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Tuesday, Feb. 23, 2010

SGA spending resolution proposal fails

KEVIN SCHMIDT
STAFF WRITER

The Student Government Association voted Thursday against a resolution aimed at changing how the organization spends money.

The failed resolution sought to set new spending guidelines. It would have required that any special or non-operational spending, be written in the form of a resolution and would need a two-thirds majority to pass. Operational spending such as stipends for members, office supplies and travel to conferences would not have been affected.

To introduce a spending bill, a member must give a presentation and read the bill at a meeting twice. The bill must then pass with a majority vote.

Senator-at-Large Justin Hayes and Senator of Business Kevin Hagler introduced the bill. They argued that SGA needed institutional changes and a set of principles to guide them.

During the discussion, Secretary of External Affairs Claire Ogee, who voted against the measure, said, "There are enough checks and balances already. A resolution is a pretty long and tedious way to do it."

Hayes responded, "It is tedious on purpose. The point is to establish a set of principles and protect [the SGA budget] from future abuses."

Some voiced concern about not having the flexibility to spend money if it was needed in a short period of time. Hayes explained that the resolution contained a provision so that the Executive Board, consisting of the SGA president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer, would have \$1,000 per semester to use if necessary.

Senator of Business Amber Shaw argued that it was too time-consuming and said, "We barely get through meetings as is."

But Senator of University College Elijah Williams disagreed. "It's a great idea," he said. "We can help students the most by protecting their pocketbook."

At the end of discussion, SGA held a roll call vote. The proposal was defeated by a margin of 14-11 with seven abstaining.

Hayes said of the outcome, "I will be taking

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Owls shoot for titles

Outcome of Atlantic Sun Conference Tournament may lead to NCAA berth



Derek Wright | The Sentinel

#30 Jon-Michael Nickerson



Greg Renallo | The Sentinel

#12 Angie Smith



Derek Wright | The Sentinel

#2 Markeith Cummings



Greg Renallo | The Sentinel

#5 Tamasha Bolden

DEREK WRIGHT
SPORTS EDITOR
JOHN MORBITZER
STAFF WRITER

In their first season of Division I play, both KSU's men's and women's basketball teams will compete in the Atlantic Sun Basketball Championships on March 3 through 6 in Macon, Ga.

"Obviously we're excited about that; we've been building on this for four years," women's head coach Colby Tilley said. "We were forming our goals at the beginning of the year to make the tournament, and it's [winning a tournament spot] just a compliment to our players for working so hard."

Clutch wins by both the men's and women's teams clinched their

tournament spots. The men's team won six consecutive games, which helped complete season sweeps. The women's team won five of their last six games, improving their seeding for the tournament with two road contests yet to go.

"We're starting our second season, and we're playing our best basketball going into the conference tournament," Tilley said.

Momentum is needed for the programs to compete and advance in the tournament. East Tennessee State University has earned the number one seed overall in the women's tournament, with a 15-2 conference record. Saturday, the Lady Owls face Belmont on the road, and the outcome could propel either team into the upper half of the eight seeds. The tough competition at the top does not change Tilley's confidence in what the team can accomplish.

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Panel talks health care at forum

KEVIN HAGLER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Econometric Center and the Small Business Development Center at the Coles College of Business presented a Health Care Town Hall Forum Thursday.

The forum was designed to address the complex nature of the health care industry.

Dr. Donald Sabbarese, director of the Econometric Center, moderated the event.

The panel of guests included Tobin Watt, a practicing health care attorney; Jim Budzinski, executive vice president and CFO for WellStar Health System; Dr. Ken Braunstein, hematologist and oncologist; and Congressman Phil Gingrey, U.S. representative for Georgia's 11th district.

The rising cost of health care was one of the main issues addressed. Sabbarese noted that from 2004 to 2009, health care costs increased 4.5 percent annually, while disposable income increased slightly more

than 2 percent.

"Clearly, the cost of health care is too high," said Gingrey, who added that he believes massive comprehensive health care reform is not the way to curb rising premiums.

The panel also addressed the notion of expanding coverage to more Americans. Budzinski said he believes in the expansion of health care coverage, as 10 percent of the patients WellStar treat are uninsured. But Watt pointed out that "universal health care would be a complete disaster," and encouraged the audience to be realistic about health care coverage. He added his opinion that "we are eventually going to get to rationing."

Braunstein, one of the more animated members of the panel, said, "Government cost shifting is the reason why our system is broken."

Braunstein added his belief that government "scares" people from getting care through unnecessary regulation and fraud-

ulence.

"We don't have a healthcare system," Budzinski, who explained that there is not enough emphasis on health, wellness and prevention. He cited lifestyle choices as a contributor to many health ills, and pointed out that too many Americans are obese and smoke.

Braunstein responded by saying the population cannot be made healthier because of "genetics." Braunstein added that since the U.S. is a nation of immigrants, it faces unique problems not found in "most countries [that] don't have the genetic mish-mosh that we have."

Attendees were invited to voice their opinions during the question-and-answer session. One concerned citizen expressed frustration with rising premiums and brought a letter from Blue Cross Blue Shield insurance stating that his premium was going up by 24 percent this year. Watt responded that the health care industry has "very low profit margins," and that anger

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Program provides food for students in need

CAITLYN NEWMAYER
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The Feed the Future program provides basic grocery items to current KSU students in emergency situations.

Managed by KSU Health Clinic and KSU Staff Senate, the program serves students by giving them free grocery items such as peanut butter and jelly, cereal, canned soup, crackers and pasta. Students in need may also receive \$5 or \$10 gift cards to buy milk, gas or personal items.

Feed the Future is designed for students who may be struggling financially and are in need of basic necessities. Students present a KSU ID card at the front desk of KSU Health Clinic and receive items on the spot.

The program was started by James Shuey, former president of Staff Senate and Anne Nichols, director of KSU Health Clinic.

"Feed the Future was established in 2006 to serve students who may be struggling between paychecks and financial aid checks," said Kathryn Siggelko, president of KSU Staff Senate. "We want to be as accommodating as we can."

Grocery items can be donated by anyone, but faculty and staff donate the most. An account designated Feed the Future accepts monetary donations to help purchase gift cards and needed grocery items.

Students can contact the KSU Health Clinic to request food. The clinic also offers food items to needy students whom health

officials identify during clinic visits. Social workers are also available to help students resolve problems.

KSU Police provide a large number of donations to the program. Sergeant Shane Blalock of KSU Police is one officer who supports the program.

"We want the students to have food to eat while going to school," said Blalock. "The goal is make sure that they are fed."

Blalock said KSU Police make a great effort donate healthy, sustainable and tasty foods to the program. He believes it is important for students to receive nutritious food.

"The program is working, and we enjoy helping the health clinic," said Blalock.

Sigelko said that receiving food from the program is a discreet and simple procedure. She is concerned that some students may feel embarrassed about requesting food.

"They come in and ask for food, and we grab their ID to make sure they are a student," she said. "We meet them at the front door, hand it to them and let them walk out."

Sigelko added that the Clinic actually receives plenty of donations, but does not have enough students in need to claim them.

Feed the Future has fed 20 to 30 hungry students every month and has served 350 students since its inception in 2006.

Students in need of donations can contact the Health Clinic at 770-423-6644.



Greg Ranallo | The Sentinel

Students in need may contact the KSU Health Clinic to receive food donations.

