

THE SENTINEL

OF KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY

VOLUME 45 ISSUE 17

SERVING SINCE 1966

Tuesday, Feb. 9, 2010

SGA votes against massage chairs

KEVIN SCHMIDT
STAFF WRITER

The Student Government Association debated but ultimately dismissed the purchase of four massage chairs for the Student Center at its meeting Thursday, Feb. 4.

The proposal included three chairs at the cost of \$499 each and one large chair at \$879. Although the Department of Student Life would have been responsible for placement, it was discussed that two of the chairs were to be placed in the bottom floor of the Student Center while the other two would be placed in the student organization cubicles on the third floor.

Brigitte Becquet, secretary of academic affairs, drafted the proposal. She said she had heard about other schools having them and that the KSU students she talked to “really liked the idea that their student fees would be going to something that they could use and reuse and in a way they would feel appreciated by the school.”

Becquet arrived at the meeting with a petition in support of her proposal signed by 1,000 KSU students collected over the four days prior to the meeting. Becquet said that the petition laid out the entire proposal and asked students whether or not they would support the purchase. The debate became heated when one senator challenged the validity of the petition and accused it of being “biased.” Two members defended the petition’s validity, including Crystal Rouse, SGA treasurer.

One member questioned who would be responsible for the cost of repairs due to vandalism. Becquet responded by noting that KSU already has a policy on vandalism and that the school, not SGA, would pay



Caitlyn Van Orden | The Sentinel

Brigitte Becquet, SGA secretary of academic affairs, justifies her proposal at the SGA meeting last Thursday. The proposal was voted down 20-7.

for the repairs.

Although she said she didn’t expect the bill to pass, Becquet said that if the student body wanted these chairs, it would be the responsibility of their representatives in student government to oblige.

Senator-at-Large Justin Hayes responded during discussion saying, “It’s not about whether the students want it or not. It’s about what the purpose of SGA is.”

Some students came to the meeting to voice their opinion on the proposal.

Matt Nix, a senior political science major, said, “I think it’s ridiculous this took so much time to even debate. This spending is frivolous and silly. Anyone with common sense can recognize that.”

“There are better places to spend the money,” said Stephen J. Black, a junior middle grades education major who attended the meeting. “The Student Center has numerous issues that should be fixed, like the fact that nearly every computer here needs to be replaced.”

At the end of discussion a roll call vote was held. The proposal was defeated by a margin of 20-7.

SGA Vice President Darius Robinson, who voted for the proposal, justified his vote by saying, “The main thing is we are student

government. I feel that if this is what the students want we should give it to them.”

Senator of Business Kevin Hagler, who voted against the bill, said, “The students, through their representatives, voted to strike down the measure because they felt that the opportunity costs for massage chairs were too great. I hope this serves as an inflection point for campus involvement in SGA as students’ concerns about how their money is spent grow as their fees do.”

Senator Hayes echoed a similar sentiment.

“I am very pleased that the massage chair proposal failed. I believe that this proposal did not fit with the purpose of SGA. We are not supposed to buy anything that students want, but look out for their interests in their academic careers.”

Becquet was disappointed by the outcome of the vote and said, “If we are on SGA to be the voice of the students then the rest of the senate should have made a better effort to talk to the student body instead of making up their minds prior to this.”

Becquet graduates after this semester and said she does not plan to address the proposal again.

More info about SGA can be found at ksusga.com.

Students mourn Alcohol suspected cause in 21-year-old’s death

H.M. CAULEY
MANAGING EDITOR
MELISSA BUTZ
STAFF WRITER

About 200 people gathered on the Campus Green Feb. 2 to mourn the passing of Dorian Richard Varianna, an undergraduate who died on Jan. 31.

The crowd consisted of fellow students, fraternity brothers, friends and family members of the 21-year-old.

The cause of Varianna’s death has yet to be determined, but police suspect alcohol poisoning.

KSU counselors have been working with students impacted by Varianna’s death.

“It took a while before everyone realized that he wasn’t there,” said Michael Sanseviro, director of Residence Life. “Once we got the word out, it

with the university.

Varianna left the party at 2:30 a.m. and was taken to the Marietta home he shared with his younger brother, also a KSU student. The younger Varianna checked on his brother twice Sunday morning. The first time was at 6:30 a.m. and Dorian was asleep, but at 9 a.m. he was cold and not breathing.

Though there is no evidence that Varianna’s death was related to fraternity initiation activities, the Cobb Alcohol Taskforce announced plans to host a Youth Council in May to raise awareness of underage and binge drinking.

“[The Taskforce] mobilizes and challenges Cobb County adults to reduce underage drinking and youth binge drinking by advancing strategic enforcement, policy and education goals,” said Alisha

Bennett-Hart, public relations specialist for the Taskforce and a KSU alumna.

Sanseviro pointed out that KSU already has several alcohol-awareness related programs in place, but they are not necessarily popular.

“Theminate I start [taking about] doing drugs, sex and alcohol, they roll their

eyes and say, ‘We’ve had this before,’” he said. “But at the college level, they may not be thinking about how this information is impacting the choices they make.”

The Varianna brothers moved to Georgia from Westbury, N.Y., and attended Georgia Perimeter College before coming to KSU.



Dorian Varianna

hit some of his friends and frat brothers pretty hard.”

On Jan. 30, Varianna attended an off-campus event with many of his Delta Tau Delta brothers. Whether or not he was drinking is still unknown, since there are conflicting accounts of the evening. The party was not a fraternity event and was not affiliated

New food venue offers late night campus dining

The Hoot replaces Hemingwayz with food and games til 1 a.m.

CAITLYN NEWMAYER
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The Hoot, Culinary Services’ new retail venue, is now open.

Located in University Village Building 6000 in the former Hemingwayz location, The Hoot serves KSU night Owls until 1 a.m., seven days a week. Lunch is also served until 3 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

Up to 92 diners can dig into burgers, fries, salads, smoothies and a range of beverages. Most items are priced at \$3.99.

The combination of low-priced fuel and late hours makes The Hoot a good fit with most students’ lifestyles.

“It was important to create a location that was convenient to students with hours of operation that accommodate the busy, sometimes late night student,” said Gary Coltek, director of Culinary Services.

The Commons, KSU’s dining hall, closes at 8 p.m., often leaving late-nighters scrounging for food off-campus. But

the opening of The Hoot means on-campus residents such as Goldie Wong won’t have far to go to fill up.

“We like this place the best because it has decent prices and it’s open late,” said Wong, a freshman resident, who lives in the dorms a short walk from The Hoot.

The sports-themed restaurant is decorated with gear from KSU Athletics and Club sports. Culinary Services is working with Athletics to stream live games of NCAA games at KSU into the venue. There’s also an arcade where diners can unwind over a number of games.

Coltek expects an increase in business at The Hoot over the next few weeks when credit and debit cards will be accepted.

The Hoot is a joint effort of the KSU Foundation and Culinary Services.

“We are grateful to the KSU Foundation for their support in making it possible for us to open our doors,” said Coltek. “We are excited to round out the selection of food venues on campus with The Hoot. Students are our clients, and it is important to us to offer a top-notch, late-night option.”



Adeolu Adebayo | The Sentinel

Sophomore Jasmine Foster, left, and senior Tarah Soward grab dinner at The Hoot on Monday. Sophomore Alora Davenport takes their orders.

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Coles to host health care forum

CHRISTOPHER MCLEOD
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Coles College of Business will host a health care forum Thursday, Feb. 18, from 6 to 8 p.m. to discuss the current health care reform debate.

"The critical issue with health care is rising cost, which continues to limit access because it is too expensive. Our panelists will discuss the causes of rising cost, the reasons for limited access and the best way to limit cost increases while expanding access to it," said Don Sabbarese, the host of the forum and director of the Econometric Center at the Coles College of Business.

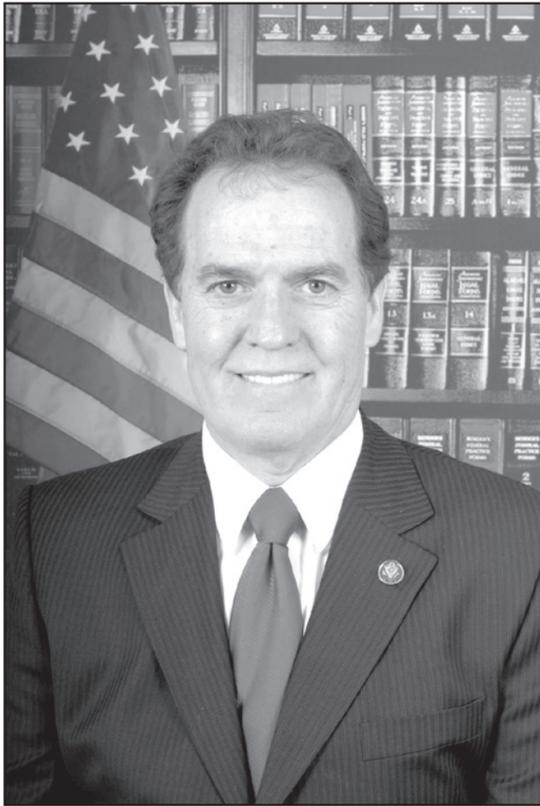
Some of the questions the panel will address are what Congress has not considered, how it will impact medical school applications, what happens if it fails and errors in logic in the program.

