

THE SENTINEL PRESENTS: A SPECIAL STUDENT VOTED ISSUE

STAR WARS EDITION



MAKE THE
SEQUEL,
THEY WILL

Story starts on pg. 5



THIS
ISN'T THE
STORY YOU'RE
LOOKING FOR

Story starts on pg. 10



IMPERIAL
WALKERS &
WALK OFFS

Story starts on pg. 15

RESTORING NEWS TO THE GALAXY

NEWS

NEW DOCTORATE IN BIG DATA

Sierra Hubbard News Editor

The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia approved a new doctorate program for Kennesaw State University in analytics and data science at a meeting last Wednesday, Feb. 11.

The program will launch in the fall of 2015, and the rigorous coursework will prepare students to work either in the private sector as analysts for corporations or in academia

as future professors.

"It actually sits at the intersection of mathematics, statistics, and computer science," said Jennifer Priestley, who will serve as director of the new program. "Approximately 20 percent of the coursework is going to come from the math department, approximately 50 percent of the coursework is going to come from the statistics department, and

approximately 30 percent of the coursework is going to come from computer science."

Priestley has been with KSU since 2004 and was involved with the development of both the minor in applied statistics and data analysis as well as the master's degree in science and applied statistics.

"An important part of this Ph.D. program is helping students learn how to work

with both structured and unstructured data," Priestley said. "They are going to learn text mining, for example.

"And then, in addition, they are going to be learning all of the big data programming languages, which is going to be coming out of computer science."

Recent growth in demand for data science jobs has greatly influenced the development of this doctorate, coupled with the continued success of the related undergraduate minor and, particularly, the master's degree, which earned KSU the 2014 Data+ Editors' Choice Award from Computerworld magazine.

"Our master's in science and applied statistics has effectively a 100 percent placement rate," Priestley said. "Individuals that graduate with a master's in science and applied statistics have no trouble getting jobs. Most of those students have

two to three job offers well in advance of graduation."

Provost and Vice President of Student Affairs Ken Harmon also believes the program will have a positive effect on the university as a whole.

"Kennesaw State already has a strong national reputation in applied statistics," Harmon said. "This program will dramatically enhance that reputation."

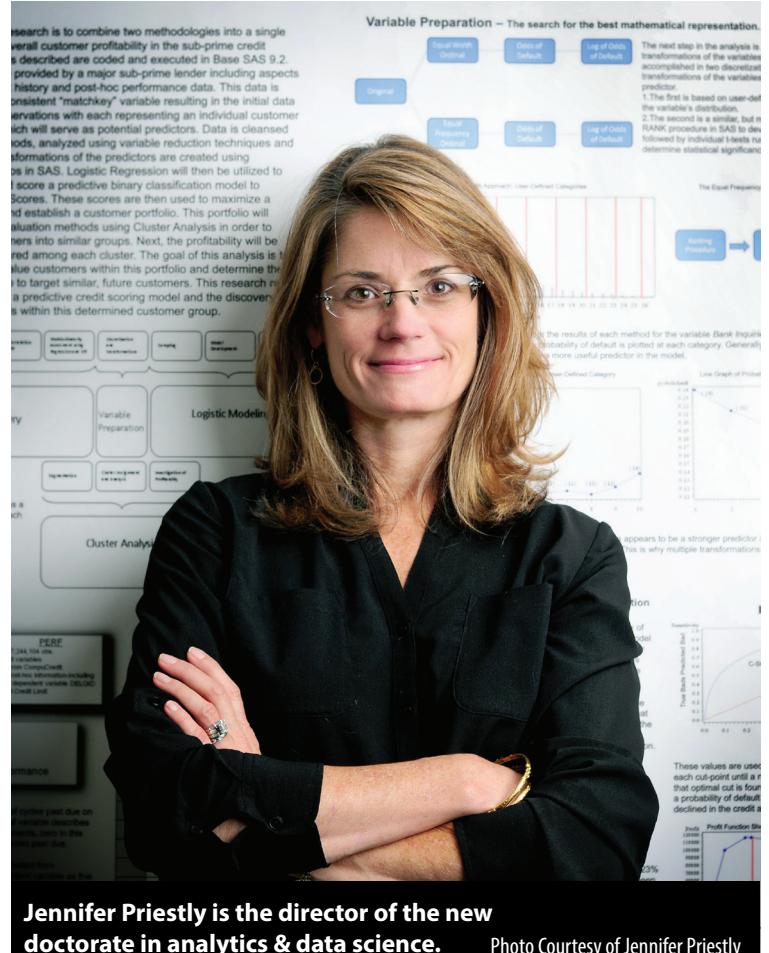
Even the recent consolidation lends its strengths to the new program.

"This particular program was in the works before we started consolidation," Harmon said. "However, I think the consolidation will greatly enhance the program's core strength. For example, the new Ph.D. program relies significantly on interdisciplinary areas, such as Computer Science, and with consolidation, we now have an entire college dedicated to Computing and Software Engineering."



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The program will be housed under the College of Science and Mathematics and will report directly to the dean due to its interdisciplinary nature. The dean, Mark Anderson, is very excited for the effect this will have on the university and its students, listing examples of companies that utilize data science and analysis.

dissertation) that are of importance to the company, but also to give students exposure to companies in different industries."

Many students are eager for the opportunity this presents. Senior Computer Science major Cory Huckeba sees great potential in the program, emphasizing its versatility.

"THE PROGRAM WILL BE HOUSED UNDER THE COLLEGE OF SCIENCE & MATHEMATICS"

"Airlines price seats using data that they have collected to try to maximize the passenger load of each flight and their profits," Anderson said. "Netflix collects data on their users to suggest movies based on previous viewing patterns. Google, Facebook, Yahoo, etc. target the advertisements that appear in your browser based on data that has been collected that targets the individual."

He also explains how the job opportunities like these that will be made available by this doctorate are being compounded by its design and the incorporation of businesses.

"The program was designed in collaboration with many community and industrial partners input," Anderson said. "These partners have agreed to provide one-year internships to the students in the program so that they can work on research projects (as part of the student's

I think a cross discipline doctorate like that could allow alumni to have more practical skills in areas involving aspects of all those fields," Huckeba said. "So, in turn, it might enable them to pursue research in new, more practical ways."