Computers scheduled for Windows 7 update later this year

HANNAH IMLER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Information Technology Services (ITS) plans to update the computers in all 68 labs on campus from Windows XP to Windows 7 within the next year. The testing of the new operating system will begin this semester with a small sample of computers in the Buruss Building.

Windows 7 has replaced XP and Vista as the standard operating system for PCs in every major market. Christina Coronado, associate director of customer support for ITS, is looking forward to the change as Windows 7 is more stable and easier to use than the current operating system in KSU labs.

"KSU is a Dell campus," said Coronado, "with the exception of Mac computers for the visual arts programs, such as the digital media lab, and dual-boot computers in the group space lab on the fourth floor of the Buruss Building."

There are no plans in the near future to convert all labs on campus to Mac because many academic programs only work on PCs.

The 68 labs on campus are maintained on a rotational schedule by the ITS staff.

"Every computer gets rebooted

a minimum of two times a week, and are recycled every five years," said Coronado.

The oldest computers on campus are four years old and are located in the Student Center. At the end of every semester, ITS "ghosts" the computers, wiping out everything and reinstalling or updating software to prevent glitches or viruses.

The newest computers, installed during the summer 2009, are located in the English building. Assistant Professor of English, Ellen Taber teaches the general education classes English 1101 and English 1102 in which her students use computers in the English building nearly every day.

"I have no complaints about the speed of updates on the software," said Taber.

The dependability of the computers are key to computer-oriented classes where the students use the machines on a day-to-day basis.

"I have 26 students and there are 26 computers in the classroom," said Taber. "If one of them is down, I have to rethink what I am doing for that day."

Concerning KSU's technical services, Taber said, "ITS is extremely helpful. They don't always know all the answers, but they always try."



Derek Wright | The Sentinel

The computers in KSU's 68 labs will be updated from Windows XP to Windows 7 within the year.

Given that the computer lab in Sturgis Library is one of the busiest places on campus, ITS added a full time staff member, D. Morado, in August 2009 to provide technical support for students and faculty who use the library's computers.

"The computers are better than

they used to be," said reference librarian John Hansen.

Recently, Microsoft Office was installed on half of the computers in the first floor lab, "and there have been plans at some point to put Microsoft Office on the other half," said Hansen.

Every lab is well updated with current software and ITS aims to keep the computers for the most part standardized with the exception of programs such as nursing and communication, which require software specific to their departments.



Derek Wright | The Sentinel

WellStar's Jim Budzinski speaks at the Health Care Town Hall Forum Thursday.

• HEALTHCARE from front page

towards health insurance agencies is largely unjustified.

Forum attendee Norma Gore told her congressman, "Nothing is being done about the middle class." Gore, a diabetic, explained that she is now unemployed due to the recession and has to choose between either making a mortgage payment or paying her health insurance. She said that "If [congress] can't do health care, they need to get out."

Gingrey noted that Democrats and Republicans don't agree on 80 percent of the pending legislation and fears

that "we're going to turn [our health care system] all over to the government." Moving forward, Gingrey noted the tone change in President Obama and said the president is finally starting to sound "very bipartisan".

Gingrey said he is interested in what the president has to say during the health care summit on Feb. 25.

Drew Tonsmeire, Interim Area Director of the KSU Small Business Development Center said of the forum, "Overall it was very well attended with great panelists and great discussion. We've discovered some of the factors that drive the issue of health care."

• SGA from front page

the suggestions and feedback from this session to reintroduce a new resolution and hopefully get something passed."

During the same meeting, KSU Police Chief Ted Cochran spoke about thefts and cameras in the North Deck and other security issues. Cochran stressed that the other parking decks have cameras, so the priority must be North Deck, which he said would be getting a new security system in 2010.

On the issue of cameras in the North deck he said, "there is not nearly enough of them, even if they worked."

Cochran could not provide a defin-

itive cost of the new camera system, but noted that competition has pushed the cost down.

KSU Police patrols are now being directed to operate out of the North Deck during night shifts to try to deter thefts.

Cochran also talked about the "growing pains" of trying to meet a target of two officers per 1,000 students when the budgets are being cut. He said that pedestrian safety is a priority and cited fast driving and driving while texting or on the phone as major issues.

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



POLICE BEAT

CAITLYN NEWMAYER
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Creep on campus

On Feb. 11, an officer met with a female student in the Public Safety lobby in regard to trouble with a male classmate. The student stated that her classmate attends three classes with her as part of a learning community and that they had started to study together. The female said that the male would wait outside her apartment, continuously call or text her and visit her at the her place of work just to stare at her. She stated that he became very defensive and argumentative when she refused to see him. The officer checked the criminal history of the male and found a history of similar incidents. The officer gave the female information about stalking, temporary protective orders and instructed her to call for a security escort if she felt unsafe.

Uncooperative driver arrested

On Feb. 11, an officer conducted a traffic stop on Chastain Road after spotting a BMW with an expired tag. The vehicle was uninsured and the registration had been canceled the previous year. When the driver became uncooperative, police called a wrecker service to tow

the vehicle because it was not insured. Officers asked the driver to get out of the vehicle, but she refused. An officer had to remove the driver from the vehicle by grabbing her arm. While the officer explained the citations, the driver started yelling and cursing. She was arrested for obstruction, no insurance and canceled insurance.

Student threatens car with note

On Feb. 9, an officer met with a student in the Public Safety lobby in reference to a harassing communication report. The student stated that she parked her vehicle near building D of KSU Place. She told police she returned to her vehicle and found a threatening note. The note stated that someone would commit severe vandalism to her vehicle if she parked in "our lot" again and to park in the Central Deck. The officer informed the driver of the car about security escorts and documented the incident.

Drunken driver runs into fence

On Feb. 12, KSU police were informed that a vehicle had damaged the fence around Owl's Nest on Busbee Drive and Busbee Parkway, and a Jeep Cherokee was fleeing the scene of the accident. A

KSU police officer arrived on the scene to investigate. The driver admitted to driving into the fence, and stated he left the scene because he did not want to get in trouble. The officer noticed the odor of alcohol on the driver's person. The driver admitted to having had two drinks. He was arrested and charged with DUI alcohol, failure to notify upon striking a fixed object and failure to surrender a prior driver's license.

Hit and run

On Feb. 12, a woman stated that her vehicle had been struck while parked in the Central Deck. She noticed yellow paint on the car, indicating that the car had struck at a yellow fixed object. The officer noted that Central Deck contains numerous yellow poles. The woman stated she did not hit any objects and insisted that another vehicle struck hers after she left it unoccupied. An accident report was completed.

Stolen laptop

An officer was dispatched on Feb. 11 to the Public Safety lobby in reference to a stolen laptop. A man stated that he hung his bag containing his laptop on the stall door of the men's restroom in the Social Sciences Building. He stated that after he was finished in the restroom, he walked to class. On the way, he realized that he left his bag with his laptop on the stall door. He returned to the restroom, but his laptop was missing from the bag. The man stated that he did not have the serial numbers for his stolen laptop on hand, but would look for them at his residence.

Online FAFSA form redesigned

MCT

Many have called the long and complicated college financial aid form "The Beast," but this year's format is a bit tamer.

The online version of the standard Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA, is easier to use. That's good news for college students, as the recession has sent demand for financial aid skyrocketing.

Students must fill out the form for federal Pell Grants, federal student loans and many types of need-based state aid. For students entering college this fall, the deadline to be considered for state money is May 15.

