

THE SENTINEL

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KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY | THE SENTINEL

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SNEAK PEEK

HOOKED ON CELEBRITIES

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MEDICAL POT COMING TO GA?

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KSU VS MERCER FRIDAY AT 7PM

Story Starts On Page 13



KSU students enjoy a snow day.

Brea Boutwell | The Sentinel

SAMARITANS SHINE IN SNOWSTORM

Sierra Hubbard Staff Writer

#ATLANTARCTICA

Almost everyone in the metro-Atlanta area was affected in some way by the snowstorm last Tuesday, Jan. 28, but many Kennesaw students faced the bitter cold with a warm welcome and a true display of southern hospitality.

KSU announced around 11 a.m. on Tuesday that the campus was closing at 1 p.m. due to the inclement weather, but by that time the roads were already iced over and traffic was at a standstill. Many students, like senior and theatre and performance studies major Abbey Faith Sanders, sat in their cars for several hours without moving.

"I was in the car from 11:30 a.m. until 3:40 p.m., and my commute is usually only 20 minutes," Sanders said.

"I decided to pull my car off to the side of the road, because I

knew there was no way my two-wheel drive Camry was going to make it home."

After another two hours of walking, Sanders finally made it home safely. Some students lived on campus and were actually able to enjoy the rarity of the snow.

"I went out sliding on a pizza pan with some of my friends," said Zachary Baxter, a sophomore and business management major.

"I got a lot of studying finished, as well as playing a lot of Xbox 360."

Baxter did worry, however, about his parents, who were back home in Hiram, Ga. "My mom was stuck at work due to the heavy traffic and snow/ice on the roads. My father attempted to pick up my mom; however, the truck failed on him when he was driving up a

hill." Thankfully, an old friend was able to pick up both of his parents and take them home by the end of the night.

With so many cars abandoned and hundreds of people trapped in their vehicles on the highways, many good samaritans came to the aid of travelers. Alek Searcy, a junior studying international business, went out with his roommates to help cars that were stuck in the ice.

"They brought shovels and kitty litter and we all collectively tried to help commuters get home throughout Tuesday evening," Searcy said.

"Many had been in their cars for four to six hours by that time."

Other students decided to help out by lifting spirits. Jasmine Simmons and Deborah Jones went with friends to a local Dunkin Donuts, bought five

dozen doughnuts, and made several cups of hot chocolate and coffee.

"While we were carrying the donuts and coffee to the highway to pass out to the people who had been stuck on the highway, we met some other KSU students who were passing out water and granola bars so we just joined in with them," said Simmons, a junior and communications major.

"It was a very rewarding experience," said Jones, a junior studying middle grades education. "Everyone was really appreciative of what we were doing."

Despite the harsh conditions and general unpreparedness for such weather, strangers came to the aid of others without hesitation.

"It felt great to be part of something spontaneous with a

lot of strangers," said Searcy.

"We were definitely making a difference."

In the face of this emergency, several KSU students, as well as hundreds of people across the Atlanta area, proved the true meaning of southern hospitality.

SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM DR. PAPP

See On Page 2

NEWS

ON BEHALF OF **PRESIDENT PAPP** AND ALL THE stranded travelers who received help from our generous students

THANK YOU

You make us all proud, and demonstrate what it truly means to be a

KSU OWL!



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Traffic is backed up on Frey Road at 3pm on Tuesday.

Matt Boggs | The Sentinel

SURPRISE SNOWSTORM STUNS SOUTHEAST

Jessica Garcia Staff Writer

#SNOWMEGGEDON2014

A two-day snow storm bringing two to four inches ravages the southeast shutting down most city and urban operations. Throughout Georgia, schools, businesses and major roads were closed down due to dangerous traveling conditions. On Tuesday afternoon the executive decision was made by the Atlanta city government to have everyone evacuate their schools and places of business and immediately return home. The entire city evacuating all at once caused snarling traffic jams on every road leading to car wrecks, citizens abandoning their cars and extended commutes home.

"I think the mayor did what he thought was best for Atlanta," said freshman communication major Jacob Wells, "He didn't sit there and say 'what can I do to make a really big traffic jam?' No, he did what he thought would be best for everyone. It just ended up being a disaster."

Other citizens however were not as sympathetic.

"Of course it was a terrible idea. We weren't prepared for such a disaster either...at least a few countermeasures like rock salt and chains for government vehicles would have helped the situation as opposed to literally nothing," says junior psychology major Steven Moore.

Others like Samantha Ray-

mond, sophomore psychology/chemistry major, agree and believe the decision to evacuate was made too late.

"It would have been better for them to have been overly cautious...If they had looked ahead and made the decision early and not have been so afraid of being wrong; things would've turned out way better."

In a response to the severity of the storm Mayor Kasim Reed stated that they "do take responsibility for having the business community, the government and our schools basically leave all at once." Reed requested that everyone remain in their homes and off of the streets until they could get the city cleaned up. When asked how he would rate the city of Atlanta's handling of the mayhem Reed stated he was only concerned with getting citizens safely back to their homes.

Whether or not Atlanta was asleep at the wheel with the snow storm does not change the fact that it blindsided the city and its population. Everyone was inconvenienced in some way by the surprise flurry.

Sophomore biology major Nathanael Leman endured a ten hour commute home after leaving Kennesaw State's campus at 1 p.m. "I left KSU as soon as I could, but there was no avoiding the traffic," said Leman. "I watched people spin out and

crash the whole way home."

Others like junior biology major Blake Dahler braved the cold on foot.

"I left Kennesaw at 12:30 p.m. and it took me half an hour to leave the parking decks," said Dahler. "I live 10 minutes from Kennesaw and it took me eight hours to get home. I ended up getting in a friend's car, but we ran out of gas and we walked five and a half miles in the snow to get home."