Demand for the program has exceeded expectations. According to Priestley, the applications were opened up to students on Wednesday around 2:00 pm, and within 24 hours there were already 19 applicants. To begin with, the program will have five students, and the number will increase gradually each semester until they have comfortably reached their goal of 25 doctorate students at any given time.

HIGH MUSEUM OF ART ATLANTA

COLLEGE NIGHT

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JEDI EVENTS

Sierra Hubbard
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



Wednesday

- **ALL ACCESS with Kohl's**
4:00pm – 5:00pm
Burruss Building
Room 109
- **KSFNM: Wind Ensemble and Symphony Orchestra**
8:00pm – 10:00pm
Bailey Performance Center PH100 Morgan Concert Hall



Thursday

- **New Media and the Arab Spring**
12:30pm – 2:00pm
Social Sciences 1019
- **Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry Seminar Series**
2:00pm – 4:00pm
Clendenin Building 1009
- **Screening of February One: The Story of the Greensboro Four**
5:00pm – 8:00pm
Clendenin Building 1009
- **Evening with Entrepreneurs**
6:30pm – 8:00pm
Prillaman Hall RM 2008



Friday

- **Discrete Math Seminar**
4:00pm – 5:00pm
MS 246

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HGTV DESIGNER TO TEACH INTERIOR DECORATING COURSES

James Sears Staff Writer

New hands-on home decorating courses are now being offered at KSU and taught by an Atlanta-area interior design expert.

The two courses being offered by the College of Continuing and Professional Education are "Decorating and Design for the Home: The Basics" and "Decorating and Design for the Home: Beyond the Basics." These courses are updated from the previous course, "Interior Decorating for the Home Owner." The courses are taught by Jan Britt, who runs her own interior design business, Jan Britt Interiors, and has been featured on HGTV.

"What my course is about is how to take a look at what you have in your own environment

at home and see how you can find your personality by finding your color palette and your decorating style," Britt said.

The courses help ease students into interior decorating. College of Continuing Education and Professional Education program manager Carla Green described the accessibility of the courses.

"When you hear, 'interior design,' you think of big budgets," Green said. "This is more compatible for the consumer in the sense that it seems more attainable and more realistic."

According to Green, the course in place prior to this was more advanced, and the replacements are meant to be more accessible to consumers

and laymen.

"You do get the concepts and the basic ideas for decorating and design but you're not overwhelmed with technical jargon."

A common concern about decorating is the cost. Britt said she teaches students about ways to decorate the home on any budget.

"Whatever suits their money management best, I talk both ways."

Both interior design courses are not restricted to KSU students. Britt said non-students may enroll in these courses and that a benefit to taking these courses is that people could enroll to find out if they want to pursue interior design as a career.

"I've had so many students that said, 'You know, I love interior design and I'm thinking about going into business ... but I don't know if I want to go to college further to study interior design,'" Britt said. "That's where this class is so perfect.... It's the cheapest way to find out if you really want to do this for a career."

These courses cannot be taken for college credits, however. Both basic and advanced courses are listed at \$159 for enrollment and span five weeks.

"My goal is not just about decorating and telling about fabrics and where to save money," Britt said. "I want to help them to avoid problems. It's not just that for me, it's also

to help build their self-esteem and to help them feel special."

For more information, visit www.decoratewithjan.com.



Jan Britt, Owner of Jan Britt Interiors. =



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OPINION

REVENGE → OF THE → SEQUEL



Kaitlyn Lewis Opinion Editor

"Star Wars Episode VII: The Force Awakens" will be coming to theaters December 2015, but I'm not sure if fans are stoked for this new sequel. There's no telling what Disney has done to the famous Star Wars saga. I'm sure Disney made it their own by reworking some of the original character development and trying to pull the rug out from under the audience by changing the protagonist's motives at the end like they tried doing in Frozen. However the sequel turns out, I look forward to hearing all the nerds complain about it through social media.

I wouldn't consider myself a completely dedicated Star Wars nerd; but I have grown up with the movies and played all the Lego Star Wars video games. Star Wars has always been in my life. Jaba the Hut gave me nightmares when I was a child, because my parents let me watch Episode VI when I was five years old.

I grew up watching Disney movies too, but I don't remember having any Disney nightmares when I was a child. I may have outgrown my years of Star Wars obsessions, but Disney still haunts me with Frozen, Brave and now Marvel with the new TV series, "Agents of Shield".

So please, Disney. Please don't ruin Star Wars.

Episode 7's trailer was recently released in 2014, and fans have already criticized the

new triple-blade lightsaber that was shown for a moment in the trailer. I don't think the trailer did much justice. More than anything, it confused me.

In all the other movies, storm troopers acted like mindless characters easily controlled by the Jedi and the Sith. In "The Force Awakens" trailer, however, a storm trooper appears to be running for his life in a desert that looks like Tatooine. Is a storm trooper going to become a Jedi in this movie?

"BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR MORE DARTH VADERS AND LUKE SKYWALKERS WALKING DOWN THE STREET."

I also didn't know that R2D2's head could play soccer. In "The Force Awakens" trailer, a droid that appears to be the head of R2D2 is gliding on a soccer-like ball. Maybe the ball is another droid itself, who is friends with the R2D2's head droid.

Maybe this pair will replace the friendship bond we have seen in the other movies between R2D2 and C3PO.

There has been some controversy since people saw the new lightsaber in the trailer. This new lightsaber has one long blade with two shorter ones on the side. It may look cool, but the Internet nerds and bloggers have been saying that it will do no good for the sword bearer if his or her opponent slices through the middle of the lightsaber, and all three blades would disappear. My question is, what if your hand slips and you accidentally touch the two tiny blades, which are supposed to be protecting your hand?

Star Wars Celebrations are now becoming important events. According to starwars.com, the next "Star Wars Celebration" will take place this April. The Star Wars website has pictures of people dressed up like they are in DragonCon for these celebrations. Next time you attend a cosplay event, be on the lookout for more Darth Vaders and Luke Skywalkers walking down the street.

It has been a long time in the film industry since the Star Wars saga has been revisited. Despite all the criticism, Disney still remains successful in what it does. I will probably go see "The Force Awakened" in theatres this December, after all. I just hope Disney does Star Wars justice, and what matters the most is that a good story is told.

