free speech issue. Critics commonly make the objection that *Santa Clara County v. Southern Pacific Railroad Company*, which declared corporations to be legal persons, was wrongly decided. That's fair enough. Just show me where in the language of the First Amendment does the prohibition against the infringement of free speech by the federal government necessitates the personhood of the speaking party. You won't find it there. That's because the First Amendment did not grant any rights; it simply prohibited the government from restricting these pre-existing rights.

In some instances, the government may restrict the time, place, or manner of speech. The ability of the government to restrict the content of speech only exists in rare and extreme circumstances. What the government may not do is restrict the viewpoint expressed in speech. Let me give an example of this distinction. The federal government can prohibit corporations from sending information by mail across state lines. What they may not do is selectively favor certain viewpoints that may be expressed in that mail. The government may not say that non-political viewpoints (e.g., "buy our stuff") are allowed, but political viewpoints are prohibited.

Obama sets the stage for success in the U.S.

President Barack Obama entered the House chambers last week amid growing criticism and plummeting poll numbers, and with an American public who is beginning to sincerely doubt his ability to bring change to Washington. The speech was heavily focused on the economy and helped set the tone and agenda necessary to pull the United States back from the abyss.

The economic portion of the speech centered on job creation and what it would take to finally get the 10 percent of Americans who are unemployed back to work. The president asked Congress for a jobs bill to inject the necessary funds into the economy that will stimulate growth. According to Obama, his stimulus package has saved or created an estimated 2 million jobs and will create an additional 1.5 million by year's end. While skeptics and critics of the stimulus package still trumpet it as a failed piece of legislation, when one goes beyond what critics and pundits say, it is working.

President Obama staunchly defended his policies from conservative attacks by proudly reaffirming that his administration cut taxes for millions of Americans during his first year in office. This announcement did not find any support among Republicans who are seething with anger over Obama's decision to let George W. Bush's tax cuts expire at the end of this year. These massive cuts did little to help middle class families and allowed the wealthy to live lavishly during these lean times.

Health care reform took a smaller stage than usual, but Obama reaffirmed his commitment to the long embattled debate and hopes to have health care reform passed in the near future. With Americans concerned over the mounting deficit, the president proposed a federal spending freeze. Estimates show that there will be a \$1 trillion deficit reduction during the next two decades. These represent just some of the ways the of tackling the continuing economic issues plaguing our nation.

Aside from the economy, which dominated the speech, President Obama discussed at length the lack of leadership on Capitol Hill. Republicans in the Senate have been using the filibuster option at a record pace, requiring the Democratic majority to scrape together a supermajority (60 votes) that they just don't have. This obstructionist behavior led to a legislative standstill and is partially responsible for the lack of progress on the president's legislative agenda. The president looked sternly toward the Republican side of the chamber declaring, "Just saying no to everything isn't leadership."

This obstacle of hyper-partisanship has created gridlock in Washington at a time when few



JOEL MENDELSON
COLUMNIST

Americans can afford to sit idly by and watch Congress bicker. President Obama laid out an agenda filled with ambitious yet achievable goals for Congress and the United States. Financial, energy and infrastructure reforms are hardly hyper-partisan in nature.

If one throws their ridiculous partisan label out the window, you might start to realize the importance of true reform in this country. The president isn't proposing some scary socialist agenda, as some would have you believe; it's an agenda that supports the United States and its people, something that's been regularly neglected over the past decade. Some will still fight against investment in education, jobs creation, energy independence and the middle class, but if the president were of the same party as those in opposition, they'd support every word that came from his mouth.

That's what has become so unfortunate in the United States: If you don't support the political party of the president or any other government official their message instantly becomes wrong and poisonous to American growth. We remain divided due in part to our constant need for political news, and we lack the knowledge to separate politics from governance. This isn't the Democratic Party takeover of America, this is a man trying to lead the United States in the direction he feels is best, and he's giving it everything he's got. President Obama is ready to roll up his sleeves and so are the American people. Let's hope Congress can follow suit. From the economy to education, from infrastructure to national security, President Obama is my president, he's your president, and he's the President of the United States. If we let him lead, the country will not spiral downwards into oblivion, and we can recapture the American spirit and build a better tomorrow.

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Life, liberty and lipitor: A moral manifesto

"The moral code of our society is so demanding that no one can think, feel and act in a completely moral way. For example, we are not supposed to hate anyone, yet almost everyone hates somebody at some time or other, whether he admits it to himself or not. Some people are so highly socialized that the attempt to think, feel and act morally imposes a severe burden on them. In order to avoid feelings of guilt, they continually have to deceive themselves about their own motives and find moral explanations for feelings and actions that in reality have a non-moral origin."

These words are found in "Industrial Society and Its Future," written by Theodore Kaczynski, who is perhaps best known as the infamous "Unabomber." Now, before you write me off as a lunatic quoting murderous eco-terrorists, consider what these particular thoughts from a man who was the youngest professor ever at the University of California at Berkeley may actually mean. While it does indicate this columnist is not above petty, attention-grabbing tactics such as sensationalism, it also emphasizes that few things so effectively connote the gravity of an issue like irony. It is no less than ironic that I think Kaczynski is exactly correct when he concludes that society is at best schizophrenic, and at worst comatose, when confronted with the matter of morality.

Kaczynski's own personal philosophies – not to mention actions – aside, this is the point where his attribution will end. Kaczynski believed modern technology in the wake of the Industrial Revolution has done and continues to do more harm than good and actually paralyzes human choice and freedom, rather than proliferating it. This columnist, however, would disagree. Few would argue that the last two centuries have given America and the world more hope to improve the human condition than the last two millennia ever did.

And therein lies the problem: In a country so wealthy and so full of luxury, many consider it only appropriate and even moral to take the necessities and make them "rights." From the left calling for living wages and homeownership and the right calling for religious and social orthodoxy, the average American citizen is now being asked and even bullied into signing on the dotted line without being allowed to read and much less understand, the fine print. From preserving marriage to reinventing health care, the individual is given only false alternatives. What does it matter who marries? It would seem infidelity and divorce are greater enemies to marriage than any social minorities. Why should some have to pay for others' health care, regardless of the insurance structure? Social Security should rectify the in-

solencies already evident in the present system, as well as any future nationalization.

