



Peach drop rings in the new year

See PEACH DROP • Page 6

The SENTINEL



Men's basketball improves to 11-1

See OWLS ROLL • Page 11

3 News
Tsunami charity donors take heed

5 Viewpoints
BCS sound-off, where to go from here

8 Features
Alumna's play makes Essential Theatre

13 Sports
Sports management major added to Kennesaw

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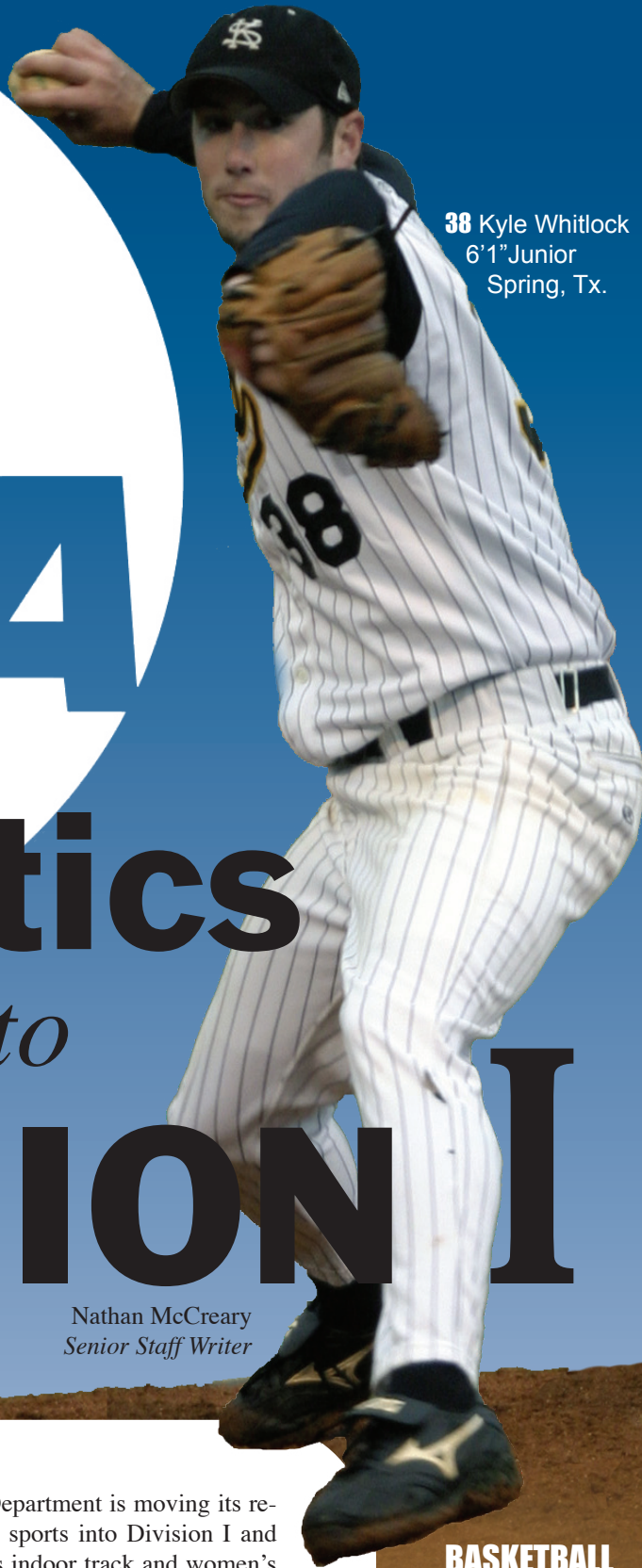
Wednesday, January 12, 2005

ATLANTIC SUN

NCAA

Athletics
step up to
DIVISION I

Nathan McCreary
Senior Staff Writer



38 Kyle Whitlock
6'1" Junior
Spring, Tx.

GOLF



BASEBALL



Photos by Richard L. Johnson,
Design by Nick Mracek

The University Athletics Department is moving its remaining nine Division II sports into Division I and adding men and women's indoor track and women's golf in 2005, according to an announcement made by KSU president Betty Siegel Dec. 11, 2004. The waves of change officially hit KSU Jan. 5, when the university signed a contract with the Atlantic Sun Conference. The contract states that the school will begin conference play in the fall of 2005.

The announcement that KSU was moving up to Division I was anticipated, since the Owls' soccer and golf teams were moved to Division I at the start of the 2004 seasons last fall. "Today marks another milestone for our university," President Siegel said at the press conference and signing in of the new Bobby Bailey Athletic complex. "Having achieved success on and off the athletic field, this is the right time in the history of KSU to move to the highest division of college athletics."

"We are all excited about the move to Division I," said head women's basketball coach Colby Tilley. "Dr. Siegel's vision to make this move is in tune with the growth of the university. In athletics, as in academics, the goal is to identify with the highest level of excellence, and that is done by going to Division I."

"Without question, the move to Division I is one of the proudest moments in the history of Kennesaw State University," said Athletic Director Dave Waples.

More coverage in Sports, Page 11

BASKETBALL



SOFTBALL



CROSS COUNTRY



Construction danger zone

Construction contractors fined by OSHA

Richard L. Johnson
Senior Photographer

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration proposed more than \$147,000 in penalties for 19 KSU contractors that were issued citations for exposing workers to safety hazards.

OSHA, which is empowered to set and enforce standards to ensure workforce safety and health, said the citations were issued to 19 of the 23 companies working at the construction sites campus. OSHA has previously cited at least one of the companies for violating worker safety rules.

"Strong enforcement is a key part of this Administration's efforts to reduce workplace injuries," Elaine Chao, Secretary of Labor, said in a press release. "The significant penalty of \$147,625 in this case demonstrates our commitment to protecting the safety of American workers."

One company, Coreslab Structures, was cited for exposing workers to falls and impalement, defective fall arrest systems and inadequately grounded equipment. The total proposed fine to Coreslab was \$65,000. Other companies faced penalties ranging from \$225 to \$15,750 for violations such as failure to protect workers from impalement and falling objects, defective equipment and lack of fall protection.

According to a 2004 U.S. Department of Labor report, 4.4 million employees suffered non-fatal injuries at work in 2003. Approximately 426,800 of these employees were engaged in construction activity.



Richard L. Johnson | The Sentinel
Contractors fined due to potential danger to their workers.

A small price to pay

A minor increase in student fees will go a long way

Tara O'Shea
News Editor

Melissa Spielholz
Editor in Chief

Fall 2005 will bring another student tuition increase. A recent meeting of the student fees committee resulted in a vote to increase the student athletic fee, as well as the approval of a new fee.

The decision to increase the athletic fee was deemed necessary in order to support the university's recent move to Division I athletics. The athletic department requested this increase be a two-step fee process, which means students will see the current semester fee increase \$15 Fall 2005, and an additional increase of \$15 Fall 2006.

"Fifteen-dollars extra per semester is a small price to pay to cross this milestone and take our athletic program to the next level. Moving from Division II into Division I is something that has been a few years in the making and has been highly supported by both students and the administration. We want the athletic program to continue to excel and bring university recognition on the regional and national levels," said Robert Connelly, Student Government Vice President and Student Fees Committee Member. "The decision to raise the athletic fee was unanimously voted upon by the student fees committee, consisting of 13 voting members, eight of which are students."

The placement of a new fee was also voted upon and approved by the student fees committee. Students will now see an international fee of \$5 on their tuition bills. "This is not a fee strictly [sic] for international students, it supports international programs, as well as study abroad scholarships for students," said Dr. Nancy King, Vice President of Student Success and Enrollment Services.

"The international fee of \$5 was not presented for consideration this year, it was actually approved last year by the Student Fees Committee, but its implementation was delayed until the 2005-2006 school year by the Board of Regents," said Connelly.

Despite the latest fee increase, Kennesaw State's student fees are comparable to those of other state colleges. Currently, Kennesaw's student fees are \$84 per semester, while Valdosta State's student fees are \$110 per semester and Georgia State's are at \$112 per semester.

Another growth spurt

Preparation for new building construction underway

Jennifer Garrett
Staff Writer

Kennesaw State is booming with growth. The constant increase in the student population has spawned continuous construction to compensate. According to the College of the Arts online press release [www.kennesaw.edu/arts/Performance-Hall/Press-Release.html], Kennesaw State has "a growing student population exceeding 17,400 from 131 countries."

Beginning late this month, the university will add two new buildings to campus. A new Social Science building and a new 700-seat performance hall will be constructed.

The new Social Science building will be built near the west parking deck and Willingham Hall. According to John Anderson, Director of Planning and Design Services, the new Social Science building will be 161,000 sq. ft. and include 47 new classrooms, a 300-seat auditorium, five re-

search centers, five project centers and 120 faculty and departmental offices for the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. "The Social Science department will no longer be in 6 buildings, but just one," Anderson said. It is slated for completion Fall 2006. The estimated cost of this project is \$21 million.

The university will begin construction for a new 26,000-sq. ft. performance hall for the Department of Music north of the Wilson Building. The new performance hall will include a

700-seat auditorium, a large rehearsal room and a large lobby. Although it is being built primarily for the Department of Music, "it will be a space for the entire university," according to the Chair of the department, Peter Witte. "It's primary design is for acoustic music, lectures, theatrical production and movie projection," Witte said. This building should be complete by early 2006. The estimated cost of the performance hall is \$5 million.

According to Witte, the music department "provides 3,500 private lessons a year to music majors and put on 146 recitals and concerts in 210 days



Tara O'Shea | The Sentinel

Workers hurry to finish the inside of the new Convocation Center.

■ See GROWTH, Page 3

Charity donors advised to take heed

Donors cautioned on tsunami relief appeals

Kiki Amanatidis
Sr. Staff Writer

Melissa Spielholz
Editor in Chief

It is as regular as clockwork. Within days of any natural disaster, people will attempt to take advantage of Americans' eagerness to assist victims of the devastation. The Better Business Bureau Serving Metro Atlanta, Athens & northwest Georgia has provided Georgians with some tips on what to watch for when giving donations to non-profits.

"The BBB Wise Giving Alliance encourages the public to contribute to helpful causes that will assist the families and victims of the Tsunami catastrophe," Art Taylor, President & CEO of the BBB Wise Giving Alliance said. "Donors should make certain, however, that the charity is properly registered with appropriate state government agencies, that it describes exactly what it will do to address the needs of victims, and that it is willing to provide written information about its finances and programs."

"Donors can visit the give.org Web site to access detailed evaluative reports on many of the U.S.-based relief organizations that provide assistance in South Asia," Taylor said. "We also encourage other U.S.-based disaster relief organizations providing tsunami assistance to enroll with the Alliance at give.org so that we can evaluate their efforts in relation to the 20 Standards for Charity Accountability."

In addition to checking with the BBB Wise Giving Alliance, donors should consider the following tips:

- Donors should be wary of any charity that is inexperienced in carrying out relief efforts but is suddenly soliciting for tsunami assistance. Although well intentioned, such organizations may not have the ability to quickly deliver aid to those in need.
- Be wary of appeals that are long on emotion but short on describing what the charity will do to address

the needs of victims and their families. Also, see if the charity's appeal explains what the charity intends to do with any excess contributions remaining after they have fully funded the disaster relief activities mentioned in solicitations.

- As with all other disaster relief situations, most relief charities prefer financial contributions rather than donated goods. This enables them to purchase needed items near the disaster relief site[s] for easier distribution. The collection and delivery of inappropriate donated items can clog transportation channels and delay more vital items.

- If you contribute, do not give cash. Make out a check or money order to the name of the charitable organization, not to an individual collecting the donation.

- If you decide to contribute online, find out more about the charity before making a contribution, and be aware of red flags. For example, some charities imitate the name and style of a well-known organization in order to confuse people. Also, when clicking on the link to "donate," look at the organization's URL in the browser window. Exercise caution if the domain name is hidden, is not familiar to you, or is not the same as the one stated in the text of the link.

- Watch out for excessive pressure for on-the-spot donations. Be wary of any request to send a "runner" to pick up your contribution.

- Do not give your credit card number or other personal information to a telephone solicitor or in response to an email solicitation. Ask the caller or sender to provide you with written information on the charity's programs and finances.

- Do not hesitate to ask for written information that describes the charity's program[s] and finances, such as the charity's latest annual report and financial statements. Even newly created organizations should have some basic information available.

- Be wary of charities that are reluctant to answer reasonable questions about their operations, finances and

programs. Ask how much of your gift will be used for the activity mentioned in the appeal and how much will go toward other programs and administrative and fund raising costs.

- To help ensure your contribution is tax deductible, the donation should be made to a U.S.-based charitable organization that is tax exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Go to IRS Publication 78 on www.irs.gov for a current list of all organizations eligible to receive contributions deductible as charitable gifts.

"It is also important to remember that if you are unable to contribute at this time, relief charities will welcome your donation next week and next month. Organizations will be addressing a variety of activities in the weeks to come as the needs of relief victims change," said Taylor.

Donors can obtain further advice on giving and access reports on national charities by visiting www.give.org, the Web site of the BBB Wise Giving Alliance. The national charity reports produced by the Alliance specify if the charity meets the Standards for Charity Accountability which address various charity governance, finances, fund raising and solicitations issues. Donors are encouraged to inquire about relief organizations not currently on the Web site so the Alliance can identify additional charities that might be the subject of a future BBB Wise Giving Alliance report.