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ASK THE OWLS:

What is your favorite Star Wars movie?

**EPISODE 1**

"It was the first one I watched when I was a kid."

Sam Owen, Graduate student

EPISODE 5

"I really like the Battle of Hoth, and I like Luke better than Anakin. Anikan is a bit whiney."

Justin Purgason, Sophomore Biology major

**EPISODE 5**

"Evil prevails in that one. It's kinda cool."

Phillip Bradshaw, Senior International Business major

**EPISODE 6**

"I just really like the Ewoks. I guess it's also when Vader goes full-circle to become good again. I like the happy ending."

Ashely Behrend, Sophomore Theatre and Performance Studies major

HONESTY MATTERS IN NEWS

Toni-Ann Hall Staff Writer

Brian Williams is a well-known journalist who is best known for being an "NBC Nightly News" anchor and editor. According to the Peabody Awards' website, the NBC news team, including Williams, displayed the "highest levels of journalistic excellence" in their coverage and reporting of Hurricane Katrina in 2004.

Just 11 years later, the highly revered news station is under fire for the questionable integrity of its stories. According to NBC News President Deborah Turness, Brian Williams was suspended from "Nightly News" for six months in February 2015 for "misrepresent[ing] events which occurred while he was covering the Iraq War in 2003." Williams claimed in a report that one of the helicopters that he was flying in was hit with a grenade and had to make an emergency landing. A flight engineer, who was on one of the planes that were shot, later criticized the story, and that's when news enthusiasts and critics weighed in on the issue.

This story has been covered by many news sources and Brian Williams has been judged for his initial actions as well as his apologetic reaction to the controversy.

The bottom line is that the purpose of news stations is to inform citizens. Even though this story has been covered in multiple aspects, some people couldn't care less because it's not an arrest, murder, kidnapping or tragic story—it's about a fallacy—something each of us are capable of.

According to a Gallup poll, 60 percent of Americans do not trust the mass media. Situations like this will only increase that percentage and heighten the political and social barricade-like perceptions that people develop about the impartiality of news stations.

When I decided to apply to be a staff writer for The Sentinel, I was one month into being a high school graduate with a love for writing. I wanted to find a way to turn my occasional and passionate hobby into a stable and passionate hobby. I'm not one to search for controversy, but I will address issues when I find it necessary and pertinent to do so. At times, I become uncomfortable with taking sides because I don't believe that it is an honest reflection of my thought process. I aim to see all three sides to an issue: what's really happening, what the affirmative side believes and what the opposing side

believes. Even if I hold my own strong opinions, I am typically on a journey of understanding an issue before I attempt go around discussing it, much less claiming to have even an ounce of expertise concerning it. There are few things in life that I view in black and white.

If I am misinformed, biased, or nonchalant about an issue, I find it necessary to state that when approaching a story or an opinion piece. After all, it is my opinion and there is more to having a stance than just left and right. My goals as a writer are to push myself to be more comfortable in the written form of self-expression and introduce or further drive the possibility for readers to analyze themselves and their thoughts about a particular issue.

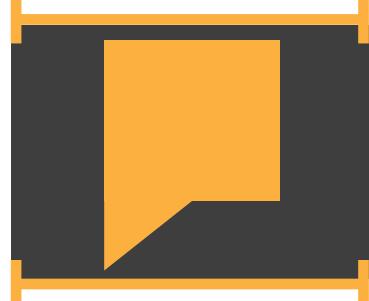
It is never my aim to compel others to switch sides, because even if I am completely appalled by an opposite view and I don't agree, I still respect it. Much like how I am free to disagree, agree or be in the process of making a decision, so is every other person without the platform of written expression for the public—even if it's just a university newspaper.

Although I provide commentary on news, rather than reporting it, I would hate

to have people turn away from my work because they think that it is fabricated and dishonest. If people don't want to read The Sentinel or my pieces because there is an abundance of grammatical, content-related or stylistic issues present, that is reasonable and understandable. But if there is a decrease in the credibility of the newspaper due to my own replacement of fact with fable, then that could reflect negatively on the university and the entire staff of editors and writers. It's an inconsiderate, ego-boosting and intrinsic action that is hard to push through.

If you are passionate about something and have attained a certain level of trust through audience and employers, it is not an excuse to slack off and have an "everything goes" attitude. Much like notices of accomplishments spread, so do notices of wrongdoings. The Brian Williams controversy is yet another reminder that everything follows us and can come back to bite, whether we are in the spotlight or in the background.

THE SENTINEL



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- 2.) The writer must include full name, year and major if a student, professional title if a KSU employee, and city if a Georgia resident.
- 3.) For verification purposes, students must also supply the last four digits of their student ID number and a phone number. This information will not be published. E-mail addresses are included with letters published in the web edition.
- 4.) Contributors are limited to one letter every 30 days. Letters thanking individuals or organizations for personal services rendered cannot be accepted. We do not publish individual consumer complaints about specific businesses.
- 5.) If it is determined that a letter writer's political or professional capacity or position has a bearing on the topic addressed, then that capacity or position will be identified at the editor's discretion.
- 6.) While we do not publish letters from groups endorsing political candidates, The Sentinel will carry letters discussing candidates and campaign issues.
- 7.) All letters become property of The Sentinel.
- 8.) All comments and opinions in signed columns are those of the author and not necessarily of The Sentinel staff, its advisers or KSU and do not reflect the views of the faculty, staff, student body, the Student Media or the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia. Columns are opinions of only the columnist. They do not reflect the views of The Sentinel, but instead offer a differing viewpoint.

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OWL YAKS



Owl Yak is a compilation of The Sentinel's favorite student comments from the anonymous Yik Yak app. Check each week to see if you made it (Just don't tell anyone!)

"Told y'all you'd be in class today."

"Let it be known, that on this day, I got a good cart at Wal-Mart."

"Let's be real, if it was going to snow hard enough to cancel classes, the weatherman couldn't predict it."

"What's the difference between you and a calendar? The calendar has a date on Valentine's Day."

"Never meeting someone off Yik Yak ever again."