The panelists will be coming together from a variety of backgrounds in the health care industry to discuss their perspective on health care reform. The panel will include Rep. Phil Gingrey, Attorney Tobin Watt of Smith Moore Leatherwood, Executive Vice President and CFO Jim Budzinski of WellStar Health System and Dr. Kenneth Braunstein.

Rep. Gingrey is a graduate of Georgia Tech and the Medical College of Georgia. He is a medical doctor who ran his own pro-life OB-GYN practice for 26 years. He served on the Georgia Senate from 1999 until 2003 and was elected congressman for Georgia's 11th District in 2002. He is a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee where he is working to improve America's health care policy.

Among panelists, Watt will be speaking about health care reform from a legal standpoint. "Health care has become unbelievably complicated and regulated," said Watt.

Health care reform is one of the more controversial pieces of legislation Congress is trying to pass. Watt has practiced health care law for more than 20 years and has represented hospitals, physician groups and various ancillary providers on a variety of health care matters.



Rep. Phil Gingrey

After the panelists speak, there will be a short Q&A session. The health care forum will be held at KSU Center. To attend, RSVP to 770-423-6450 or ljones@kennesaw.edu.

Owl Radio seeks low-power signal

RAQUEL BARNETT
STAFF WRITER

Owl Radio is searching for an engineer in order to purchase a low-power FM signal.

Owl Radio can currently only be heard online at ksuradio.com. A signal has been one of the station's main goals since it went live in 2007, but according to Programming Director Andrew Groom, the idea has not always been feasible.

There are several factors that have stood in the way of getting an FM frequency. According to General Manager Kevin Schmidt, one problem is that "the FCC is not accepting licenses for FM stations in our area. This has been the case for a couple of years."

According to Groom, there is also the issue of constructing a tower. "Something that would require approval from KSU and a

way to fund the endeavor," said Groom.

Schmidt said there are two options for getting a radio frequency. The first is a low-power AM, which, according to Schmidt, would allow Owl Radio to broadcast in the areas around campus without any regulation or approval needed from the FCC. Since Congress passed a bill that will open up applications for low-powered FM frequencies, another option is to apply when the process opens up.

"With the growth that KSU has seen and the support it has garnered, we hope to have a frequency as soon as possible," Groom said.

"It looks very good in the near future but only time can tell," said Reggie Joseph, assistant promotions director.

Starting in February, Owl Radio will host KSU Idol, the live auditions for KSU Rocks!,

a local band concert to be held Saturday, April 17 at 5 p.m. in the University Rooms. Owl Radio will host. According to Joseph, all bands will audition on-air during various radio shows.

"This will be a two-week process and there will be a posted schedule of which bands will be auditioning on what shows," said Joseph.

More information about auditions can be found on Owl Radio's Web site.

"Owl Radio is a firm believer in diverse music as well as showing off our school spirit, so why not put on a concert to do just that?" said Joseph.

Some of the headlining bands are Rusted Soul, The Miles High Club, Go, Robo, Go! and eight other local KSU bands. In addition to music, there will be food as well as interviews with the bands. Admission will be \$3 for students and \$5 for non-students.

CAITLYN NEWMAYER
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Penis on Vehicle

On Jan. 24, an officer met with a man in the parking lot of Plant Operations in regard to damage to a vehicle. The owner of the vehicle stated that someone wrote profanity and drew a penis on his vehicle. The owner of the car stated that he did not have anyone upset or angry with him and had no idea who committed the damage.

Drunken Spitting Frenzy

An officer was dispatched on Jan. 26 to University Village Suites in regard to an unresponsive person. When arriving, the officer noticed a white male lying on the floor. A resident assistant stated that the male had very shallow breathing. The officer shook the male to see if he was unconscious and received no response. When asked if he was taking any medication, the male responded "no" and stated that he had consumed alcohol. Paramedics arrived on the scene to check the male's vital signs. The male became uncooperative and began spitting on himself. The paramedics had to place a mask on the male due to the spitting. He was transported to the hospital and was issued a citation for underage consumption.

Fruit throwers loose on campus

On Jan. 27, an RA from KSU Place notified officers of a public peace offense. The RA said he observed three males standing on the Campus Loop Road overpass, throwing what appeared to be fruit toward the Central Parking Deck. The officer spoke with the three males and one male admitted to throwing one piece of fruit at the parking deck. The officer drove through the parking deck and did not see any damage to vehicles caused by fruit. A student general misconduct incident report was completed on the three males.

Paraphernalia Galore

An RA informed police on Jan. 22 about possible marijuana located in a bedroom in University Place. Two RAs located marijuana in a bedroom as they were conducting a health and safety inspection. The officer observed marijuana in plain view in the bedroom and underneath the bathroom sink. The resident of the bedroom was contacted immediately and arrived to his apartment shortly after. Police obtained a search warrant and searched the bedroom and bathroom. They found two bags containing marijuana, tupperware containing marijuana, one large

POLICE BEAT

water pipe, a pack of rolling papers, a rolling machine, two glass pipes containing residue and a metal container that appeared to store marijuana. The resident was arrested for possession of a dangerous drug and issued a criminal trespass warning.

Missing Saxophone

A student met an officer on Feb. 2 in the Public Safety lobby in reference to a lost saxophone. The student stated that he placed his saxophone in a locker in the Music Building on Dec. 11. When he returned to the locker to get his saxophone on Jan. 11, the lock was missing from the locker and the saxophone was gone. The student did not have the serial numbers for the instrument.

Suspicious Odor

An officer was dispatched on Jan. 30 to University Village Suites in reference to a suspicious odor. Upon arrival, the officer could smell the odor of burnt mari-

juana coming from an apartment. The officer knocked on the door and a resident allowed him inside. Upon entering the apartment, the strong odor of burnt marijuana was present. The resident stated that he had smoked marijuana earlier outside the apartment. The officer proceeded to search his room and found a burnt substance in the bathroom toilet. No drugs or paraphernalia was found. The resident was issued a judicial hearing statement.

Theft of motor vehicle parts

On Jan. 27, police arrived at the North Parking Deck in regard to theft from a motor vehicle. The owner of the vehicle stated that he noticed his truck was making more noise than usual when running. He said he looked under the vehicle and noticed that the catalytic converter was missing. Nothing else appeared to be missing. The officer documented the missing item.

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OPINIONS

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KSU parking politics: The West Deck

The parking problem at KSU has been addressed recently in a number of ways. Heightened security, electronic arm bars, new parking hang tags and the construction of giant new parking decks are just some of the ways KSU has tried fixing the problems with its rarest commodity. But still I find that parking in the West Deck is often a challenge.

Every week I am left feeling ambivalent about my struggles in the West Deck. In analyzing the various feelings I am left with on any given Monday through Thursday, it occurred to me while I was waiting for the orange cones to be moved for access, that it was the politics of the KSU West Deck that have caused so much grief.

The KSU West Deck parking police patrol, hereon referred to as the PPP, employ 3 easily recognized political methods of parking control.

The Republican method of PPP parking control can be thought of as the KEEP OUT method. This is where the PPP block off the entrance to the deck with orange cones and stand guard to insure that no one enters the deck until five minutes before classes start. Students attempting to find parking on days when the PPP are like our Republican brethren enter the parking struggle with a chip on their shoulder's over being late at the hands of the PPP. Rather than

blame themselves for being late, parkers on KEEP OUT days blame the PPP and enter the deck angrily. Once inside, the angry parkers are left to their own devices under the watchful eye of the big-brother PPP who circle and evil-eye the soon-to-be-late students. The Republican method breeds feelings of general dissatisfaction, annoyance and anger towards the PPP. Introspection and personal accountability are replaced by anger and mistrust of the big-brother PPPs and their too-controlling policy methods. The Republican method fails.

The Democrat method of parking control is all about fairness. The PPP let anyone in at any time and then circle and actively involve the "fairness" and "rightness" of parking methods. The PPP make sure that everyone keeps moving and no one tries a sit and snoop or the stalking approach. The self-righteous PPP, with their carts and walkie-talkies, keep people moving in the name of fairness, but what it breeds is displaced anger at authority. No one thinks, "Yeah it would be better that I not stop for the 20 seconds needed for this person to get out; I hope that guy behind me gets this spot..." No, we think, "What a douche that guy in the golf cart is." The Democrat method of forcing "fairness" and "rightness" on us in the parking deck fails.

Finally, on rare and beautiful days, the KSU Parking Police employ the Libertarian method

of West Deck parking control: the Night Watchmen method. On these days, there are no orange cones blocking entrance and parkers are allowed to enter and exit the deck at will. On these days I, find a spot.

Under the Libertarian method, of parking control, parking at the West Deck is wonderful. The PPP leave the students to find parking entirely free of obstacles and do nothing, except in extreme cases where their services are ACTUALLY needed. Unlike the wild, wild west you may imagine when living under little to no control from authority we find quite the opposite. The natural ability of students to handle parking issues themselves increases.