The systemic problem, and implicit solution, is an immoral approach to rights as they are viewed today. To legislate, establish or champion anything that clearly requires others' effort to produce or a service is a violation of what makes something a right. Credit and loan regulations and net neutrality advocacy all violate these principles, even while masquerading as protection and fairness, even justice. What is certainly nothing new but must still be clearly understood is that there are good choices and convenient choices, and it is the individual's responsibility to see where that real alternative lies. Perhaps the best determinant of true morality is asking yourself whether you are achieving good or simply assuaging guilt.

If I have a right to health care, that means I have a right to the doctor's in education, his ability as a skilled laborer, his energy as a human being. Regardless of one's feelings toward how lucrative a profession or enterprise may be, a need for its use is not a claim on its use.

Legislating such mandatory service is tantamount to barging into a medical practice and demanding to be treated by virtue of one's mere existence, the only difference being whether a law exists to justify the claimant. The moral



JOE ROESCH
GUEST COLUMNIST

action is taken when one gives a dollar to charity or invests a dollar by sound speculation; for that dollar to be taken, even in the name of charity or sound speculation, is to justify theft and redistribution in the name of those virtues, which is perhaps a worse vice than parsimony or hedonism.

Joe Roesch is completing a degree in political science while preparing for law school, and can be found every Tuesday at 11 a.m. hosting The Live Wire Show @ ksuradio.com. He is all bark and no bite.

America blindly embraces fascist economics

On Feb. 10, 2009, I wrote a column entitled "The march to socialism." After a year of research and re-evaluation, I realized that I could not have been more wrong. We are not on the path to socialism. Instead, our economic system has resembled and continues to resemble the economic system of fascism.

First, it is necessary to define our terms. Socialism is a system in which the government owns the means of production, and property is owned collectively. Men are prohibited from retaining the fruits of their labor. Produced goods are given to the state and distributed equally to the collective. We are obviously not headed toward this particular system, although we already have socialist policies.

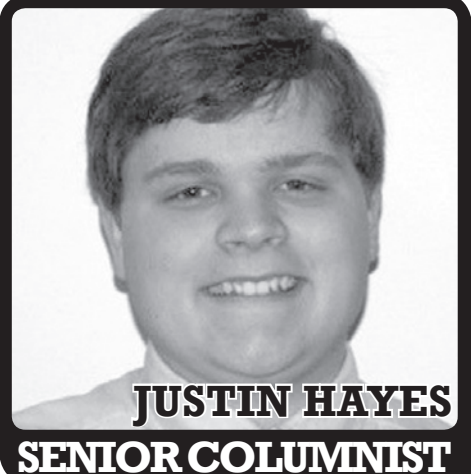
Capitalism, on the other hand, is a system that protects the natural rights of the individual. Man has a right to his life, liberty and property. In this system, government serves to protect man's rights from the use of force or fraud. The laws protect man from theft, death and slavery. The prohibition of force is the essence of capitalism. Any system that proclaims to be capitalist and does not prohibit force is a wolf in sheep's clothing.

Where, then, does fascism fit in the economic spectrum? It neither protects private property nor abolishes it. We often hear that America has a "mixed economy" – a mixture of capitalist and socialist policies. In other words, we are allowed to keep private property, but government can regulate it, tax it and often seize it for the public good.

Private citizens own property, but the government has control over its use and disposal, negating the entire concept of ownership. It redistributes the wealth from the working class to the retired through Social Security and Medicare, and from the rich to the poor through taxation and welfare. It can even use our money to bail out failing banks, insurance firms, and automakers, while stipulating that those funds be used for the public interest.

Because the government controls how we use our property in our economy, businesses, unions and interest groups vie for favors, subsidies and regulation, which hurt or punish the competing interests. In a free and capitalist economy, these pressure groups have no place in government. All interests are treated with equal protection under the law. Which system sounds more like ours?

The health care bill is not about the needs of the people, but the interests of pressure groups. The unions want to increase coverage but refuse to have their pension plans taxed.



JUSTIN HAYES
SENIOR COLUMNIST

AARP wants reform but refuses to accept cuts in Medicare. The insurance industry favors reform measures that mandate coverage to increase their profits, but oppose a public option. Groups use the tool of government force to strip away the rights of others for their benefit.

The economic system of fascism is often referred to as corporatism, a merging of business and government. In a free economy, businesses that fail to please their shareholders or the public go out of business, while those companies that provide the best product at the lowest price succeed. In a corporatist economy, businesses – which often become government monopolies – are subsidized to provide for the public need. The government does not run the economy, but guides it with protections and subsidies.

Demagogues will often argue that capitalism only benefits big business. The person who shares this belief is mistaking capitalism for corporatism. Big business love a government intervention and regulation, and hates free-market policies. Larger companies can absorb the cost of regulation and higher taxation by raising the price or firing employees. Smaller competitors, on the other hand, do not have the extra capital and can potentially go out of business. Free markets level the playing field by forcing larger companies to outperform competitors to stay in business.

The economic system of fascism is the Third Way, the midpoint between capitalism and socialism. Fascism is not synonymous with racism or dictatorship. Democratic governments can control all affairs of a nation's industry, social interactions and commerce if that government abandons its protection of individual rights for the whims of the public.

How much do we rely on public opinion polls for policy positions? How often do we hear about the importance of pragmatism over principle? How often are those with principles labeled extremists? Fascism, in this country, comes not from a tyrant but from a government absent of principles.

Agree? Disagree? Call into *The Gerb Report* 678-797-2665 every Thursday between 6-8 p.m. Listen at ksuradio.com.