Later that day Governor Nathan Deal declared a state of emergency for the state of Georgia that would extend through Sunday night. According to the L.A. Times, the Georgia state police logged over 1,400 car accidents and National Guard troops were dispatched to rescue stranded students and deliver food to stranded motorists spending the night in their cars along the highway.

The Georgia Emergency Management Agency had been questioned about the preparedness for the storm nearly 24 hours before it hit, according to the Atlanta Journal Constitution. Charley English, the director of the GEMA, admits fault for the lack of preparedness in Atlanta. Between English and Deal, the emergency plans seemed to simply slip through the cracks.

All throughout Atlanta people could be found sleeping in cars

and even businesses. Stranded motorists spent the night in places like Publix, CVS and even Waffle House. Many businesses, including Maddio's Pizza and Dunkin Donuts, remained open for people who were stuck and had no food. Numerous public schools kept students overnight because buses could not proceed safely on the icy roads and parents could not make it through the traffic to pick up their children.

While Atlanta remained at a standstill for two days, it's citizens banded together to brave the winter storm. There was a Facebook page started called "SnowedOutAtlanta" on which people from all over posted tips on which businesses were open, where people could sleep, and what traffic looked like. People offered their homes for stranded travelers to sleep and get warm. Business and churches provided free food and shelter for the public.

In the wake of what is now referred to as "Winter Storm Leon," metro Atlanta is now back on track. Most highways and major roads have been cleared, children have been returned home from their schools, people have trekked back to their abandoned cars, and businesses have reopened their doors. Most school systems, including KSU, will resume normal operations beginning Saturday Feb. 1.

OWL EVENTS

Daniel Lumpkin
News Editor

Don't miss any OWL Events! Check back each week for a new calendar of KSU's upcoming events. Don't see your event? We want to know! Please send event information to newseditor@ksusentinel.com

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Wednesday

- **ESOL Conference 2014**
- **Event Type:** Conference
- **Location:** KSU Center KC182 (24) Demonstration Classroom 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

6

Thursday

- **Hillel Lunch n Learn**
- **Event Type:** Service Project
- **Location:** Student Center Addition STA372 (30) RSO Boardroom
- 12:00 PM - 1:15 PM

7

Friday

- **Red Badge of Courage**
- **Event Type:** Performance
- **Location:** Wilson Annex WA1001 (80) The Onyx Theater
- 8:00 PM - 10:00 PM

8

Saturday

- **VMSA - Valentine's Day Dance**
- **Event Type:** Service Project
- **Location:** Student Center Addition STA155A Student Center Atrium Info Table 01
- 5:00 PM - 10:00 PM

9

Sunday

- **Lacrosse Game**
- **Event Type:** Sports - Game/Match
- **Location:** Sports and Recreation Park SRP KSU Soccer Stadium
- 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM

10

Monday

- **Trey Wright, jazz guitar**
- **Event Type:** Performance
- **Location:** Bailey Performance Center PH100 (624) Morgan Concert Hall
- 8:00 PM - 10:00 PM

SUPERIOR PLUMBING SUPPORTS KSU ATHLETICS

Roderic Graham Staff Writer

#DOLLAMAKEYAHOLLA

Superior Plumbing, Inc. and The Kennesaw State University Department of Athletics announced multiyear sponsorship agreement on Monday, Jan. 27. This is the second time this week KSU Athletics committed to a multiyear sponsorship agreement.

"We are looking for sponsors that serve the community, and Superior Plumbing has an excellent track record," said Vaughn Williams, director of athletics.

Superior Plumbing will contribute \$1.5 million over a 10 year period and will be the official plumber for the KSU Athletic Department. The company also has naming rights to the lodge section in Fifth Third Bank Stadium.

This is the third multiyear sponsorship the KSU Athletic Department has received. Fifth Third Bank was the first to partner with the Department of Athletics and agreed to donate \$5 million over a 10 year period and receive naming rights to the former KSU stadium. WellStar Health System agreed to donate \$2.75 million over a 15 year period, with a 20 year extension option, and is the official health system provider for KSU Athletics. KSU Athletics has a total of \$9.25 million in sponsorships.

Signage for Superior Plumbing will be displayed in the KSU Convocation Center, Stillwell Stadium and Bailey Park, with additional advertisements in

game programs, television and radio broadcast, and on KSUOwls.com.

"There has been an informal relationship with Superior Plumbing for quite some time," said KSU President Daniel S. Papp. "We are formally marketing a wonderful partnership between Superior Plumbing and Kennesaw State University."

Cunningham is a respected member of the Kennesaw community and sponsors athletics around Cobb County. Additionally, the plumbing company contributed to Owl-O-Ween and sponsored the first football game played at Fifth Third Bank Stadium last fall. Superior Plumbing is also the official plumber for the Atlanta Braves,

Atlanta Hawks and Phillips Arena.

Superior Plumbing also supports several charitable companies and cultural events. Hope House, Furry Friends and Toys for Tots are organizations that benefited from Superior Plumbing donations. Cunningham is also big on community involvement. His company sponsored an evening at California Dreaming restaurant and a limousine ride for special needs students attending prom at Kennesaw Mountain, Alatoona and Sprayberry High Schools.

"I attended Kennesaw Junior College and I thought how cool it was to finally have a football team," said Jay Cunningham, president and owner of Super-

rior Plumbing. "Trust was an important factor in establishing this agreement. I know many members in this community and consider them friends."

Students interested in trying out for the KSU football team must have paperwork submitted by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 4. Students must be enrolled in 12 hours of coursework and meet NCAA and KSU eligibility requirements.