Sylvia Inman, Assistant Director of Volunteer KSU, said the university will be supporting the American Red Cross, CARE and other agencies in their database, however, nothing is finalized at the moment. Individual campus organizations are contributing to relief funds as well, "Human services club is donating \$100 toward relief," Jacqueline Hand, the treasurer of the KSU Human Services Club said. If you are interested in helping through the university, contact Volunteer KSU at 770-423-6700 or visit them in the Student Center Rm. 270.



Locals return to survey the damage done by the Dec. 26 tsunami. Thousands of businesses and homes were destroyed by the waves



Photos taken of Banda Aceh, Indonesia June 23, 2004 tells a different story than the picture taken Dec. 28, 2004, two days after the initial earthquake.

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High replacement costs follow thefts

Recent technology equipment thefts leave unanswered questions

Rykie Belles
Copy Editor

In November, three data projectors, valued at approximately \$1,800 each, were stolen from the ceiling of classrooms in the Burruss Building. "This is not particularly unusual for this university," said KSU Chief Information Officer Dr. Randy Hinds, who estimated that \$40,000 in computer equipment was stolen during the months of November and December. In recent years, Hinds said, the university has lost up to \$15,000 worth of equipment per semester, with a notable increase in thefts in the months preceding the winter holiday.

The thefts in recent months, however, "have all the signs of being an organized gang," said Hinds, who noted that

three different floors in the Burruss Building were robbed at the same time. The nature of the equipment stolen also suggested a certain degree of organization, much of which, according to Hinds, requires sophisticated users and would only be useful in certain markets.

"Whether the work of organized crime or not, the thefts have certainly had an effect on KSU," said Shannon Cronin, Associate Director of the Technology Department. "Nine classrooms have been hit in six weeks," she said, mostly classrooms in the Burruss and Clendenin buildings.

"We really have a lot of technology here and students and faculty have come to expect it," said Hinds. The loss of equipment, such as the data

projectors, leaves classrooms and students who are used to working with the technology KSU offers. Hinds and Cronin said that the tech staff is working hard to restore the effected classrooms.

However, since the technology department is not insured, the issue of where the funds for such restoration will come from remains. According to Hinds, the technology budget comes from two different sources: the Technology Factor and funds from student technology fees. The Technology Factor account is allocated on a yearly basis and does not come from student fees. Hinds said that when a situation such as this arises he uses Technology Factor funds first to cover re-

placement costs. "Since we're self-insured, I try to budget for this sort of thing, but the money has to stretch," he said, adding that unless there is another rash of thefts before the close of the fiscal year, he does not believe he will need to use funds from student technology fees to cover the cost of replacement.

The problem with using student funds is two-fold. First, "They're only supposed to be used for student stuff," Hinds said. Further, all but \$15,000 from student technology fees is already allocated to other projects. He plans to use Technology Factor money to pay for the new equipment and said this will not have a negative effect. However, Hinds said that another major theft will force him to request more

funds from the Technology Factor, which will hold back other projects waiting for Technology Factor funds.

"We really do need support of the campus to stop these thefts," Hinds said, he urged students, faculty and staff to be "vigilant and aware of your surroundings. We're always looking for these things." However, since KSU's campus is so large, student and faculty support is crucial to security.

Cronin agreed. "Students can ask for ID as much as faculty," he said. When students see someone carrying computer equipment on campus. All members of the Technology Department wear ID badges, and Cronin said they will be glad to display them for the public.

In the event that students or

faculty witness a theft in progress, Hinds and Cronin stress caution. "Don't try to stop it yourself," said Hinds, he added that especially with the recent, more organized thefts, doing so could seriously endanger the life of the witness. Rather, Hinds and Cronin encourage witnesses to collect important information—physical description of the thieves and any vehicles, including license plate numbers, time of day, location—and contact campus police as soon as possible.

According to an email from Capt. Kemper Anderson of the KSU Campus Police, the department has leads in the most recent thefts, "but as this is an active investigation, I can't go into any more detail at present," he said. The campus police emergency can be reached 24-hours a day, seven days a week, by dialing 6666 on any KSU phone, or 770-423-6666 from a non-KSU phone. Additionally, emergency call boxes are located throughout campus.

• From Page 1

GROWTH: Hype about new buildings increases

last year. The current space is 25 percent of what is recommended by the National Association of Schools of Music and this new performance hall will help alleviate that space crunch."

"We will host and continue to support the Premier Series and invite national and international artists to perform," Witte said. "Local and regional groups will also be invited to use the hall."

Witte said he feels the campus has much to gain from the addition of the performance hall. "It will bring a really significant arts facility to campus, double the capacity of seating and bring a valuable cultural and educational resource for our state and the region," said Witte.

"The music department is great with wonderful musicians, but their facility is not adequate for a music program of our size,

and the whole campus will benefit from them having their own building and performance hall," said Anderson.

"It's going to be remarkable, the fact that the Social Science department is spread out so much and the music department is in inadequate space. Not just these departments, but the entire campus will benefit," said Anderson.

The new construction will have an impact on the university's students, faculty and staff. "It's definitely going to be an impact," Anderson said. "The biggest impact will be from trucks and delivery of materials." He said no roads will be closed, but parking lot E will be closed because construction is being staged in that lot. "Lot E was chosen because the auditorium is being built so close to that lot. It wouldn't be safe," Anderson said. "Construction for the Social Science

"The biggest impact will be from trucks and delivery of materials," said John Anderson.

building is tight because we're keeping a lot of oak trees."

The new construction will not cause an increase in student fees. "They are both being funded by the state, they are Board of Regents' projects," said Anderson.

"At the rate we're growing, departments that already have new buildings will need renovations or additions in the next couple of years," Anderson said. Renovation planning has begun for all buildings on campus.



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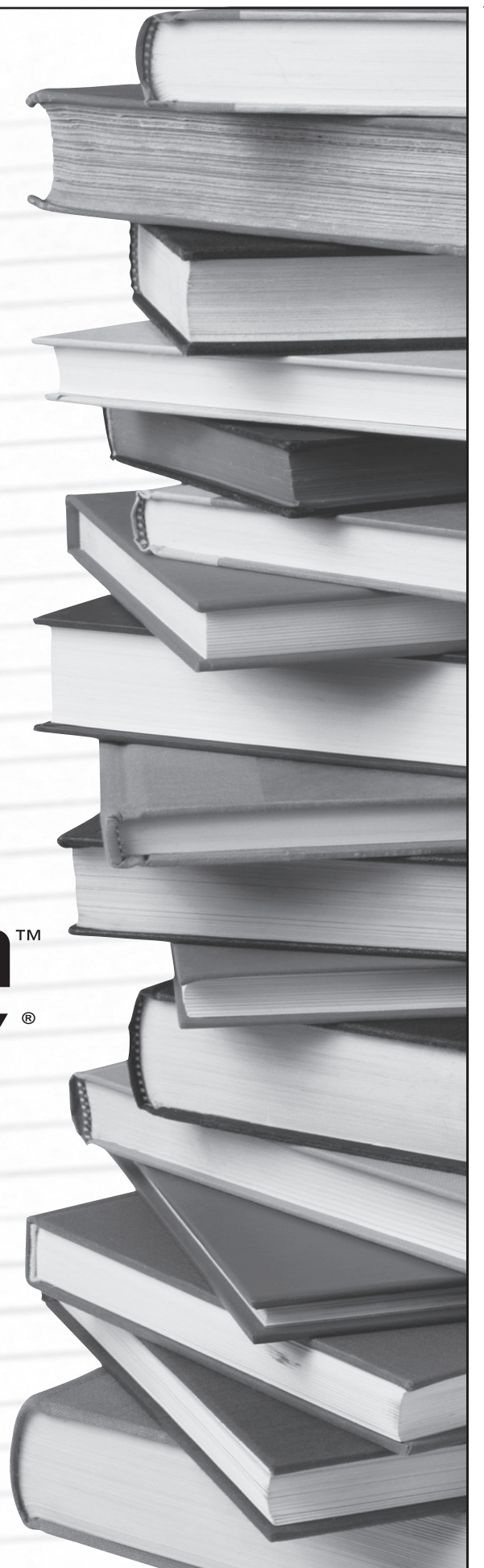
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Viewpoints

Online Poll:

**Should the university
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Yes - 63% No - 20% Depends - 18%
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[EXTRA CREDIT]

Extra credit or academic food stamps?

Dave Dalton
Viewpoints Editor

For once, I'd like to bring up an issue for which I don't really have an answer. I know, I know... I was shocked too. I hope this column will spark some debate and better minds than mine can find a solution.

In some classes, scores are so abysmally low that the professors feel as though they have to offer extra credit opportunities. At first glance, this might seem like a good idea. A student does extra work and gets the few points that might be the difference between passing and failing. Heck, I do extra credit assignments just to be on the safe side. The extra credit thing has always bothered me though, and I never really considered why until recently.

The purpose of taking a class is to learn and understand the material, right? Instructors administer tests to formally establish whether or not you have accomplished this. Your grades reflect the extent to which you have mastered the subject. So where does extra credit fit in to the picture? If it's extra, then it's above and beyond the established range of the course. So, what is the artificial inflation of your grade supposed to accomplish? All it does is let you squeak by with an incomplete grasp of the course. To what is this leading? Where are we going? How do universities get to a point where they would be willing to dilute their degrees by passing students who hadn't really passed? If a football player gets passed without earning the grade, it ends up on "60 Minutes," but no one bats an eye about extra credit? When a company hires a KSU graduate who turns out to be a dud, are they going to be likely to hire another one?

It reminds me of when I was a little kid. My single mom got food stamps and worked two jobs to keep a roof over our heads and keep my fat little belly full. She didn't have the education to get off of public assistance by way of a better job, so she tried to do it by taking extra jobs. It didn't work. The more she worked, the less she got until it became obvious that she would be better off just giving up and taking the welfare dime. She ended up catching a break later, but the point remains: giving away what should be earned is not help. It breeds a soul-crushing dependence on the system. A real welfare program would have helped her learn the skills to stand on her own. The same can be said of extra credit. If a student squeaks through a class that they haven't really mastered by way of extra credit then they start the next class at a disadvantage because they didn't really pass the last one. Did the academic welfare really help that student? What about the self-confidence he or she could have gained from working hard to accomplish something? Is there an extra credit assignment for that too?

Then there is the question of fairness. The person sitting next to me has the same opportunity to learn that I do. We both choose whether or not to attend class. We both choose whether or not to study. We both have the option of hitting up the professor for extra credit. We both end up with the same degree. If half of my grade is based on extra credit, is it fair to say that we have the same degree of competence?

So what's the answer? Keep in mind that I'm not pointing fingers, and that I'm not suggesting we abolish extra credit overnight. That kind of drastic action would be irresponsible, but there's got to be a way to end the dependence. An extra credit rehab, if you will. A solution would have to address the "whys." Why are students failing to learn? Why are students not asking for help? Why are teachers not getting the material covered? We have some truly outstanding academic resources available at KSU. They are too numerous to list here, but the Writing Center [Humanities, room 242] and the Math Lab [Library, room 433] are two great examples. Any student having trouble can get one-on-one tutoring. To me, this kind of program might be a real solution. It places the burden of learning where it should be -- on the student. These services are available at no charge and they actually help you learn the course material.

Ask anyone who's ever stood in a welfare line how they felt about it. Most of them will tell you that they would rather have a job, but they just don't have the skills. Eventually you begin to lose the will to succeed, and you come to believe that public assistance is your whole life. The human spirit is the most valuable and renewable resource we have, but we have found a formula to crush it:

1. Strip a person of their humanity and individuality.
2. Make them dependant on someone else.
3. Tell them it's for their own good.
4. Repeat as necessary.

We're currently on the third or fourth generation of social welfare with no end in sight. It's been going on so long that fixing it seems like an impossible task. We have the opportunity here and now to fix the academic welfare system and end the dependence. Will we have the resolve to choose a hard right over an easy wrong? I doubt it, but I'm a pessimist.



A semester to savor

Jesse Velarde
Columnist

There is no doubt that college life can be difficult, challenging and frustrating. The headaches of tough professors, inaccessible parking and financial aid that just never seems to be enough keep us grumbling and griping throughout the school year. Sometimes those of us who live in such a prosperous nation as the United States have a tendency to take all we have for granted. That is, until the harsh realities of a natural disaster like the tsunami in southeast Asia remind us that the very things we complain about are quite often visual reminders of how much we truly we have. Even weeks after the initial devastation left more than 100,000 dead and many orphans and widows in its wake, the front pages of our newspapers and the lead stories on television are dealing with the carnage caused by the tsunami. Will that still be the case two months from now? Or will we be once again preoccupied by the hardships of our own lives? We are all familiar with the saying, "the grass is always greener on the other side." Even in a place as prosperous as America, we never feel as though we have enough. We want a nicer car, or house or clothes -- it never seems to be good enough. As we watch the human suffering on the other side of the world, we are reminded of an important truth -- life is fragile. Today is a gift, and we are not promised tomorrow. Imagine if you found that you only had a month to live. Would that change the way you approached life? How would that affect the way you treated those closest to you? I think Tim McGraw said it well in his song, "Live Like You Were Dying" when he said, "I loved deeper, I spoke sweeter, and I gave forgiveness I'd been denying." What amazing things would happen, if we truly understood that we are not promised tomorrow? Now, I am not financially wealthy. Yet, as

I watch a man overwhelmed with grief at the loss of his children, his wife and his parents, I am truly humbled and burdened with guilt as I look across the room at my brother watching along with me. Who am I that my family should live and his be gone? Watching his plight alone encourages me to treasure some of the things that I take for granted from time to time. As the sorrow of the tsunami victims is played over and over on my T.V., and I'm reminded how much I have, it serves as an opportunity for me to give of my enormous wealth. Consider this, most of us had more than the victims of the tsunami before the tsunami struck.