You still see sit-and-swoopers, but other students just drive around them or get out and ask them to keep moving. Instead of general dissatisfaction with KSU parking and anger at authority, those students who don't find parking on Libertarian days have a strange thing that Republicans and Democrats are sadly missing: Personal Accountability. Parkers on Libertarian days realize that they don't have parking not because they were forced to give up their parking to someone else, or blocked from entry into the deck by the PPP, but because they overslept or didn't plan their day well enough.

On Republican parking days, I am angry and late; on Democrat parking days I am forced to give up what I need- often to someone who got



ALESSANDRA LARGENT
COLUMNIST

there after me and deserved the spot less than I. On Libertarian days I find parking.

With personal accountability, we rarely need authoritarian force either in the name of efficiency or fairness. With personal accountability, we rarely need Republicans or Democrats.

Alessandra Largent is a pre-law, political science major in her fourth year at Kennesaw State University. Her love of writing, debate and anything that may look good on her law school application has brought her dry humor and astute political savvy to The Sentinel.

Perdue makes the right move on constitutional reform

Recently, Governor Sonny Perdue proposed amending the State Constitution to allow the heads of the Georgia bureaucracy to be appointed, rather than elected by the voters. These positions include the state insurance commissioner, agricultural commissioner, the school superintendent and others.

The Constitution of the United States uses the same rules in appointing the heads of various departments. The Secretary of State is appointed by the President and must be confirmed by a majority of the Senate before he or she takes office. This prevents cronyism and gives the people an indirect, more informed voice on those filling these important decisions.

Imagine if the people elected the Secretaries of State, Defense, Treasury, Transportation and the other heads of the U.S. bureaucracy. We have no idea how much expertise each candidate has in each particular area, nor will the media ever have time to cover debates between each candidate for these positions. The public has no practical way of becoming informed on each candidate.

We must put our trust in the members of the Senate to make wise and informed decisions because they are on the front lines of policy-making. The Senate is elected by the people—unfortunately—and acts as an indirect voice for the interests of its constituents.

Also imagine if, rather than focusing on enforcing policy, each head of these departments had to worry about re-election every four years. Congress makes the laws, but the laws are never enforced until the departments change the way they operate to follow through with the laws. If the cabinet members had to worry about campaigning for re-election, almost nothing would get accomplished.

The same reasoning holds true on the state level. According to the Atlanta Journal Constitution, House Majority Leader Jerry Keen (R, St. Simons Island) said, "Most voters, when they go into the booth, know very little about the candidates" and that appointments would be more efficient. Although we know more about Georgia politicians than national ones, there is still a big enough information gap for the people to make wise decisions about who should head our bureaucracy.

Again, as on the national level, this proposal will leave no loopholes for cronyism as each appointment has to be confirmed by the State Senate. Although



JUSTIN HAYES
SENIOR COLUMNIST

efficient government is a bit of an oxymoron, this would make government more efficient—or at least competent.

The proposal also has support from members of the Senate such as Senator Bill Heath (R, Bremen), who is working to get more Georgia senators on board. He argues that having each of these commissioners elected keeps all of the bureaucracies divided and focused on re-election, rather than working with the Governor and legislature.

The founding fathers never wanted a purely democratic government on the national level, nor would I perceive they would want it on the state level. There needed to be checks on the power of government, but there also needed to be checks on the powers of the people. Allowing executives and legislatures to appoint members of the government keeps the government from being overcome by the whims of the masses.

The proposal will have to get support of two-thirds of both houses of the State Legislature for it to be given to the voters. If the legislature approves this proposal and it appears on the ballot, I urge every voter, Democrat or Republican to vote yes. Let us not have regulators and heads of these departments making decisions for votes, but for the right reasons. It will not become effective until 2014, but this is a reform that our state government needs.

Agree? Disagree? Call into The Gerb Report every Thursday from 6-8 p.m. at 678-797-2665. Tune in at ksuradio.com.

Don't buy what the president is selling

After Scott Brown's win in Massachusetts three weeks ago, the Democrats have scrambled to find a new strategy for communicating their message. President Barack Obama's performance on the recent GOP retreat is just the tip of the iceberg. The Democrats are lashing out at the Republicans in ways not seen since the 2008 election, and the timing of it (almost immediately after the election of Scott Brown) is no coincidence. The Democrats are hitting hard.

At the recent GOP retreat, President Obama attacked the Republicans for being the "party of no" and chastised them for their opposition to his party's legislative agenda. Over the past few weeks, Obama has continuously blasted the Republicans for their obstruction of legislation and their constant attempts to use the filibuster. Why the shift in rhetoric now? Why the aggression? Simple.

The Democrats have looked the November elections in the eye, and they are scared. They saw Scott Brown's election. They see the popularity of Fox News. They see the polls on health care and the rest of their agenda. For the Democrats, the Massachusetts special election was a wake-up call. Now, with public opinion slowly but surely turning against them, partially because the cycle of American politics dictates the president's party loses seats in Congress after that president's election, and partially because the public is tired of the liberal agenda they have constantly seen over the past year, the Democrats realize they need to shift gears if they are to minimize their losses this November.

The best way to do this, of course, is to make the American people think that the Republicans are either inept or malicious and that they don't have the best interests of the American people at heart, and that is exactly what the Democrats are doing. This way, when it comes time for the voters to pull the lever for someone in November, they will remember the Democrats are the ones who have been trying to help the country and save the economy, but they failed because the sinister Republicans stopped at nothing to block and destroy any legislation. At least, that's what the Democrats want us to think.

The Democrats want us to ignore the fact that Republicans have constantly had counter-proposals for health care and the economy, that the Democrats ignored. They want us to ignore the fact that it was the Democrats who planned to freeze Republicans out of the process of rec-



NOAH SOLOMON
COLUMNIST

onciling the House and Senate versions of the health care bill. I'm not here to tell you what to think, though. That's your job. I will tell you what's happening and why. Regardless of how much the Democrats say that the Massachusetts election doesn't matter, or, implicitly, how it means people are just frustrated with the fact that health care reform hasn't passed, their shift in strategy says something completely different.

Brown's election says they know what's happening: the Republicans are making a comeback. The Democrats, after a year of doing whatever they wanted, relaxing in the luxury of power, have finally come to their senses. Now, they have precious little time to correct their lack of listening to voters in 2009, so they have opted to play offense. President Obama, as the leader of the party and the most obvious mouthpiece, is leading this charge, attacking Republicans left and right in an attempt to "enlighten" the American people about the evils of the GOP. But it all is just a poorly disguised attempt at redirecting frustrated voters' away from the Democrats and their mistakes. Don't fall for it.

The rhetoric is nothing new, it's just louder. Don't buy into the idea that the Democrats are the good guys. I'm not saying the Republicans are 100 percent great, but the Democrats are only lashing out so much because they did so many things wrong last year. They pushed legislation no one wanted and ignored voters' wishes. When the Massachusetts special election showed voters knew it, too, the Democrats mobilized to shift the blame in a sloppy "we're bad, but look who's worse" fashion. I don't buy it, and neither should you.

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- 2.) The writer must include full name, year and major if a student, professional title if a KSU employee, and city if a Georgia resident.
- 3.) For verification purposes, students must also supply the last four digits of their student ID number and a phone number. This information will not be published. E-mail addresses are included with letters published in the web edition.
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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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NEWSMAKER GUEST COLUMN

The economic reasoning for the JOBS Act of 2010

REPRESENTATIVE TOM GRAVES

The economy is job one of the legislature and that must begin with getting Georgians back to work. A working Georgia will be the economic beacon and national leader in recovering from this recession.

Some believe that state revenues must increase to stimulate the economy. Some suggest we stimulate the economy by increasing government spending and regulating businesses to ensure a stable marketplace. Others maintain that raising taxes during tough economic times would bring in revenues needed to maintain a stable government. All these beliefs lead to one overarching philosophy of utopian socialism, an economic system based on equal outcomes, not equal opportunity. These "solutions" all lead to a government take-over of private businesses and government control over the free-market system.

Do these options sound familiar? We've heard these "solutions" presented to us by Atlanta Journal Constitution columnist Jay Bookman and Alan Essig of the Georgia Budget and Policy Institute. To them, I say nonsense, slow down, catch your breath and read the bill. More taxation, litigation and regulation can only have negative effects on our economy. They perpetuate the strangulation of private businesses and further restrict private citizen's ability to spend and invest their own money.

The greatest stimulus for a robust economy comes from an economic environment that encourages opportunity, productivity and innovation. The hard-working people of Georgia — not big government — are the key

to our economic prosperity. If consumers and investors have confidence in the economic environment, then personal spending, investing and job creation will occur. The Jobs, Opportunity, and Business Success Act of 2010 (JOBS Act of 2010) does just that and there is nothing more important for this legislature than to focus on creating jobs and opportunities for our communities. This legislation is designed to stimulate the state's economy by providing tax credits, cuts and incentives to create, expand and attract new businesses in Georgia.

Essig would have you believe that balancing budgets, stimulating the economy and bringing in state revenues is a complicated web of mathematics. They throw out large numbers and complicated equations to convince the populace that their way is the only way to recovery.