While the six-page, 100-question paper version hasn't changed much, the online version has been redesigned to eliminate irrelevant questions. So if you answer that you're single, you won't be asked about your spouse's finances. Women no longer have to say whether they've registered for Selective Service, a requirement for men only. Students who are older than 24 don't have to sort through questions about their parents' incomes.

The FAFSA Web site has also been redesigned to include more tips for helping students navigate the process.

"There are some big changes," said Terri Roher, a college and career adviser at College Academy, a high school on Broward College's Davie campus for advanced students. "The form is smarter than it's been before."

Last year, the federal government set a five-year timeline to reduce the form's questions by almost half, said Patricia Christel, a Washington, D.C.-based spokeswoman for Sally Mae, which administers federal student loans. These are the first changes.

"The good news is it's easier than ever,"

Christel said. "Perhaps better news will be coming over the next few years."

Historically, the form has been considered so intimidating that many needy students would not fill it out. About 41 percent of all undergraduate students did not fill out the forms in the 2007-08 school year, according to the U.S. Department of Education.

Last year, the Florida Board of Governors, which oversees the state's public universities, estimated that about 22,000 students with incomes low enough to qualify for Pell Grants during the 2005-06 year failed to fill out the forms. As a result, they missed out on about \$24 million in federal aid.

"Many families have an aversion to numbers," said David Bodwell, director of financial aid at Palm Beach State College, west of Lake Worth. "Many people don't feel equipped to fill out their own tax returns, rightly or wrongly. Definitely, the perceived complexity of the FAFSA has been a deterrent."

Roshon Renaud, 19, a student at Broward College, said he found it confusing. He had to get a neighbor to help him fill out the form.

"It could have been simpler from the beginning," Renaud said. "Everything you have to put down. All the forms you needed. It was presented in a way that wasn't that clear."

In the past year, high schools, colleges and universities have pushed students to fill out the forms.

Whether it's because of these efforts, the recession, or both, more students are completing the forms than in past years, several schools said.

Roher encourages all first-time college students to fill out the FAFSA form, regardless of income.

"You may never do it again and you may only be eligible for loans, but you don't know that in advance," she said. "And it doesn't cost you anything."

Love your e-mail.



Check your KSU student e-mail for the upcoming National College Health Assessment Survey!

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\$100 Visa gift cards
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OPINIONS

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The hypocrisy of moderate religion

In the last decade, America has witnessed many troubling events related to religious extremism, including 9/11, the Fort Hood shooting, Westboro Baptist Church protests at military funerals and the murder of abortion doctors. In response to such events, so-called "religious moderates" have rightly denounced acts of violence and discrimination perpetrated in the name of religion. What is it that separates these moderates from those extremists? Here is the answer: Hypocrisy.

Let me be clear on my use of terms. I realize that two people who care equally about the same religious text can each derive different interpretations from it. Differences in interpretation are to be expected if a particular text is written vaguely or metaphorically. I do not base my definition of the terms "moderate" and "extremist" on any particular interpretation of a religion. I have a more precise means of separating the two.

Moderates have a "salad bar" religion, in that they are selective about which parts of a religion they choose to

take seriously. Do you like the Golden Rule and the part about loving one's neighbor? Put it on a bumper sticker and show off your righteousness. Not too fond of genocide, racism and slavery? Just pretend those parts of your preferred religious text don't exist, or maybe you can invent your own metaphorical "interpretation" for it that you don't even take seriously. This is the sort of thinking that defines a moderate. Extremists don't have this problem—they take their religion as it is. They take the whole thing, and not just the parts that make them feel all warm and fuzzy.

In recent years, it has become fashionable for foreign policy scholars to yearn for a debate within the Muslim world between moderates and extremists. I don't think an actual "debate" is possible, because the ideologies of the moderates and the extremists are based on two very different epistemologies. Simply defined, an epistemology is a way of "knowing." The epistemology of the extremists is faith. What moderates have can't really be considered faith,

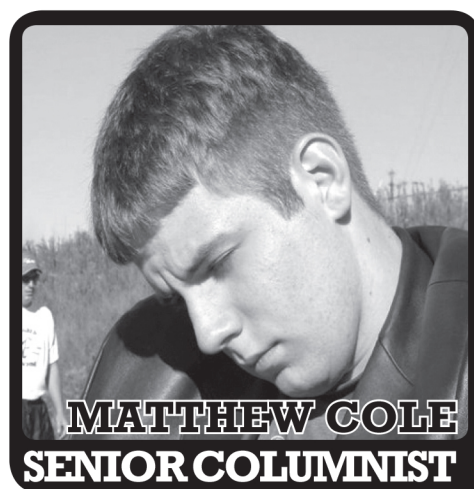
but rather, empiricism masquerading as faith. These two epistemologies are like two totally different languages.

Suppose you have a pastor or imam who chooses certain parts of a religious text to follow and other parts to quietly ignore. He had to make a conscious decision to deem certain parts "good" and other parts "bad" or "irrelevant." He is essentially making a moral judgment based on his own set of moral values. For him to claim to get his moral values from the religious text would be dishonest, because his own moral instincts remain primary while the moral values the religious text advocate are treated as though they were secondary in importance. This is circular reasoning. If he truly believed that the religious text is of primary importance in determining moral values, then he would not have applied his independent judgment to critique it, he would have just taken it on faith, as like the extremist does.

The extremists can't help it if their religious texts command them to think and act in

ways that are inconvenient in the 21st Century. Moderates must bear a greater moral responsibility for what they might do, both good and bad, in the name of religion. For the moderates, religion is just a pretense onto which they can project their own predetermined ideologies and prejudices. For them to preach about the necessity of faith is total hypocrisy, since the selective application of their own independent judgment to the teachings of the religious text they claim to believe in shows that faith is something they don't really have.

Why then do religious moderates not drop the pretense of faith altogether? I think many moderates simply have predetermined ideologies and prejudices that have no chance of being taken seriously by many other people unless disguised as religious commands. For other moderates, particularly in parts of the world where people are forced into a religion under threat of death, the pretense of faith allows them



MATTHEW COLE
SENIOR COLUMNIST

to escape the scorn of their co-religionists while still maintaining some distance from teachings that run contrary to what their rational faculties would have them conclude otherwise.

It may also be argued that moderates enable extremists, because if there were no moderates, the extremists might be too isolated for their faith-based beliefs to survive. I won't offer my assessment here of any religion's teachings, except to say that hypocrisy is, in my independent judgment, "bad."

Climate researchers backpedal

Nature creates man. Man creates industry. Industry creates carbon dioxide. Carbon dioxide creates greenhouse gases. Greenhouse gases create warming. Thus, man destroys nature. The science on anthropogenic (man-made) global warming (AGW) is settled.

Or is it?

In November, hackers broke into the server at the Climate Research Unit of the University of East Anglia in the U.K., releasing several revealing e-mails from CRU's researchers. East Anglia's CRU is one of the main research contributors to the U.N.'s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, a source many cite in support of the AGW theory.

The e-mails showed possible manipulation of data to "hide the decline" during certain periods, doubts about the legitimacy of warming data, suppression of evidence, anger toward climate skeptics, conversations on how to get

skeptics out of the peer review process and efforts to disguise the medieval warming period (MWP). The absence of the MWP was one of the biggest criticisms of the famous hockey stick graph from Al Gore's award-winning PowerPoint presentation.