We are presented with an opportunity to reach out to our hurting brother, regardless of how small the contribution is. To make an investment in a community that will take years to rebuild. This investment will bring a return for generations to come. So, as we face the challenges of the upcoming semester, when we are inclined to whine and complain about how tough we think things are, let's remember that there are thousands of homeless orphans and widows who need our help, not our pity-party.

More Information

Welfare of U.S. citizens affected by the disaster

http://www.firstgov.gov/Citizen/Topics/Asia_Tsunamis.shtml

International perspective on the tsunami disaster, and the world's reaction:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk>

American Red Cross

<http://www.redcross.org/services/disaster/>

A new Democratic deal

Beau Harper
Columnist

As we Democrats watched the election slip out of our grasp, we found ourselves in a post-election state of shock and disbelief. There must be a general consensus to accept reality and press forward to set the stage for reform and find a renewed sense of solidarity within our party. Without even blinking an eye, Republicans easily defeated Democrats in 23 states and gained a whopping 202 electoral votes. Democrats need to focus less on specific areas and more on broad-based appeal.

Some voters have said they feel as though Democrats have no concern for the moral direction of the country, which is the farthest thing from the truth. We

need to come in on Republican territory and show voters that we share the same basic ideals that formed the bedrock of values for this country. The recent election of Senator Salazar from Colorado, a Republican stronghold, is proof positive that progressive change needs to happen. The pre-conceived notion that Democrats don't care about what led millions of Americans to vote for Bush. According to an article published by founder and CEO

Al From and Bruce Reed, president of the Democratic Leadership Council, on their Web site www.ndol.org, 26 of the 28 states with the lowest per-capita income, Bush carried. "An administration whose overriding motive has been to protect the rich was given a second term by the very people who will suffer the most for

it," said From and Reed: It is these people to whom we must reach out. We must bring them toward the common ground that all Americans seek.

This is not an appeal to be less liberal or "Republican-light." This is an appeal for a change in political thought toward a more progressive, broad-based agenda. We need an agenda that will reach across barriers and lines to unite the country under one cause. We need an agenda that will solidify our core political and social values and strengthen the individual and empower them for progressive change. Democrats, unite. Let's put aside the mudslinging [because Republicans do that so much better than us anyway]. Let's focus on unity and working together for the betterment of the 55 million Democrats who voted for that change.



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Editorial Board

Melissa Spielholz
Editor in Chief
TheSentinelEIC@gmail.com

Tara O'Shea
News Editor
SentinelNewsEditor@gmail.com

Meredith Pruden
Features Editor
sentinelfeatures@hotmail.com

Dave Dalton
Viewpoints Editor
loneconservative@yahoo.com

Tommy McNulty
Sports Editor
ksusports@hotmail.com

Contact Us
Mail
The Sentinel, Bldg. 5, Rm. 277,
1000 Chastain Road, Kennesaw,
Ga. 30144-5591

Visit
Student Center 277

Phone
770-423-6278

Email
sentinel@students.kennesaw.edu

Online
www.ksusentinel.com

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 - 2.) The writer must include full name, year and major if a student, professional title if a KSU employee, and city if a Georgia resident.
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Point

Time for a playoff

Allen Northington
Columnist

One more Bowl Championship Series finished and one more year filled with questions about who is the best team in college football. Although three teams finished the 2004 season undefeated, coordinators of the BCS maintain that the undisputed national champion was the University of Southern California. In any sport, you would think that if a team finished the year undefeated, then they were probably the champions, but not college football. There are a flurry of bowl games in which half of the teams in Division I football are allowed to compete, and then instead of the best teams playing each other, sportswriters and coaches vote to determine the number one team in the nation. Enough with the constant tweaking to the computer formulas of college football -- let the game participate in what all other sports have -- a playoff.

College football has a legacy of controversy, and it will always have that legacy until the elite teams can settle it on the football field. It is particularly frustrating when the chairpersons of the NCAA can't see the benefits an eight or 16-team playoff would bring the sport. In a statement following the football season, BCS commissioner Kevin Wieberg said, "I have to tell you, I don't see an NFL-style playoff coming to college football any time soon." Rather than a playoff, college football will most likely have a selection committee similar to NCAA basketball that will determine the bowl game match-ups for future years. It's funny how the BCS mentions college basketball, since it runs March Madness, the most popular and successful playoff tournament in all of sports.

Just imagine how successful a 16-team playoff would be not only for the NCAA but for the fans. Instead of a near month layoff from football, fans would watch excitement build as the battle for a national champion is fought every week on the gridiron. There would be huge upsets, amazing clutch performances, and best of all there would be an undisputed champion. Even better for the NCAA, they would be able to keep some of the bowls by staging the playoff games at the designated sites. This would keep the cities and advertisers happy and in addition, the stadiums would actually sell out their games.

Even with all these perks, critics against the introduction of a playoff have a myriad of complaints. One of the most common gripes against a playoff

is that the current bowl system would be gutted entirely, and the NCAA would lose millions of dollars from these bowls. Not only is this charge ridiculous, but only those completely ignorant of college football's huge popularity would make such a claim. Instead of only a few select fans watching games played in December, you would have the entire football nation glued to their TV sets for a straight month leading up to the national championship game.

In addition to viewership, the marketing capability would be tenfold that of the NCAA basketball tournament. A recent survey estimated that the minimum a 16-team playoff would gross would be just under \$376 million, nearly double what the bowl system brings in for the NCAA.

Another popular complaint is that a playoff would add too many games for the players, and they would not be ready for their academic finals. It's refreshing to hear football coaches and athletic directors claim to care about how their players perform in the classroom, but unfortunately the only time they bring it up is in response to this argument. For starters, every other division of college football has a playoff system held in December. If the other student athletes can handle it, why can't Division I athletes? As far as scheduling is concerned, teams could play one or two fewer games in the regular season to help prevent player fatigue and injury.

In the end, the opposition to a playoff just seems to be grandstanding and throwing up meaningless excuses so that they can keep their coveted bowl games. They invented the BCS formula to eliminate co-champions, then "fixed" the system by making adjustments every year and finally "fixed" it again by getting rid of all their previous changes. Everything the heads of college football do to prevent controversy in the game only opens more avenues for such problems to arise. When there is a playoff, the constant debate about, "Who is number one" will finally come to an end. Could Auburn or Utah have beaten USC? Nobody will ever know, but if there was a playoff system there would not be any debate as to who is the legitimate national champion.



It's much better if you don't care who's No. 1

Kevin Horrigan
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

In case you haven't read the sports page or watched ESPN lately, the greatest problem facing the world today is something called the BCS, which is not a disease or a bomb or a rebel group in western Sudan, but the Bowl Championship Series.

The BCS was started in 1998 to settle the ridiculous annual controversy over which college football team is the best in all the land. This question may not be urgent in Missouri or Illinois, but in states like Idaho, people who usually get excited only about potato blight get exercised when their teams get hosed.

The people who are most apoplectic are sportswriters and broadcasters, who correctly point out that the BCS has been as successful in pacifying football fans as the American invasion of Iraq has been in pacifying the Middle East.

Sports guys curse the BCS with words like "hypocrisy" and "greed," saying it has created a "firestorm" and that it "reaps a whirlwind," as if somehow the Earth will tilt from its axis because one of three unbeaten teams will not be allowed to play for the national championship.

Personally, I like the fact that no one really will know if Auburn could have been beaten Oklahoma or the University of Southern California. Horrigan's Iron Rule of Ambiguity states that not knowing is sometimes better than knowing, because it keeps open a world of possibilities. If I'm Auburn, it's better to not know if you could have been No. 1 than to run the risk of getting waxed by OU or USC.

[Actually, there are two other unbeaten teams that won't be playing for the championship, but they are Utah and Boise State, and according to the BCS ranking formula, which is no more complex than quantum physics, neither of them could beat Hazelwood East.]

The Iron Law of Ambiguity is closely related to Horrigan's Law of Ambiguous Dining, which was formulated in 1972 at Gasper's Truck Stop in Kingdom City, Mo. Gasper's served its last meal last week, a victim of the fast-food homogenization of American culture.

People would rather have the comfort of the familiar than run the risk of the unknown at a hole-in-the-wall restaurant.

The Law of Ambiguous Dining states just the opposite: Anybody can get a good meal at a decent restaurant, but the unknown carries a special reward.

My first trip to Gasper's took place in 1972, in the company of Bob Boskiewicz, a one-time Jefferson City bureau reporter for the late Globe-Democrat of sainted memory. Boskiewicz insisted that Gasper's was the best restaurant in central Missouri, well worth the 30-mile trip up Highway 54 from the state capital.

I was new to Missouri and didn't know whether Boskiewicz was kidding or whether the Globe-Democrat's meal allowances really were chintzy. It turned out he was right: Gasper's was a revelation, with excellent fried chicken and meatloaf, real mashed potatoes, fresh vegetables and great pie.

For the next 20 years, working between St. Louis, Kansas City, Jefferson City and Columbia, I ate a lot of meals at Gasper's. I learned what the specials were and to avoid the place at noon on Sundays, when the after-church crowd in mid-Missouri descended en masse. I took my wife there on our wedding anniversary. Once.

I developed a theory: If two of the best restaurants in Missouri were a truck stop and Arthur Bryant's Barbecue in Kansas City, then surely there were rewards in the unknown and offbeat. I reaped these rewards in the fried chicken at the Stroud's in Kansas City, over terrific vegetable soup at a truck stop in Fenton, over magnificent ribs in Dexter, over throwed rolls in Sikeston, and over a humongous pork tenderloin in Chillicothe.

There were, of course, crummy-looking places that turned out to serve crummy food, usually when the family was traveling with me. "Oh, no!" the children would cry. "He's stopping at one of those places again." But the Law of Ambiguous Dining holds that you can't be disappointed if you have low expectations.

On the other hand, when you don't expect a good meal -- or your team to be No. 1 -- and it happens anyway, you're way ahead. It is the triumph of hope over experience, and it comes with age.



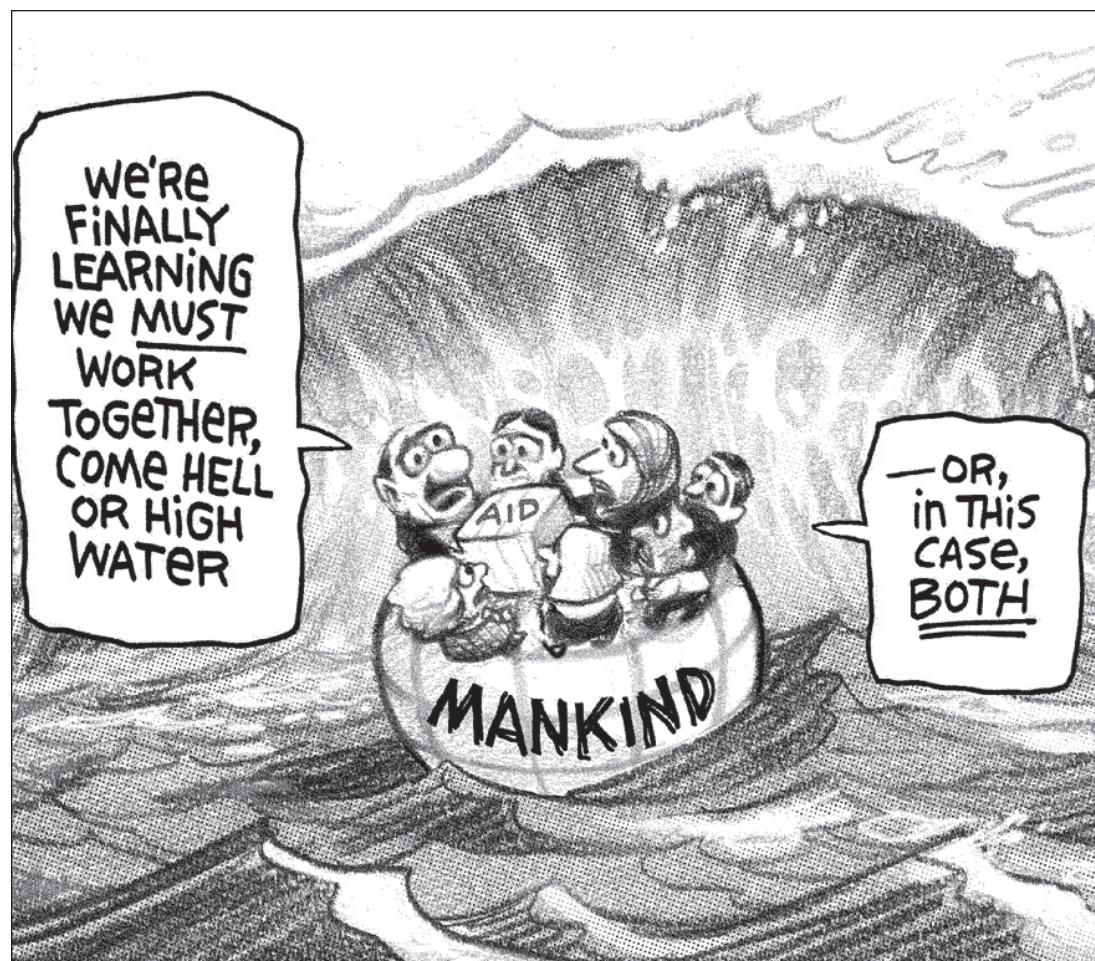
Kevin Horrigan is a columnist for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. Readers may write to him at: St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 900 North Tucker Blvd., St. Louis, Mo. 63101, or e-mail him at khorrigan@post-dispatch.com.