The inaugural recruiting class will be signed Wednesday, Feb. 5th. The first owl kickoff will be in fall 2015. For more information on KSU athletics please visit KSUowls.com

KSU HOST GOP SENATE DEBATE

Roderic Graham Staff Writer

#SENATEDEBATE2014

Unfair tax laws, high unemployment for college graduates and healthcare are a few of many issues that Georgians would like their state representatives to mandate. Kennesaw State University hosted 1 of 7 GOP U.S. Senate primary debates on Saturday, Feb. 1.

The Dr. Bobbie Bailey and Bailey & Family Performance Center was filled with Republicans anxiously waiting to hear how the 8 GOP Senate candidates will improve on current issues and implement policies that will benefit Georgia's citizens. Martha Zoller News Talk AM 1330 radio host and ZPolitics editor moderated the debate. KSU political science professor, Kerwin Swint, and an Atlanta Journal Constitution columnist, Kyle Wingfield, were panelists.

Each candidate began the debate with an opening statement that provided details about

their life, political experience and key issues they will focus on if elected to the U.S. Senate.

"We have to treat this like a job interview," said Karen Handel.

Eugene Yu, Derrick Grayson, Art Gardner, Karen Handel, Phil Gingrey, Paul Broun, Jack Kingston and David Perdue are fighting to occupy a seat in the U.S. seat held by the retiring Saxby Chambliss. Swint began the debate by asking the candidates how they will preserve the American dream for college students.

"I say to young voters to achieve the American dream we must create jobs, reduce regulation and create more friendly business," said Yu.

Karen Handel believes "new leadership and hard work" is vital for success in this country.

Healthcare is a growing concern among many people in the

country. Broun introduced the Patient Option Act, H.R. 2900, which let people have more control over their healthcare plans.

"The Patient Option Act will increase health savings account and create tax incentives for physicians and clinics that

STOP
LETTING IRANIANS
PLAY US
LIKE PUPPETS

provide care to the indigent," said Broun.

Gingrey, Broun and Kingston are current U.S. Representatives. Their opponents feel that they had ample opportunities to address issues.

"If we keep sending the same people to the Washington, we will continue to get the same results," said Derrick Grayson.

In his defense, Jack Kingston stated he "voted against Obama care 40 times." Kingston plans to "make health care affordable and return healthcare authority to the state government."

Candidates also provided detail on how they would strengthen foreign policy without over allocating funds to foreign countries.

"We need to enact for tougher sanctions and stop letting Iranians play us like puppets on a string," said Gingrey.

David Purdue believes "a

stronger military" is the key to enforcing stricter foreign policy.

All candidates wanted to strengthen the Republican Party. Art Gardner believes youth and a strong minority presence will improve the Republican Party.

"We need to establish a stronger minority presence in the Republican Party," said Gardner. "We need to stop denying gay Americans access to the Republican Party, because they are Americans before they are anything else."

The next GOP debate will be on Feb. 22 in Gainesville, Ga. The primary election will be held on May 20, 2014 and the runoff will be held July 22, 2014. Senate election will be held on Nov. 4, 2014.



SNOWPOCALYPSE NOW

Ellen Eldridge Staff Writer

As roadside snowmen melt away, future political as well as business leaders should learn how to handle mistakes with humility.

Students learn as early as elementary school that failing to learn about history dooms us to repeat it. Why then haven't government officials and school boards learned from the past concerning winter weather in the Atlanta area?

I grit my teeth and swallowed some of my own words a few hours after snapping a shot of the first falling snowflakes. From the English building's second floor, I scoffed at the threat of a "few inches of snow" because I grew up in New Jersey and lived north of the Mason-Dixon line for more than 20 years. Since moving to Atlanta, I've only seen snow stick to the ground twice. Yet, I seem to have

learned more and swallowed more pride than the mayor of Atlanta.

Al Roker was 100 percent correct that we "were warned." An article in "The Daily Mail" by Louise Boyle and James Nye quotes Roker as he lambasted both Gov. Deal and Mayor Reed for publically and cockily stating that they "cannot control Mother Nature" and that the National Weather Service never showed Atlanta would be hit.

The problem, as we all know now, came when the snow started falling steadily. And sticking. Those who should have thought about it, should have gone through a process of thinking similar to this:

We might have snow Tuesday, but we don't want to cancel school unnecessarily. But, what will happen if it starts to snow midday and we release schools and businesses early? At this

exact line of critical thinking, those involved with making decisions should have just played it safe.

And if officials learned anything, it wasn't planning.

"The city now has 30 spreaders, 40 snowplows and 70,000 tons of sand and gravel versus just four pieces of equipment three years ago," Mayor Reed said. Yet, the increased equipment couldn't help an overwhelmed highway system. Once the snow started, it was too late. Lack of planning made Atlanta look incompetent. This major city became a joke to cities across the nation as well as the world. Our "clusterflake" left us at the butt of many jokes. As well it should have. After all, we were warned.

Two things that never mix are frustrated people and cocksure leaders. Those drivers who sat in traffic from anywhere from

two to 24 hours experienced incredible frustration. Reed's response inflamed the situation. Parents of children stuck on school buses overnight could not be consoled with such cocky reactions on the part of the leaders.

By Friday parents were angered all over again because for the fourth straight day their children were out of school. On a day when the high is expected to hit 52 degrees! How can I argue that, it seems downright ridiculous that Gov. Deal extended the state of emergency until Sunday? Poor planning resulted in a much larger mess that reasonably could have been foreseen.

"I didn't lose my patience or temper once in the 5 1/2 hours that I was stuck in traffic," Amy Shelly said. "However, when the time came for me to consider leaving my car and wondering if

my boys could make it - that scared me. By no means do I think this was catastrophic. It's more angering to know that it was a result of terrible leadership and decision-making on many, many levels. I find it hard to believe that a metropolis the size of Atlanta does not have a contingency plan in place for an event like this."