The researcher at the center of the scandal is scientist and professor at the CRU, Phil Jones. On Feb 13, Jones gave an interview with the BBC about the misdeeds of CRU. According to the U.K. Daily Mail, Jones admitted to the BBC that the CRU had sloppy records and that he had "trouble 'keeping track' of the information."

In regard to the discussions within the e-mails, he acknowledged that the earth might have been warmer during the MWP than today, completely contradicting the claims of the hockey stick graph. He also conceded that there has been no "statistically significant" warming

over the past 15 years.

According to the IPCC reports, temperatures during the last 15 years should have risen about 0.2 degrees Celsius, which has not occurred, according to the Jones interview. Despite his attempts to cover up evidence, he still believes in AGW and will not attribute natural causes for current warming trends.

But Jones is not the only one in the climate research community who has committed errors and misstatements. According to Reuters, the U.N. climate panel recently admitted that the sea level estimates in the Netherlands were overstated. The panel said that "a 2007 report wrongly stated that 55 percent of the country was below sea level since the figure included areas above sea level, prone to flooding along rivers." That figure has recently been corrected to say that only 26 percent of the country is below sea level.

And that's not all. According to the U.K. Times Online, the IPCC wrongly claimed that the Himalayan glaciers would be gone by 2035. The IPCC apologized for the claim when new evidence emerged, suggesting that the glaciers could last another 300 years. An IPCC official recently admitted that there was no evidence to back up claims that "global warming could cut rain-fed North African crop production by up to 50 percent by 2020."

Although these events do not disprove anthropogenic global warming, they certainly suggest that the science is not settled. If the IPCC has made mistakes with such grandiose claims about glaciers melting and crops disappearing, what else have they misrepresented? If their researchers cannot prove man-made global warming without puffing the data and "hiding the decline," how can we trust that the other data is correct?

If anything, this proves that we need to start questioning IPCC officials and politicians like Al Gore on the merits of their "science." There is obviously not a consensus on AGW, and



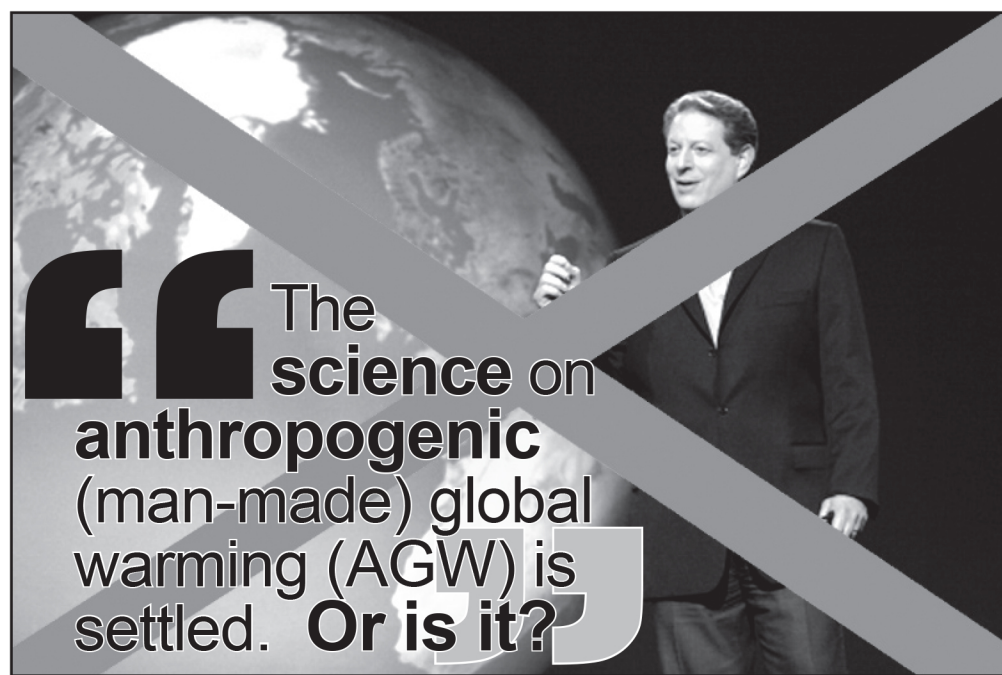
JUSTIN HAYES
SENIOR COLUMNIST

skeptics do exist. The Cato Institute's Patrick J. Michaels, who was negatively mentioned in the CRU e-mails, has been quite outspoken against AGW. These "scientists" want to kick skeptics like Michaels out of the peer review process, which conflicts with the entire idea behind the scientific method.

With all of this new information, now is not the time to start regulating and taxing our economy to save the environment. Many reports from environmental groups have shown that cap and trade legislation will do little to prevent the effects of global warming anyway, if it does exist.

We cannot allow politicians to demand that the producers of our economy find alternative energy while punishing them. Government cannot create new energy sources. Government cannot create anything. Our country needs people driven by the profit-motive to invest and invent our way out of coming energy crises. Whether it exists or not, climate change and its effects are really out of our hands.

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



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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.
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Earth and beyond: Why America should invest in transportation tech

In this day and age, the future of the old ways of transportation is looking uncertain. With oil supplies arguably dwindling and the growing global call for new, alternative energy-saving methods of transportation, the demand for new transportation technologies has never been higher. Electric and hybrid cars, though generally unpopular with consumers, are a gateway technol-

ogy that very well could lead to new, popular, efficient designs. There is no country better suited to pioneer such technologies than the United States, home of famed inventors such as Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Edison. But why should we get involved? Here are a few reasons:

1. As much as we hate to admit it, going "green" is a big deal these days. While we completely disagree with the idea that companies should sacrifice their economic well-being to build environment-friendly cars nobody wants, they can certainly find a way to make "green" and financially successful methods of transportation, thus bringing all the environmentally-minded consumers on board.

2. More advanced transport means faster transport, especially in the air. If we start researching transportation technologies, we can get faster, more efficient planes. Business

transactions requiring face-to-face interactions could happen faster. Diplomatic meetings between nations could be finished in a fraction of the time they take now. Communication would increase and improve vastly.

3. With new technologies to buy, domestic consumer spending will increase, if the transportation companies can make the technologies attractive, which they surely can. Obviously, this would be a boon to the American economy at any point in time.

4. It's a simple fact—America looks like an overweight runner quickly getting farther behind in the race to produce attractive methods of transportation. Simply put: we look bad compared to countries like Japan. Should we let the Japanese show us up? No. Let's get started on researching new technologies so we can show them who's boss.

Of course, limiting this research merely to getting around on Earth is selling American industry short. Space exploration is a prime example of an area of transportation technology where America can excel. We are already ahead in it, so it will be easy for us to be competitive. Many opportunities exist to make it profitable. Here are a few reasons to continue:

1. The space program continues to be a source for new innovation. Satellite television, advanced plastics, smoke detectors: the list goes



NOAH SOLOMON
COLUMNIST



MATT NIX
COLUMNIST

on—they all were birthed from mankind's ventures into space. You'd be shocked how many items in your seemingly mundane life have evolved from some function of the program. Future innovations and discoveries will fuel the American economy as well as increase the quality of American life.

2. Space is mankind's last great frontier, and capitalism loves nothing more than a wide, open vista for cultivation. With the emergence of Virgin's private space tourism venture *Galactic* offering sub-orbital spaceflight to anyone willing to shell out the cash, it's only a matter of time before the notion of spaceflight becomes increasingly more open to the private sector. In fact, we're all for letting private companies get ahead of the game and announce that they now own Jupiter and its moons.