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Counterpoint

Political Cartoon

Star Tribune



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Instructors with a social agenda

thoroughly and to listen to all sides of an issue before drawing a conclusion. I hope KSU instructors are unbiased enough to know the difference.

Ellen Foster

Parent of a KSU student

Excellent reflections in the wake of the election

Dear Editor,

Jesse Velarde's editorial "Are you ready to be inaugurated?" was excellent. His point was right on--we as individual citizens have to take responsibility for ourselves and not pretend that politicians in Washington have the duty to deal with all our ills. It is not their job to solve all the problems of our lives--particularly if we have the capacity to influence those problems ourselves and have not done so. Our elected representatives have a duty to us, certainly, but let us not act as if we are dependent on the government for everything. We have the power to change our own world--so let us get out there and do it.

Jamie Kiley

Sophomore, English/History

Dear Editor,

In the news recently there have been stories about college and university instructors with their own political or social agendas. A professor kicks a student in the shin for showing friends a shirt with a Bush logo. Students at Columbia University [an Ivy League school] make a documentary about a professor on campus who is, allegedly, blatantly anti-Semitic in class.

Things have not changed much since I graduated from college 25 years ago. It is criminal for a 50-year-old instructor to humiliate a 19-year-old for having different social or political views. And it is wrong for instructors to promote their own social agendas in the classroom, be they liberal or conservative. A university, of all places, should be where one can explore and hear about different views without humiliation. College instructors have a responsibility to provide an atmosphere where diverse views are tolerated, not criticized.

As a parent of a KSU student, I hope I am not paying to have my son "indoctrinated." I would hope he would learn to think more

Features & Entertainment

Next Issue:

Jeff Rose
Former KSU Student catches the acting bug

2004 2005

Then and Now

The best of 2004 becomes the worst of the new year

Meredith Pruden
Features Editor

The New Year has just begun and it's time to trash the 2004 hot-list to make way for some new blood in 2005. Here are our picks for what to hide in the back of your closet and what to run to the store and buy.

Then	Now
Music Midtown in May <i>American Idol</i>	Music Midtown in June <i>Sports Illustrated Swimsuit Model Search</i>
KSU students b*tching about parking	KSU students b*tching about mildew
Razor scooters	Razor electric bikes
Red Bull energy drink	Monster energy drink
Old School	Anchorman
PC	Mac
Uggs	Pumas [again]
UGA	Auburn
Buying books on campus	Buying books online
Justice League	Teen Titans
Waxing off unwanted body hair	Laser off unwanted body hair
C2	Pepsi Edge
Avril Lavigne's pseudo-punk	Social Distortion's vintage punk
"Whaaattt.....Okay!"	"Drop it like it's hot."
Popped collars	Layered shirts
South Park	Family Guy
Livestrong bracelets as fashion trend	Livestrong bracelets as charitable cause
Iraq war debate	Tsunami disaster aid discussions
Napster	iTunes
Political correctness	Saying what you mean
Plastic surgery to get a hot bod	Physical activity for a hot bod
Friends box set	Seinfeld box set

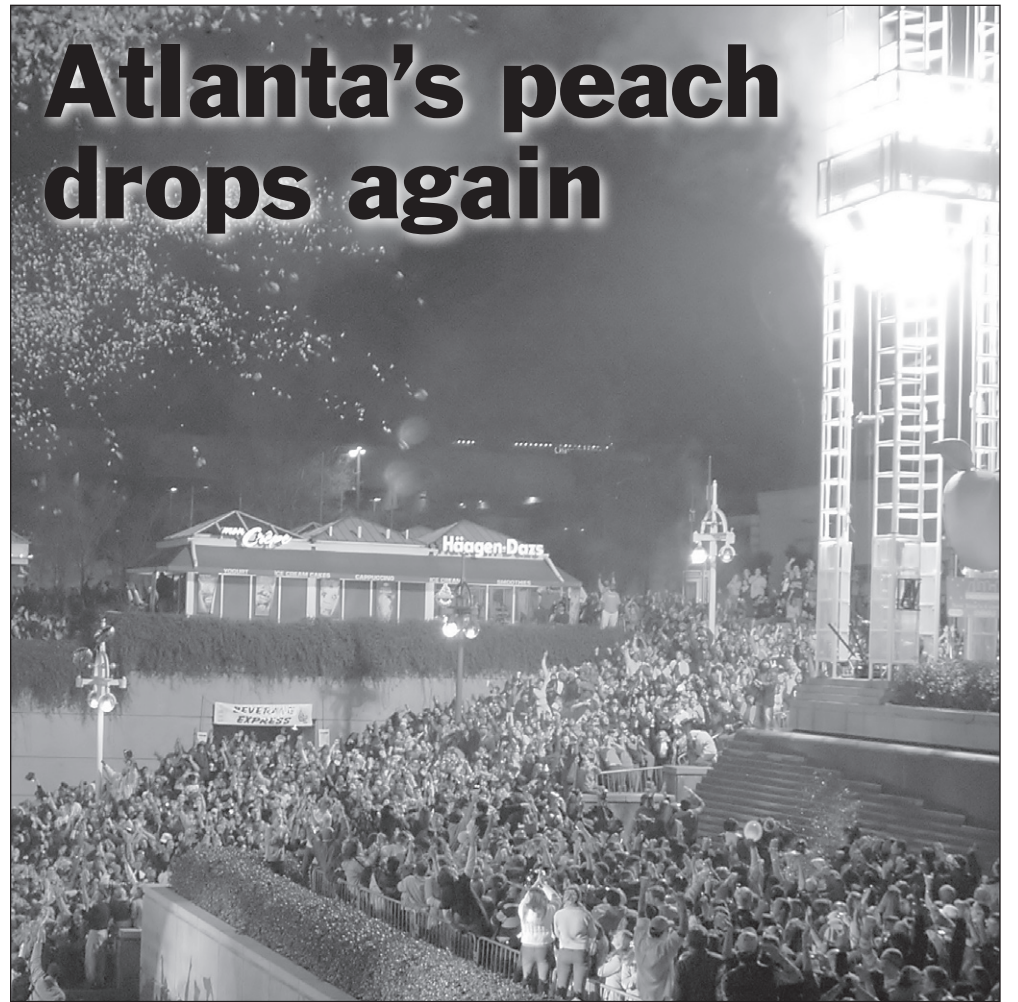


Photo courtesy of Julian McClellan
Peach drop crowd spills into surrounding streets of downtown Atlanta.

As 2005 arrives the downtown skyline lights up

Meredith Pruden
Features Editor

"AirTran Airways was pleased to sponsor the Peach Drop at Underground Atlanta again this year and we are thrilled with the amount it has grown and how it has become such a high profile New Year's Eve event."

Underground Atlanta's 16th Annual Peach Drop drew a crowd of more than 175,000 revelers to the downtown destination New Year's Eve to watch the 800-pound peach descend the 138-foot tower and ring in 2005. Whether it was the unseasonably warm weather or the grand opening of Underground's newest late-night attraction, Kenny's Alley, that drew the crowd is hard to tell, but party-goers were out in force until the wee hours of morning.

Underground Atlanta seems to remain the ideal spot for this Atlanta tradition and really stepped up to the plate this year. Kenny's Alley opened its doors New Year's Eve with a new "Pour till 4" law that allows its eight new bars and clubs to stay open later than their counterparts in other areas of the city, and an open container law allowing patrons to walk between bars in Kenny's Alley with their drinks in hand [think Navy Pier in Chicago]. Talk about a great spot to watch a giant peach fall from the sky and ring in the New Year.

This year's celebration was an all day affair with festivities sponsored by Radio Disney for the whole family. Starting at noon, patrons had access to a moonwalk, basketball and baseball throws, swings, face painting and games and prizes to thrill both children and children at heart. As the night grew nearer, local and national musical acts took the stage to lead the crowd into the new year.

"It was packed and we were having a ball!" said Charlie Brown of Charlie Brown's Cabaret.

Local rock band 7 Sharp 9 were the first to take the stage, followed by several others, but it all led up to the co-headliners, Edwin McCain and Sister Hazel who rang in the new year with a rendition of "Auld Lang Syne." As the Peach completed its drop, more than 2,000 fireworks exploded over the Atlanta skyline as confetti and streamers covered the heads of those below.



Photo courtesy of Jena Stafford
Party-goers watch as the Peach drops

The Peach Drop is the Southeast's largest New Year's Eve Celebration and is known outside of Atlanta in markets including Tampa, Raleigh and Baton Rouge, among others. "The Peach Drop is a Southern gem now syndicated in 35 markets," Underground Atlanta General Manager William "Chick" Ciccaglione said in a press release. "All of us at Underground are excited by its growth and appreciate the support of sponsors like AirTran to make this event happen." AirTran Airways' Director of Marketing Tad Hutcheson said,



Photos courtesy of Noel St. John
Edwin McCain and Sister Hazel ring in the new year at the Peach drop.

ROAMING REPORTER

"What did you do New Year's Eve?"

Meredith Pruden
Features Editor



Eddie Dease

Political science, freshman
"My roommates and I set off a lot of fireworks."



April Pilgrim

Early childhood education, junior
"I went to a wedding."



Jason Nimer

English education, junior
"I baby-sat the girl I'm dating because she had her wisdom teeth out. I was home and in bed by 1 a.m."



Vatriesa Chillous

Psychology, junior
"I went to church."



Matt Mattice

Music education, junior
"I honestly don't remember."



What to expect in 2005 - a humorous forecast

David Whitley
The Orlando Sentinel

One word summed up 2004 clueless.

From Barry Bonds to Janet Jackson to Dan Rather, many of the year's biggest newsmakers claimed to be unaware of their pharmaceuticals, their wardrobes and their facts.

We predict more of the same in 2005. And after five years of this psychic routine, we must predict we won't be nearly as clueless.

This exercise began as a holiday lark, but a shocking thing happened. Many of our lamest jokes came true.

Not to brag, but we predicted the Bucs would win a Super Bowl. We were sticking needles in BALCO long before Bonds claimed he didn't know how he developed 30-inch biceps.

We clued you in on Kobe's marital troubles before he divorced Shaq, and warned you that Latrell Sprewell could not feed his family on \$14 million a year. We would have nailed the winner of the Triple Crown, then the Swiftboat Vets claimed Smarty Jones never served in Vietnam.

Yes, our annual prediction that Hillary Clinton will give birth to an alien has yet to come true, though we're confident Rather will break the story any day now.

In other words, we tried to be more clueless than Jessica Simpson. Now we are seriously considering a second career as a palm reader or a TV weatherman.

So without further ado, or Freddy Adu, it's again time to peer into the future. If we appear clueless, remember that's what they said before we predicted the Red Sox would win the Little League World Series.

JANUARY

Terrell Owens valiantly cuts off his leg cast and limps onto the field to dance in the end zone after the Eagles win the NFC title.

In the 17th straight ESPN Sunday Conversation about the Lakers' breakup, Kobe apologizes for telling Colorado police that Shaq taught him how to "order room service."

BCS computers melt down after Auburn, Oklahoma, Utah and Harvard finish unbeaten, causing The Associated Press to announce its voters will not participate in Iraq's election.

Determined to get revenge on Boston, the Yankees sign Carlos Beltran and Carlos Delgado, trade for Randy Johnson and Albert Pujols and install Ted Williams' cryogenic tube in center field.



As LSU Coach Nick Saban mulls taking the Dolphins job, LSU fires 10 professors and offers to give their salaries to the football coach.

FEBRUARY

The NFL cancels the Super Bowl when it discovers the game really is in Jacksonville.

Barry Bonds wins the Daytona 500 by 493 miles while driving the BALCO car. He attributes the win to the gasoline his personal trainer gave him.

Punxsutawney Phil climbs out of his groundhog hole, sees Latrell Sprewell's shadow and ducks back underground before a starving Sprewell tries to eat him.

Spring training opens under new steroid-testing rules, half the players show up looking like Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen.

In a paperwork snafu, Baltimore tailback Jamal Lewis gets a prison transfer for the duration of his off-season sentence. His new cellmate, Martha Stewart, forces him to start wearing an apron and high heels.



MARCH

In a Sunday Conversation, Kobe accuses Karl Malone of hitting on Amber Frey.

In his farewell appearance on the CBS Evening News, Dan Rather reports the discovery of documents indicating Peter

Jennings is a woman.

Sensing his team still isn't tough enough for the playoff run, Magic General Manager John Weisbrod signs point guard Roy Jones Jr.

The NHL lockout enters its 200th day. In a poll asking who's to blame, 94 percent of Americans say they don't care as long as it keeps up.

As its coach further ponders the Dolphins' job, LSU offers to change its letters to NSU for Nick Saban University.

APRIL

A day before the drug trial opens, Ricky Williams' lawyer quits to go smoke pot and find the meaning of life in a Tibetan monastery. "I would never bail out on my team at the last minute," Williams says. "Now where's my bong?"