Let's keep this simple. State revenues mainly come from two areas — income taxes and sales taxes. If people aren't working, they aren't paying taxes and state revenues continue to decline.

My proposal is just as simple — provide private businesses incentives to hire somebody off of unemployment and then reward them with a tax break. This puts Georgians back to work, generating state revenues and increasing personal spending in to the market place. In addition, increases in unemployment "benefits" are leaches to state revenues. So why not encourage businesses to end their reliance on draining government programs? The quarterly tax credit I've proposed will have far

less impact on state revenues than the already draining effect of unemployment benefits.

Businesses will receive tax breaks only after creating a job. Once a job is created, then wealth is created. This wealth then results in spending. Spending results in supply demands for goods. And now the supply side theory of economics is in full swing and another job is created. State revenues will grow during this time because somebody is employed. This kind of stimulus is truly a free-market solution that empowers the private sector and will drive Georgia's economic recovery.

Georgia's ranking as one of the highest economic outlook states in the nation and having the lowest debt per capita among the 50 states makes our great state very attractive to employers and employees. Add this to the free-market economy solutions of the JOBS Act of 2010 and we will announce to the World that Georgia is open for business.

Representative Tom Graves represents the citizens of House District 12, which includes portions of Bartow, Gordon, and Pickens Counties. He was elected into the House of Representatives in 2002, and is currently the Chairman of the 9th District Caucus. He serves as the Vice-Chairman of the Motor Vehicles Committee and is also a member of the Health & Human Services, Transportation, and Ways & Means Committees.

The Grammy Awards: Still irrelevant



MATT NIX COLUMNIST

In the world of self-congratulatory, indulgent awards shows, there is no award show more self-congratulatory and indulgent than the Grammys.

Whatever credibility and grandeur the awards had in previous years has been lost to the creeping realization that the old business model of the music industry is slowly going obsolete like type-

challenge world-views or the musical establishment? What was its message? How did it redefine a genre? Even fellow nominees Dave Matthews Band would've been more deserving of that recognition, and that isn't saying much.

On another note, how was Beyonce's "Single Ladies" the song of the year? Shockingly, it was written by four different people, which is apparently what it takes to craft a tune that repeats "If you like it, then you should've put a ring on it!" 400 times in a row. So goes the Grammy awards, because in reality, the last thing it recognizes is artistic merit. The awards ceremony is a vehicle that bases success off big media visibility and sales, the latter of which is becoming less and less attainable for big labels.

Taylor Swift was crowned the darling of the music industry this year with no help from Kanye

The Grammys now resemble a collection of dinosaurs gathering in one room, dousing themselves in glitter and naively trying to convince themselves that they're still relevant while Lil Wayne sings about dropping the world on our heads.

writers and ska music.

In this brave new world of iTunes, YouTube and social networking, unsigned artists now have access to many of the same resources and exposure once reserved only to major labels.

The Grammy Awards now stand alone as the last remaining vestige of a once-great empire, a time long past when radio reigned supreme, and if we really wanted to be exposed to anything besides what we were force fed through MTV or the airwaves, we would be required to make a trip to Little Five Points and scour through the indie record store.

In the wake of new media, the Grammys now resemble a collection of dinosaurs gathering in one room, dousing themselves in glitter and naively trying to convince themselves that they're still relevant while Lil Wayne sings about dropping the world on our heads. Frankly, I think the future looks grim.

You can't tell me with an ounce of conviction that Taylor Swift crafted the best album of the year. I'm not sure she even made the best album of the week, let alone month. "Fearless" was the epitome of safe radio twang-pop, easily marketable to persuadable teenagers who needed a soundtrack when their tenth grade boyfriend dumped them for the cheerleading captain.

How did "Fearless"

West, and there will undoubtedly be another darling of the music industry emerging next year. With no intention of sounding conspiratorial, these poster children are marketed, packaged and carefully assembled via a team of top-notch producers and songwriters for your easily digestible listening pleasure. Consider these prepackaged radio stars to be the musical equivalent of candy: easily digestible, tastes good, but does absolutely nothing to satisfy you on a long term basis. Challenge yourself—there is amazing music out there.

What happens to the status of 'celebrity' when this metaphorical ship finally hits the proverbial iceberg? Big labels can't sustain themselves forever—especially when more and more independent artists are making a name for themselves without any aid from them whatsoever.

The culture of YouTube has single-handedly demolished the very schematics of music marketing. In its wake, maybe we'll eventually see less glitzy award shows and more displays of what music is really about—passion and raw expression. The music industry can keep the Grammy Awards. If I want to award a band, I'll do something rare in these days—I'll actually buy their album.

Matt Nix hosts 'Matt Nix on Mondays' every Monday night, 10 p.m.-midnight on ksuradio.com and sings in the local rock act Go, Robo! Go!

How your smart phone is actually making you DUMB

Life in the 21st century provides so many glorious conveniences. We have gadgets that quickly prepare food, televisions with hundreds of channels and access to an almost unlimited amount of information that can be discovered instantly. Nothing comes close to the impact that communication devices have brought upon our society, and it has fundamentally changed the way all of us operate. Over the last decade advances in cell phones and computers and communication technologies have been staggering. Advancements in society however, are rather disappointing.

Just 10 years ago text messaging was something people seldom did; while cell phone conversations, instant messaging and e-mail were the preferred method

of contacting someone. My, how times have changed. From Facebook to Twitter to texting, we're more connected to one another than ever, yet somehow we're seemingly disconnected personally. Rather than stopping for a conversation over a cup of warm coffee, we feel perfectly content sending a friend a text or Facebook message, thus ignoring their humanity. We no longer look a person in the eyes; we allow a device to do the communication. Facebookers connect, commiserate, hook-up and break-up, yet they may never leave the comfort of home. This is the early stage of us all losing our humanity.

On an average day, walk around KSU's campus and look out at

the thousands of students gracing the grounds. The beauty of the tall oaks, lush magnolias or even the occasional glance from a fellow student is ignored for the comfort of instant communication. We're hooked into our phones as we text message while listening to music and surfing the Web. Society is all around us, yet for many it simply no longer exists in a practical way. Americans used to pride themselves on a firm handshake and good conversation. Today, it's who has the latest iPhone or Blackberry and has the most Facebook "friends." Recent technology is taking a generation of young people and erasing their identities and personalities, while replacing it with the constant need to update information in the always-changing digital world. All the information you'd want about anyone is now stored on a server somewhere; there is no need to ask.

If you decide that the Internet just doesn't eliminate the need for human conversation, prepare for disappointment. The average conversation with a member of this generation typically contains a lack of eye contact, little or no enthusiasm and the need to constantly have a cellular device in hand. This allows the person you're conversing with to ignore you and carry on multiple digital conversations via text messages or social networking.

If this is what communication is like now, what will it be in the next decade?

The overuse of communication devices hasn't just led to a breakdown in verbal communication, but written text as well. Colleges have to devote an ever-increasing amount of time teaching students how to write and employers com-



JOEL MENDELSON COLUMNIST

plain that so few candidates for jobs can actually write a decent memo. Grammar has been replaced with the ease of sending a text message or a Tweet. A quick burst of communication that ignores spelling, grammar and structure has slimed its way into what should be formal writing. Professors see more students using emoticons on papers to express emotion than words. The craft of writing is lost on a generation too lazy and reliant on technology to learn the proper techniques.

Not only have verbal and written communication eroded, reading is now something far too time consuming. With a generation now used to reading Tweets and texts, picking up a book is quite passé. If someone managed to pick up a book, who knows if they could read and actually understand what is written? Another wondrous evolutionary invention has all but disappeared in the face of technology and even as Steve Jobs races to save reading with Apple's iPad, there's little hope for a generation unaccustomed to picking up a book.

However, it isn't too late to stop technology's domination over man. If we can all end our reliance on these devices and still find time to communicate with friends and colleagues with a conversation, learn the proper way to write and pick up a book every once in a while, society can certainly prosper. The challenge is to avoid the ease and simplicity cell phones and computers bring to humanity. Now is the time to end technology's grip on us before it's too late and we all end up :(.

Not only have verbal and written communication eroded, reading is now something far too time consuming. With a generation now used to reading Tweets and texts, picking up a book is quite passé.

of contacting someone. My, how times have changed.

From Facebook to Twitter to texting, we're more connected to one another than ever, yet somehow we're seemingly disconnected personally. Rather than stopping for a conversation over a cup of warm coffee, we feel perfectly content sending a friend a text or Facebook message, thus ignoring their humanity. We no longer look a person in the eyes; we allow a device to do the communication. Facebookers connect, commiserate, hook-up and break-up, yet they may never leave the comfort of home. This is the early stage of us all losing our humanity.

On an average day, walk around KSU's campus and look out at

All you need is love (and education on it)

Espousing the necessity for amorous tutelage in academia

My parents never told me anything about love, nor did I take a single course on the subject in my almost two-decade long stint in academic sojourning. While skimming across the KSU course catalog, I stumbled across literally hundreds upon hundreds of classes, and it suddenly dawned upon me: Why don't we have a class dedicated to the single most powerful element of the human experience?