Present and future leaders need to learn from the snowpocalypse of 2011 as well as 2014. Study the history and think critically to develop strategies that can be implemented. The ability to prepare for rare crises is the foundation of a strong leader.

Ellen Eldridge, Senior Communication major

CELEBRITY OBSESSIONS

Toni-Ann Hall Staff Writer

There has always been huge dialogue concerning the criticism of the "agenda" that celebrity culture seems to have set. Shows such as "Keeping up with the Kardashians," "Rich Kids of Beverly Hills" and the frequent encounters with the law and personal moral standards of Miley Cyrus and Justin Bieber have been guilty of putting their ways of life on a pulpit for the world to see.

Fortunately, much of the reality shows do not accurately reflect reality as is. The media misconstrues what it means

to be wealthy and well known as being something villainous, shun-worthy and unacceptable, yet it slyly integrates it into the daily information we receive. The phrase, "mind your own business" has come to a halt when it comes to public figures because their lives always seem to have an event that is susceptible to coverage.

The efforts of those stars who are the sources of endorsements and charity sometimes go overlooked because they are often viewed as stunts to attract attention - media magnets. The cruelty of

animals, children or minorities doesn't become a bigger issue because a celebrity decides to speak on it, it just becomes more relevant to others. If someone idolizes a particular celebrity, then certainly a passion of theirs, sponsored or not, will become of interest to them as well.

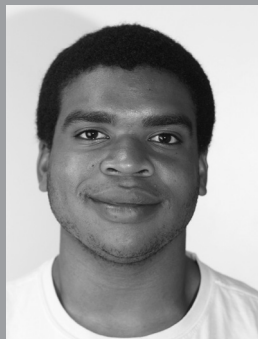
When I first heard in the news there was a petition for Justin Bieber's deportation to Canada, I was more confused than shocked because I didn't know people cared that much to run someone out of a country. He has been guilty

of reckless behavior in many occasions and as a result, the petition amassed over 100,000 signatures which is the amount the government requires for review. I understand where the heart of those who either started the petition or signed it were in terms of their reasoning, but when considering the level of success if this went through - which is very unlikely - it makes little to no difference on his impact. If there is something that needs to be changed, it is the consumers. Maybe if there was not an expectation of perfection and an unrealistic

portrayal of humanism, there wouldn't be as much disappointment in people. If more people started examining themselves and their own actions instead of the individuals they view as important, then the issue of influence wouldn't be as big of an issue as it is today.

Toni-Ann Hall, Freshman Communication Major





Brandon White Staff Writer

STATE OF THE UNION:

ADDRESS WITH FLARE

President Barack Obama gave his sixth State of the Union Address on Jan. 28 in a joint session of Congress in the House Chamber.

As usual, the greatest orator of this generation did not leave his audience wanting more. He gets criticized openly, but what president hasn't? Regardless, his performance at the podium is just as strong today, if not better, than his famous speech at the 2004 Democratic National Convention.

Every trivial topic of today was covered from the improvement of domestic automobile production, corporate growth and minimum wages, to the end of the war in Iraq and the reduction of American military presence in the Middle East.

The main point that Obama stressed was the opportunity for success that still exists today. "I believe that here in America, our level of success should depend on not on accident

of birth, but the strength of our work ethic and the scope of our dreams," Obama said, "that's what brought our fore-fathers here." - A daunting concessio that makes the audience cognizant of the fact that the executive branch is composed of people who had humble backgrounds. Mind you, the immediate audience is Congress, c-level executives, and invited guests.

Obama also stressed that he will urge Congress to work on improving the economic stability of the nation. However, it was let known that he will implement more executive action. In accordance with increased economic productivity, alternative energy sources and environmental protection which closely follow.

Obama announced he will "give America a raise" and sign an executive order to raise federal minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$10 an hour. A challenge was issued to

Congress by the president to work together.

In 2013, the bipartisan tension in Congress balked much of Obama's legislation. Republican Speaker of the House Jim Boehner said, "The question is how many people, Mr. President, will this executive action actually help? I suspect the answer is somewhere close to zero," according to The Associated Press.

The Affordable Care Act- the elephant in the room- was also addressed.

The backlash that occurred last year was brought into light when Obama said, "I do not expect to convince my Republican friends on the merits of this law... I know the Americans are not interested in refighting the same battle... and repealing the same law that is helping millions of Americans," which receiving a standing ovation.

Others received the State of the Union address to push Democratic campaign points

in the 2014 elections fast approaching. If the Democrats can regain the majority in the House of Representatives and in the Senate, Obama will not have to worry about a bipartisan struggle and his threat of executive orders will have remain just a threat.

On the principles of equal pay for men and women, re-establishing domestic manufacturing and affordable college for students "the result is that Democrats are now cautiously optimistic that they have more defined, and effective, agenda to rally around going into the fall elections," said Paul Kane of the The Washington Post writes.

On the issues of Syria and Palestine, diplomacy was stressed. The issue of weapons testing in Iran was urged to have ceased while negotiations continue. America is advocating democracy for Syria without moving troops into the country. The top moment of the speech is an apostrophe to Sgt. 1st

Class Cory Remsburg, a soldier who was injured by a roadside bomb in Iraq, "Day by day, he has learned to speak again and stand again and walk again and looking forward to the day when he can walk again," Obama said; the craftiness of this phrase, tricolon and symploce, is par excellence.

By far, President Obama is the greatest orator of this generation. I often compare him to Malcolm X in his presence and authority over his words. Every topic is addressed and explained clearly. He wields the English language like a double edged sword that lands as lightly as a feather. The assistant speechwriter, Jon Favreau, is also held in my highest regards. We are free to criticize our president as much as we wish, however, when Barack Hussein Obama is on the podium it is a win for America.