3. We're not exactly alone anymore. Sure, Russia's space program has always been there to poke and

prod us, even panic us to the moon, but now that China is amping up their space game as well, it's the wrong time to be left behind. With an unmanned Chinese moon exploration mission in the works, the United States should continue its exploration to the moon—and beyond—or we risk losing the lead we've spent half a century trying to gain. The ban on space weapons is only going to last until somebody with fewer scruples and less to lose than the U.S. and Russia gets into the game.

4. Call us a pair of saps if our last point sounds corny. Americans have always felt called to explore lands uncharted. Kennedy dared us to go the moon, a challenge that some found absolutely insane, if not totally absurd. It was our spirit, resolve and willingness that pushed us toward that seemingly unattainable goal. We would be naïve not to test ourselves now—or prove to ourselves that our ingenuity is still capable of anything.



limiting this research to merely getting around on Earth is selling American industry short.

Hyper-partisanship will lead to incumbent death march

Last week Senator Evan Bayh (D-Indiana) announced that he is retiring at the conclusion of his term. This came as shocking news, not just because the young Democratic superstar's retirement is premature, but because of the dangerous road the Democrats (and Republicans) appear to be headed this fall.

Bayh declared that partisan gridlock had all but paralyzed Congress, and he could no longer effectively serve the citizens of Indiana. Regardless of what bipartisan tone President Obama would like to strike with Republicans, it appears by all accounts to be an ineffective strategy. Republicans seem committed to railroading the Obama agenda into the ground at all costs, and Democrats don't have the guts to stop them.

Republicans are cheering Bayh's retirement announcement, claiming victory over the Democratic agenda and a likely chance at winning another Senate seat in the upcoming midterm elections. Listen up, GOPers you have nothing to cheer about. The American people are just as fed up with Republicans in Congress as Democrats and are more likely to vent their frustrations on incumbents than just those in the majority.

Based on my understanding of the Constitution, it might take some sort of agreement among the members of Congress for the

government to function correctly. With the sole power to make laws among the three branches of government, Congress has the responsibility of ensuring the future of the United States. Currently, Congress (mainly the Senate) neglects this responsibility, and members are about to pay a dear price.

Currently, there is a Democratic majority in both the House and Senate, yet aside from the stimulus package passed one year ago, President Obama's promise of change is on hold. Americans from all corners are getting irritated and have taken matters into their own hands. However, Republicans continue to believe they are indestructible this fall, and it's the Democrats alone who will pay for the outrage. Candidates are lining up on both sides for the upcoming primary season to prove that's not true.

Senator Bayh saw the writing on the wall; the jobs and political futures of many current members of Congress are over due to years of bitter partisanship that has crippled the government. Far too many Congressmen and Senators forgot the key part of we sent them to do—represent. That representation is a key part of our humble country, and job security has taken precedence over the citizens Congress serves.

Republicans chose a path of politics rather than governance, simply hammering home talk-

ing points rather than policy, while Democrats still can't keep everyone happy on the rocky ship they call a caucus. When the parties decide it's time to tackle a serious issue such as health care, the economy or the United States' future, the idea of bipartisanship disappears. Democrats start the party with long, incredibly complicated legislation filled with amendments attempting to appease every party member. Republicans complain about the bill's length, the cost and how it will hurt more Americans than it will help. In response, Republicans produce legislation of their own that is far too short and incredibly complicated. The final result consists of Democrats campaigning for and Republicans against the bill, while no actual bill sees passage.

Somewhere, President Obama, a pen clutched in his hand, weeps. His agenda, crushed under the weight of dysfunctional Congress, sags into his second year while Americans scream for help. Democrats and Republicans point fingers at each other, thus accomplishing nothing, and rather than leading Obama must do damage control to calm Congress, his party and most importantly the American people.

Now in the final weeks of winter many of us don't spend our time thinking about what November will bring, but for politicians, the clock is ticking. They must learn how to work together to somehow piece together what's



JOEL MENDELSON
COLUMNIST

left of our government or face the unemployment lines. Finally, members of Congress will have the chance to feel what it's like to be an average American.

Many already fear this prospect and, in response, are playing politics as usual to dupe constituents into re-electing them. Incumbents should rethink their strategy, because it's not going to work this time. Just ask Senator Bayh—he saw what a paralyzed Congress is doing to the United States. Congress does have one major accomplishment recently: It's bred an angry, disenfranchised American electorate, and this mid-term election they're out for blood.

Today, we salute a slave owner

An analysis of the oddity that is American idolatry

This year marks the 278 birthday of George Washington, who is perhaps the single most important person ever to traverse our nation's purple mountains and fruited plains. Incontestably, there would not be an "America" sans his existence, and the magnitude of his contributions to the formation of our constitutional republic cannot be overstated. His leadership ensured independence from imperialist rule, tyrannical theocracy and the establishment of the very concept of rudimentary American life.

He also owned slaves. *Lots of them.*

It is somewhat odd to gaze down at a one dollar bill, or dwell upon that one February day when all of the banks are closed, and realize that such is the result of a dyed-in-the-wool, indisputable racist. Sure, I may be inviting controversy by labeling the father of our country as such, but the terminology certainly fits; methinks nothing states "ethnic antipathy" like being a proponent of *enslavement*.

Yes, we have all heard allegations that Washington was in fact, troubled by the institution of slavery, and legend has it that he ordered his slaves to be freed upon the death of his wife. In my esti-

mation, this actually worsens his character, as it displays America's daddy as hypocritical and pusillanimous. What is worse, the unscrupulous man who makes no efforts to hide it, or the mendacious one who ports about fake principles?

Oh, and it gets worse for Washington. In addition to being a notorious hater of the African-American community, he was also the pioneer of modern-day terrorism. After all, this is a man who led a sneak attack on sleeping, unarmed British troops on Christmas Eve. Sorry, but I have a hard time respecting anyone who wages war utilizing tactics pulled from the Freddy Krueger playbook.

Even the non-ethical aspects of Washington's existence are less than reputable; Fathers, would you allow your daughters to associate with a cannabis-smoking syphilitic with a mouthful of Dutch elm disease? My case, it shall now rest.

Ultimately, this is the problem we have with the notion of Americanized "heroism". For some bizarre reason, we can only look at those we adulate in absolutist tones, as if he or she (but let's face it, almost always a "he") is some sort of sacrosanct, infallible superhu-

man. We tend to idolize not the person as he or she genuinely was, but rather as some manufactured, idealistic representation of the person in question. We are unable to view our "heroes" as authentic people, with their faults and flaws quantified.

Benjamin Franklin was an alcoholic womanizer. Thomas Jefferson fathered a number of children out of wedlock. Henry Ford was a virulent anti-Semite. Martin Luther King, Jr. was an adulterer and a plagiarist. Granted, these are all massive character defects, but should it automatically cancel out the unanimous influence the men mentioned above have had on the progression of the United States as a whole?

This is the conundrum that is the American state. Sure, we have a lot of things to be proud of, but we also have just as many things to be ashamed of. Our heroes and idols are walking contradictions, figures of equal proportions valor and duplicity. We claim to advocate a litany of moral tenets, yet we often live by the very inverse of our purported scruples.

I often wonder how outsiders view the American dynamic. I suppose to



JAMES SWIFT
COLUMNIST

them, it may be construed as odd that we celebrate the birthday of a slain civil rights leader one month and an unremorseful slave owner the next. It must be really weird to note that we celebrate that slave owner's birth in the exact same month we deem in honor of the same ethnic group he subjugated.