Assuredly, the concept of "love" is the ultimate aspect of the human condition, and a notion that takes precedence over practically everything else in existence. The concept of "love" forms the nucleus of the family, which in turn, forms the basis of society. Since society dictates education (and its implications), I believe it is downright asinine that the formative backbone of culture isn't explored and researched.

A majority of our education is squandered on impractical memorization and irrelevant formulas. Sure, Boyle's Law is neat and all, but how often does it become the focus of one's being? Fundamentally, there is no man-made advent as engulfing and significant as the concept of "love," an ideal that is so far-reaching that it has implications on virtually every fiber of civilization.

Undoubtedly, "love" is a powerful ideal, the emotional equivalent of nuclear fission. When properly harnessed, it can illuminate

the entirety of our existences, becoming the undying power source that makes all of those mundane rituals of modern living so bright and beautiful. Conversely, when it becomes unstable, the very outlook of one's being becomes comparable to a Chernobyl-like panorama. "Love" is the enigmatic element that makes grocery shopping a magical expedition, and the intangible essence that seems to darken the horizon and poison the very air one breathes. For something to exist that is that powerful, why aren't we inundated with education on the subject from kindergarten up?

Of course, we all cart about noggins filled with state-funded sexual education; if everyone's aware of the significance of lustful consequences, why are we not shown the potential ravages of non-sensual amicability? In my 24 years on Earth, I have yet to encounter a single person afflicted by gonorrhea. That being said, if I were to quantify the number of people I know left mentally and emotionally battered by loveless marriages, exponents may be necessary.

Ultimately, examination of "love" should be an analysis of societal influence and not its biological constituents. The root problem I have seen with "love" in the American dynamic involves the role of cultural function, in which mates are forced due to ascribed mandates and convenience instead of sym-

biotic autonomy of the two individuals in question. This, of course, is symptomatic of a number of societal norms, such as class stature, religious tenants and perhaps most disturbingly socioeconomic pragmatism.

It's a peculiar topic to dwell upon, but perhaps no different than researching any theological component. At best, examination of the subject will always be a pseudo-scientific endeavor, but there remains that almost magical aura the draws one toward it. Really, "love" is a phantom concept, a state of being that is scientifically impossible to elucidate upon.

No one knows why people fall in love with the people they do, and certainly no one in love has ever pondered the genetic and philosophical rationale behind his or her affection. For the whole of humanity, "love" exists outside the confines of logical interpretation, yet no one dare question its existence. Gravity has more detractors than "love;" in that, not only is "love" more potent and poignant than religion, it even trumps our scientific principles.

Oh, it is a powerful thing, that "love." It is the veritable fuel behind our art, our architecture, and the very progression of our society. It is the muse of the artisan and the origin of our collective madness. It runs the world in which we live, and it can bring it to a sudden halt; it heals, it destroys, it saves, and it severs. We all agree that it's



JAMES SWIFT
COLUMNIST

the most important thing there is, but it is all but avoided in academic discourse.

"Love" is such an enormous topic that I shan't even attempt to formulate a blurb-worthy concluding quip on the matter. All I know is that it is something big, unfathomably, inhumanly big, and an element that one cannot help but approach in a state of frightened awe. There's certainly a reason why there are so many poems, sonnets and ballads about love, and why there are practically none on trigonometry and molecular biology. That's because "love" is infinitely more important than those trifling, inconsequential subjects we oft squander our time speculating upon.

Women, step up your game

The Sentinel recently published an Op-Ed article by Rebecca Duffield titled, "Step Up Your Game: Ten Ways KSU Guys Can Improve Their Powers of Attraction." I enjoyed this humorous and insightful article. Fellow guys, you might want to read it, too.

Her article got me thinking. The dynamics of attraction go both ways. Although notoriously bad about vocalizing their concerns, guys actually do pay attention to more than just cup size when thinking about a prospective mate. We just aren't very good at making our concerns known. Ladies, how many of you have ever been out with the girlfriends and listened to one of them badmouthing a guy to a chorus of nodding heads and sympathetic "Mhmmms!"?

Guys aren't as prone to vocalizing their complaints, so I'm going to do it in this article. I know I can't speak for every guy out there, but I will do my best to communicate shared concerns on behalf of my gender. Pay attention, ladies.

Guys are notoriously superficial, myself included. We admit this readily. A large part of this is an evolutionary footprint from our cave-man days. Don't worry if you aren't Jessica Alba, though. Think of beauty as being a sort of trade-off. After reading some of the complaints

I am going to list below, it might become more obvious as to why guys place such a high value on physical appearance. The ugly and offensive truth is that we need something to compensate for all the drama. Women can get away with a lot if they have supermodel looks. Less stunning women should read on.

Never gossip about your "friends" in front of us. That just diminishes our opinion of you. Hearing you badmouthing people who are supposed to be close to you only makes us wonder what you say about us when we aren't around. If we see you being disloyal to your friends, how are we supposed to trust you?

Go easy on the makeup. Save it for when you are older and actually need a lot of it. Encasing one's face in a weighty mask of makeup can make some women appear - for lack of a better word - "radioactive," especially when it has a luminescent quality to it. The Miss Chernobyl look doesn't suit everyone.

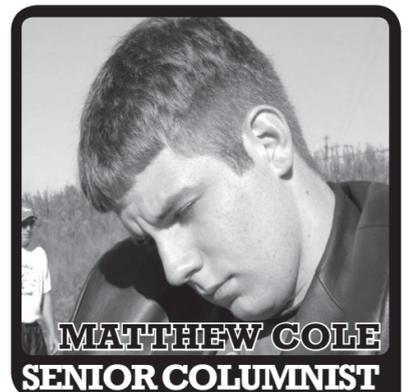
When you first start dating a guy, don't wear sweatpants around him. I know they're comfortable, but that is not a way to impress a guy. If you are attractive, you might not think that you have to put any effort into this, but think of the message you are sending him. The

old adage that women grow up to look like their mothers is a very scary one for guys. Dressing like a slob now won't do much to dispel that fear.

When on a date, stop texting your BFF! We should at least be grateful that you don't wear Bluetooth headsets on dates in order to give a running commentary to a person who isn't present. Would you like it if we showed you such a total lack of respect? No, I didn't think so.

Don't be so emotional. Once a month is understandable, but every day does not have to be a crisis. Of course, women who are unnecessarily upset on occasion give guys the opportunity to be the strong stable "rock," and guys like that. After a while though, the constant tears and tantrums just get irritating. Learn to determine what an appropriate response is to a given situation. Try living by the motto, "When life is a mess, just repress!" Actually, that isn't an ideal response either to non-crises. Here is a better one: "Grow up."

Don't be a tease. I don't need to go into any more detail about that. You know what I mean. Women who act this way are just trying to get a cheap boost to their vanity. Besides being frus-



MATTHEW COLE
SENIOR COLUMNIST

trating, this sort of inconsiderate vanity is also indicative of emotional insecurity (see previous paragraph on emotional basket cases).

Don't make yourself look too easy. Guys like the feeling of conquest. Appearing to be selective with your tastes in men will make your guy feel like he has accomplished something by winning you over, even if you are secretly desperate for a guy.

I may not speak for all guys, but I'm sure most guys would agree with these complaints. I know man-bashing is the more popular trend, but women have issues of their own to work on.

THE OWL FORUM



RE: Supreme court fails

I believe that the Supreme Court made the right decision to overturn parts of the Campaign Reform Act of 2002, the so-called McCain/Feingold Act. The act was a violation of the First Amendment, and that should not be seen as being 'shockingly justified.' The act set restrictions for both for-profit and non-profit corporations. One provision of the McCain-Feingold campaign finance act that was ruled as a violation was the part that banned corporations from buying ads directly supporting or attacking candidates in federal elections. A second provision, which banned political action committees from running issue oriented ads that name candidates less than 30 days before a primary or 60 days before a general election, was also struck down on the same grounds. Left intact were provisions banning corporations and unions from directly contributing to candidate campaigns (hard money) and directly contributing to political parties (soft money). This is good, and I'm glad it was left intact. Corporations and unions have just as much right as anyone individual to sponsor ads on issues they care about and to support or oppose candidates. They are run by people, and these people have issues they care about and should be able to sponsor ads any time they want. It's up to individuals to consider who they are voting for and as to what issue(s) are the most important to them. I for one am rarely, if ever, influenced by any ad I see or hear on the radio. I do my research and come to my own conclusions about what and whom I'm voting for.

One thing that's interesting is who was in favor of the ruling. It was a grouping across the political and ideological spectrum. The ACLU, NRA and AFL-CIO all supported the decision.

Deric T.Shaw

RE: Ultimate Fighting

Mr. Swift,

I understand that we all have our own opinions, but it is preferred that opinions are backed by some facts. After reading your article neither on Ultimate Fighting it is immediately clear that you are not a fan nor do you follow the sport. Your comparison of ultimate fighting to the Christians being fed to the lions and public executions is way off base. The most obvious is the fact that the participants in ultimate fighting choose to be there to compete, where last time I checked nobody volunteered to be publicly executed or fight lions. Since you are not a fan you would not realize the amount of training and time that it requires to compete. These are not two drunks fighting in the parking lot of a bar; they are professional athletes.