Brandon White, Junior Communication Major

THE SENTINEL SPRING 2014

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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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TV

CATCHES
SPINOFF
FEVER

Photo Illustration by Matt Boggs

Mike Strong Arts & Living Editor

#SPINOFFMANIA

In all forms of entertainment, it has been abundantly clear that franchises dominate over originality these days.

Hollywood is plagued by sequels and now even TV has developed sequelitis in the form of spinoff series. The past year has shown that the hot new thing is to keep a dying series going by creating a spinoff of that series. From the classic "Boy Meets World" to the recent phenomenon "Breaking Bad," just about every TV series gets a child series once the parent has run its course. But have these types of shows survived historically, and what chances do the upcoming ones have of becoming a hit?

In terms of successful spinoffs throughout television history, the first that comes to mind would be the "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" spinoff, "Angel." Though this was certainly not the first TV spinoff, or even the most successful for that matter, it is surely the most noteworthy. In fact, "Angel" often had higher ratings than Buffy did.

Another prime example of successful spinoffs would be the numerous "CSI," "NCIS" and "Law & Order" series. Though most do not see these as spinoffs, per-se, they technically are. And despite the lack of hype surrounding each of these series, they always tend to pull in high viewership and thus get continually renewed. These

shows are proof that a spinoff series does not need to rely on its parent series to survive at all, so long as the formula is engaging.

Successful spinoffs are truly rare gems, though. There have been more than a handful of spinoffs that failed to bring new life to their dying parent series. Sitcoms tend to have the highest body count of poorly rated spinoff series. Comedy sensations "The Office" and "Family Guy" both took a shot with "The Farm" and "The Cleveland Show," respectively. While "The Cleveland Show" did last for a surprising four years, "The Farm" was killed before it even had the chance to start. This was likely a smart move by the producers though, as this was not the first time they went back on the idea of an "Office" spinoff. Interestingly enough, the now widely popular series "Parks and Recreation" actually began as an "Office" spinoff. The connection was to come from the series' mutual character Karen, played by Rashida Jones. The producers likely foresaw that a series that relied on a pre-existing character would not do as well as one that can stand on its own.

The coming year has quite a few new spinoffs in store, both continuing from last season as well as new ones in the fall. The CW has surely become the most spinoff heavy channel around. They have already done

quite well with the popular "Vampire Diaries" spinoff "The Originals" and will likely continue that trend with its "Arrow" spinoff about The Flash and the recently announced untitled "Supernatural" spinoff series. The Flash series will likely have a smaller following than "Supernatural's" simply due to the nine years "Supernatural" has had to build a fan base. But only time will tell if franchise fatigue will set in with the "Supernatural" spinoff.

The most hyped spinoff of the coming season is surely that of "Breaking Bad." One of the most popular serial dramas of the past decade will get a comedic spinoff series in "Better Call Saul." With the endless media attention this series has gotten recently, anticipation has never been higher for a spinoff. All of the factors that have harmed past unsuccessful spinoffs will likely not affect "Saul," since "Breaking Bad" ended before it grew too old.

All eyes will certainly be on The CW and AMC next fall, as AMC has also even hinted at a "Walking Dead" spinoff. Hopefully, the producers at both channels have learned from the mistakes of failed spinoffs of the past and will make these promising new series stand on their own. But there is no denying that America is caught up in spinoff fever.

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Kevin Enners Staff Writer

#CANNABISCONTROVERSEY

Our great home state of Georgia could possibly be next on the list of states to legalize the use of medical marijuana. Georgia legislation is currently deliberating over the issue after a new bill that would legalize medical marijuana was introduced in the state House last Tuesday.

The National Institute on Drug Abuse defines marijuana as "a greenish-gray mixture of the dried, shredded leaves, stems, seeds, and flowers of Cannabis sativa—the hemp plant." Commonly referred to as pot, grass, reefer, weed, herb, Mary Jane, or MJ. At the federal level, marijuana is classified as a Schedule I substance under the Controlled Substances Act, making distribution of marijuana a federal offense. However, marijuana has been the center of attention shining in a completely different light – as being a medical remedy for critical illnesses.

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, "a total of 20 states and the District of Columbia allow for public medical marijuana programs (NCSL does not count Maryland, because its program is limited to research only.)" The current interest in medical marijuana sprouts from the successful outcomes reported by individuals suffering from AIDS, Crohn's Disease (an inflammatory bowel disease) and movement disorders such as Tourette's syndrome. Studies have shown that medical marijuana minimizes the "wasting syndrome" associated with AIDS, alleviates the severe pain that patients experience with Crohn's, and quells the involuntary movements associated with Tourette's. Most recently, medical marijuana

has been used successfully to control severe seizures in children and adults that are not controlled by other legal medications. These are just a few areas that marijuana has been acknowledged to have great therapeutic potential.

In 1997, Barry McCaffrey, director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), instructed the National Academy of Science to conduct a comprehensive study of pot's medical worth. The results concluded that marijuana and its ingredients had shown potential against a variety of conditions, but not to the extent that some advocates had hoped. The decision to legalize marijuana was left up to individual states. Georgia is currently considering legalizing it.

How likely is it that Georgia's legislators will approve medical marijuana? Despite being backed by medical professionals and journals like The New England Journal of Medicine, legalization remains an up-hill battle in the Georgia legislature. The debate should include discussion on potential positive economic impacts for Georgia. Licensing fees and taxes could generate considerable income, not to mention possible job opportunities if pharmaceutical companies open labs in Georgia.

There is much to consider in legalizing marijuana. Hence, legislators will continue to debate in an unhurried manner, exploring the ramifications of medical marijuana. And, though some are skeptical, the benefits of medical marijuana can be great.

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MICHAEL EALY AND REGINA HALL TALK “ABOUT LAST NIGHT”

Bernie (Kevin Hart) and Joan (Reginal Hall) spark up a strong relationship after what was meant to be a one night stand.