THE GREEN HOUSE

ATLANTA

Chris Raimondi Sports Editor

Behind the front door of the Hill household lies not a foyer decorated with chandeliers and end tables, but rather a control room, housing a monitor displaying volume levels that overlooks a soundboard complete with switches and knobs. Aaron Hill fine-tunes tone while his wife, Nancy, sits to his immediate right at a Macintosh computer with headphones on, surveying wavelengths.

The Green House Atlanta, an in-house recording studio, was established in the spring of 2014 by Aaron and Nancy

Kaye Hill. Aaron, a musician and former electrician, and Nancy, a trained vocalist and ex-record label artist, never had ambitions to transform their home into a full-fledged recording studio.

"We weren't trying to make it a 'studio-for-hire' type of thing," Aaron said. "We were keeping it in house and opportunities started coming our way. We're still coming to grips with what that even means. It wasn't really the plan, it just kind of happened."

The couple is part of a local county-rock group, "The Law Band," where Nancy

sings and Aaron plays guitar. After a lifetime of saved up equipment, countless Law Band recording sessions and endless fortunes thrown to the recording industry, the Hills have immersed themselves into the underground culture that is in-home recording studios.

"The home studio has definitely put a thorn in the side of the record industry," Nancy said. "It's giving people a lot more of an opportunity to create what they want and be who they want to be."

After working in professional studios during each of their

music careers, the Hills headed home to look for inspiration.

"I never really got the results I was super excited about," Aaron said. "I got sick of giving other people my money; I'd rather spend it on myself. It probably would have been cheaper if I had paid for studio time, but if you're not getting the results you want, the logical next step is to start doing it yourself at your house, in your own comfort where you're feeling inspired."

The living room wallpaper of Green House is masked by hundreds of abstract pictures ripped from various art magazines to inspire creativeness for visiting musicians. Dozens of guitars rest behind furniture in every room while an assortment of different amplifiers and speakers line the walls of their recording room, a sun-room transformed into a sound-spawning sanctuary.

"Studios are constructed to sound a certain way and have certain sonic characteristics," Aaron said. "In a house, it is interesting and fun to try and deal with what you got." Aaron has rigged his house to combat sound issues using shutters, furniture, curtains, soundproof foam and even a large two-sided baffle - one side reflects sound and the other absorbs it - all to experiment with tone.

"We're constantly experimenting with the different things to try out on

our clients," Nancy said. "If you were just working in a normal studio, you wouldn't have that insight."

And while visitors can still expect a professional overhead, they can also enjoy the farm-to-table service provided by the Green House. "While he is doing all of his reading, I am gardening," Nancy said. "We provide food, for an extra charge, to our clients and that is part of the reason we are called The Green House. It's how we provide a more healthy environment for creation."

The equipment, of course, comes at a high price when demanding the quality of a professional studio. However, advanced technology has offered home-studio owners loopholes when recording on a budget. The soundboard sitting in the Hill's front living room cost upwards of \$30,000, but they found it on eBay for \$1,000. As for everything else in the house, it was amassed over a lifetime of collecting music equipment.

In the end, Aaron and Nancy believe those who belong in the big studios will remain there.

"It's a job for them," Nancy said. "For us, it's a lifestyle. We would be doing this anyways. The truth is we really don't want to leave our house, ever, so we're really happy that people want to come here. We're comfortable here, so we can give them a lot more energy and a lot more happiness."



Aaron & Nancy Kaye Hill work in their in-home sound mixing room to produce other artists' music.

Courtesy of Lou Raimondi

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STAR WARS

a multi-generational icon

Mike Strong Arts & Living Editor

Some franchises come and go with the passing of generations. Indiana Jones holds most of its cache with those who were around for it. Harry Potter appeals to no one currently older than 30. Meanwhile, Star Wars continues to connect with every generation, both old and new, and there is a version of Star Wars for every age group. Whether it be through the classic movies, the prequels, the animated series or the video games, everyone can find a way to embrace the power of the force.

Pop culture has embraced this unlikely science fiction series like no other. Star Wars has

always and continues to play a key role in making nerd culture acceptable. In a way, it is more uncool to not like Star Wars than it is to geek out over it. So much of this is due to the fact that it has never really gone away. One can draw a parallel with Star Trek, a series that explores similar themes in the same setting. Star Trek struggled to stay relevant throughout its many years of absence. Only recently has it become cool to be a Trekkie, mostly thanks to the new J.J. Abrams movies. When a franchise like this stays out of the spotlight for a while, it builds up a negative "nerdy" stigma that is hard to destroy. Star Wars never had this

struggle because it never faded from our attention.

It is important to understand that at the heart of Star Wars is its powerful themes. The series never trades its ideas out for a quick cash grab (holiday special, aside.) Rarely does Star Wars media rely purely on action or sci-fi without an intelligent plot. Video games, comics, cartoons and books within the galaxy far, far away all fully understand that this series is engaging because of its ideas, not just its visuals.

The core influences driving Star Wars are politics, chivalry, philosophy and religion. It is an utterly

intelligent series that can be related to in a number of ways. Younger fans can take interest in the heroes and princesses. Those with a deeper understanding of the political themes can identify with the struggle between democracy and dictatorship. The plot of the original series was designed to parallel the transition of the Roman Republic to the Roman Empire, which created a fascinating historical context for those who understood it. The political importance of the series has remained intact in nearly every iteration of the series. The expanded universe novels have explored these themes in often better ways

than the films themselves. Even the animated Clone Wars TV series did great things for the series in a time where interest was waning.

Now we are moving into a new era for Star Wars, with a slew of new movies on the way. We will be getting a new Star Wars film every year for at least the next five years with a new trilogy and spinoff stories. This ensures that those who don't already know the series will be celebrating May the Fourth with us for years to come. Star Wars continues to stake its claim as the most important entertainment franchise in history.



JUPITER ASCENDING REVIEW

Justen Smith Contributor



Sean Bean, Mila Kunis, and Channing Tatum provide mediocre acting in the average film.

Courtesy of Warner Bros. Pictures

Disjointed, confusing, and underwhelming, "Jupiter Ascending" fails to live up to the impressive previous pedigree of the Wachowskis.