Ultimate fighting or MMA incorporates various martial arts like Brazilian jiu-jitsu, sambo, muay thai as well as Olympic sports judo, wrestling and boxing. You could not imagine the amount of time and training that goes into competing in this sport. Personally it is like playing chess but with your body; for every one of your opponent's actions there are countless counters.

Look at the lack of physical education in lower school levels then consider the rising percentage of people in this country who are obese and you can see the future health care problems we will be facing. Perhaps an "MMA team" is

needed on some levels. This goes hand in hand with making things less competitive when in schools, which goes against everything this country stands for. I believe the quote goes "competition breeds success."

You are off base again when you act as if the fighters are settling disputes in the cage; they are doing their job, work extremely hard and show great respect for their opponents. That is the message that is sent to children: perhaps you should look into the background of some fighters. Had you researched any of this you would know that there are pro fighters who have run for the House of Representatives (actually winning smaller positions), there is a member of the Croatian parliament, members of the royal family in Abu Dhabi, counter terrorism experts, firemen, chemical engineers, lawyers and I have even met a brain surgeon that was a fighter. These are not "two yahoos" in the cage fighting; they are professional athletes.

Your thinly veiled comment at the end about being concerned about what these people do when the show is over is in very poor taste. If you're going to make a comment like that just say what you think. That these people go beat up each other, their children and their wives. It is obvious that you have not competed much or at all in your life. So it is much easier to sit back and criticize things you could not do by attempting to appear above it all intellectually; as shown above these men are not simple barbarians.

Competition is part of life and one on one fighting allows you to find out what you are really made of deep down. Brad Pitt said it best in Fight Club, "How can you know about yourself if you have never been in a fight?"

Clayton Meeks
Senior
Interdisciplinary Studies major

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ksusentinel.com
Get the conversation started by posting your own response.

FEATURES

"Only the cool kids get kicked out of calculus class."

Students collaborate in efforts to help Haiti



KSU students were able to deliver medication to impoverished Haitian orphans.

Photos by Leah Redwine and team



Leah Redwine with a child from the orphanage.

ANASTASIA BARTOLUCCI
STAFF WRITER

The 7.0-magnitude earthquake that struck Haiti Jan. 12 has opened multitudinous opportunities for volunteer assistance. Many groups ask for monetary contributions, but you can find other ways to support the earthquake's victims, that don't involve opening your wallet.

For senior nursing major Leah Redwine, helping out meant giving her time and expertise. Redwine received frontline experience in the recent Haiti disaster, training that she never could have gained in a clinical setting. Redwine and her teammates, affiliated with the Redeem Haiti Organization, were the second group deployed to Haiti. The first group had been stationed there for over a week, starting three days after the earthquake.

Redwine's Redeem Haiti group, comprised of both Dominican and American doctors and nurses, translators and pastors, volunteered from Jan. 27 to Feb. 3. It didn't take long for relief group to comprehend that despite all their efforts, it would not be enough to rectify Haiti's overall devastation.

"Haiti is a country that was in extreme poverty before this earthquake," Redwine said. "But to see the massive amounts of destruction add a greater magnitude of poverty and need was heartbreaking."

The earthquake and its 33 aftershocks affected millions of lives and took equally as many. Many organizations and relief alliances deployed on short notice to provide relief for the desolation. Although the American Red Cross, President Obama, the U.S. government and celebrity telethons have contributed much to Haiti's financial aid, everyday volunteers have been just as influential.

Redwine and the Redeem Haiti group were stationed to a specific hospital where they developed a rapport among patients. The team also distributed supplies in disaster zones. The volunteers visited several Haitian orphanages to access their supply needs and likely relocation.

Despite the disaster aftermath afflicting these child facilities, Redwine recalled, "The children are shaken but have a sparkle of hope in their eyes. They are going to be part of a generation that can overcome tragedy and make an impact on Haiti's future."

Doctors, mission groups, neighbors and, most recently, students from around the globe flocked to aid the Haitian people. Relief supplies are trickling in from other countries including France, Belgium, Spain and China. In addition to the \$100 million that President Obama pledged, the U.S. is sending up to 3,500 soldiers and 300 medical personnel.

"I can't fully describe the cooperation between so many cultures, languages and professions," Redwine said. "It is beautiful to be a part of a team with so many working selflessly toward the goal of helping the Haitian people."

With an estimated 2 million of Haiti's 9 million injured or homeless, Haitian relief volunteers are in high demand, regardless of whether they are proficient certain medical practitioners. Time and preparation have become a luxury. Entry-level medical students work alongside veteran surgeons for a common purpose—delivering medical attention to people who are in such grave need of it.

Many concerned citizens are looking for opportunities to volunteer in Haiti, but most opportunities are reserved for professionals with technical skills in health care or engineering, or with prior disaster experience. Even for those who can't of volunteer hands-on understand that anyone can still extend support indirectly through numerous domestic organizations and programs.

KSU students, especially those from the nursing school, have been prodigious in aid efforts. "It was so encouraging to know that so many classmates were interested in what we were doing and wanted to give," Redwine said.

Jason Farkel, a KSU sophomore, provided assistance his own way. "I couldn't drop school and work at last notice and fly myself to Haiti, if they'd even let me go," Farkel said. "I made several trips to Wal-Mart for supplies that I was happy to send."

Whether students aided in similar ways or made nominal contributions by rounding up their Kroger bills, every small donation helped. Farkel, like many others, feels guilty that his effort could only extend so far, but as he explained, "It was the most and the best. I could do at that point in time."

Often times, those witnessing the catastrophe on television cannot begin to fathom the extent of Haiti's devastation. "Even the poorest people in the U.S. would never imagine living the way the majority of Haitian people live," Redwine said.

Although the Haitian people have been devastated, Redwine was amazed to witness the hope they have for the future, which she explained most Americans don't have to appreciate.

"This experience has changed my life in countless ways," said Redwine. "I will never again complain about what I may not have or what I want. Until one has experienced the desolation and poverty of Haiti, they will never know how prosperous and blessed they are."



Leah and team show how one package of medicine can make the difference as they hold a box of insulin given to the team.



Leah was popular with the children, who all wanted to be held.

Student-run comic company to publish first book

JENNY HARRISON
STAFF WRITER



Are you an aspiring comic artist wishing to jump-start your career and add quality experience to your resume while still in college? If so, you might be interested in Monocle Comics, KSU's new quality comic book company.

"It's never too early to start working toward your career," said Brian Prince, a junior in the arts program, who focuses on drawing and painting. "Monocle Comics allows students to gain experience in the field while doing something they enjoy."

Monocle Comics was created last October by Addie Gant and Prince as a club.

"We knew a lot of artists who were interested in creating comics," said Prince. "We thought, why don't we make something for this?"

"I really just wanted to motivate myself to do comics," said Gant, a junior. "We decided we should put a group together to motivate each other."

Gant and Prince realized Monocle Comics had a potential future as a business when more writers and artists got involved, and the group acquired a business manager. Gant, Prince and KSU students Moe Balinger, Kenneth Martin and Segun Olowofoyeku collaborated with students from other institutions in the Atlanta area to create the small company.

"There are also several associates who work for us and are paid on a commission basis, like contractors," said Martin, a senior business management major and business manager for the company.

Though Monocle Comics is relatively small, the company is always looking for more associates.

"We love to see new artists and writers," said Gant. "We are going to have a submission process in place that writers and artists can go through to be accepted as an associate."

"Anyone can submit work," agreed Martin. "It may be a while before we can put them on a project, but we do plan on using pretty much everyone we get."

Monocle Comics' first issue should be released within the next few months,

with five to 10 pages of artwork from each founder. It will be available for sale on campus. But, students interested in seeing Monocle's creations don't necessarily have to wait for the issue.

"We have four different one-page promos circulating for \$1," said Prince. Students who want to purchase these promos can contact the members of Monocle Comics through their Facebook fan page or blogsite, <http://monoclecomics.blogspot.com>. Students who purchase these promotional comics receive 10 percent off the compilation issue.

Monocle Comics is also promoting itself through two upcoming trade conventions. In addition to a convention in Charleston, SC, members of the company would like to invite fans to visit Monocle's booth at MomoCon at Georgia Tech on March 20.

"We're going to be selling our artwork as well as T-shirts displaying our artwork and logo since our logo design has been so popular," said Gant. "It's mostly to get the word about us out there and to get our first issue out to people."

Monocle Comics hopes to gain more publicity since the group has set its goals high for the future.

"We want to make it a big business," said Gant. "I would like it to be as big as DC or Marvel Comics in the future. We're just trying to make it so people like indie comic artists and indie writers can actually get their stuff produced."

Monocle Comics needs the help and support of KSU students to make this dream a reality.

"Come and see us at MomoCon, fan the Monocle on Facebook, and find us and send us your artwork and manuscripts," said Gant. "That's the best way to show your support."



Monocle artists: Brian Prince (top left), Shannon Manor (top right), Moe Balinger (above), Addie Gant (bottom Right).