Massachusetts says no to President Obama

The Massachusetts election of Scott Brown to the U.S. Senate two weeks ago has sent ripples through the political world. The short-term consequences are rather obvious, since Brown made them a major part of his campaign. With his election reducing the Democrats' number of seats in the Senate to 59, the controversial health care legislation, still required to go through Congress at least once more, will be threatened by a Republican filibuster. Really, any controversial legislation the Democrats attempt to get passed (such as the much debated and proposed cap and trade legislation) is no longer immune to a filibuster.

The people of Massachusetts knew what electing Brown would mean: The possible death of health care legislation, at least in its current form. Because they knew this and still elected him, it also means one of two things: Either they supported Brown so much that they could stomach health care reform failing, or they voted Brown in to try and stop health care reform from passing. The first explanation seems entirely too complex and convoluted to be believable. If voters in Massachusetts loved the health care reform bill, they surely would not have voted for a man who campaigned on the promise that he would help defeat it. That leaves only the second option.

Clearly, the people of Massachusetts do not like the current health care bill Congress is considering. Scott Brown's election proves this, and when ultra-liberal Massachusetts

does something that drastic, one begins to wonder how the rest of the country feels. Of course, this election cannot tell us how anyone, aside from the people of Massachusetts, feel about the health care bill, or any other measures that Congress might propose, as only citizens of this state voted. But it does not take a great amount of connecting the dots to realize the outcome of this election raises the question: Does the rest of the country feel this way? It's not too far fetched to think they might.

Massachusetts, arguably one of the most liberal states in the country, rejects a liberal version of health care reform. Naturally, people are wondering if the same thing can happen in California. What about New York? Elsewhere in New England? Though no answer can be given to those questions with any shred of credibility (you'd have to be a psychic to know), Democrats around the country are tugging their collars in anxiety. Job security for them, once based merely on where they lived, is now a thing of the past, and they are entirely aware of it. The Massachusetts election showed that if voters are fed up enough with what they see in Washington, it doesn't matter who they are or what their party is; they will use the power of their votes to change things as they see fit.

The liberal legislative agenda being pushed by the Democrats in Congress has been opposed by Democrats in a liberal



NOAH SOLOMON
COLUMNIST

state. The Democratic congressmen will find it hard to pass liberal legislation with the constant feeling of their constituents' eyes on them, whether or not their constituents are indeed paying attention. So while the Massachusetts election cannot tell us whether or not it is an isolated incident or the beginning of a country-wide revolution, it will make congressmen of both parties wary of their actions. It affects Democrats now because they are the party in control; the exact same thing can happen if the Republicans gain majorities in Congress but lose sight of the desires of the people. Can a repeat of Massachusetts happen in California or New York? Yes. Will it? No one is able to tell. Will congressmen act as if it will? They should, or many seats will be lost this November.

Ultimate Fighting: America's latest moral doctrine

Why the MMA craze is an unsettling indictment of today's culture

I was watching a mixed martial arts event this weekend, and it suddenly dawned on me that the spike in MMA popularity is something more than a passing sensationalist fad. I mean, sure, we said the same thing about televised poker and professional wrestling, but this "ultimate fighting" is an altogether different entity.

During the commercial break, I glanced at a copy of Freud's "Civilization and Its Discontents" upon my bookshelf and began putting the two together. In the vaunted psychoanalyst's magnum opus, the father of modern day psychiatry determines that the individual, by his or her nature, is besotted by certain primal instincts, such as sexual desire and violent hostility towards aggressors. Thusly, per Freud, it is society's obligation to curb these absolute urges vis-à-vis intracommunal regulations. In other words, it's the responsibility of the collective to keep an eye on the individual and his or her animalistic wants.

But wait, isn't the collective just a gathering of individuals, who by Freud's own system, are carriers of the innate, primal rages that threaten to tear apart humanity at any moment?

Precisely, and that's where the collective gets creative with its methods of repression. For example, if humanity is genetically nothing more than testosterone-infused baboons, why not find a way to turn that primitive bloodlust into a spectator sport?

I guess the Romans were quite the innovators in this field; after all, they were the ones who came up with the idea of tossing Christians into lions' cages for cheap entertainment. A few centuries later, public executions were all the rage in Europe. Even Shakespeare used authentic plasma as a selling point for his stage productions.

And so, here we are, not in the era of Julius Caesar or Henry the VIII,

but in the age of Dana White and Brock Lesnar. Sure, the gilt armor may have been excised, but on a weekly basis, we as a nation are exposed to what is, in essence, modern day blood sport. Empirical wisdom states that perhaps a company would want to downplay the resemblance to barbarism of yore in its product. That being said, every Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) event begins with a gladiatorial throwback. Of course, we are a saner society than our Athenian forerunners; our battles are not fought to the death, just until the point of cerebral hemorrhaging. Hey, we're not a bunch of brutes, you know. This has become our new form of entertainment; long-removed from the days of John McCain calling the UFC a form of "human cockfighting," the UFC has become a bona fide, mainstream sensation. Its pay-per-view buy rates outsell boxing, and event results are covered on ESPN ahead of NFL games. You can't walk down a hallway without bumping into someone sporting a MMA-branded T-shirt. It has become a respected, legitimate aspect of our culture.

I wonder, just how much the ethos of ultimate fighting will permeate our national conscience. Perhaps in a few years, our school will have an officially recognized "MMA Team," and we can all gather around a modified dog kennel and hoot for our brethren as they attempt to yank the ligaments from one another's sockets. How long until Little League Baseball is replaced by Pee Wee cage fighting? Oh, imagine the incomparable bliss upon a parent's face as the fruits of his or her loins smashes the orbital structure of the neighbor's child with elbow strikes from the full mount!

You know, this could spark an entire paradigm shift in the way Americans



JAMES SWIFT
COLUMNIST

operate. I mean, why bother with things like "legal statutes" and "civilized discourse" when we can act like our heroes Georges St. Pierre and Kimbo Slice and settle our disputes with fists and Muay Thai kicks? Negotiations and understanding are for pansies; real men make sure their disputes end in puddles of blood and teeth. What a great message for children. What's the worst that can happen when we instill our offspring with the virtues of nationalism, xenophobia, misogyny and homophobia in tandem with fervent competitive instinct and proclivities for physical aggression?