To the outside observer, America isn't just weird, it's borderline delusional. The rest of the world may view us as a collection of two-faced phonies, but to the occupants of the cramped fish bowl that is the United States, such is never dwelled upon. After all, it isn't strange—it's just U.S.

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FEATURES

"Incorporate the hotdog"

Club strengthens potential for linguists

BERLIN SYLVESTRE
STAFF WRITER

KSU German Club held an informal get-together Thursday evening at Marlow's Tavern. The group of 12, students of varying ages and fluencies, enjoyed dinner during a live music set while trading phrases in the German language.

The group meets regularly to supplement students' in-class education with a more immersive experience with the language and customs of the German people.

"The primary objective of the German Club is to provide exposure to German-speaking cul-

ture," said Laura Holmes, president of the KSU German Club.

Holmes, a junior German and biology major, said that students do not have to be enrolled in German courses to join the group.

"The members come from a variety of backgrounds and majors. We invite all to consider the contributions Germans have made throughout history in science, literature, music, film and philosophy," Holmes said.

"[Having meetings in restaurants] is a new thing, but we'd like to make a habit of coming out like this," said Torrey Helton, a senior commu-

nications major. Helton attends the club meetings though currently not taking German classes. His proficiency in the language gave a welcome boost to conversation with novice speakers.

"The meet-ups give the new German speakers an edge," Helton said. "We even have native speakers here which can at first be a little intimidating, but the environment is very respectful. These meet-ups are especially good for networking, which is important for college students."

Dr. Sabine Smith, associate professor of German, also made an appearance. According to Smith, the most beneficial aspect of

being a member is being surrounded by a community of scholars.

"[Students can] find like-minded learners and heritage or native speakers who enjoy studying German language and culture," Smith said. "We all know that it's a haul, but it can be a fun and gratifying learning experience."

"[Club meeting attendees] can expect exposure to German culture, intelligent conversation in both German and English and the company of great friends," Holmes said.

Being able to balance work and play, Holmes admits that while most activities explore the camaraderie of the mem-

bers, the club can also get down to business.

During organizational meetings, club members plan for the multitude of events they host. The fruits of their labor manifest in a variety of helpful ways. From a bake sale that not only helped support the AIDS walk, but also benefited last year's flood victims, to being a familiar presence at the German Cultural Center in Atlanta, the group makes it a point to stay involved.

"We have had movie and food nights and celebrated German holidays or traditions," Holmes said. "We have also participated in an international

night at a local middle school and hosted a party for Kell High School students and their exchange partners from Germany."

"Students who volunteer time and effort in KSU German Club tend to be very committed and dedicated," Smith said. "They develop skills that benefit them as life-long learners."

Every third Thursday of the month, the club attends the KSU German Film Festival. Starting Feb. 17, the club will be holding a monthly "Stammtisch," a get-together complete with dinner. Members are asked to pay for their own food and beverage.

Program meetings encourage healthy eating

SARAH HITT
STAFF WRITER

Whether with diet pills, excessive exercising or the newest diet craze, Americans have become obsessed with finding the newest way to shed their extra pounds. KSU's Wellness Center is taking a stand by offering students a healthy alternative to aid in weight loss.

The Owl Watchers program is an eight-week program for students who want to learn more about healthy eating.

Participants sign up online each week and meet in room 130 of the Wellness Center for lunch and discussion. The class is free for KSU students and the first 30 students who register online get a free lunch.

Each meeting centers on a different focus, but all involve learning new weight-management skills. The program encourages students to adopt a new lifestyle, rather than temporary habits for short-term weight loss.

Brittany Slotten, KSU Wellness Center's dietician leads the class. During the program, she not only takes

the time to focus on enjoying healthy eating, but also on how to stretch a dollar when buying food.

counting calories—it's about learning how to eat on a daily basis," Slotten said.

The Owl Watchers

healthy tips for grocery shopping and cooking at home.

One valuable piece of

Students who attend the class vary in age and lifestyle. Many participants are non-traditional students who

habits for their kids, while applying it to everyone in the class.

Some students attend to gain a better understanding of healthy living. Yanmin Sun, a junior, aims to learn how to gain weight by taking the class.

"I have gained an awareness about what I eat and buy that I never had before," Sun said.

Students are encouraged to set goals within the eight-week class. Many students weigh in at the beginning or end of the class to track their progress.

"After I set my goals the lectures helped me attain those goals. I wasn't working alone," Sun said.

The next session is "Dining Out Delightfully: A special occasion survival guide. This will mark week five for the eight-week session. The meeting will be held at 12:30 p.m. Feb. 25 in the Wellness Center.

Students can register for the class online at <https://computertrain.kennesaw.edu/> or visit the Wellness Center for more details. Slotten also offers one-on-one nutrition counseling at no cost to students.



Greg Ranallo | The Sentinel

"Although weight loss is a primary focus (within the class), sustaining long term weight loss is not about

met with the topic of Supermarket Smarts & Menu Makeovers Feb. 18. Students learned many

advice that Slotten offered was to add vegetables to anything, in order to fill up and cut calories.

had questions on cooking for their families and children. Slotten was quick to encourage them in healthy

New campus diner hosts eating challenge

JOSH PATE
STAFF WRITER

University Village's late night diner, The Hoot, has issued a challenge to KSU students.

Competitive eaters, chili cook-off champs and famished food lovers rejoice as this challenge includes consuming a 42-oz. sandwich consisting of two Nathan's hot dogs, sauerkraut, grilled

onions, homemade chili, bacon bits, cheese sauce and Texas Pete hot sauce, all on a 12-inch sub roll with a side of French fries.

The only rule that applies to the challenge is that eaters must finish everything on the plate in less than 10 minutes.

The challenge costs \$12.99 and winners of the contest receive store credit of equal value,

making the meal free. The Hoot is developing a plaque to put successful contestants' names into its own hall of fame.

"There have been about 10 challenges so far and four or five have completed it," said Mathew Lester, one of The Hoot's supervisors.

Junior Tyler Cohen, one of the cooks at The Hoot, has witnessed about eight challenges.

"The 50 percent success rate is too high, so we are thinking of making it harder. Everyone who has finished it has done it under seven minutes, so I'd like to change the time limit to eight minutes," Cohen said.

It is a common misconception that depriving oneself of food before a food challenge, but in fact, the opposite is true. Consuming large amounts

of food stretches the stomach, which is why professional competitive eaters practice eating cabbage and drinking almost a gallon of water to train for competitions.

Robin Taylor, another super visitor for The Hoot, recommends that contenders adopt a yogurt and soup diet the day before the challenge.

"Everything is prepared

in-house," Taylor said of the 6 ounces of chili that top the dog, making this plate a Hoot homemade original.

Brave students can participate in this eating experience at The Hoot in University Village Building 6000. The store hours are 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. for lunch and 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. for late-night dining seven days a week.



Josh Pate | The Sentinel

Freshman Josh Pate and Barron Shiel, congratulate each other after the hoot challenge



Photo from gotohotdogheaven.com/



SPECIAL TO THE SENTINEL

Dan Keplinger, screenwriter for his autobiographical film "King Gimp" and winner of a 1999 Oscar for Best Short Documentary at the Academy Awards, will speak at KSU Wednesday, Feb. 24 at 6:30 p.m.