A skinny guy wins the Boston Marathon.

Martha Burk shows up at a Hardee's in Augusta, Ga., to protest the fact women are not allowed in the men's room.

In jury selection at the Baghdad Municipal Courthouse, Saddam Hussein's lawyer enters a motion to have the trial moved to Los Angeles so he can empanel the O.J. jury.



MAY

Barry Bonds wins the Kentucky Derby by 67 lengths. He attributes the win to the oats his personal trainer gave him.

Minnesota makes a final offer of \$10 million a year to Latrell Sprewell, who says he would have to put three of his children up for adoption if he re-signed with the Timberwolves.

Frustrated after the Garnett team ties the Gold 0-0 in FSU's spring football game, Bobby Bowden announces Ann Bowden will be the Seminoles' new offensive coordinator.

Homeland Security raises the terror alert to red after the Pacers and Pistons qualify for the NBA Eastern Conference finals.

JUNE

Instead of the NBA Finals

between the Kings and Pacers, ABC telecasts a reality show putting Kobe and Shaq on a desert island with only one basketball between them.

Babe Ruth's ancestors refuse an invitation to attend the game when Barry Bonds hits his 715th home run. In their place, baseball invites Victor Conte, Ben Johnson, Tony Mandarich and the surviving members of 1976 East German women's swimming team.

Dan Rather announces he's coming out of retirement after uncovering documents showing he was actually born in 1982.

With Boston holding a 12-game lead over his Yanks, George Steinbrenner hires Victor Conte as team pharmacist.

JULY

The Bucs open training camp at Disney's Wide World of Sports. In their first scrimmage, they blow a fourth-quarter lead to Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs

The WNBA fan strike enters its 3,294th day.

Barry Bonds wins the Tour de France by 19 days. He attributes the win to the clear French wine his personal trainer gave him.

Nick Saban agrees to stay at LSU after the university offers to stop teaching classes in order to devote all its time to joining the NFL.

Ron Artest is arrested after attacking a man who allegedly threw rice on him at his wedding.

AUGUST

Displeased with the direction of the football program, Notre Dame fires Charlie Weis after three practices.

In a scandalous wardrobe malfunction, a Budweiser patch falls off Dale Earnhardt Jr.'s driving suit after he wins the Talladega 500. Junior inadvertently blurts "dad gummit," prompting NASCAR to dock him 500 Nextel Cup points.

Sparked by the founder's loss of 60 pounds in 18 short months, the Jason Giambi Weight Loss Clinics open across America. Determined

to instill discipline early, Florida Coach Urban Meyer makes his team run stadium steps until every player tosses his cookies. Except Taurean Charles, who tosses a keg.



SEPTEMBER

After UCF beats South Carolina in the season opener, Steve Spurrier petitions the NCAA to get Danny Wuerffel another four years of eligibility.

Desperate to catch the streaking Red Sox, George Steinbrennerbuys Massachusetts and declares anyone caught playing baseball will be deported to Iceland

During Rush Week at the University of Illinois, Ron Zook pledges at the Delta house and is given the name "Flounder."

Concerned over the plight of starving children in Minnesota, Jerry Lewis hosts The Latrell Sprewell Labor Day Telethon.

Even though it's an off year, the U.S. still manages to lose another Ryder Cup.

OCTOBER

The Red Sox lose Game 7 of the World Series when Johnny Damon gets his hair snagged on third base while trying to score in the bottom of the ninth.



In another high-profile wardrobe malfunction, Spongebob puts on rectangular pants.

After a bad case of the munchies forces him to wipe out the Big Mac supply, Ricky Williams is fired from his job at a McDonald's drive-through in Petaluma, Calif.

Desperate to boost Monday Night Football ratings, ABC has John Madden do an entire broadcast wearing only Nicollette Sheridan's towel.

Dan Rather reports that the Devil Rays won the World Series.

NOVEMBER

After his kicker is injured, Steve Spurrier sneaks onto the field and boots a 40-yard field goal to give South Carolina a 30-27 win over Florida.

Investigators discover documents in Iraq that show Warren Sapp received \$2 billion worth of chocolate eclairs in the U.N.'s Oil-for-Food program.

ESPN unveils its latest movie Gone With the Wins, The Story of Shaq & Kobe, starring Snoop Dogg as Kobe Bryant and Barry Pepper as Shaquille O'Neal.

On the day China declares war on Russia and Orlando is awarded the 2016 Olympics, local stations devote 27 minutes of their 6 p.m. newscasts to team coverage of a thunderstorm spotted near Bithlo.

The Florida High School Athletic Association admits that high school wrestling is fake.



DECEMBER

In a 20/20 exclusive, Victor Conte claims he gave Jeopardy champion Ken Jennings human geek hormone.

Seventeen Division I teams finish unbeaten, prompting college presidents to say the winner of the national championship will be picked by Donald Trump.

The American Civil Liberties Union files suit demanding that Christian Laettner must change his name to Fred so it won't offend atheists, Muslims or Klingsons during the holiday.

Hillary Clinton delivers an alien baby who immediately hits 73 home runs for the Giants. Clinton attributes it to the baby formula Barry Bonds' trainer gave her.

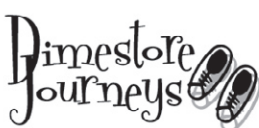
Head for the seas

Happy New Year everyone! I hope you all had a great break. Unfortunately, this means we're now in what is quite possibly the dreariest part of the year. It's the time of the year when nothing is really going on anywhere, and it's easy to get depressed or just down in the dumps. As you stare at the four walls that surround you and look out onto the barren landscape that is Kennesaw this time of year, remember, only a few more months until summer! As encouraging as that thought is, it may help if I mentioned that it is never too early to start thinking about what you're going to do this summer, especially if you just graduated and are not yet ready to go out into the real world.

Usually, this article is about inexpensive places to go in and around the Atlanta area. However, I'm going to assume no one is actually glad to be back at school, so I'll give you something nice to think about. If you've already done the drunken revelry of Cancun, New Orleans or Miami, I have an interesting alternative for you.

This past New Year, I was down in Jacksonville visiting my family when I learned that it is the newest port for Celebrity and Carnival Cruise Lines. This is actually a pretty big deal, considering it would take you twice as long to get to Fort Lauderdale or Miami, which until a few months ago, were the closest places for Southerners to catch a cruise.

I looked into the prices, and discovered they're not bad. In May, to board Carnival or Celebrity, it costs \$314 to sail to the Bahamas. Think about it, if you take six people, that's less than \$50 a person. Even I can afford that, and I never have any money. If for some reason you have time off in February, Carnival is charging \$399 to go to the western Caribbean. What a nice Valentines' present that would make. Carnival Cruise Lines' ship, Celebration, can hold 1,486 passengers and offers year-round service from Jacksonville, Florida. It also offers four-day cruises to Freeport and Nassau and five-day cruises to Key West and Nassau. Jacksonville is also one of the



By
Tara O'Shea

easiest cities to navigate in and around. Also, if you're like me and are afraid to fly on a plane, Jacksonville is definitely within driving distance. Among its interesting points, Jacksonville is home to the 2005 Super Bowl. It's getting to be one of the better known cities in Florida, so as we near Spring Break '05, look out for more on it. From Atlanta, head south toward Macon, then take I16 to 95 South. It's a straight shot from there. Until next week, try to stay warm.

campus shorts



What?	When?	Where?
KAB Lokel Yokel Concert	Wednesday, Jan. 12 8 p.m.	Student Center university rooms A-E
French Textile Exhibit	Runs through Jan. 14	Fine Art Gallery There is a lecture on the exhibit Thursday, Jan. 13 at 7 p.m.
MLK Celebration with keynote speaker Shoshana Johnson	Monday, Jan. 17 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	Stillwell Theatre
Empty Bowl Luncheon to benefit the Hosea Feed the Hungry and Homeless organization	Monday, Jan. 17 12:30 p.m.	Student Center university rooms A-E
KAB Luau	Tuesday, Jan. 18 Noon - 4 p.m.	Student Center university rooms A-E
KAB Hot Chocolate and Donuts	Wednesday, Jan. 19 7:30 - 11 a.m.	ST Rotunda and BB 2 nd floor

Alumna takes the stage

Wurl's play is professionally produced

Kiki Amanatidis
Sr. Staff Writer

Karen Wurl is a long way from her native Chicago, but the theatre life she experienced there as a young girl factored into a big part of her career.

Wurl's play "Miss Macbeth" is currently running at the Essential Theatre downtown. "Miss Macbeth" is an original play about a graduate student who literally kills for the role of Lady Macbeth.

Wurl, who is not only a graduate of KSU, but also an instructor and Writing Center tutor was gracious enough to speak to us about being a playwright and a KSU alumna.

Q: What interested you in playwriting and performing?

A: When I was just a little girl back in Chicago, my Aunt

Peggy was active as an actor and a director with a couple of theatre groups, so I got to see plays and play-readings, and I got to read scripts. I loved plays, and as a kid, I told everyone that I was going to be a playwright. I wrote a play – not a very good one – when I was nine, and then I retired from playwriting until my early twenties when I took it back up again.

Q: When were you a KSU student?

A: I started as an undergrad in the spring of 1996, and I completed my Theatre B.A. in December 2001. I returned in Summer 2002 as a grad student in the Professional Writing Program and I received my MAPW in May 2004. I've been working at KSU both during my tenure as an undergraduate and as a graduate.

Q: Who are some of your mentors at KSU?

A: I loved almost all of my teachers, and I had too many fine professors to name them all, but the teachers who most profoundly affected my career as a scholar and as a writer are Dr. John Gentile and Dr. Julia Matthews in the theatre department [Dr. Matthews has since gone on to another university], Dr. Liza Davis in University Studies, and in the MAPW program Dr. Greg Johnson, Dr. Ralph Wilson, Dr. Susan Hunter, Dr. Margaret Walters, Dr. Jason Miller, Dr. Robert Hill, Prof. Tony Grooms, Dr. Todd Harper, Dr. David Johnson and Dr. Robert Barrier. In the Writing Center, I have learned so very much from all my fellow tutors and quite frequently from the students I get to work with. Likewise, the en-

tire Department of Theatre and Performance Studies – faculty and students – have been an inspiration to me.

Q: What do you hope to accomplish by teaching at KSU?

A: In teaching Performing Poetry, I hope quite selfishly to learn more about poetry and about performance myself. Less selfishly, I want very much to share that experience and the joy that poetry has brought me with my students. In teaching ENGL 1101, and by working in the Writing Center, I would most like to help students to understand that writing is a learned, and very learnable, skill, which practice improves and enriches and which can be fun and rewarding!

Q: Did you participate in any clubs or activities?

A: I was in the German Club. I also took Russian, and I studied abroad in St. Petersburg in the summer of 2001. As a theatre major, I got to be involved in productions, onstage and backstage.

Q: How many plays have you written? Have you ever dabbled with screenwriting?

A: I've written about six or seven plays that have been produced and which I consider "finished." I have another six or seven which are in various stages of "in-progress," most of which I haven't had the time to work on for awhile now. I have a half-finished screenplay called "Brecht in Hollywood," which I love and which I hope to finish someday about the German dramatist Bertolt Brecht during the WWII years, when he lived and worked for a time in Hollywood, where he also collaborated with British actor Charles Laughton on the play "Galileo."

Q: Are there any current projects



Photo courtesy of 360Media, Inc.

Wurl's words come to life.

that you are working on?

A: I'm writing poetry lately because preparing for this class I'm teaching has gotten me in a poetry-writing mode, but with the attention recently being given to my playwriting, I'm pretty keen to pick up one of my abandoned playwriting projects now.

Q: What advice do you have for aspiring playwrights?

A: For writers in general, reading is essential: read a lot. For playwrights specifically, it's also very important to not only read plays but to experience theatre in performance – as audience members, yes, but also as practitioners whenever and however possible: to act, or at least to take acting classes, to work backstage, to usher, even. The idea is to be in the same room with the play.

Playwriting classes and workshops are great. I spent years in classes and workshops, and I consider every minute well-spent. In Atlanta, there is a group called Working Title Playwrights, they meet at Neighborhood Playhouse now. If you "google" them, you should be able to find a contact phone number or email address. In March I'll be teaching a 4-week class at Neighborhood

Playhouse that will cover not only playwriting but also other genres of writing for performance, such as performance poetry. And here at KSU, I understand we have a new professor teaching playwriting, and I've heard that he's really great.

Probably the hardest thing for me about writing is the emotional blow that rejection can be, and all writers get rejected – and at all the different phases of their writing lives, not just at the beginning, so it's not like you can get through a few years of rejection and then never have to worry about it again. It never goes away. And it may seem strange, but there are times when writing success is as stressful as writing failure, because it leads to increased exposure and there's a real vulnerability in that. For instance, if I had people wanting to interview me every week for the rest of my life [as I have had recently with this Essential Theatre production], I'd probably develop a severe and debilitating neurosis that would lead me to believe that the world hangs on my every word, which, thank God, it doesn't and it never will. But success is a weird and not entirely pleasant experience, one I hope every serious writer gets to endure for him- or herself.



Photo courtesy of 360Media, Inc.

The cast of "Miss Macbeth" entertains audiences at Essential Theatre.