Andy and Lana Wachowski are the siblings responsible for "The Matrix," "Cloud Atlas," and the film adaptation of "V for Vendetta." "Jupiter Ascending" features Mila Kunis as Jupiter, a young woman that realizes she is the literal reincarnation of intergalactic royalty. She discovers a society that harvests Earth and other life-sustaining

planets for its life. Channing Tatum co-stars as a half-man half-wolf protector. We follow Jupiter as she learns about this universal society and the implications of her own royalty.

I've liked both of these actors, particularly Kunis, in other films, but both of them are completely flat in this. Tatum barely emotes in any way whatsoever and Kunis shuffles between half-hearted snark and continual blank-faced awe at her surroundings. A film like this focuses more on world building

and the setup of an internal mythology more than the single narrative of the protagonist. But even those aspects seem cut completely short.

The first half is actually quite hard to follow, since so many characters, scenarios, and plot lines are introduced with zero explanation. The second half plays out in beat-for-beat clichés. As a character, Jupiter comes up especially short. Supposedly a major figure of destined power and authority, she spends way too much of the

movie blindly parading along with whatever obviously evil character of the moment while waiting for Channing Tatum to rush in and let her know what's going down. Some big ideas about life, humanity, and bureaucracy are touched on but never fleshed out, and we don't get nearly as much explanation of the film's universe as it should have provided. The movie pushes these aside in favor of its action scenes and cliché story beats, especially in the third act. Visually, the film was okay.

While some of the fight scenes were overly chaotic and the green screening was obvious, the shots of the planets, spaceships, and wide shots of the cities were quite nice to look at.

Overall, this was disappointing. While some parts were reminiscent of the Wachowskis' better films, "Jupiter Ascending" ends up being nothing special.

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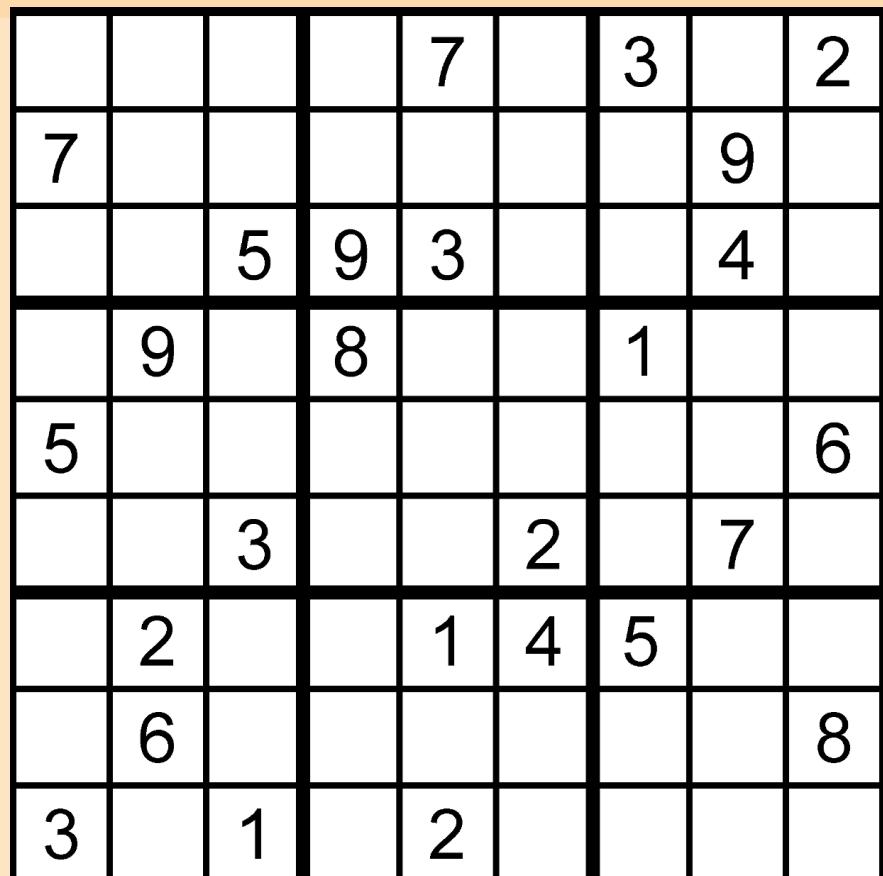
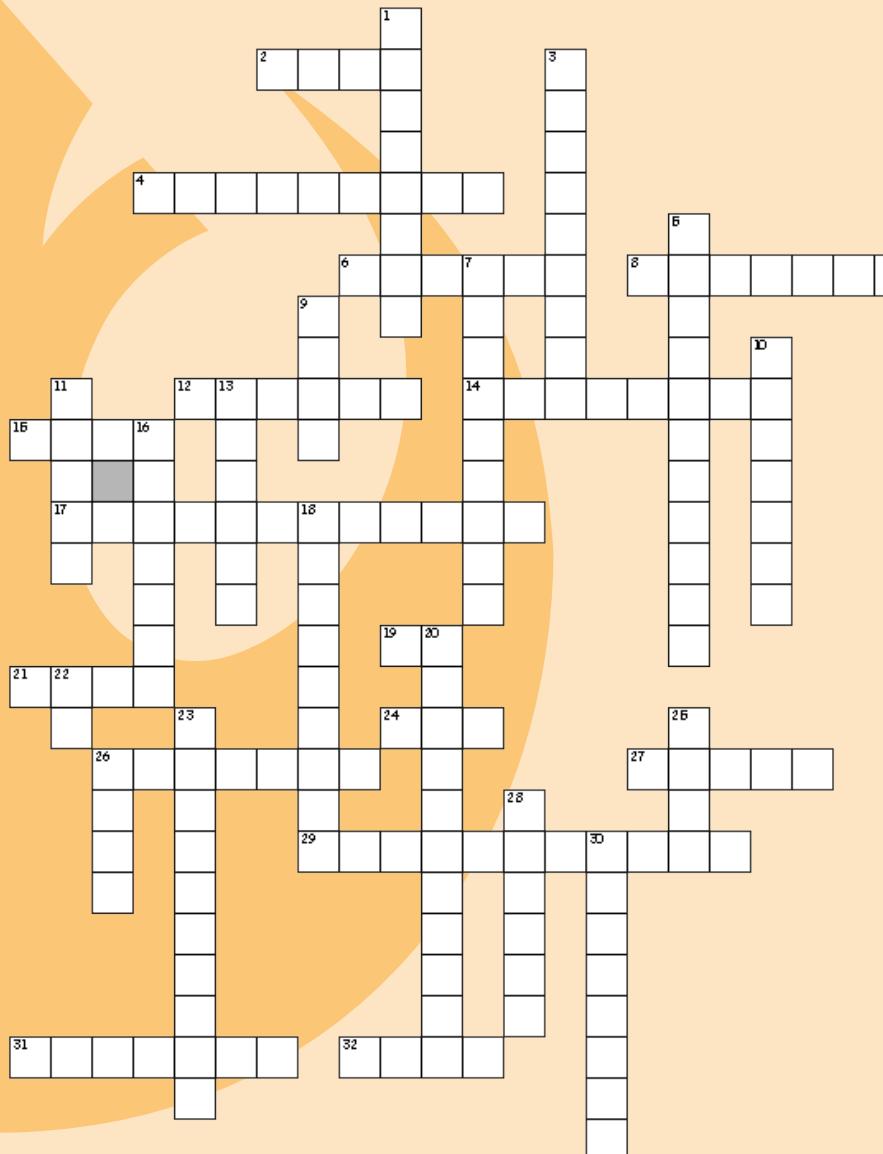
THEME: STAR WARS