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Expecting violinist wows audience

BERLIN SYLVESTRE
STAFF WRITER

World-renowned violinist Helen Kim made her musical debut at age six on stage with the calgary philharmonic. Last Saturday, she brought her own child onto the stage of the Bailey Performance Center. The eight-month-pregnant virtuoso wowed the crowd with her vigorous performance of Brahms' "Violin Concerto in D Major."

"Last night was the first and last time I hope to perform such a taxing work while pregnant," Kim admits. "This [baby] is very active and moves it seems in response to the music with vigorous kicks and punches."

In addition to performing under such stressful physical conditions, Kim played the concerto's three movements without a single sheet of music before her. Kim makes a point to memorize not only her parts as soloist, but the parts of the orchestra as well. For this event, her musical accompaniment came from the KSU Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Michael Alexander.

Kim, a KSU faculty member who has appeared on national television as well as National Public Radio, said having a familiarity with the entirety of the work provided a better picture of the relationship between soloist and accompaniment. The intricate movements were technically demanding, yet the well-prepared Kim hardly broke a sweat. Although at times appearing a little uncomfortable under the hot lights of Bailey's stage, the champion violinist, clad in an emerald-green gown, performed all three movements of the event's pièce de résistance without incident.

"I feel not having the music lets me connect better with the audience," she said, "and helps me listen and adjust to the orchestra."

Though the soloist was the centerpiece of the show, the evening also included three pieces conducted by David Kehler, KSU's director of bands. A select group of the KSU Symphony Orchestra performed Marvin Lamb's fanfare "Sacred Ground," as well as "Danzon No. 2" by Arturo Marquez and "The Ever-Fixed Mark" by Karl Maroney.

The concert was one of a full line-up of performances offered by the KSU School of Music. For a complete schedule of upcoming events, go to kennesaw.edu/music.



Helen Kim

Mock trial prepares for tournament



Photo courtesy of Lindsey Weber

Joe Roesch, a KSU alumnus, cross-examines "murder suspect" Lynn Zibanejadrad.

LINDSEY WEBER
STAFF WRITER

Lies. Money. Murder. An attorney questions his witness concerning her whereabouts on the night of her business partner's murder. "Wait a minute," the witness exclaimed, "I think you need to ask me that question two questions earlier." Attorney, witness and even the judge engage in a friendly debate about the best way to question the murder suspect. This isn't your typical court case, but it is what happens during KSU's Mock Trial Team. The 20 members compete nationally using a case created by the American Mock Trial Association. Members of the two mock trial teams take evidence, alternate between the roles of defense and prosecution attorneys, and act as witnesses. However, having all the facts and evidence in a case does not mean the Mock Trial team expects an easy win.

"Every month or so, the AMTA changes a few little details in the witnesses' statements," said Mason McAfee, a senior criminal justice major. "So one detail can change an entire case, especially if witnesses' stories begin to contradict. When you're the attorney on a tournament case, you've got to have a strategy, but also be ready to change it."

Witnesses face different challenges. "You pretty much have to know your

statement inside and out," said Lynn Zibanejadrad, a sophomore U.S. History major. "With direct examinations, you can work with your attorney and come up with a good line of questioning. But cross-examinations are terrifying!"

In the team's most recent tournament, Zibanejadrad was a witness and cross-examined by her daughter, a member of the Georgia State Mock Trial Team. Zibanejadrad won an award for her performance as a witness in the University of Georgia tournament earlier this year.

Students can join the Mock Trial Team after completing POLS 4466, a course on trial procedure and evidence. During club meetings, members practice delivering opening and closing remarks and direct and cross-examinations of witnesses, while never missing an opportunity to shout "Objection!" to the opposing team. During these meetings, faculty sponsor Elizabeth Gordon serves as both judge and mentor to students.

The Mock Trial Team competes nationally three to four times per year. At its last invitational tournament, hosted by Georgia Tech on Jan. 23, KSU had a 4-4 performance. The team is currently preparing for the regional qualifying tournament held later this month in Birmingham, AL.

For more information, contact Gordon at 770-423-6601, or e-mail egordon@kennesaw.edu.

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Correction: Last week's Alternative Spring Break advertisement contained an error. Volunteer Kennesaw State University (VKSU) does not charge anyone to volunteer or for volunteering.

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Inhaling pollutants from vehicles when bike-commuting may be a health concern

(MCT)

Dear EarthTalk: I ride my bike to work along busy urban streets. Should I be worried about inhaling pollutants from vehicle emissions and other sources?

J. Kaufman, San Francisco
The short answer is, yes, probably. Cars, trucks and buses emit considerable amounts of airborne pollution as they make their ways along city streets and highways. The fine particles, nitrogen dioxide and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) spewing out of tailpipes have been linked to a wide range of human health problems, from headaches to respiratory illness to cancer. Though Australian researchers found that exposure to these pollutants is actually higher while riding inside a vehicle than while riding a bike, turning your handlebars in the direction of back roads might still be a good idea, for safety's sake as well.

Western Washington University Geophysicist Bernie Housen, concerned about the air quality on his own bicycle commute along busy Bellingham roads, recently launched a study of the magnetism in local trees to gauge air quality along his route and elsewhere in his region. The magnetism in a tree's leaves is created by tiny particles of iron oxides and other pollutants that drift through the air, emanating primarily from eroding vehicle brake pads and diesel exhaust. The particles are small enough to pass through our nasal passages and get lodged in our lungs. Housen and his colleagues found 10 times as much magnetism on urban roadside tree leaves as on their rural counterparts that contend with little traffic.

Housen has also altered his own bike route to campus to avoid the more polluted thoroughfares. "One underlying concern is that if you are riding your bike, you are being more physically active; you are breathing deeper and breathing more air in, and so if you are doing that in an area where there

is a concentrated elevation of this material it might not be such a good thing," he added.

Ironically, many cities that offer dedicated bike lanes often lay them out right next to busy bus lanes, unintentionally ensuring that bicyclists breathe in as much diesel exhaust as possible.

"I ride along one of these high-traffic bus routes," Housen says, "and ... there was between two and five or six times more magnetic fine particulate matter along the bus route than (on less-busy streets)." Housen would like to expand his research so it could be used by urban planners to better design bike and pedestrian routes so as not to intermingle so much diesel transit and pedestrian/bicycle traffic.

Of course, there are other ways to track urban pollution levels. In the UK, for instance, researchers from the government-

funded Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council have created the Urban Pollution Monitoring Project, which builds and distributes GPS-enabled mobile pollution sensing systems that can be carried by hand or placed on a bike rack. The group is using data gleaned from the sensors to map where and when pollution levels are at their highest around London and other UK cities, and hopes to use its research to influence the way roads and urban areas are planned in the future as well.

Those who want or need to keep on riding through polluted areas should consider wearing an anti-pollution respiratory mask, many of which can filter out upwards of 95 percent of particulate pollution before it enters the human lung. Some leading manufacturers include Totobobo, G-Flow and Respro.



Photo from flickr.com

Students become source of anonymous bullying

SARAH HITT
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Web site collegeacb.com serves as an anonymous confession board for colleges all over the country. The 19-year-old owner, Peter Frank, wants it to be a place where students can freely post anything about university life. However, many fear the site is becoming just another outlet for cyber-bullying.

More than 500 college campuses are represented on the site. Students can anonymously add a topic to their school or comment on one already made. KSU has been included in the universities listed since March 2009.

Student organizations have brought the site to the attention of Kathy Alday, the director of student life at KSU. "For some reason, human beings like to gossip... I'm not sure why. Maybe it makes us feel better ourselves? But it surely is hurtful and divisive," Alday said.

Frank never intended for the site to be used just for gossip: "It gives students the freedom to voice their opinions and ask questions about any facet of college life," as he wrote in a College ACB press release.

At times, the site is used for Frank's intended purpose, with helpful posts about what apartment complexes are the best, to information on different sports teams at KSU. Other times, the generated topics are very degrading, such as the most attractive or most promiscuous freshman and the creepiest people at KSU.

Greek Life is one of the biggest topics on the KSU section. With humiliating and hurtful posts, many Greeks are not happy with the impression many get from the site.

"It creates a hostile environment for the Greek system and instills a bad image of the

Greeks throughout the entire school," said Brotherhood Advancement Chair for Kappa Sigma fraternity, Harrison Sims.

Many Greeks have taken a stand by posting their names to defend what they have to say about the cruel anonymous posts. Some are even going a step farther, posting phone numbers and encouraging those who are "trash talking" to contact them directly, rather than hiding behind a computer screen.

Greeks who have been around for a few years have never seen chapters so torn apart. In her third year as a Phi Mu sister, Taylor Washington expressed her concern over the site: "The worst part is anyone can post with no repercussions. Anything can be made up for others to believe as the truth.

Even if you know what they are saying is a lie, there is no way to defend yourself."

The only way to remove a topic and its posts from the site is to e-mail Frank from the Web site. But with only one Webmaster, and more than 500,000 hits a day on many schools, it often takes days or weeks to get the post down.

As long as the first amendment and technology exist, there will be forums for cyber bullying. Furthermore, the Web site will continue to exist because patrons control the success of such sites.