A reception will be held in the Atrium of the Social Science Building at 5:30 p.m. Keplinger's film will be seen at 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium of Social Science and will be followed by a question and answer session.

Keplinger's visit to KSU is sponsored by Siegel Institute for Leadership, Ethics and Character; Department of Communication, Department of Visual Arts; Inclusive Education; SGA; KAB; and ABLE.

"Dan has cerebral palsy, but he is a successful artist in spite of his personal challenge," said Dr. Richard Stafford, an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Communication and personal friend of Keplinger.

Due to his limited hand and arm function caused by cerebral palsy, Keplinger paints using a brush attached to headgear. He holds two art degrees from Towson University in Baltimore where he lives.

Keplinger, who has spoken worldwide, is wheelchair bound and requires an interpreter for public appearances, as his public speaking skills are limited. "Dan Keplinger is an incredible speaker, drawing large crowds, who are inspired by his extraordinary talent and story," Stafford said.

Keplinger was nominated for a Peabody (Journalism) Award and an Emmy Award. He was featured in a 2001 Superbowl television ad for Cingular phones. "King Gimp" was aired on HBO and the Discovery Channel.

For more information, contact Stafford at rstaffo3@kennesaw.edu or visit Keplinger's Web site: kinggimp.com.



Photos courtesy of Richard Stafford
Dan Keplinger paints with a brush attached to headgear. His paintings have sold for thousands of dollars.

Olympic medals contain traces of recycled metals

SANDY BAUERS
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER
(MCT)

For the first time in Olympic history, the medals awarded to the athletes contain gold, silver and copper recovered during electronics recycling.

The recovered metals make up only a small percentage of the total metals used in the medals, but their use is nevertheless being touted as consistent with the sustainability philosophy of the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

A story by the Environment News Service says the recovered gold, silver and copper used in the medals came from 6.8 metric tonnes of electronics circuit boards collected and processed by Teck Resources, a mining and metals company based in Vancouver that supplied all the metals for the medals. The electronic components were shredded, separated and heated to recover the metals, which were then combined with the mined metal from other Teck sources.

You can read more about the medals and the processes at the Teck Resources Web site and the Royal Canadian Mint site.

Teck says its electronics recycling process meets the exacting environmen-

tal standards needed for the responsible processing of e-waste.

That has become an increasingly important issue. According to groups that advocate for safer recycling, too often electronic materials are sent abroad to be dismantled. Unprotected workers can be sickened and local environments contaminated. Even if a recycling event's sponsors say they do not sell materials to irresponsible recyclers, the middleman that they do sell to might, according to the critics.

The Basel Action Network, a global watchdog group on toxic trade, has come up with an e-Stewards certification program, and last week the Natural Resources Defense Council, another prominent advocacy group, announced its endorsement of the certification.

"This initiative is sorely needed," said NRDC Senior Scientist Dr. Allen Hershkowitz in a press release. "Many e-waste recyclers claim to be green, but in reality they rely on unsafe and ecologically damaging methods like dumping millions of tons of toxic waste each year in China, India and Africa. E-Stewards provide businesses and consumers with a first-of-a-kind seal to identify the truly responsible recyclers."

For more information, visit www.e-stewards.org.



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SPORTS

Leaping toward victory



Photo by KSU SID

Senior high jumper Jerome McKinzie jumped a personal record of 2.20 meters, ranking ninth in the nation for the NCAA division I indoor track and field.

DEREK WRIGHT
SPORTS EDITOR

In their first team event of the season, the Kennesaw State University men's and women's track and field teams will be competing in The Atlantic Sun Conference Track and Field Indoor Championship on Friday and Saturday at East Tennessee State University.

Senior high jumper Jerome McKinzie and freshman pole vaulter Michelle Quimby are competing for first place spots. McKinzie is currently ranked ninth in the nation as a high jumper with a jump of 2.20 meters. If McKinzie can pull off a personal, record setting jump of 2.24 meters, he will be tied for first place in the nation.

Quimby will also compete for first place

in the Atlantic Sun Conference pole vaulting. She is currently tied for first with a vault of 3.52 meters.

"This is the time of the season where it's really important for me to make sure I'm at the top of my game," Quimby said in an article posted on KSUOWLS.com. "Every week I look at the list of the heights that have been cleared in the conference, and, especially heading into the championship,

I want to make sure I'm at the top of that list."

The men's and women's teams hope to improve from last year, when both teams placed second. The men won first place in 2008, and are trying for two first-place wins in three years. If the women place first, it will be the first time in KSU history that they top the Atlantic Sun Conference Track and Field Indoor Championship.

Defeated Owl baseball goes 0-3

BENJAMIN POPLIN
STAFF WRITER

KSU's men's baseball team (0-3) fell to the Liberty Flames (3-0) in the 3-game season opener last weekend.

In the first game Friday, the Flames were relentless in their attack against the Owls at Stillwell Stadium. Pitcher Ryan Rodebaugh, a junior, started for the Owls in the opener.

Last season, Rodebaugh had a record of 1-1 with a 4.10 earned run average, and he held his opponents to a .251 batting average in 48.1 innings.

Rodebaugh threw five innings, striking out five batters, walking three, allowing three runs and recording 72 total pitches.

"His pitch count was too high, and he was behind in the count," head coach Mike Sansing said. "Starting pitchers have to go deeper in games."

Batters struck out a total of six times, and also struck out swinging seven more times.

"We need to be a little more aggressive at the plate and not get behind in the count," Sansing said.

Last year's best hitter and returning senior Tyler Stubblefield led off the bottom of the first-inning with a single. A stolen base and three walks later, Stubblefield scored when freshman Ronnie Freeman walked to put the Owls on the board.

They did not score again until the bottom of the sixth inning, when junior Drew Fowlkes connected for a single, and senior Clint Roques sliced a hard double down the left field line.

The game was close through the first five innings, with the Flames leading 3-1. In the top of the sixth, Liberty tacked on four runs with singles by junior Jerry Neufang, senior Nathan Thompson and senior Curran Redal.

Things did not get any better for the Owls: With a runner on and no one out, reliever Josh Carr delivered a 2-2 pitch to Liberty's sophomore Tyler Bream. Bream stepped up and hit a deep shot that sailed over left fielder Clint Brock's head for a 2-run homer that was the nail in the KSU coffin.

Things did not get any better for the Owls as the Liberty Flames swept the series opener.

On Saturday, KSU lost by a score of 11-2, and on Sunday, the Flames defeated them 10-4.

The Owls play the Jacksonville State Gamecocks on Wednesday at 1 p.m. in Jacksonville, Ala. They play again at home against the Samford Bulldogs in a three game series starting on Feb. 25.



Greg Ranallo | The Sentinel

Last season junior pitcher Ryan Rodebaugh held his opponents to a .251 batting average in 48.1 innings.

Lady Owls dunk Jax Gamecocks

SHERYSE ANDERSON
STAFF WRITER



Sophomore guard Angie Smith drives in for a lay-in against the Jacksonville State University Gamecocks. Greg Ranallo | The Sentinel

The KSU Lady Owls basketball team (8-17, 5-11) hosted Jacksonville State University Gamecocks (8-16, 7-9), and after seven lead changes and eight tied scores, the Lady Owls came out on top.

The team got off to a slow start in the first half, shooting 10-32 from the field and giving them a staggering 30.8 percent in field goal shooting. In the first half, the Lady Owls were 0-5 from the 3 point line with 14 turnovers. It was a rough start, but the Lady Owls trailed by three at the half with a score of 24-27.