ACROSS

2. The color of Luke's first lightsabre
4. Leader of the Rebel Alliance
6. Wedge's call-sign
8. Tatooine creature ridden by Sandtroopers
12. Model number of the Millennium Falcon
14. It binds the galaxy together
15. Leia's cell block
17. What Luke flew when shooting
- 30 Down
19. Two-letter designation for stormtroopers
21. Year Star Wars: A New Hope was released in theaters
24. Who originally shot first
26. Han Solo's weapon of choice
27. Disbelieving Admiral strangled by Vader
29. Vehicle driven by Jawas
31. Actual location of the rebel base
32. "What a piece of ____!"

DOWN

1. Bigg's call-sign
3. Where Leia said the rebel base was located
5. This actor portrayed Chewbacca
7. The first ship to be seen onscreen
9. Luke claims Chewbacca is a prisoner transfer from this cell block
10. Luke's call-sign
11. Vader finds a lack of this disturbing
13. Holder of Vader's leash, according to Leia
16. Number of the garbage smasher
18. Game played by R2D2 and Chewbacca
20. Animal Ben Kenobi imitated to frighten the sandpeople
22. Docking bay of the Millennium Falcon
23. Princess Leia's adoptive father
25. "Obi-Wan Kenobi, you're my only ____"
26. Owen's wife
28. "Look Sir, ____."
30. What Luke used to bullseye back home



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SPORTS

MEN'S GOLF REACHES NEW HEIGHTS

Tyler Duke Staff Writer

After a fall season that included two victories and five top five finishes, the Kennesaw State men's golf team is no longer overlooked as they chase a national title this spring.

The Owls were honored for their play last semester when they were ranked No. 24 in the nation by the Golf Coaches Association of America poll. It's the first time the men's golf team has ever been in the top 25 of the GCAA poll since joining Division I. After coming up shy in the NCAA Championships last year, the Owls are poised to make it happen in 2015.

"It's meaningful to me and our program to have the respect from other coaches, and for us to receive votes in that poll means a lot," KSU head coach Jay Moseley said. "It means that we've earned it, and we've played our way into the respect of other programs and other teams and coaches in the country, and we're very pleased

with that."

The team will get the season underway Feb. 23 in Valencia, Calif. for the Jones Invitational. Four more tournaments will follow before the Atlantic Sun Conference Championship begins April 19. The Owls hope that they can build off of last year's performance and make a run through the regional tournament before aiming for an NCAA Championship.

Senior Jimmy Beck believes his team can make history and get a national title to Kennesaw.

"Absolutely," Beck said. "I'd actually be a little disappointed if we didn't," Beck said, "so I'm really looking forward to it."

Now in his sixth season as the head coach at KSU, Moseley has steadily built a program that can be considered as one of the elites in the nation. His team has now claimed four consecutive NCAA regionals appearances and two appearances in the NCAA Championships.

Moseley can be credited with much of the success the program has been able to build on. He was once an All-SEC golfer at Auburn, and he has transformed that talent to being able to teach and train world-class golfers at KSU.

"You can almost attribute all the success to what he's done for the program – especially me individually," Beck said. "He's taken my game to where it is now. I can honestly say that without his knowledge and his experience that I wouldn't be where I am now, and this team owes a lot to him."

As KSU's men's golf program continues to build, its reputation does as well. The

Owls have shown themselves to be one of the more attractive programs in the nation due to the ability to develop players.

"I feel like our program is in a healthy position right now in terms of attracting a better brand of player, and our performance has proven that we can develop guys – that guys can come here and work hard and get better and improve on things that we feel like are important," Moseley said. "It's always great to have your program sort of sell itself."

With the latest voting from the GCAA, the Owls are now ranked in the three major polls for NCAA Division I golf.

Beck and sophomore Teremoana Beaucousin were voted in the top 15 in the nation in the fall Palmer Cup rankings by the GCAA in November. The Georgia State Golf Association honored senior Kelby Burton as the 2014 Co-Men's Player of the Year – an honor that Beck received in 2013.

Freshman Fredrik Nilehn had an outstanding first semester when he was placed in the record books after a memorable performance during his win at the Pinetree Intercollegiate in October. The balanced talent of the team has seemed to push them individually all year.

"Even though we play a team sport, it boils down to individuals performing well, and certainly this team has taken that on," Moseley said. "They all root hard for each other, but they're also competitive and want to beat each other, so I think it's been a very healthy relationship for those guys to help each other get better and push themselves."



Jimmy Beck and head coach Jay Moseley at U.S. Amateur Championship in Aug. 2014 at Atlanta Athletic Club.

Chris Raimondi | The Sentinel

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OWLS UPSET NO. 5 KENTUCKY

Mason Wittner Staff Writer

The softball team is 5-2 after hosting a pair of tournaments to open the 2015 season.