But, I digress. As Freud stated more than eight decades ago, it's just catharsis, a simple way for society to get its giggles sans widespread hooliganism. The two guys bashing each other's brains in on Saturday night are mere representatives of the internalized libido of the 2.2 million viewers across the country, and I suppose it's better to have two yahoos pummeling each other senseless as opposed to living in a nation rife with fistcuffs.

I guess I'm just worried about what those fans are doing with their pent up enmity when ultimate fighting isn't on the tube.

FEATURES

"Beansweat?! Beansweat!"

Coalition embraces skeptics and believers alike

BERLIN SYLVESTRE
STAFF WRITER

All 22 faces at Thursday's meeting of the Student Coalition for Inquiry were alight with amusement when a surprise performer rose from his desk and stood to face them. In a demonstration of the mesmeric powers of seasoned trickery, Mick Stone, a conjurer and "only street magician who isn't homeless," opened the event with a spectacle of abracadabra.

Stone asked four audience members to write a question concerning their future on a small card and to conceal it in an envelope. Once collected, Stone held the still-sealed cards in his hand. The first one was pulled from the deck.

Looking at audience-member Jesus Nerio, he answered: "Not until you graduate." Stone then opened the envelope and read Nerio's question aloud: "Will I be deployed?" Eyes grew large and his enthralled audience shared astonished looks as, one by one, Stone gave appropriate responses to each sealed question.

Stone's look into the future was an unscheduled part of the SCI meeting held last week. The event was centered around James Randi's 1994 Nova expose, "Secrets of the Psychics." Randi, an internationally acclaimed magician and escape artist is perhaps most famous for his Million Dollar Challenge. Open to the public for nearly 50 years, the challenge asserts that if anyone can prove under controlled scientific observation that they are psychic, a \$1 million prize is theirs. Many contestants have entered, but none have gone home with the money. In fact, most contend-

ers don't make it beyond their own preliminary test, designed to their own specifications.

The film's focus is the debunking of popular scam artists like Peter Popoff of Peter Popoff Ministries. The head of a multimillion dollar televangelism empire, Popoff claimed to heal the sick and save the dying. Divinely blessed with the Lord's strength, his "laying of hands" supposedly enacted medical miracles on live tv that included the removal of cancer and abolishment of arthritis. In front of stunned audiences, Popoff's direct pipeline to God provided random names and ailments from audience members who he'd never met. "God" even offered Popoff their correct mailing addresses so he could recite them aloud to amazed believers, further proving his Heavenly connection. As it turned out, "God" was Popoff's wife, Elizabeth, who, via a wireless earpiece, fed Popoff information from prayer cards that were filled out by attendees before the show. Once exposed, the ministry folded and Popoff went bankrupt.

"These people aren't falling for these things because they're stupid," revealed graduate student Terry Jorgensen, an SCI coordinator. "It's because people that can pull this off are really smart."

While some consider Randi a "killjoy" for pulling the plug on acts like Popoff or exposing the secrets of "spoon bender" Uri Gellar, most see the revelation of these snake-oil salesmen as an act of public service.

"Why people have always been drawn into the irrational has always puzzled me," Randi confesses in the film.

The evening of intelligent dis-

cussion brought together people with a preference for rational thought over superstition. The assembly, enjoying the company of at least one professor, was comprised of students whose majors varied from international business to nursing.

Jorgensen, who is no stranger to openly challenging his peers on how their beliefs get in the way of fact, leads the meet-ups regularly to discuss a variety of often taboo subjects. Students attending SCI meet-ups can expect riveting topics and impassioned discussions on issues that those of the non-confrontational persuasion might avoid. The widely disapproved rebutting of the fallacies in religion, for example, is an on-the-table subject as is the hysteria generated by the non-vaccination crowd. The secular SCI provides a forum for students who love to talk shop on a variety of scientific musings without the interference of offending an association's ecclesiastical beliefs.

"The goals I focus on for the discussion groups are to promote a skeptical point of view and to create a campus community where open discussion can take place," Jorgensen said. "SCI is here for anyone who is interested in science. We want all the agnostics, atheists and nonbelievers at KSU to know that there are many more of us to connect with."

The coalition will host a friendly trivia challenge in which SCI will play against the Reformed University Fellowship. The challenge will take place Wednesday at 7:45 p.m. at the Mellow Mushroom on Chastain Road. For more information on SCI and its events, visit ksusci.com or join its Facebook group.



Photo from centerforinquiry.net

Mick Stone, the evening's guest entertainer, performs streetside. During the SCI meeting, Stone answered volunteers' questions that were sealed in envelopes.

Chinese new year celebration impresses guests with ribbon dances, rope shows

NADIA ABDULAH
COPY EDITOR

The Sixth Annual Chinese New Year Celebration took place at the Bobby Bailey Performance Center on Jan. 30. The celebration began with lively music and featured a dueling lion and dragon dance.

Dr. May Gao welcomed the audience by announcing that this year was the Year of the Tiger. "Let's talk about the Tiger people, and no—not the golfer," Dr. Gao said jokingly. "Tiger people are born leaders with a 'Let's go' attitude. They are daring fighters who will fight for their dreams." Anyone born in 1914, 1926, 1938, 1950, 1962, 1974, 1986, 1998 and 2010 fall into the Chinese zodiac symbol of the Tiger.

The actual date for the Chinese New Year is Feb. 14. An interesting fact to note is that the Chinese New Year is not only celebrated in China, but throughout Southeast Asia as well. The Sinawi folk music ensemble featured eight Korean musicians. "I really liked the Korean music—they had a unique sound," Andy Hall said.

The Chenxiao Dance School featured 20 girls performing the Mongolian dance, "Gallop Horse." The dance school has been in the Atlanta area for the past 13 years. The school won best individual performance in 1991.