Courtesy of Sony Pictures

Roderic Graham Staff Writer

Do you not wish movies would show more relatable encounters of true love? A new romantic comedy, “About Last Night,” shows how true love blossoms from a one night stand.

“About Last Night” is a remake of the 1986 film, starring James Beluchi, Rob Lowe, Demi Moore and Elizabeth Perkins. Unlike the 1986 classic, this version of the story is set in Los Angeles and has an African-American main cast.

“This movie is more of an adaptation of the original play ‘Sexual Perversity in Chicago,’” lead actress Regina Hall said.

“L.A. is a much brighter city, which makes the tone of the move more fun and less melodramatic,” lead actor Michael Ealy said.

Danny, played by Ealy and Bernie, played by Kevin Hart are two bachelors living in Los Angeles. When Danny agrees to attend a night at the bar with Bernie, who is coming off of a recent sexual encounter with Joan Derrickson, played by Regina Hall, he meets Debbie Sullivan, played by Joy Bryant. The two have an undeniable physical chemistry, which evolves into a relationship. Each character has a healthy sexual appetite, which often leads them into

unfortunate situations.

“In this particular film sex is part of telling the story,” Ealy said.

“Joan is smart and very comfortable with who she is,” Hall said. “Debbie is more in her head and Joan lives in the moment, which makes them different.”

Ealy, Hall, and Hart are not strangers when it comes to working with each other on the big screen. The trio previously starred in the popular romantic comedy “Think like a Man” and will reprise their roles in the sequel “Think like a Man Too.” “About Last Night” focuses on two relationships instead of multiple encounters like those

in “Think like a Man.”

Although the movie has strong sexual content, it gives a realistic view of how two individuals fall in love. Using a scenario, such as a one night

stand, to explain love makes this movie different from most romantic films. After all, what is more relatable than a one night stand?

Director Steve Pink did a great job of showing what happens in relationships after the initial moment of pleasure. Financial difficulties, trouble at work and fear of commitment are a few things that test the relationship between the couples. Friendships are tested as relationships develop.

“Both movies show characters that are relatable on the screen, except in this movie we get into the dysfunctional relationship more and we have the time to do it with just two couples,” Ealy said.

“[The film] is not just about the couple, it is about the relationship between friends and the things that come into relationships because of life,” said Hall.

If you’re looking for somewhere to take that special someone on Valentine’s Day, try the movies. “About Last Night” will hit theaters on Feb. 14, 2014. Do not miss out on what is likely to be the next box office smash!



Danny (Michael Ealy) offers Debbie (Joy Bryant) his coat as they walk in downtown L.A.

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THE ROCCOS EASE LISTENERS WITH "OIL & CLAY"



"Oil & Clay" is the duo's fourth album, but their first under the name "The Roccos"

Courtesy of Michael Rocco

James Sears Contributor

Behind most of today's popular music, there are great acts hidden from the masses.

Take "The Roccos" for example. Chances are, unless you follow New York's local music scene, you have not heard of them. They are not new either; Kristina and Michael Rocco of Long Island, NY, have been making music since 2006.

The duo was originally known as "Trail of Stones" and their first album was titled "11:11." Since then, they have steadily released music. After their third studio album, "Bird on the Line," they changed their name to "The Roccos" and have built up to their latest release, "Oil & Clay."

On "Oil & Clay," Kristina plays the piano and provides the vocals for most of the tracks, while Michael plays the guitar, synthesizers, and also sings on a few tracks alongside Kristina. The album provides a relaxing

sound that comes from the heart and soothes the soul through atmospheric melodies.

A lot of the music contains an earthy sound that gives a sense of ambience. "Eighteen," the fourth track, has an ambient guitar melody that complements the lyrics which talk about aging and nostalgia. First, it sets the scene of an ocean, eventually arriving at a melodic depiction of a wintery landscape. The song has a quaint strain that fits the sections throughout, making it one of the more relaxing tracks, even without the lyrics. It can easily be said that the instrumentals for most tracks stand out enough on their own without the lyrics, though one must not under-credit Kristina's beautiful vocals.

Kristina's voice sounds immaculate and complements the music perfectly. There is not one track where she

does not sound excellent. The only track where her voice is absent is the thirteenth track, "Balanced," in which Michael takes over singing. Michael sings with a quiet and eerie tone accompanied by angelic whistling and somber beats consisting of light ticks and a tambourine.

Occasionally, both Kristina and Michael sing such as in "Oil and Clay" and "Trail of Stones." Together they have tremendous harmony and it would have been nice if the album featured more tracks with them singing together.

"Oil & Clay" is a pleasure from beginning to end. Many of its tracks have a quality that could be compared to a lullaby. If you are looking for an immersive album, "The Roccos" surely have it covered. You can listen to the full album and their other songs on www.theroccos.net

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Courtesy of Lionsgate

Aaron Eckhardt stars as the titular Frankenstein monster in this modern retelling of the tale.

Steven Welch Opinion Editor

#FRANKENFAIL

"I, FRANKENSTEIN" FAILS TO OVERCOME ITS DEMONS

Not since that horrible movie "O" has Hollywood bastardized classic literature as much as they have with "I, Frankenstein." What might have seemed like a good idea for a graphic novel does not really work well when condensed into a 90-minute movie, and that issue was realized for me early on when I found myself regretting my decision to see it. Truthfully, it was either this or "Hercules," so I guess I get bonus points for picking the lesser of two evils.