Matt Boggs | The Sentinel

Sophomore second baseman Lauren Bennett notched a two-out RBI single through the right side to cap off a three-run bottom of the seventh as Kennesaw State knocked off No. 5 Kentucky, 9-8, in walk off fashion at Bailey Park Saturday.

"Outside of the Division II

Championships that Scott won, this has got to be one of the biggest games in Kennesaw history," KSU interim head coach Tory Acheson said. "So I'm very proud to be part of it and to see these kids beat a nationally ranked top-10 team on our home field was a pretty special thing."

Down to their last two outs, the Owls (5-2) trailed the Wildcats 8-6 with runners on the corners when freshman Noelle Winkles stepped to the plate.

Winkles skipped a two-RBI single down the right field line and advanced to third on a fielding error, tying the game 8-8. After a strikeout, Bennett

had the opportunity to pick up the 15th hit of the day for Owls and submit her name in the KSU history books.

"I know it sounds kind of cliché to talk about the process, but one of the things that we're really trying to focus on is making sure that we do the things that good teams do," Acheson said. "Tonight we did some of those at very important times. If they show the kind of fight and never-say-die attitude they did tonight, I think we can play with almost anybody in the country."

Junior Morgan Sikes (2-1) picked up the win pitching just two-thirds of the seventh inning. Senior Paige Mathews started on the rubber for Owls and pitched five innings while giving up five hits and two earned runs.

KSU struck first blood as sophomore Courtney Sutter and junior Hillary Kartman hit an RBI single and two-RBI double, respectively, to give the Owls a 3-0 advantage after the first inning.

Bennett extended the lead to 4-0 on a solo home run to left center in the bottom of the fourth.

The Wildcats (6-2) ended the shutout in the top of the fifth with an RBI single and a run off a wild pitch to cut their deficit in half, 4-2.

Kentucky junior Nikki Sagermann belted a two-run blast over the right center wall to tie the game 4-4 in the top of the sixth inning.

KSU senior Natalie Rhodes reclaimed the lead for the Owls

with a RBI triple in the bottom of the sixth. Sophomore Taylor Denton brought Rhodes home on a RBI single to give the Owls a 6-4 lead heading to the seventh inning.

The Wildcats used a pair of two-run moonshots from juniors Ansley Smith and Sagermann to give them an 8-6 edge heading the final half-inning.

"This team is one of the most tight-nit, close teams I've ever been around," Acheson said. "And this is my 34th year of coaching. I'm sure there were little nagging doubts when we didn't put them away, but I think in every season there are situations like this where you face true adversity and you have an opportunity to learn from it and rise above it. Obviously, that last inning was that golden opportunity. It was very exciting."

The win wrapped up the Phyllis Rafter Memorial Invitational with the Owls finishing 2-1. Following a 4-0 shutout Friday at the hands of IUPUI (4-3), KSU responded Saturday afternoon with a 5-1 victory over Morehead State (2-4).

KSU will travel to Greenville, North Carolina to play in the Pirate Invitational Feb. 20-22 which begins a 13-game road trip for the Owls, with a possibility of more pending on bracket-style tournaments. The team returns to Bailey Park March 10 for a double-header against Belmont.

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BASEBALL OFF TO WINNING START

Jack Herman Staff Writer

Justin Motley heads for third base in Saturdays doubleheader against St. Johns.

Matt Boggs | The Sentinel

The Owls split their first doubleheader of the season when they hosted St. Johns Saturday and dropped the first game 6-2 before rebounding in the second game for a 10-5 win.

Kennesaw State (2-1) won their home opener Friday against Liberty University in a top-25 matchup.

"Game one offensively I felt we couldn't get anything going," KSU head coach Mike Sansing said. "I think it was indicative of the score. I am really proud of how well the guys bounced back in game two and were able to give our starter some run support."

Game one was all about St. Johns and the performance they got from junior right handed pitcher Cody Stashak.

Backed with six runs of support Stashak would go 7 1/3 innings allowing just four hits and one run.

On the other hand, KSU starter Travis Bergen was able to complete four innings but went on to allow three earned runs, five runs total, and two home runs allowed. The lefty threw the ball well, but the Owls committed three errors.

St. Johns got on the board early in the second inning when the wind aided a home run over the right field wall for catcher Tyler Sanchez and put the Red Storm up 2-0. St. Johns extended their lead in the third to 4-0 after Anthony Brocato launched a two run homer deep over the left field wall.

The Owls were unable to get on the scoreboard until they

added single runs in the eighth and ninth inning. Although St. Johns had the Owls on the ropes in game one, freshman AJ Moore made some noise on the bump in relief of Bergen as he struck out his first four batters in his collegiate debut going three innings allowing one earned run and fanning five hitters.

Game two for the Owls was a completely different story. Led by sophomore Gabe Friese, KSU won handily, 10-5. Friese went five strong innings, allowed no runs and surrendering just four hits.

"[Friese] is a strike thrower," Sansing said. "He got through five which was great. Gabe spotted the ball really well, got a lead early and was able to pitch aggressively within the strike zone."

Unlike his game one teammate, Friese got early run support and the Owls put up four runs in the third inning. After Kal Simmons doubled to set up runners on second and third base, Colin Bennett singled off the glove of diving second baseman Ty Blankmeyer to bring in a run. First baseman Chris McGowan promptly singled through the hole between first and second to bring in a run before the ball got by the right fielder which allowed one more run to score. The final run of the inning would come in on a sacrifice fly by Corey Creeson.

From there Friese threw two more shut down innings before giving the ball to Chris Erwin in relief. Erwin went three innings and allowed just one earned

run on four hits. To finish the game, Jordan Versteeg came in for the ninth and allowed four unearned runs but finished the game for the Owls.

After the third inning outburst, KSU added a pair of three run innings in the sixth and seventh. Alex Liquori singled in a run to extend the lead to 5-0, but a pair of three-run shots to left field by left fielder Griffin Helms and third baseman Corey Gleeson would finalize the scoring.

KSU has off until Tuesday, Feb. 17 as they take on the University of Georgia at home before traveling down to Macon for a meeting with Mercer.

OWLS SECURE BEST SEASON SINCE '07 WITH WIN OVER OSPREYS

Mason Wittner Staff Writer

Sophomore Aaeron Smith and junior Karly Frye each had career days en route to Kennesaw State's 64-52 win over North Florida Saturday.