Next, Lisa Chen performed an elaborate ribbon dance. "I enjoyed the ribbon dance—all the dancers performed beautifully and their costumes were elegant," Joyce Simmons said.

Another audience favorite was the rope show performed by K K Liu. "I have not seen a performance like Mr. K K Liu before," Hall said. "It was very interesting to see what someone can do with a rope and so much energy and flexibility."

The Chenxiao Dance School performed the last number, "Red Lantern." The performance featured coordinated dance moves with red lanterns.

Next, Gao invited everyone to dinner at the Student Center. "I really liked the Korean music segment, but I felt every performance gave me a good grasp on Asian culture," Paul Jones said. "Also, the food was great."

Dr. Dan Paracka announced that there will be five study abroad programs to China this year. Programs include studying the Chinese language, business, and intercultural communication in China. Visit the KSU's study abroad program page to learn more about the program and information on financial aid.

Overall, the Chinese New Year event continues to grow each year with new performances and delicious Asian cuisine.



Photos by Noel Madali | The Sentinel

Performers at the Chinese celebration wow the audience and ring in the new year.



Musical production sells out in campus theater

KAREN ROOKER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Department of Theatre and Performance Studies' production of "Bat Boy: The Musical" as it took KSU's Black Box Theater by storm from Jan. 26 to 31. With sold-out performances, "Bat Boy" started the spring 2010 season with a bang, incorporating multimedia elements not often seen in traditional musicals. However, "Bat Boy" is not your traditional musical.

The story was spawned from the tabloid of the Weekly World News depicting a half-man, half-bat creature. "Bat Boy" is a fusion of tragedy and comedy, juxtaposing stories of rape, violence, incest, murder and revenge with the comical ignorance of the townsfolk. Despite all these elements, this contemporary rock musical tells the story of acceptance.

"Bat Boy" is set in the rural town of Hope Falls, W.Va. From the very first moment, audience members become a part of the story, taking their seats in an old drive-in movie theatre. The specificity and versatility of the set created a believable world in which scenes flowed seamlessly from one to the other. The element that contributed to the set's believability may have been the car seat sofa, table created from the hood of a car, run-down drive-in theater metal railings or it could have been the fully climbable telephone pole. Regardless, Scenic Designer James Maloof should be commended for his creations. The pre-show video montage of classic sci-fi and horror films added to the dark and satirical mood of the production.

Another highlight was the black-and-white flashback video during the "Revelations" scene. Creating the world of "Bat Boy" inside a black box theater was also fully realized with talents of Costume Designer Jamie Bullins and Lighting Designer Ben Tilly. However elaborate the technical elements of the production were, they only forward the overall story of the musical told by the

characters. The protagonist, played by Chase Todd, was both endearing and foreboding. Todd's physicality and vocal talent allowed him to transform effortlessly from a feral creature to a British-accented scholar.

When asked about his specific preparation for the role, Todd said "For the role of Batboy, I began working on my music in late October...I worked every day to be completely memorized and solid by the time we continued rehearsal at the beginning of 2010...You know the saying, 'practice makes perfect,' well I might not be perfect, but I do strive for it every day. It was a true challenge to find the balance between Edgar's animal instincts and his human mannerisms. From an acting stand point, I have never been challenged in this way."

Senior Nicholas Morrett, freshman Sarah Peavy, senior Natalie Barrow and the energetic ensemble also assisted the story telling, with demanding stage presences matched with their exceptional vocal talent.

The production's success could not be acclaimed without acknowledging the director, Dean Adams. The author's note prefacing the script, written by Kethe Farley, Brian Flemming and Laurence O'Keefe, states that, "[T]here is only one sure way to play this material — truthfully...If you play these characters sincerely and truthfully and to the hilt, you'll get plenty of laughs and you'll get much more." KSU's production of "Bat Boy" does justice to those directions.

"Bat Boy" the musical was an incredibly challenging production that achieved standing ovations and sold-out houses. Todd sums up the experience by saying, "If you take away the lights, sound, set, costumes and everything extra—this is an amazing show. Laurence O'Keefe wrote a show about being different and the search for acceptance. I think every single person that sees this show can relate to that in some way. They may not have bat ears or a British accent in West Virginia, but everyone faces those challenges."



Contemporary rock musical "Bat Boy" filled the seats of KSU's Black Box Theater during the last week of January. Photo courtesy of Karen Rooker



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CineKAB reopens on campus, offering new benefits

JOSH PATE
STAFF WRITER

At the beginning of every semester, KSU students are always confronted with fees; somewhere in between tuition, the cost of books, and about a dozen fees, \$ 75 goes to the Kennesaw Activities Board to fund all kinds of events on campus including free movie rentals. On January 26, in the Student Center cafeteria, a line around 100 people more waited for CineKAB to re-open. Students started to show up an hour before CineKAB was supposed to open to wait for free Avatar t-shirts and pizza.

"I love Avatar!" Rya Hartman said, as she stood in line for the anticipated Avatar t-shirt. As promised, the CineKAB opened their doors at 12:30 and 100 Avatar t-shirts in addition to pizza were given away.

The CineKAB's Web site said that the movie selection is updated every month, but CineKAB always welcomes donations from students or teachers.