Indeed, the time limit seems to be the film's major problem, as an hour and a half is just not enough time to tell a story as in-depth as that of Frankenstein's monster, no matter what new spin it might have. We are given about ten minutes of back-story on how the evil doctor created the monster, then regretted his decision and tossed it over a bridge, thinking it died in the rivers below. We soon see that the monster survived however, and sought revenge against his creator. This, in itself, would make for a pretty standard revenge flick, but then we find out that there are now demons walking around the earth, wanting to find Frankenstein's monster in order to make it a part of their plan. Yep, demons. Mary Shelley is probably rolling around in her grave right about now.

After Frankenstein's battle with some of Hell's finest, we find out there has been a battle between good and evil going on for centuries. Or really, gargoyles and evil. There are gargoyles in this flick too, in case you are taking notes. The gargoyles want Frankenstein's monster to join their team and beat the demons. They find Frankenstein's diary, and decide to lock it up in order to stop the demons from finding it. The gargoyle queen even gives the monster a new name, Adam, because everyone has to name their pets. Of course Adam decides to go out on his own, and from there, a montage shaves off a good five minutes of storytelling in order to bring us into the 21st century.

Once we arrived in the modern age I thought the story would start to get better, but alas no such luck. We are briefly introduced to more demons, as well as their leader, who has been trying to copy Frankenstein's re-animation process. Then who I can only assume to be the female love interest appear; since she is hot, blonde and a smart doctor. I could not really tell though, she was only in the scene for about four minutes. That was another issue with the movie, the female lead has a severe lack of screen time until the final third part of the film. And even then,

the connection between her and Adam is not really all that passionate or intense. I want to root for her, but I found it hard to care whether or not she made it to the end of the movie.

Of course good always beats evil when it comes to Hollywood storytelling, and Adam finds himself being accepted by the gargoyles as more than just the soulless monster they always thought he was. Again, like the rest of the movie, the ending feels rushed and far too scattered, almost like the director had no idea what he wanted to actually happen until right before they filmed the scene. A couple of close-up shots of Adam's face and some voiceovers, and this movie ends with more questions than answers.

Despite how horrible I found this movie to be, the visual aspects serve as somewhat of a respite to how bad the story is. The effects were pretty well done for what appears to be a lower budget movie, but pretty and shiny things can only go so far. At the end of the day we can add this to the growing list of book adaptations that Hollywood has managed to screw up, and I can chalk up the seven dollars I spent at NCG to another life lesson, right up there with "Movie 43" and "Ride Along."

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Mike Foster Sports Editor

#RIVALRYWEAK

RIVALRY WEAK?

No collegiate experience is complete without the pageantry of collegiate athletics, and rivalries are a big part of that. If you've been around our campus long enough, you've probably spotted a few "Beat Mercer" shirts on students. The smaller, much older, private school to the south has at least been marketed as KSU's rival. It should be evident on Friday

night, where KSU will likely draw the largest crowd of the season at the Convocation Center.

That doesn't mean much considering KSU's men's basketball program has continued to be sans a substantial fanbase during another miserable season. They head into Friday's contest skidding down a seven-game losing streak, which was extended on Super Bowl Sunday when the team fell

apart at the seams, losing to ETSU by 13, after senior forward Andrew Osemhen was ejected for being involved in a scrum.

Scrum has become a trend for the frustrated Owls (4-20, 1-10 A-Sun) this season. They've continued to struggle with consistency in individual player production, and the absence of head coach Lewis Preston, who plans on returning to the team at the end of the season, still has many scratching their

head. No matter what way you spin it, the fact of the matter is KSU has spent three seasons as arguably one of the worst teams in Division I basketball.

Then there's Mercer. The Bears fell 80-61 on Sunday to a USC Upstate team that's rebounded after a disappointing start to their campaign, but Mercer is still alone at the top of the Atlantic Sun Conference standings with an 18-6 overall record and just two losses in conference.

Before Sunday's results, the Bears were ranked No. 12 in the CollegelInsider.com mid major power poll.

The two programs showed their true colors in the last head-to-head matchup, where

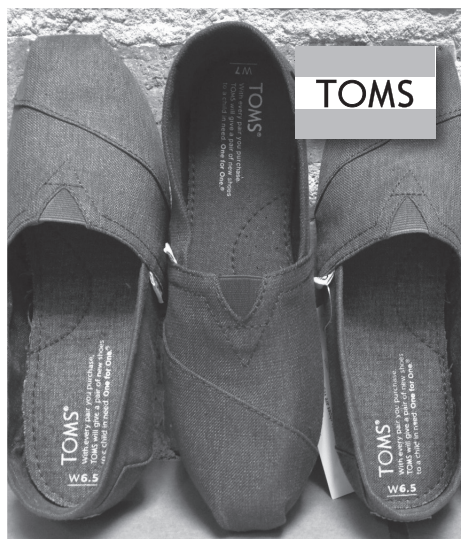
Mercer, who's undefeated at home this season, breezed through the Owls in an 83-46 victory that could have been a lot worse.

While the Bears no doubt will continue to prepare to make a run through the Atlantic Sun Conference tournament and into the NCAA Tournament, KSU's still hard-pressed to finish games.

It's hard to spin this matchup as a rivalry when it comes down to the actual game and teams at hand. Mercer is simply an example of where KSU's program should strive to get to, but there's little to no reason to think the Owls are anywhere close right now.

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Delbert Love scored his 1,000th point as an Owl in Sunday's loss.

Matt Boggs | The Sentinel

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TOUGH BREAKS CONTINUE FOR OWLS

Daniel Miller Staff Writer

KSU's women's basketball team came into Hawkins Arena and put themselves in position to pull the upset, but after battling their way back they ultimately fell to arch rival Mercer 64-59 on Saturday afternoon.

To start the game, KSU (4-16, 2-7) was once again plagued by a poor start. Mercer opened the game on a 10-3 run in large part due to seven early KSU turnovers. Mercer (11-9, 4-5) had built its largest lead of the half at 16-3 with 9:35 remaining until intermission.