The Vice President of the Gamma Phi Beta sorority, Katie Good, shared her advice for KSU students: "Just as parents have told us for years, 'if you don't have something nice to say, don't say it at all.' I feel all student life, including Greeks, should avoid the site completely."



Photo courtesy of Sarah Hitt

The Web site gains popularity by one student seeing a shocking topic, and spreading what they saw. Most students cannot resist the temptation to keep checking back.



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SPORTS

The battle of I-75

'...then it became a basketball game.'



Sophomore guard Spencer Dixon drives in for a lay-up. Dixon led the Owl's scoring with 16 points and four steals.



Senior forward Jon-Michael Nickerson shoots for two.



KSU cheerleaders and dance teams led chants and cheers for the record-breaking crowd adding to the in-state rivalry.

JOHN MORBITZER
STAFF WRITER

KSU men's basketball (12-12, 7-6) defeated Mercer (11-12, 7-6) in the "Battle of I-75," extending their winning-streak to six games and putting them at .500 overall with a winning conference record in a 66-63 final.

"I thought it was just an incredible effort," said head coach Tony Ingle. "We came out and missed some shots early, we didn't do anything bad, but the problem was we turned it over. Once we negated that, it became a basketball game."

With KSU in the bonus from Mercer fouls, the Owls showed composure in the

final 1:10 minutes, shooting 9-10 from the free throw line. After Spencer Dixon's two free throws pushed the lead to five with 44 seconds left to play, Mercer's E.J. Kusnyer drained a three-pointer to cut the lead to two.

The teams traded free throws until a James Florence lay-in with eight seconds left gave the Owls a slim 64-63 lead. Senior forward Jon-Michael Nickerson, who sat most of the second half with four fouls, connected on two game-clinching free throws to extend the lead to three with seven seconds to play. The Bears' potential tying shot fell short, as the crowd counted down the final seconds and erupted in unison. Coach Ingle then

grabbed the public announcement microphone and thanked the crowd for helping the Owls to victory.

"You take out your leading scorer, you're down 11, and then you go into half up four," Ingle said. "That was a lot to show for this basketball team. Then we come into the second half and battled tooth and nail and stood in there and went back and forth."

KSU fell behind early as Mercer capitalized on a lack of ball security and turned it into a 17-6 run to lead by 11 with 11:53 minutes left in the first half. KSU responded with a 13-2 run to tie the game at 19.

The teams traded baskets until the Owls took control in the final minutes with a four-point halftime lead.

"I was really proud of our rebounding," Ingle said. "We went against one of the best rebounding teams in the league. Then we got some big baskets, some big stops, the guys hit big foul shots late, and we found a way to beat a good basketball team."

Early foul trouble forced the Owls to adjust their rotation, but with every player scoring from the field, KSU used a 24-6 bench point advantage to prevail. KSU struggled from 3-point range shooting 15 percent for the game, but countered by shooting 75 percent from the free throw line, hitting clutch free throws late.

Dixon led the Owl's scoring with 16 points and notched four steals. Mercer's talented senior guard Florence recorded a game-high 19 points, going 5-5 from

the free-throw line. KSU out-rebounded Mercer 44-35, which helped produce 19 second chance points.

The lively crowd added to the game's excitement with a record-breaking 2,378 in attendance solidifying the in-state rivalry.

"It was the best atmosphere that I've experienced since I've been here, it was incredible," Ingle said. "It was great, I don't think we would have won the ball game without the crowd"

"I loved the crowd," Dixon said. "I hope it's like that at every game from now on. We love it."

The KSU cheer and dance teams led chants and cheers coming from the packed student sections at each end of the court.

The Gamma Phi Beta sorority worked with the KSU Striped Crew for a large turnout, and Scrappy Owl was also in the mix. An impaled stuffed bear was waved above the crowd as the "Green Men" made an appearance and the "Sixth Man" group raced around the court waving the Owls' battle flag.

"This is the most I've ever seen at a Kennesaw game, and I've been to about 30 games in the past two years," KSU senior and "Sixth Man" member David Berger said. "Everybody talks about how we're not a Georgia or Auburn, but tonight, this would rival any school. I think the rivalry is legitimate. The 'Battle of I-75' is growing, and with games like tonight, it's building, especially when they bring fans and we go down to Mercer. It's good for the schools."



Photos by Derek Wright | The Sentinel

KSU students show their school spirit with black and gold painted bodies.

Owls battle, Spartans snap streak

JOHN MORBITZER
STAFF WRITER

In the men's third game of the week, KSU (12-13, 7-7) fell to USC Upstate (4-18, 4-9) 64-68, snapping a 6-game win streak.

"We competed," said head coach Tony Ingle. "They're a good team, they've had a lot of close games, and they've had all week to prepare for us and we've played three games this week; but I thought they did a good job. We battled back, cut it to two possessions at halftime, then in the second half we could never really get over the hump, hats off to them."

The Owls came out at halftime and connected on a 3-pointer by leading scorer Kurtis Woods, who was fouled and made the free throw for the 4-point play, cutting the Spartan's lead to one.

Upstate had a response for every KSU basket and quickly pushed the lead back to nine with 17:48 left to play. The Spartans would hold the lead until KSU battled back to tie the game at 60 with three minutes left on a free throw from Markeith Cummings, but the Owls would never regain the lead as two late free throws by Upstate sealed the win.

"A few plays here and there, but that's the way basketball is," Ingle said. "We've won our fair share

of close ones lately, we've won seven of our last eight games, and we lost to them in overtime at their place. It's a good matchup and a tough loss."

The series between the Spartans and Owls has tended to go the way of Upstate, who has defeated KSU five times in the last six meetings.

The Owls shot only 31 percent from three-point range, and converted only 41 percent throw attempts, while Upstate shot 85 percent from the free-throw line. Woods lead KSU's scorers with 19 points, while Upstate saw four players score in double digits, with every player recording points.

The Owls would make the first basket of the game and hold a lead until a jumper by Upstate's Ryan LeGates would put the Spartans ahead for good with 13:32 left to play in the first half. KSU found themselves down by eleven with 6:25 minutes to play and cut the lead to 5 before halftime, but could only tie the game one time in the second half.

Completing the eight day, four-game home stand with a 3-1 record, KSU will travel to ETSU Feb. 12 for a conference matchup, followed by another conference road game Feb. 15 at Campbell. Both games are scheduled for a 7 p.m. tipoff.

It's a good matchup and a tough loss.



Photo by Derek Wright | The Sentinel
Freshman Markeith Cummings shoots a 3-pointer during the first half of the game against the Spartans.

Owls in Afghanistan: Students mobilized



Photo courtesy of Andy Nepper

Andy Nepper poses with the KSU banner that the ice hockey club sent to him overseas. Nepper is a former writer for The Sentinel; he covered mostly club sports. The Rapid City, S.D. native had to put his academic career on hold, as his military career took precedence when he was mobilized for service in Afghanistan. Nepper is not the only KSU student serving in Afghanistan.

Turnover leads to KSU win

SHERYSE ANDERSON
STAFF WRITER

The Lady Owls (7-16, 4-10) hosted the University of South Carolina Upstate Spartans (14-8, 8-5) in a conference game Saturday night. In a game that saw 17 lead changes and 11 ties, the Lady Owls upset the Spartans with a final score of 69-68.

In the last 15 seconds the Lady Owls forced a turnover that led to a steal by starting center Montinique Nixon with 11:09 minutes left. Nixon finished the game with season-high five steals.

With 10 seconds on the clock, sophomore guard Angie Smith took control. Smith dribbled into the paint, made a lay-in and was fouled in the process.

With the clock stopped at 5.8 seconds, Smith sealed the victory with the extra point attempt making the final score 69-68.

"As soon as she [Smith] went up, I knew it was in," Lady Owl's head coach Colby Tilley said. "She took the ball all the way to the hole, so I knew it was going in."

At the half, the Lady Owls trailed by one point with a score of 35-36. The Lady Owls had success from

behind the three-point line during the first half. KSU was 6-14 for three-point shooting in the first half and 8-24 in the game.

Senior forward DeAndrea Bullock, shot 75 percent from the 3-point line in the first half, making three out of four. Bullock finished with nine points, two boards and a steal.

"Shooting so many threes in the first half wasn't planned," Tilley said. "We go with what the defense gives us. The defense didn't give us many inside looks so we relied on the three."

At the start of the second quarter, the Lady Owls got off to a slow start, eventually trailing by 11 with 7:47 minutes left in regulation.

But they then had an 18-6 run by the Lady Owls, putting them ahead by one. The run was lead by senior guard Gia Lockett and freshman guard Brandi Jones, who both finished with a game-high 14 points.

Overall, the Lady Owls adjusted well in the second half. KSU finished the game with 44 rebounds and shot 37 percent from the field.

"We decided to pick it up on defense in the second half," Tilley said. "We decided that offense wasn't going to win, but defense was."

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- Free Makeup Application
- Your Photographs on a CD



THE ÉLON SALON PHOTO SHOOTS
SHOWCASE THE ARTISTIC AND
TECHNICAL HAIR STYLING
ABILITIES OF THEIR HIGHLY
SKILLED STAFF.

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Hair Colour Specialists