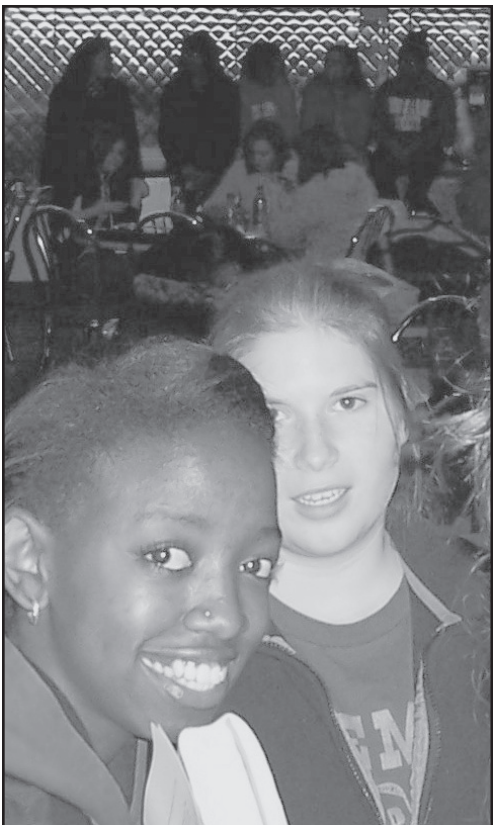
2010, though, has called for KAB and CineKAB to revamp; one new feature that KAB announced was an all new rewards incentive programs. Students at the CineKAB re-opening were among the first to receive the all new VIK (Very Important Kabbie) Card. This card gets a punch hole upon CineKAB entry and once all the spaces are punched, the cardholder is entitled to VIK benefits such as advanced places in line, VIK seating and a special gift.

CineKAB's rental policy remains the same, whereby rentals are due after two business days, and a 1\$ a day reoccur-

ring fine thereafter.

Check out CineKAB in the Student Center cafeteria next to the Chick-fil-a and the Bookstore for free rentals.

Stop by the CineKAB office to donate your old DVDs or e-mail the CineKAB coordinator at cinekab@ksukab.com.



Josh Pate | The Sentinel

Students are totally psyched about the reopening of CineKAB.

Literary icon leaves behind legacy

TORI WESTER
STAFF WRITER

A literary legend left us on Jan. 28: author Jerome David Salinger was found dead in his Cornish, N. H. home at age 91.

Salinger was born on Jan. 1, 1919 and raised in Manhattan. He is most famed for his 1951 novel titled "The Catcher in the Rye," which tells the story of a young boy suffering from a mind in turmoil and a heart too heavy from living in a world of "phonies."

The novel's troubled hero Holden Caulfield worked his way into the hearts of millions of readers as the novel still sells close to 250,000 copies per year, opening the minds of many. However, this book was not without controversy—often banned between 1966 and 1975 for its frequent use of vulgar language, image of sex scenes and moral issues.

"The Catcher in the Rye" opened an entire new world for American literature. For instance, the Bildungsroman (coming-of-age tales) genre would be nothing without Salinger's novel. It is possible that works of the Jack Kerouac, Kurt Vonnegut and the ever-popular "The Perks of Being a Wallflower" would not have been published had it not been for the risqué, precarious works of Salinger. His concept of the novel shook up the literary world and gave way to even more jolting literature such as the Beat

Generation of the 1950s and the internally struggling character as a quintessential element of the modern novel.

Salinger himself was much like Holden. He was always secretive and was quite reclusive after "The Catcher in the Rye" experienced such vast popularity. Salinger's last known interview was in 1980; he had remained hidden away in his home in Cornish during his remaining years.

One of the most prominent and pressing questions concerning Salinger's death is simply "What will happen next?" It has been rumored often that his home holds mountains of unfinished manuscripts and now that he has passed away, these manuscripts may finally be published.

Also, filmmaking rights to Catcher in the Rye finally may be available. For years, filmmakers have yearning to transform Holden's story into a screenplay, but Salinger refused even to discuss the possibility. In a response to a fan letter in 1957, Salinger said he would leave the film rights to his wife and daughter. However, he not only separated from his wife, but his daughter wrote a scathing memoir about Salinger, thus further confounding the question of to whom the rights belong.

In addition to "The Catcher in the Rye," Salinger also wrote "Nine Stories," "Franny and Zooey," "Raise High the Roof Beam" and "Carpenters and Seymour: An Introduction."

Gibson returns: Edge of Darkness review

T.J. HARTNETT
STAFF WRITER

After eight years away, Mel Gibson has returned to the big screen. The near decade-long absence has, however, put no cobwebs on Gibson's ability to keep an audience paying attention.

In Martin Campbell's "Edge of Darkness," Gibson plays Boston Police Detective Thomas Craven, who loses his adult daughter when she is gunned down outside his house during a visit. Initially the police believe the hit was meant for Craven, but as he digs deeper into his daughter's life, the devastated and revenge-minded father realizes that the killer may not have missed his target after all.

The talent pool of this film alone may perk the interest of the moderate moviegoer. Campbell recently directed 2006's James Bond reboot "Casino Royale," and writer William Monahan won an Academy Award for that same year's Best Picture "The Departed." Gibson is back doing what he does best: getting mad and getting even. In the anthology of his "I've lost someone and now I'm angry" films, "Edge of Darkness" may not reach the classic heights as "Braveheart," "Mad Max," or the "Lethal Weapon" films, but it can certainly be mentioned in the conversation alongside "Ransom" or "The Patriot."

Make no mistake, this movie is thrilling. It won't pick up any major awards next year, and the story isn't particularly thought-provoking or original, but it is involving enough that you want to see Mel get pissed and take the fight to the bad guys. Craven is written well enough; he's a wily police veteran who uses his experience brilliantly to outwit the antagonistic forces he faces. The story beds an evil corporation with a politician, not a stretch to imagine, but if there was supposed to be a statement with this film, it gets lost. Of

course, no one will be seeing this movie because they need to learn something.

The movie's action sequences are just what you would expect from this kind of flick: gritty, violent, and adrenaline-pumping. There are no special effects in the movie, but that won't stop you from wanting to cheer when Craven takes out the evildoers. As an added bonus, the performances in between action scenes and clever police tricks Craven plays are very good.

Gibson is terrific, transitioning smoothly from the grieving father to the vengeance driven, borderline madman that is somewhat of a trademark for the 54 year-old actor. Danny Huston plays his corporate villain with full on menace; there is nothing to suggest that this character has redeemable qualities.