2005 Black History Celebration

"Inspiring Diversity & Celebrating Change: The Momentum Continues"



Presented by the 2005 Black History Celebration Committee of the African American Student Alliance

This Week's Events for The 2005 Black History Month Celebration

• **Cultural Awareness and Resource Center (CARC) Open House (1/7-1/14/05, 9 AM – 9PM, Student Center, Room 263)**

Please join us in welcoming new students to KSU for Spring 2005! In honor of the annual KSU Black History Celebration, we are giving away Negro League Calendars for the 2005 Calendar year. Please stop by to receive 1 copy of this calendar during our business hours.

• **Minority Faculty, Student, Staff Reception (1/13/05, 3:30 – 5 PM, Jolley Lodge)**

The KSU Office of Minority Student Retention Services invites minority faculty, staff, and students to join us for an afternoon of fun and fellowship as we get acquainted, and look toward our future together. Please come for more information regarding the minority student profile at KSU. RSVP is required to attend this event. Refreshments will be provided.

• **Senior Luncheon (1/14/05, 12:30 – 2 PM, Location: Cobb Senior Citizen Center on Fairgrounds)**

Each year the Cobb County Senior Center invites Volunteer Kennesaw State University (VKSU) to sponsor programs for the seniors who frequent their center. This will be AASA's third year working in partnership with VKSU to provide informal, educational, and social activities to the seniors on topics pertinent to Black history. Volunteers from AASA will provide entertainment during this luncheon at the Senior Center. Door prizes will also be provided by the KSU Gerontology Club. AASA members are invited to participate.

• **MLK Celebration featuring Iraqi War POW Shoshana Johnson (1/17/05, 11 AM -12:30 PM, Stillwell Theatre)**

KSU continues the tradition of honoring the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Our featured keynote speaker for this event is Shoshana Johnson, the first female POW in Iraq. On March 23, 2003 during Operation Iraqi Freedom, Johnson was in a convoy that was ambushed in the city of An-Nasiriyah. She and five other members of the 507th Maintenance Company were captured and taken Prisoners of War. The ambush and its aftermath made world news headlines. Since her return to the United States, Specialist Johnson has received numerous awards, and recognition for her courage, valor, and service to the United States. She has been recognized with standing ovations from small groups to over 65,000 people at select events hosted by: the President of the Republic of Panama, the Congressional Hispanic and Black Caucuses, NAACP, NCAA College Football, National Hockey League, Major League Baseball, Rainbow PUSH Coalition, Glamour, McDonald's, and recently, as New York Mayor's Special Guest at Times Square on New Year's Eve.

• **Empty Soup Bowl Luncheon (1/17/05, 12:30 PM, UR A-E) Sponsored by the American Humanics Club, Ardith Peters and M. Joyce Redmond**

The Empty Bowls Luncheon demonstrates community support for those who are hungry in Metro Atlanta. All guests are served a simple meal with bread and are invited to keep a locally handcrafted ceramic bowl as a reminder that there are always those whose bowls remain empty. All proceeds for our Empty Bowls Luncheon will be donated to the Hosea Feed the Hungry and the Homeless organization to assist in their mission to feed the hungry. In addition to helping fight local hunger, the luncheon will present a diverse program and create a memorable time for all.

• **Financial Aid Workshop (1/19/05, 12:30 PM, UR A)**

Each year millions of dollars of scholarships and federal money for minority students go unclaimed. Find out how you can tap into these precious resources to finance a significant portion of your education. A member of the KSU Financial Aid Office will be present to answer your questions.

• **Gospel Jubilee (1/21/05, 7–10 PM, Stillwell Theatre)**

Continuing on a successful tradition, the KSU Black History Celebration committee invites all to attend our 3rd Annual Concert of Praise: Gospel Jubilee. Sponsored by AASA, this event is certain to celebrate and uplift the Kennesaw State University community through songs of praise. Local choirs and liturgical dance groups will perform at this event. This year's celebration will culminate Bridging the Past with the Present, while looking towards the Future...The Momentum Continues. Come and lift your spirits through song, dance, and spoken word!

For information, contact the African American Student Association (AASA) at 770.423.6712

Leonardo DiCaprio shoots for greatness

"The Aviator" soars in the box office

Michelle Caruso
New York Daily News

Somewhere between "Titanic" and now, Leonardo DiCaprio grew up. In Martin Scorsese's "The Aviator," the 30-year-old star demonstrates it onscreen.

In the film, DiCaprio displays a new maturity as Howard Hughes, the eccentric tycoon, aviation pioneer and movie mogul, who romanced some of Hollywood's hottest leading ladies in the 1920s, '30s and '40s before slipping into madness.

But the "altitude" of fully-fledged adulthood hasn't yet gone to DiCaprio's head.

"I still feel like I have a lot to accomplish," he said in a recent interview. "I have a lot more to prove. That's why I want to keep acting for years."

For many young Hollywood stars, the astronomical fame and global notoriety that DiCaprio experienced after the enormous success of "Titanic" in 1997 would have either sent them into rehab or turned them into prima donnas. But somehow DiCaprio avoided both pitfalls.

"It would be insane to live like that for the rest of your life," he said of the late '90s "Leo-mania" years when he was relentlessly stalked by paparazzi and hounded by fans wherever he went. "I was truly sick of seeing my own image out there."

At the same time, DiCaprio said he was too stubborn to hide out like a hermit.

As he said, "That's the one thing that probably got me into trouble, my rebellious nature, saying to myself, 'I don't care how recognizable I am. I'm going anywhere I want to. I'm not going to let the media dictate my life,' when I probably should have just locked myself in a hotel room like Howard Hughes."

For several years after "Titanic," photographers dogged DiCaprio's every move, and gossip columns salivated over his nightclub-hopping exploits, portraying him as a brat who roamed with a "posse" of even brattier (and sometimes drunken) pals.

But DiCaprio said that was a bad rap.

"I got labeled for a while as a guy who goes out a lot," he said. "With anyone who gets immediate, intense fame, the media labels them as soon as possible. They can't be mysterious or multidimensional, they need to be categorized. 'He's a hero, she's a slut, he's a drug addict, he's a club kid.' [Clubbing] was one facet of an array of things I was doing."

He may have a point about labeling. When he talks about his divorced parents, the German-born Irmelin, who worked as a secretary, and George, an Italian-American comic-book dealer, he sounds more like a model son than a superstar.

"I truly appreciate everything that they did and sacrificed for me," he said. "I hear about other people who don't have such great relationships with their parents, just never had an adult figure in their life who was responsible enough to support them and teach them. It makes me think I owe [my parents] everything."

His mom and dad drove him to acting auditions "even for a year straight when I didn't get a single job, just because I told them I wanted to do it."

DiCaprio said he knew he

wanted an acting career from the time he landed his first TV commercial, for Matchbox cars, when he was 13. After a string of ads and a minor role on the TV series "Growing Pains," he broke into films when he was cast in "This Boy's Life."

In the mid-'90s, DiCaprio earned Oscar and Golden Globe nods for his role as the mildly retarded Arnie in "What's Eating Gilbert Grape," and starred in "The Basketball Diaries," "Total Eclipse" and "Romeo + Juliet." His boyish, earnest Romeo made him a teen pinup.

Then came the Oscar-winning "Titanic." Suddenly DiCaprio was an international heartthrob. His face appeared on billboards and magazine covers all over the world.

"Titanic" gave me the opportunity to be a part of a film that's timeless, and to control my destiny," he said.

Controlling his destiny is exactly what DiCaprio did to bring "The Aviator" to the screen. He became interested in Hughes nearly a decade ago, after reading a book about him.

"He was the nation's first billionaire. He was such an obsessed human being, so obsessive about everything he got involved with, whether it was airplanes or women or films he made," said DiCaprio. "I read everything about Hughes that I could get my hands on."

In his quest to make a film about Hughes, DiCaprio approached director Michael Mann ("Ali," "Collateral"), who recruited John Logan ("Gladiator") to write a script.

Mann decided not to direct the film, but stayed on as a producer and enlisted Scorsese, who had directed DiCaprio in "Gangs of New York." The actor thinks Scorsese "may be the greatest director of all time." His next film will be Scorsese's cop drama "The Departed."

DiCaprio knew it would be difficult to portray Hughes, an obsessive-compulsive germaphobe, whose habits included saving his own urine in bottles and letting his fingernails grow so long they curled. In preparation for the part, DiCaprio sought out a leading expert on obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) at UCLA and spent countless hours with a man who suffers from the condition.

"People with OCD have an intense fear that something terrible will happen if they don't do something enough times to get the right feeling, whether it's washing their hands or turning off the light switch," DiCaprio said. "So it's a 24-hour living hell. They are constantly playing useless mind games with themselves."

DiCaprio said playing the role briefly brought back his childhood compulsion to step on cracks and gum stains on sidewalks.

"I may have a little of it, I think we all do," he said. "But I can see that it's superstition. A person with OCD can't do that."

He said the disorder "stems from this reptilian part of the brain that creates an instinctual, primal urge to protect the home nest, to keep things organized."

DiCaprio knows a bit about reptiles. As a small boy he owned an iguana, and in the '90s he had a pet bearded dragon named Blizz that hopped out of his pocket and was run over by a car during the filming of "Titanic." It survived.

"That little lizard and [co-star] Kate Winslet really helped me through the long, arduous process of making 'Titanic,'" he said. "I nursed it back to health, and it went on to have a full, illustrious life, with babies and everything."

For DiCaprio, babies are some way off.

"I have no idea. Someday that's going to happen, I'm sure," he said.

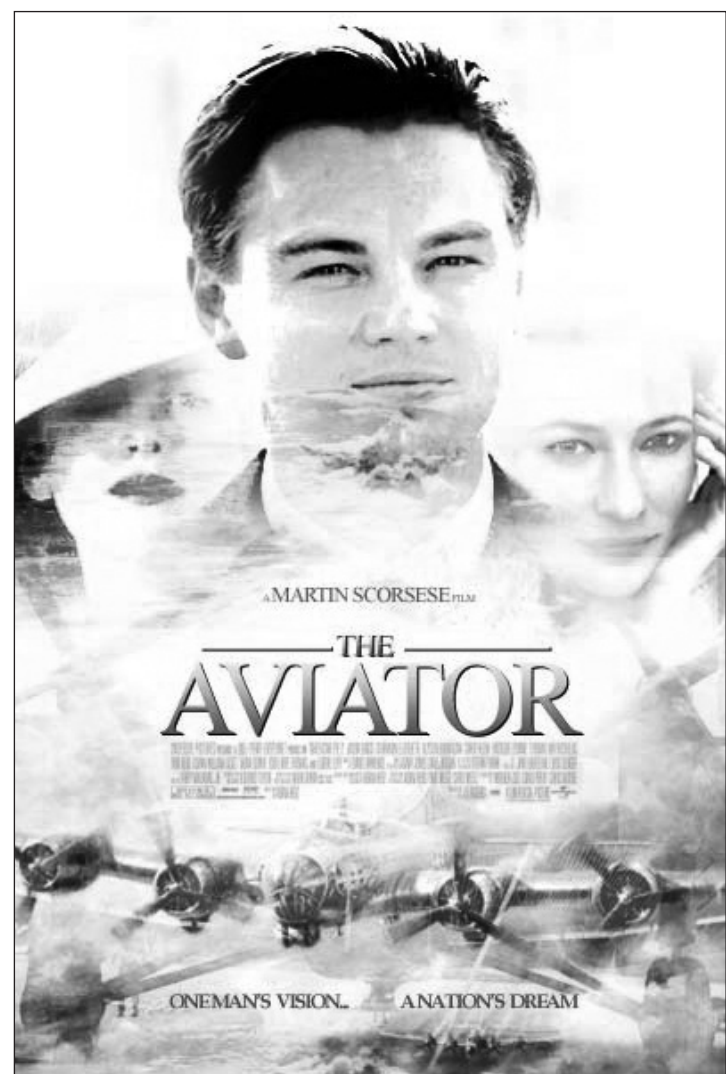
Will supermodel and sometime-steady girlfriend Gisele Bundchen be the mother?

"I never have commented on it," he said. "She's a wonderful girl. And that's the only thing I'll say."

In the meantime, there's greatness to pursue.

"I want to be mentioned in the same breath with some of the great actors of my generation, or the generations before me," he says, mentioning De Niro, Marlon Brando, James Dean, Cary Grant and James Stewart. "I want people to talk about me as a great actor who did meaningful films. I want to be part of pieces of art."

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WHO'S WHO IN AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES



Congratulations to this year's KSU students!

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Larry Bryan Ahlers | Khaled A. Kabbara |
| Phar`is D. Allen-Adams | Hannah Elizabeth Key |
| Kally Taylor Ashworth | Larry McDonald, Jr. |
| Charlie Braun | Christine Mullinax |
| Keri A. Brown | Alexa D. Murzyn |
| Delores E. Bunch-Keemer | Munzir A. Naqvi |
| JoAnne M. Carter | Brent M. Obleton |
| David Clements | Amit V. Patel |
| Debra Danneman | Lindsae M. Phillips |
| Margaret E. Duncan | Stella Sixing Xu |
| Melissa K. Goulden | Latoya Marie Smith |
| Carla D. Heselton | Maimunatu I. Thomas |
| Michelle Ruth Hinson | Justin Harrison Wagner |
| Gabrielle Marie Holland | Sean Witherspoon |

Ceremony and reception is scheduled for Tuesday, January 24 at 4:30 p.m. in the Student Center Leadership Room.

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Horoscopes

By Linda C. Black
Tribune Media Services

Today's Birthday

You're strong, intelligent and compassionate this year. You're wise to be humble, too. Listen to critics to catch any details you might have overlooked. Assume there's more to learn.