"The advice coach gave us for the second half was we needed intensity," sophomore guard Angie Smith said.

The team's increased intensity showed in the second half, as they shot 11-26 from the field in the second half and were 1-1 from the three point line. They also had success from the foul line in the second half, shooting 18-22, giving them a total of 78.8 shooting percent for the game.

Although the Lady Owls had a better second half, defense won the game. At the 00:7 minute mark in the second half the Lady Owls lead Jacksonville by two points. Jacksonville had the possession of the ball. After a bad pass on the inbound, senior center Monitinique Nixon was able to come away with the steal giving her three on the night. KSU had a total of 14 steals in the game.

The Lady Owls also out-rebounded the Gamecocks 44-32. KSU's leading rebounder was freshman forward Sametria Gideon with a game-high nine rebounds.

"Being in the position to pick off passes was key, Lady's Owl head coach Colby Tilley said. "Our defense is what carried us tonight," Tilley said.

Senior forward DeAndrea Bullock, senior guard Gia Lockett and freshman Sametria Gideon lead the team with 12 points each.

The Lady Owls have won four of their last five games in conference play and are going strong into the season finish.

"We need to win these last few games for seating purposes. We just have to keep playing hard," Tilley said.

Men overwhelm in home opener; women fall short at USC Upstate

MATT BRADSHAW
STAFF WRITER

The men's tennis team defeated North Carolina Central University 7-0 Saturday in their home opener. The Owls improved their season record to 4-5 with the win.

Last season, the Owls were barely able to edge NCCU, winning 4-3. This season the Owls had a better idea of what to expect.

"It was a good win," Owls No.3 singles player Michael Langel said. "I played the same guy last year, so I kind of knew what to expect. He (Langel's opponent Jose Fabara) for sure had improved but I just put the pedal to the metal and came out with a victory, it was a great day for the Owls!"

Langel's 6-4, 6-2 win over Fabara puts him at a team best singles record of 6-3. Langel also picked up a win at No.2 doubles partnering with Simon Janik.

Simon Janik posted a win at No.2 singles and is trying to get back on a winning streak after falling to USC Upstate's Renzo Airaldi Friday in a closely contested battle.

Friday's loss to USC Upstate puts the Owl's A-Sun conference record at a 0-1 start.

The women's tennis team lost their first A-Sun conference match of the season, 4-3, when they traveled to University of South Carolina Upstate on Friday.

"We continue to make strides against the better teams in the conference, but this was a tough loss to

take," head coach Padgett said on ksuowls.com. "Doubles continues to haunt us, as it has in every loss thus far this season."

The doubles point could have given the match to the Owls but they were only able to win one of the three doubles match-ups. It was the team of freshman Iesha Holton and sophomore Morgan Carney who came up with a win at No.2 doubles, 8-4. The other Owl doubles players came up with two games as Shkundina/Sergeyichik lost the No.1 doubles 8-0 and Palider/Swindall lost the No.3 doubles by a score of 8-2.

Despite her doubles woes, Lady Owl No.1 sophomore Vera Shkundina came up with another win at No.1 singles, defeating Monica Pezzotti 7-6(6), 6-4.

A writer's journey into the world of mixed martial arts

DEREK WRIGHT
SPORTS EDITOR



Growing up, I idolized fighters of every type, boxers, martial artist (Jet Lee anyone?), samurais, knights and even fighting turtles (Teenage Mutant Ninja turtles). And like most young boys, I played with sticks make believing that I was a samurai, Jet Lee, or Lancelot fighting off hundreds of evil attackers, or trying to save the princess from her wicked captor.

Now I am entering the world of Mixed Martial Arts (MMA); where true fighters, and sometimes still dress as a samurai (Kenny Florian.) MMA is not often considered a sport where two heroes step into the ring to have an honorable duel. It is a sport of "blood-thirsty savages" and "human-cock fighting," at least according to Sentinel opinion writer James Swift. Could this really be true? So I set out on a quest to portray the wild world of fighting in a more positive, respectable light.

I found a gym minutes from KSU called Tuf MMA, where the instructors were happy to have me come to train with them. This was my chance to finally become one of the beloved heroes of my past.

Juan Guavera, owner of Tuf MMA, also wants to show how MMA fighters are admirable warriors. Guavera trains his fighters with respect, and in return, he tells them that they need to be upstanding citizens first and fighters second. Guavera and his fighters know how the public views them, and they want to enlighten the public's attitude of MMA.

"They train hard, cut weight and sometimes work two jobs just to do what they love," Guavera said. "These knuckleheads on TV [The Ultimate Fighter] reality TV show] are stuck in a house with a bunch of guys and lots of alcohol with nothing else to do.

They don't let them have any type of entertainment, but alcohol. How do you think they will act?"

The majority of the public is ill-informed about how fighters truly act. "The Ultimate Fighter" gives the impression that MMA is full of people who get drunk and have raging tempers, but like any reality show, it is not real. Do we all live a life like in the show "The Real World?"

To dispel this outrageous sentiment, I will be following and training with the Tuf MMA fighters for the next few months. MMA is a sport of violence, but I will give a look into the hearts and minds of the fighters and trainers on a weekly basis to learn if MMA is more than two men pummeling each other.

I invite your input on the topic as well. Let me hear from you at sportseditor@ksusentinel.com.

The majority of the public is ill-informed about how fighters truly act.

TEAMS, FROM FRONT PAGE

"With the way we've been playing, I think we can win the tournament," Tilley said. "All we have to do is put three good games together, and with the way we've been playing, I think it's possible."

Campbell and Jacksonville, tied at first in the Atlantic Sun men's division, play Thursday. The outcome will go a long way in determining the number one seed for the tournament that will likely oppose the KSU men's team.

With the win last Saturday, the University of North Florida owns the season series against the Owls, and currently sits in the seventh seed for the tournament. But with two games remaining for all the teams in the tournament, there is still time for a seed change.

"The upcoming games this week will determine the final seeding position," assistant coach Montez Robinson said. "They will determine if we are sixth, seventh or eighth. They are also important for the number one, two and three teams; they could determine first, second, and third."

Athletic director Dr. Dave Waples pointed out that league champions have a 50-50 chance of walking away with the title.

"So all eight teams are going into the tournament saying, 'We have to play our best,' and we are all just keeping our fingers crossed," he said.

This is the first season that the Owls have had the chance to play in the NCAA Division I tournament. Qualifying for the conference tournament in the first season can go a long way for recruiting and improving the future of the Owl's basketball program.

"Being eligible and making it in our first year can really help, especially in recruiting," Tilley said. "It's a tremendous help in building confidence in the players that are here now and the ones that will be coming back next year. So that's a big boost to our program."

KSU President Daniel Papp agreed with the coach's assessment.

"Recruiting is the biggest and most immediate impact," he said. "Our rivals would say, 'Why go to Kennesaw when they cannot compete in the tournament?' and that is no longer true."

Beginning March 3, the conference tournament will unfold at University Center on the Mercer University campus, about 100 miles south of Kennesaw.

Starting March 5, the semifinal matchups will be broadcast on Comcast Sports Southeast (CSS) at noon and 2:30 p.m. for the women, and 6:30 p.m. and 9 p.m. for the men.

The women's conference championship game will be televised at noon March 6; the men will play at 6 p.m. on ESPN 2.

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