While this may not make for the kind of character that will live on for ages, it is certainly the kind of bad guy that is easy to hate. Bojana Novakovic plays the ill-fated daughter, who still manages to make you care that she's murdered, even though her screen time is incredibly brief. The real gem, however, is Ray Winstone as the mysterious Jedburgh. A government cleaner of some kind, the film keeps you guessing as to whose side Jedburgh is really on. Winstone nearly steals every scene he's in from Gibson, and gives his character a healthy dose of nuance and world-weariness that even though he might be strong-arming the hero, you root for him.

"Edge of Darkness" is by no means a great film; but it will take you in and keep you riveted for two hours. There is great talent both in front and behind the camera, but this film won't be considered anyone's masterpiece; in short, it's professionals doing a great job, and that's all. If you want a movie that will win awards, look elsewhere. If you like to see Mel Gibson capping dudes who really deserve it, then "Edge of Darkness" is definitely the movie to see.

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Tuesday, February 9, 2010: 7:00PM. Moderator: Ms. Rosanna Farias Ayala, Instructor of Spanish, Kennesaw State University

UN SECRET- A SECRET

Wednesday, February 10, 2010: 7:00PM. Moderator: Ms. Betsy Hance, Lecturer of Spanish, Kennesaw State University

AZUR ET ASMAR

Thursday, February 11, 2010: 7:00PM. Moderator: Dr. Susanne Kelley, Assistant Professor of German, Kennesaw State University

ROMAN DE GARE

Friday, February 12, 2010: 7:00PM. Co-moderators: Dr. Neysa Figueroa, Assistant Professor of Spanish, Kennesaw State University; Dr. Ernesto Silva, Assistant Professor of Spanish, Kennesaw State University

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SPORTS

KSU v. Mercer: A budding rivalry



Spencer Dixon (left, top center) and Kurtis Woods (top right) help the Owls defeat FGCU.

Photos by Derek Wright | The Sentinel



Kurtis Woods (bottom center) and Jonathon Wipple (bottom right) prepare for the rivalry against the Mercer Bears.

JOHN MORBITZER
STAFF WRITER

Thursday at 5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., the Owls basketball programs will host the Mercer University Bears. Playing in the same state and conference, the Owls and Bears have faced each other annually since KSU joined Division I and the Atlantic Sun conference in the 2005-2006 athletic seasons.

"When we turned Division I five years ago, we just didn't really have a rivalry to call our own. So it makes sense they're less than 100 miles away from us. A lot of the athletic contests have been intense, a lot of these players have played against each other in high school," Brian Leheup, Assistant Director of Marketing at the KSU Athletic Department, said.

In collaboration with the Mercer University Athletic Department, the Owls and Bears have done their best to create an aura at the games with taking the cheer teams, dance teams and pep bands to each other's home courts.

"We try to create an atmosphere where the game becomes

important; our fans go down there, their fans come up here," Leheup said. "Their AD [athletic director] has been very accepting of this, after Georgia State left the conference, they were left without a rival, and we're definitely working together, and it comes down to the athletic teams being competitive."

Between the men's and women's basketball programs, the Owls are 8-9 against the Bears. The men's series has been closely battled with two games ending in overtime, and six of seven contests decided by seven points or less. The women have played well and have held their own, going 4-3 all-time against the in-state rival.

Both match ups will be tough, as the men's team won on the road earlier this year on a lay-in by sophomore guard Spencer Dixon with five seconds left to put KSU on top 71-69, giving head Coach Tony Ingle his one-hundred sixty-sixth win at KSU, the most by a men's head basketball coach. The Lady Owls struggled from the field in their contest against the Bears shooting only 18.8 percent, and less than 50 percent from the free-throw line, in a 38-60 road loss.

In a post-game interview Coach Ingle mentioned the crowd and energy during Saturday's win against FGCU.

"I thought the crowd was good. It seemed like there was a lot of energy tonight in situations," Ingle said.

Thursday night will also feature the third annual "Give a Shirt about KSU" campaign.

"We're going to be doing a T-shirt swap. I brought this in three years ago, and basically KSU students are encouraged to bring a UGA, Georgia Tech or another school's T-shirt and give it to us, and we'll give them a KSU T-shirt. It shows that they're switching allegiance, because a lot of kids didn't grow up rooting for KSU," Leheup said.

If parting ways with a non-KSU shirt will be hard for you, there is a charitable approach.

"All the shirts we collect will be going to Haiti," Leheup said. "We're working with the Haitian Student Alliance and we'll be shipping those out Friday hopefully."

Thursday night should prove to be an entertaining event for the supporters of KSU athletics, as many hope for Owl Nation to turn out in respect and full voice.

Owls dominate Eagles

JOHN MORBITZER
STAFF WRITER

In an exciting game that saw eight ties, 14 lead changes and an early 12-point lead erased to trail at half, the Owls (10-12, 5-6) kept their composure and defeated the Florida Gulf Coast Eagles (7-14, 4-8) Saturday in the Convocation Center 77-70, pushing their conference winning streak to four games.

Finding themselves down at the half, the Owls returned from the break determined and tied the game at 43 with 17 minutes left. FGCU had a response for every Owl basket as the next 13 minutes saw five ties and nine lead changes.

After a jumper by sophomore guard Kurtis Woods tied the game at 63, a steal by leading scorer Jon-Michael Nickerson led to a fast break and a lay-in by red-shirt freshman Markeith Cummings, who was fouled in the process. Cummings finished the play with the free throw, igniting the crowd.

Two free throws by Nickerson pushed the lead to five, and a surprising three-pointer by junior forward Matt Heramb allowed KSU to keep the lead.

The Eagles would threaten late, scor-

ing four lightning-quick points, but late free throws sealed the victory for the Owls.

The three-point play gave the Owls the energy needed for a finish strong.

"I knew the team could do it, I knew it was going to be a good ending after that," said Woods.

Woods and KSU stormed out in the first half with a 10-0 run that grew to a 12 point-lead with 13:37 remaining. Woods connected three times from behind the

arc and recorded a lay-up to score 11 of the Owls first 13 points. FGCU worked their way back however, and chipped away to find themselves ahead by four going into halftime.