To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

Aries (March 21-April 19)

Today is a 6. You are a natural leader, and you can prove it by following a person with more experience, maturity and a higher rank. Do it with respect.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Today is an 8. Higher education is an option to consider. Spend the time and money on something practical, something you can use. You can figure out what that is.

Gemini (May 21-June 21)

Today is a 6. Review your losses and tally up your winnings. Promise yourself a treat, like an outing to a special place for lunch tomorrow. There'll be more time and money then.

Cancer (June 22-July 22)

Today is an 8. Dig your heels in and don't be budged by any amount of persuasion. You're the anchor that gives the others the freedom to ask silly questions.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)

Today is a 7. There's more than enough to keep you busy. In fact, you may feel overwhelmed. Don't panic, sort through that stack of stuff and find something to delegate, over and over again.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Today is an 8. The perfect words are easier than ever to find. Postpone a meeting with business associates until tomorrow. Right now is better for a private consultation with your partner.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Today is a 5. Your place may need some fixing up, or even a renovation. It'll be obvious what you should do next, speeding things up considerably.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Today is an 8. You're smart and getting smarter in a subject that you love. Don't get over-confident, though. Mastery requires more practice.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Today is a 5. Your focus is noticeably shifted to generating more income. This may be an unfamiliar feeling, since you're not very materialistic. You can be when necessary, however, so do it now.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Today is a 9. You're brilliant and charming, an entrepreneur of astonishing talent, it's true. Don't be a bore telling others about your abilities. Show them, instead.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Today is a 5. The stack is too high to see over the top. Besides, it's booby trapped with stuff you don't want to do. Hire somebody to come in and clean out the icky part.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)

Today is an 8. Team efforts are highly favored now, so don't be a loner. They need you to solve a puzzle that has them baffled, 'cause it's not logical.

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Crossword

- ACROSS
1 Roe source
5 Former fast fliers
9 Benefit
14 Fabled also-ran
15 Cosmetic ingredient
16 San Diego pro
17 Remove
19 City near Bremen
20 Family car
21 Tableland
23 Atlantic, facetiously
24 Sgt. or Cpl.
26 Mechanical servants
28 Tympanic membrane
32 Sport
33 Went behind closed doors
35 Stable sound
39 Secreted
40 Bedazzle
43 Genetics letters
44 Desert stopovers
46 Huge
48 Senator Domenici
51 In opposition to
52 Plaiting
56 Stray from the straight and narrow
57 Ladder stage
58 Entreaty
60 "Star Wars" director
64 Cancel the mission
66 Unyielding
68 Lining wood
69 Makes a lap
70 Writer Ferber
71 Foe
72 Group working together
73 Burn the surface of

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01/12/05


- DOWN
1 Females
2 Patriot Nathan
3 Like the Sahara
4 Requirements
5 __Jose, CA
6 Criticize harshly
7 Clan emblem
8 Vacillate
9 Copy
10 Bloodsucking evil creature
11 Supplement
12 Goodnight girl
13 Acts as banker
18 Amplified
22 Eagle on a par three

- 25 Baseball trio
27 Banisters
28 Reverberate
29 Inter __ (among others)
30 Steiger and Stewart
31 Shea player
34 John or Jane's last name?
36 Press
37 Wildebeests
38 "Why __ Thou forsaken me?"
41 Actress Merkel
42 Yuletide drinks
45 Clever saying

- 47 Hour fractions
49 Gratuity
50 Sign up
52 Buttress
53 Entertainer Blades
54 Battery terminal
55 Bottle denizen
59 Cinema canine
61 Relinquish
62 Dancer Pavlova
63 Night light
65 Go for the gold
67 Doctrine ending

Find the answers on Page 12

IT BEGINS ON THE STREETS.
IT ENDS HERE.



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COACH CARTER

PARAMOUNT PICTURES PRESENTS AN MTV FILMS TOLLIN/ROBBINS PRODUCTION A THOMAS CARTER FILM SAMUEL L. JACKSON "COACH CARTER"
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PRODUCED BY BRIAN ROBBINS MIKE TOLLIN DAVID GALE INSPIRED BY THE LIFE OF KEN CARTER WRITTEN BY MARK SCHWAB AND JOHN GATINS DIRECTED BY THOMAS CARTER

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The **SENTINEL**



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Sports

Next three games: Men's Basketball

GC&SU
7:30 p.m.
Milledgeville, Ga.

JAN 12

USC Upstate
4 p.m. - Kennesaw, Ga.

JAN 15

Armstrong Atlantic
7:30 p.m. - Savannah, Ga.

KSU Athletics steps up to Division I



Atlantic Sun will be new home for the Owls

From Page 1

The move to Division I will make nine KSU teams ineligible to compete in any NCAA tournaments until the 2009-2010 season. This four year probation is required by the NCAA for a complete transition. Despite the four years of ineligibility, KSU's coaches are looking at what the move means for recruiting. "The move to Division I is certainly beneficial to the women's tennis program," said head tennis coach David Haliburton. "The Division I status will allow KSU tennis to become more competitive in the recruiting of quality players in the Atlanta area, as well as enhance our appeal to our traditional base of foreign student athletes."

"Being a D-I program will allow each of us access to a pool of potential student-athletes that until now were not accessible to us," said coach Scott Whitlock, head softball coach.

Rob King, head soccer coach, said he also believes the move into Division I and the Atlantic Sun will assist KSU in attracting talent. "We have great leadership, terrific coaches and student-athletes, so it's a very natural move for the athletic program," said King. "Competing in the A-sun will now make it easier to attract many of the top local recruits who have their hearts set on participating at the NCAA Division I level." KSU soccer and golf teams will be eligible to compete in the 2006-2007 season, since they made the move to D-I last season. Some coaches, including Dunlap, are looking out for current athletes' futures at KSU. "What we are gearing up for is our first year that we are eligible for post season," said Dunlap. "This is the reason for red-shirting Kris Shepherd, who was an All-American last year, so that when he will be a senior we will have completed our NCAA probation period. I am preparing a squad that will make an impact immediately, once we are eligible in 2006-2007."

With the move into Division I, the university moves out of the Peach Belt Conference and into the Atlantic Sun Conference. The Conference is currently going through changes of its own. Three of the current A-Sun teams, Georgia State, Central Florida and Troy State, are leaving the conference to make room for new additions including KSU, Belmont, Campbell and North Florida.

"We are excited to add an institution with excellent leadership, from President Siegel and her administrative staff on through Athletics Director Dave

Waples and the outstanding coaches in the Owl program," said Atlantic Sun Commissioner Bill Bibb. "Kennesaw State has an established winning tradition, tremendous growth prospects and the vision necessary to make a successful move to Division I. The Atlanta market has been a good fit for our league and Kennesaw State, with its commitment to both athletic and academic achievement, will make a good fit with the Atlantic Sun Conference."

A familiar rival from the Peach Belt, North Florida, will also be joining the A-Sun Conference in 2005. The UNF Ospreys will no doubt remain one of KSU's favorite teams to compete against. Women's cross country and track coach Don McGarey expressed his anticipation to compete against Division I opponents, including UNF. "Entering the Atlantic Sun Conference was a good choice for a number of reasons," said McGarey. "In cross-country and track, both the men's and women's teams have been competing against many of the Atlantic Sun member schools for several years. The University of North Florida, our biggest Peach Belt Conference rival, will be joining the Atlantic Sun next year, too. So, there is familiarity with the competition." KSU will be eligible immediately for conference championships, conference scholarships and athletic honors, according to McGarey, "which are excellent incentives."

The 2005-2006 Atlantic Sun Conference will have 11 teams, including the East

Tennessee State Buccaneers, Florida Atlantic Owls, Garner-Webb Bulldogs, Jacksonville Dolphins, Lipscomb Bison, Mercer Bears and Stetson Hatters, along with the aforementioned schools. Although the level of competition increases in Division I, coaches are looking forward to the challenge. "It will be a challenge, however, challenges are what athletes and coaches live for. Since we have been so successful at every level [NAIA and Division II] that we've competed, I feel that it will be great fun attempting to achieve similar success on college athletics' biggest stage," said Whitlock.

Tilley summed up what the move to Division I means to KSU, "We now have all the ingredients to succeed: Division I status, a beautiful place in which to play, an institution with a tremendous academic reputation and Atlanta."

Owls roll over Columbus State

Team gains momentum as record improves to 11-1

Tommy McNulty
Sports Editor

The KSU men's basketball team capped off another victory when they beat the Columbus State Cougars 72-54 Jan. 5. Although the team was missing leading scorer Rey Luque and starting freshman Ronnell Wooten, the team stepped up its performance with contributions from all. Cardale Talley had an impressive night with a double-double and led the team with 17 points and 12 rebounds. Newcomer Jeff Vaughn contributed 13 points and 6 rebounds, and Georgy Joseph provided solid play with 10 points and 8 rebounds.

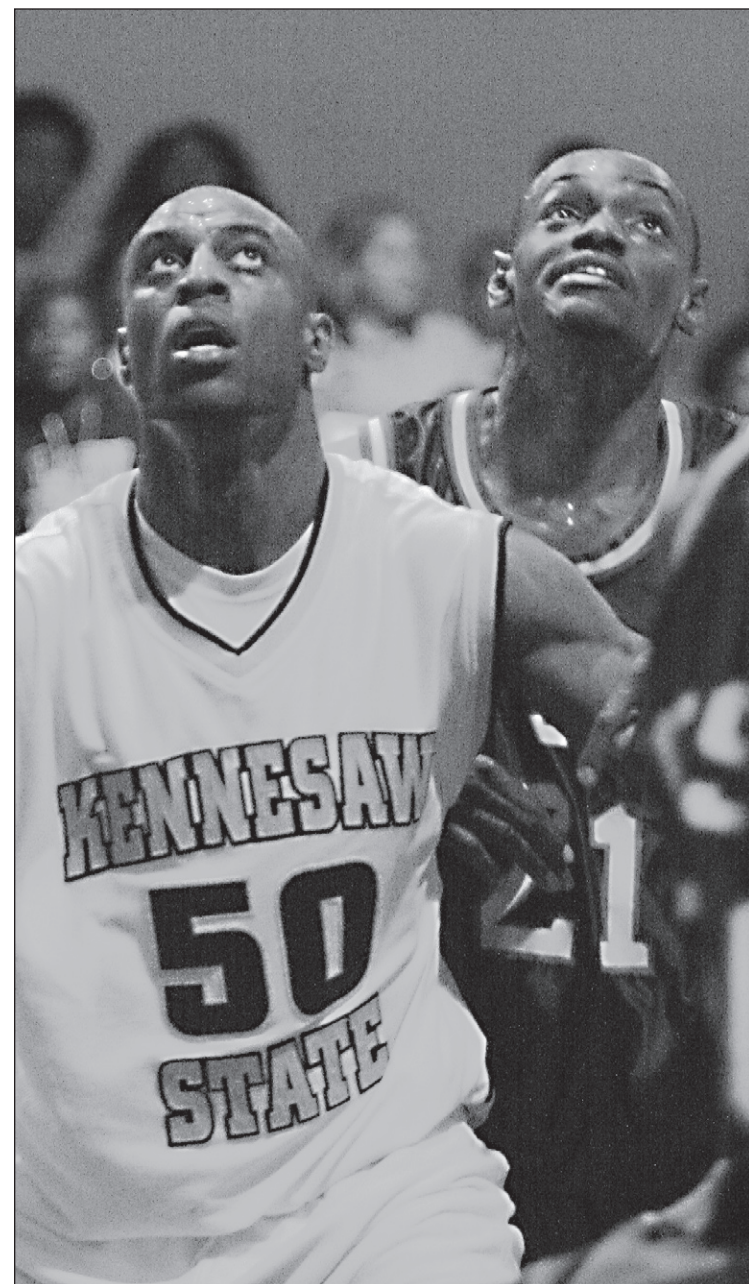
The Owls started the game with a bang by making three 3-point shots in a row, jumping ahead of the Cougars 9-0. The game soon tightened, however, as CSU's star guard Yandel Brown began heating up. With 10:54 remaining in the game, CSU caught up to make the score 48-46. Despite Brown's 25-point effort, however, that was as close as CSU would get to holding the lead for the night. The Owls' defense went on to

shut down Brown and the rest of the Cougars as the offense pulled away to an 18-point victory.

"Our defense was good, team defense was good, and we matched up against them well tonight," Owls' Head Coach Tony Ingle said. Ingle said that being able to shut down Brown late in the second half was key to securing the win.

If there were any pre-season doubts about this team's chances of contending for another championship, they should now be cast aside. The Owls have moved from 11th to 7th in the nation and seem to have no plans of stopping their current run.

This is also the men's basketball teams' last chance to win a national championship until the 2009-2010 season, due to KSU's move into the Atlantic Sun Conference. Most of the university's sports programs will be on a period of probation for four years due to the ASC's new membership policy and will only be able to compete for the conference championship. For all the current players, this season is likely to be their last chance to be crowned the best in the nation.



Richard L. Johnson | The Sentinel

Georgy Joseph, #50, jockeys for position to grab one of his eight rebounds in Wednesday's 72-54 win over Columbus State University.



Kenan Knight, #55, tries to shake Columbus State defender Kendrick Jones, #33, in the first half of Wednesday's game. Knight added three points to the Owls' 72-54 win.