KSU (16-9, 5-5) dominated the game the game for the entirety of the second half, never surrendering their lead. The Owls allowed UNF (10-15, 1-9) to pull with 10 at 55-45 with 5:43 to go, but used 9-2 run to pull away and lead 64-47 with 60 seconds left in the game.

Smith led four Owls in double-figures with a career-

high 19 points on 5-for-8 shooting. Frye surpassed her career-high as well, contributing 13 points.

Jasmine McAllister and Kristina Wells rounded out the Owls top scorers with 13 and 12 points respectively, grabbing seven rebounds each.

The victory marked the sixteenth win of the season for the Owls, the most wins since they posted a 16-12 record in their 2007-08 campaign.

"I didn't even really know that," KSU head coach Nitra

Perry said of the win total. "We've just been going game-by-game, but the team is definitely maturing in the wins and the losses, which is all I can ask for. They have never stopped giving one hundred-percent effort. We feel like that's one thing we can control; our effort."

KSU won the battle of the boards, out-rebounding the Ospreys 34-28. The Owls also shot 81 percent from the free throw line, going 13-16.

The Owls were forced to

battle early on; falling behind 7-3 and taking the lead 8-7 at the 15:03 mark in the first half.

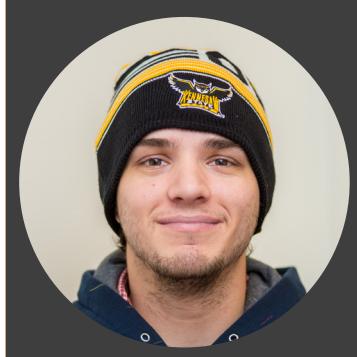
KSU built up a four-point lead, until a 7-0 run gave the Ospreys a 14-11 edge 9:12 to go in the opening half.

Trailing 21-19, a three from Aaeron Smith sparked a 10-0 to close out the half at the Owls lead 29-21 at the break.

"I thought we had a balanced attack tonight with four girls in double figures," Perry said. "Aaeron Smith came off the bench for us and scored 19

points in 26 minutes. Jasmine had 13, Kristina had 13, and Frye had 12. I thought we did a better job boxing out down low and shooting free throws, something we struggled with in the Jacksonville loss."

The Owls will look to pick up their 17th win for the first time since joining the Atlantic Sun Conference as they host Florida Gulf Coast (23-2, 10-0) Thursday.



Mike Foster Editor Emeritus

I FIND YOUR LACK OF SPIRIT DISTURBING



Our athletic director dressed up as Darth Vader. The promotions staff handed out light sabers at the door. It wasn't enough.

Last Jan. 25, Kennesaw State's men's basketball team played one of its biggest games of the year in front of a crowd that could only be described as pathetic. Florida Gulf Coast, still fresh off its Sweet 16 run in the NCAA Tournament, wasn't enough for the billing on that Saturday afternoon, so the athletic department hoped that Star Wars themes would connect students with the force we've so desperately been lacking.

You would have thought that would change, yet, despite the basketball team having won three of four games, it still couldn't reel in a crowd of any sort on Saturday. North Florida came to the Convocation Center with a 7-2 conference record and mid-major top-25 votes from coaches. Kennesaw State led the Ospreys 27-25 at halftime.

Too bad there wasn't a

buzz about it. In fact, only six students—clearly visible behind the north goal—cheered the team on through that first half.

Six. Out of a 30,000 student enrollment.

If I were a prospective Division I basketball player on an official visit, I would have left at halftime. Why even bother?

This has become the spirit of our student body at KSU, and what makes it even worse is that the grim reaper has been our shoulder of support: without our "rival," Mercer, we don't exist.

During my time as a student from 2010-2014, the "Mercer game," as it was called, was the one time out of the year we had school spirit. Our attendance would spike from the 1,000s to the 3,000s. Students would actually show up to games in school colors. They'd cheer, use owl eyes during freethrows, and the team would feed off that energy. I'll never forget the look in first-year players' eyes when they walked into a full gym for the first time and have that, "Woah! What is this?" face.

Now Mercer has moved on to another conference, and with their departure, our last breath of spirit went, too. How sad is it that, without our own in-state rival, we cease to exist?

As a former writer and editor for The Sentinel, I wrote many columns to this same tune. I'm doing it one more time because I feel this message is more important now than ever.

In September our football team will take the field for the first time in school history. Our football team will share Saturdays with the Georgias, Auburns, Alabamas and Georgia Techs of the world.

Once the novelty of having a new program wears off, the true spirit of our student body will show face; if that spirit is the same that leaves the Convocation Center as a cavity, even for the biggest of games, our football program will suffer from the same identity.

Yes, our stadium is amazing. Yes, our uniforms are the coolest in the FCS. But, what happens when our team loses a game to somebody of whom

you've never heard? The Big South has good football teams in it. Liberty is a great football program. Coastal Carolina, even better. Over half of our football team will be freshman and redshirt freshman. It won't be easy.

How soon will we be disenchanted by them, too?

Students have shown up in better numbers to games this year. I'll admit that, and I even am proud to say I've been part of a student movement that helped attract cheer heads to a few games. But once the going got tough, everyone but six of those guys jumped ship.

I've seen more students upset with our standing students, eventually moving away from them, rather than standing up and joining in. You can see it in the eyes of everyone: they're too cool to stand and cheer.

Actually, our lack of presence at games is getting made fun of by opposing student bodies.

The reason this is so frustrating is because we aren't a 900-student, NAIA school in the middle of nowhere. We're

Kennesaw State. We have a history of becoming greater than the sum of our parts. We have a history of evolving faster than any outsiders would believe.

Now we have a football program, amazing facilities, and not just excellent athletes—but excellent student athletes.

And, just in case you have not read this newspaper for the past few years, overall, we win conference titles all of the time.

The time is now or never to take advantage of the opportunity we have that other schools don't: We don't have to wait on tradition. We're a huge school. We've got one of the best gyms in the conference, one of the best football stadiums for an FCS team in the region, and a huge student body.

We can make tradition happen right now. All it takes for each and every one of you to be a part of it. As Yoda would say, "Do or do not, there is no try."