From there, KSU showed a lot of resiliency and was able to claw back into the game once again led by the stellar play of junior guard Kristinia Wells, who notched her 10th double-double of the season with 16 points and 10 rebounds.

For the rest of the half, KSU battled back into the game. Down 19-8, the Owls put together a nice 10-2 run over a four minute span to trim the bears lead to 21-18 which was ignited by five different Owls scoring during the run. The Owls scored 12 of their final 14 points of the first half in the paint to cut a once 13-point deficit down to five at intermission. Twice in the first half the Owls were able to cut the bears lead to three, and trailed 25-20 going into halftime. KSU shot 34.8 percent in the first half compared to 37 percent for Mercer. KSU went into the half out-rebounding the Bears 21-15.

Coming out of the locker room to start the second half, the Owls were right in position to win as they had built

momentum. Unfortunately slow starts have been one of the team's biggest problems, and that continued again to open the second half as Mercer scored the first six points of the half and led by 11 at 31-20 with 17:20 left to play.

KSU would not go away as they went on a 9-4 run over the next four minutes, and with a traditional three point play by Wells, the score was now 35-29 with 13:30 remaining. Over the next five minutes, the Mercer advantage remained close throughout until the Bears capped off a 6-0 run which gave them a 12 point lead at 47-35 with 7:12 to go.

As this rivalry game unfolded, as one team went on a scoring run, the other team had an answer and KSU made sure that trend continued as they came

out of the timeout focused and quickly responded with a 7-0 run to make the score 47-42 with 5:17 left.

After a timeout by Mercer, Bears guard Kendra Grant scored the next seven points for the Bears as they built a 54-46 lead with 3:15 to go which pretty much sealed the game. The Bears were led by Briana Williams, who had 24 points and 5 rebounds as well as Kendra Grant who had 19 points and 5 boards.

The Owls tried to make one last rally, but could not cut into the six or seven points they needed to win. Along with Wells who scored 12 of her 16 in the second half, freshman guard Deandrea Sawyers added 12 points, all of which coming in the second half, while freshman forward Aareon

Smith posted 11.

KSU finished the game out-rebounding Mercer 41-28, and with a 34-20 advantage in points in the paint. Costly turnovers proved to be the difference in this game as the Owls committed 20 turnovers which led to 16 points for the Bears.

"We are still trying to put together a 40-minute game," said head coach Nitra Perry. We are taking some baby steps every game, but I definitely saw improvement and I thought they battled.

The Owls next game is Thursday, February 6th at 7 in the Convocation Center as the team prepares to take on Lipscomb as the second round of Atlantic Sun Conference play begins.



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LACROSSE READY FOR YEAR TWO

KSU defeated Howard for its only victory in its first year.

Photo courtesy KSU Athletics

Daniel Miller Staff Writer

#LAXATTACKS

Coming off a 1-11 campaign in the team's first season, KSU's women's lacrosse squad is simply looking to build on the foundation that began a year ago. They'll be right back in the gauntlet on Feb. 7 when they open on the road against Vanderbilt.

One of the toughest tasks the team faces early on is how they replace the production of Senneca Ward, who led the team in goals with 32, and in shots on goal at 48 for the Owls last season.

"Senneca was an exceptional athlete, and was a huge part of our program last year," head coach Kristina Llanes said. "I feel that the incoming freshman

and some of the returners have developed their game over the past fall, and I think that we will be able to play just as strong without Senneca"

This year the team will feature 13 newcomers, with 11 of them being freshman.

"We talk a lot about everyone contributes in different ways," Llanes said. "I'm expecting them to step up, I'm expecting them to mature as student athletes, and they've shown me that they can do that. I expect them to learn from every competition we come across this spring."

One of the biggest questions left remaining for the team is who will win out the starting goalkeeper position, as

there has been an ongoing competition between juniors Nicholette Hannah and Allison Senft, along with freshman Peyton Murdock.

"Right now they all are playing really, really hard" Llanes said. "They're fighting for the starting position. It is a unique position on the field where they do get substantial playing time when they win it out. I'm excited to see in the last two weeks who steps up. We have a scrimmage weekend coming up and that's going to be a huge factor on who goes in against Vanderbilt."

With the abundance of youth, there are still several key returners bolstered by senior

Emily Collins. Along with Collins, midfielder Kyra Fitzgerald, defenders Taylor Southerland, Kyra Ferguson, and Whitney Draper will all play vital roles if the team wants to accomplish its goals.

For Collins, being the only senior on the team has been unique, and something she has embraced. Collins' advice to all the newcomers is simple.

"Go out there and practice every day, you're going to learn through experiences. A lot of times, they'll ask questions, or if they need anything, I usually just kind of tell them to watch it through, experience it first than ask some questions," Collins said. "It's a process that they'll learn."

The offseason for the players has been drastically different this year as compared to last. Coach Llanes said they were able to provide the players with more out of season competition which included several fall ball tournaments.

When the season begins Friday, Feb. 7 against the Commodores, the team will be ready to prove to the Atlantic Sun conference that they have no plans to replicate last season.

"We want to fight for a conference championship. Our vision stays the same," Llanes said.

SOFTBALL OPENING WEEK

- First season for head coach Wes Holly Jr, who previously spent three years as an assistant.
- Senior Amanda Henderson named to A-Sun preseason all-conference team. Finished 2013 with an 18-4 record and 2.00 ERA, 194 strikeouts and 14 complete games.
- Owls picked to finish fifth in A-Sun by Preseason Softball Coaches Poll
- Open at Subway Invitational in Troy, Ala. on Friday and Saturday.

Make sure to keep up with The Sentinel's online coverage of KSU's first ever football signing day on Wednesday, Feb. 5. Go to ksusentinel.com or follow us @ksusentinel.

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