“We came out in the second half, picked right up, we played strong and finished strong.”

"I was proud of the way they started; they came out ready to play," head coach Tony Ingle said. "Then we hit a lull and we didn't finish the half the as well as

we wanted. And frankly I felt it was my fault."

The coach was in visible pain, having to use a crutch to appear at mid-court before the game to be honored by KSU Athletic Director Dave Waples. Last week Ingle became the winningest head basketball coach in KSU history. Ingle sat most of the game due to back pain, getting on his crutch sparingly to inspire his players, but appeared in good spirits after the victory.

"It's tough to be in the game when you're in pain; it hurts when I'm sitting," Ingle said. "But we came out in the second half, picked right up, we played strong and finished strong."

The Black and Gold received a major contribution from Nickerson, who recorded a career-high and game-high 21 points. Nickerson was 6-7 from the field and a perfect 3-3 from the three-point line. Woods and Cummings added 16 points each.

KSU will stay at home for their next three match-ups, all with major conference standing implications.

The Owls take on the Mercer University Bears Thursday at 7:30 p.m. and the USC Upstate Spartans Saturday at 7:30 p.m.

2009-10 Men's Basketball Atlantic Sun Conference Standings

Conference	Overall	
School	W-L	W-L
Jacksonville	8-3	12-8
Lipscomb	8-4	11-10
Campbell	7-4	12-8
ETSU	7-4	11-11
Belmont	7-5	12-10
Mercer	6-5	10-11
KSU	5-6	10-12
UNF	5-7	10-12
>FGCU	4-8	7-14
>USC Upstate	3-8	3-17
Stetson	3-9	5-15

> - Not eligible for A-Sun Tournament play during NCAA reclassifying period

*-Clinched berth in Atlantic Sun Tournament

Owls paintball finish second

DEREK WRIGHT
SPORTS EDITOR

In their mid-season SEC tournament at Hot Shots Paintball in McDonough, Ga., the KSU paintball team finished second. The Owls registered two squads in the tournament, each consisting of six players.

Mitchell Van Den Akker, member of the team, has been playing for 13 years and tournament paintball for eight. During these eight years, Van Den Akker has played in nationally ranked tournaments.

"We mix the experienced players with the less experienced to make two different squads," Van Den Akker said. "We could have one awesome team and one with the less experienced players, but we want people to have fun and give everyone a chance to win."

The weather was less than ideal making the team deal with freezing temperatures, mud, rain and wind during the tournament. With the high of the day peaking at 34 degrees in the morning, the teams had to do everything they could to stay warm.

"The weather definitely has had a toll on us and our gear," Captain Spencer Lloyd said. "But we are definitely picking up steam here at the end of the tournament."

The format consisted of five versus five in

a single game format. Each team played seven games to have the chance to secure a seed in the single elimination rounds.

The KSU teams started slow, both winning and losing their first two games, but both teams started to get on a roll during the second half of the tournament.

"We had to pick it up and establish our self as an elite team," Van Der Akker said.

One of the squads won second place and went 7-4, only to suffer a loss to Florida Atlantic University in the final round. The other KSU squad finished with a fifth place win and a record of 5-4.

"We are not playing the best that we could," Lloyd said. "But we are starting to get the hang of it."

The team has four more tournaments, with an opportunity to play a fifth if the team decides to do so. After the tournaments they will travel down to Orlando, Fla. to play in the National College Paintball Association national tournament, which will be televised on ESPN.

"I am excited about the end of the season, for x-ball and for the national tournament," Lloyd said.

If interested in joining the team, there will be an informative meeting that will be advertised around campus and on their Web site clubs.kennesaw.edu



Spencer Lloyd adapts to unfavorable conditions for a second place victory. Derek Wright | The Sentinel

Lady Owls fight, fall to Eagles

JOHN MORBITZER
STAFF WRITER

Saturday night, the KSU Lady Owls basketball team (5-15, 2-9) fell to the Atlantic Sun, leading Florida Gulf Coast University Lady Eagles (16-4, 11-1) at home 64-75.

The second half showed their character as FGCU made the first basket of the half to push the lead to 14, the biggest of the night. The defense forced the Lady Eagles out of their game as KSU fought their way back to shrink the lead to four with 4:32 left in regulation, but that was the closest they would come to a tie as both teams traded baskets until free throws by FGCU, coupled with missed opportunities by KSU, pushed the lead to 10 with 1:10 left.

"I think it was probably the best performance we've had in the last 12 games," head coach Colby Tilley said. "They played hard. That's the hardest I've seen them play for as long as they did. I think we're almost there as far as turning the corner. I know the season is almost over, but these freshmen are finally understanding what we're trying to do. And everybody has battled hard. FGCU is number one in the league and we knew it was going to be a battle going in, so I'm proud of their effort."

The Black and Gold started strong trading baskets with FGCU, as they found success in the paint early with starting center Montinique Nixon, who scored six of the Owls' first 11 points, but the Lady Eagles adjusted as KSU struggled to find an answer for the opposition's perimeter offense. Though FGCU only made 25 percent of their second half three-pointers, the Lady Eagles shot 45 percent from the three-point line in the first half which fueled a 23-9 run that gave the Eagles a 32-18 lead with 5:07 left in the period.

"We weren't able to get out on their shooters," Tilley said. "They'll run double screens, staggered screens and it's just tough to get out there, and they all can shoot."

Though the Lady Owls knew it would be a challenge going into the match up, the team will continue to work hard after the loss.

"I think we fought hard," senior guard Gia Lockett said. "They're top in the conference right now and we're down there at 2-8. But we fought hard the whole game."

KSU showed a balanced attack with sophomore guard Angie Smith leading the Lady Owls, scoring with 16, shooting 2-3 from beyond the arch and recording a team-high seven assists. FGCU's Adrienne McNally led both teams in scoring with 25, shooting 8-9 from the free throw line.



Forward Lisa Capellan defends against the Lady Eagles. Greg Ranallo | The Sentinel



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