Photo by Richard L. Johnson | The Sentinel

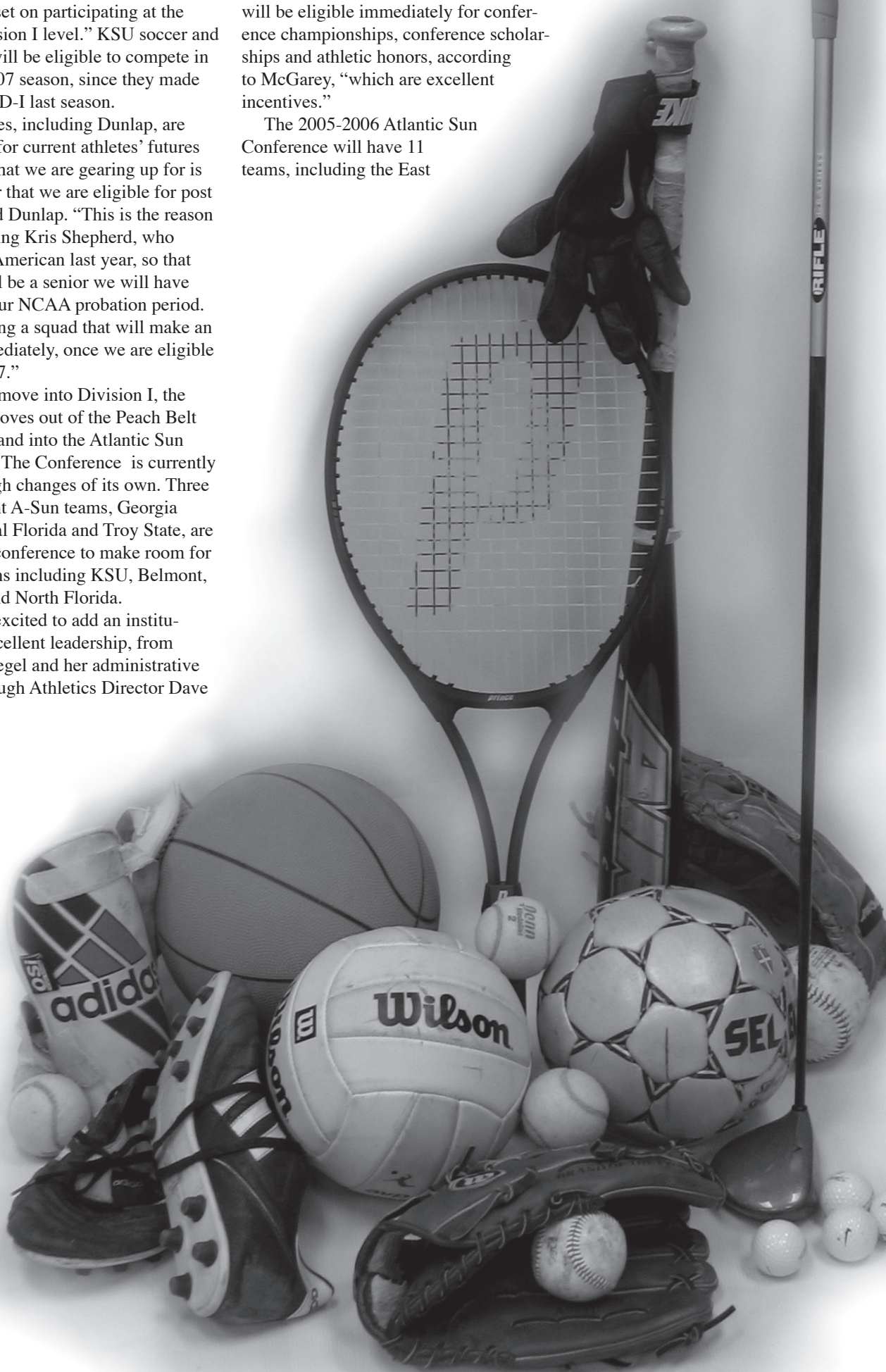


Photo illustration by Nick Mracek

Athletes say, "no."

Are you ready for some football?

Title IX overlooked as argument of adding a football team grows

Chris Collins
Staff writer

Amy Middleton has heard enough. She leans back and closes her eyes, her short ponytail brushing against her grey KSU softball shirt as she shakes her head. Rumors that KSU will add a football team to its athletic program have been circulating for the past three years, but no one mentions how adding football will affect women's athletics. Her facial expression, the very picture of disdain, relays Middleton's intended message long before she chooses the appropriate wording. "Don't get me wrong, I love football, but it wouldn't work here," said Middleton, "It would throw everything off, especially considering Title IX."

The United States government enacted Title IX in 1972 to ensure gender equality among institutions receiving government funding. Sports programs at public colleges must meet one of

three stipulations. Title IX requires that male and female student-athletes either be provided equal opportunities to participate in sports, receive scholarship dollars in proportion to participation rates or receive equal treatment in regards to equipment, supplies, practice time, locker rooms, medical training, publicity, and recruitment.

Dr. Jennifer Beck pushes a cart of freshly used tennis balls underneath her office window. In addition to instructing tennis, Beck teaches both Introduction to Sports Management and Psychology and Sociology of Sport, and each class dedicates a chapter to the subject of equality in women's sports. "There are so many things that go into adding a [football] team," said Beck, "The college is making needed adjustments to meet Title IX standards, but they need to get their program to where it needs to be before adding football."

The rules consider KSU compliant because of the recent

addition of the women's soccer program. Beginning the soccer team shows KSU's commitment to bringing its athletic program in to compliance with Title IX requirements, but for KSU to add another male athletic program something must be done to retain balance with female athletics. "If enrollment for females continues to go up, that means we'll have to continue offering more opportunities for females," Beck said.

According to Beck, female enrollment stands at 62 percent for KSU, and the university offers five women's athletic teams as compared to four men's

teams. Starting a football team would add nearly 100 male athletes and 85 scholarships to the men's program, leaving KSU scrambling to find new female teams to offset the increase in men's athletics.

Some colleges simply cut other men's programs to make room for football, but KSU cannot afford that luxury. While seeking entry into Division I-A, KSU must maintain 16 athletic teams, and NCAA regulations require eight of those teams to be female. "It's not the best way to do it, but sometimes for the administrators it is the easiest way, just eliminate a sport," said Beck, "There are other

ways to attain those levels, but most athletic administrators say the money isn't there and this is the only option they have." -In the end, less popular men's teams such as wrestling or swimming take the fall so football can survive.

Not all female athletes see football as a looming threat. Soccer team member Siobhan Rooney, a native of Scotland who plays on KSU's soccer team, sees football as an opportunity. "I think KSU should start a football team," said Rooney in a lilting brogue so thick you need a knife and fork to cut through it, "I think it would raise the profile of Kennesaw and make it a more recognized university and sports program."

Beck agreed that a football program would bring more attention to KSU. "When your name is running along that ticker at the bottom of the TV every Saturday, your name gets out there," Beck said. However, a college needs more than notoriety to get a football team up and running. "Everyone thinks football generates money, but the expense actually to host the sport would have to come from lots of donors with lots of money." During the 2001 college football season 1,200 universities had teams, of which only 65 reported a profit.

Even though Rooney favors

adding a football team, she understands the importance of equality among the sexes. In her native Scotland soccer reigns supreme, and according to Rooney, the men's teams get better treatment than their female counterparts. "You only practice twice a week, play one game per week and receive little or no financial backing from anyone," Rooney said. She placed the blame for this treatment squarely on the shoulders of traditional attitudes, which she thinks will change over time. "Some sports and cultures have cultures that are hard to change whilst others are equal for both [males and females]," said Rooney, "People should be concerned with obtaining equality, as both male and female athletes should be given the opportunity to achieve their maximum potential in sport."

Lauren Gaines, a former KSU basketball player, wasted no words when describing why equality must be maintained at KSU. "It just makes sense for women to have an opportunity to play," said Gaines. "Females deserve an outlet as much as males do."

"If they can find the money to fund the team and become Title IX compliant, then I don't think there is as much of an issue," Beck said. "But right now I would not try and add a football team."

Ice Owls glide into the new year

Huge crowd watched Owls tie arch rival in close match

Jenna Provow
Staff Writer

The KSU Ice Owls returned to the ice Jan. 7, to face the Central Florida Golden Knights after a much needed and deserved break.

"The boys played well for their first game back. It is obvious, however, with the addition of the new players and the loss of some of the old ones that some adjustments are still needed," said Rod Brown, coach.

"Unfortunately," assistant captain Robert Farris added, "we lost several important players due to many different circumstances. However, I think that with the addition of the new players and the rotation of the old ones that the team will come out stronger for it in the end."

Despite the rearranging, as

the Ice Owls took to the ice for their first game back, it was clear that coaches, players, and fans alike were ready to begin. During the first period, both teams came out aggressive, but the Golden Knights could not stop Ice Owls forward, Stephen Baxter, from scoring in the first five minutes of the game, then again five minutes later. However, the Golden Knights managed to score a goal and then a second, tying up the score with only seconds left in the period.

The second period erupted at the face-off showing that neither team was ready to give up. For almost all of the period nothing was heard but the sounds of sticks clashing, whistles blowing and fans screaming. Then forward Farris got a break-away to score the Ice Owls' third goal



Richard L. Johnson | The Sentinel

Defenseman, David Kudrats celebrates with Lopez Tony, forward, after a close games with UCF.

of the game. Unfortunately for the Ice Owls, their goal was shortly followed by another goal scored by the Golden Knights tying up the score yet again.

After a short break, the second largest crowd in KSU Ice Hockey history, consisting of 478 fans, cheered as the Ice Owls took to the ice for the third period. Tempers flared and several minor penalties were called, but the Ice Owls managed to protect their net to the end, causing them to tie with the Golden Knights.

"We're all disappointed in the outcome of the game, but we're proud of how the team played together. It's just one of those games where that one unlucky thing happens to you," said Baxter.

Next week, the Ice Owls travel to Ft. Myers, Florida, to play in the three-day Gulf Coast Clash tournament. "We are looking forward to playing Penn. State and Southern Florida in the tournament next weekend," said Brown and coach Matt Hogan.

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Softball coach receives prestigious honor

The ball keeps rolling as Coach Scott Whitlock is inducted into the NFPCA Hall of fame

Tiffany Roman
Staff Writer

Over the years KSU has had a succession of superstar coaches and athletes who continue to break records and score lifetime achievements. Kicking off 2005 in that same fashion, Head Softball Coach Scott Whitlock achieved a career highlight on Monday Jan. 3rd, 2005 by becoming selected for induction to the National Fast Pitch Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

The NFCA is a professional growth organization for fast pitch softball coaches from every level of play. Its purpose includes stimulating the development of quality leadership for fast pitch softball programs, facilitating public and professional understanding and appreciation of the importance of fast pitch softball and providing a channel of direct communication among fast pitch softball coaches at all educa-

tional levels.

Founded in the early 1990's, the NFCA Hall of Fame has a membership of thirty-two with only two males. Whitlock's induction will be joined by those of Louisiana State Head Softball Coach Yvette Girouard, as well as former Notre Dame coaching legend Liz Miller. Each of them will officially become members of the NFCA Hall of Fame in Dec., 2005, at a ceremony in Orlando, Florida.

This is an honor that Whitlock states "caught me by surprise." Whitlock, who has been the Owl's head softball coach for over a decade, has been showered with achievements since day one.

From coaching thirty-nine All-Americans to being named South Atlantic Regional Coach of the Year three times, Whitlock has had a multitude of awards and honors presented to him. His career highlights include winning two national championships with an overall record of 678-106 and having the best winning percentage in the history of fast pitch softball [is that educational fast pitch, or all softball ever, including professional?] with a .865.

Not only does Whitlock coach for the Owls, but he is currently and has been a Chairman of the NFCA Division II Ranking Committee as well as owner of Champion Softball Camps. With all of his accomplishments it is no wonder he was selected for induction to the NFCA Hall of Fame.

"I am proud and humbled, as well as genuinely excited to be entering the hall of fame," Whitlock said.

Major set to expand Sports management takes on new classes

Chris Collins
Staff Writer

It is 12:33 p.m. and all 33 available seats in room 176 of the gymnasium are filled. Amy Middleton, a senior Sports Marketing Major, takes another student's usual seat and jokingly apologizes, "Hope you don't mind, but I'm stealing your seat today," said Middleton. The displaced student smiles and assures Middleton that seat theft is a serious offense as he takes someone else's chair. This classroom version of musical chairs ends with almost everyone in a new seat. Fortunately, there are no ill feelings. "It is packed in here," Middleton said, "we get to class early to fight for seats."

The university added the Sports Management Major to the curriculum five years ago. Dr. Bernie Goldfine, the Sports Management Degrees Field Experiences Coordinator, characterized the new venture as being a "small program with low funding." Goldfine was not kidding about small--the new degree began with only 30 students enrolled. However, the department has enjoyed a marked increase in enrollment over the last few years. Today there are 165 students working toward a degree in one of three concentrations under the Sports Management Major: Sports Marketing, Sports Communication and Recreation Management.

When Goldfine moved here from Ohio, where he taught Sports Management at the University of Dayton, KSU's Sports Management program was merely a track under the Physical Education Department. Goldfine teamed up with then department chair Dr. Charles Ash and Dr. Ernie White to make Sports Management a major unto itself. The major began with Goldfine as the only full-time professor. White taught Sports Management part-time and Physical Education part-time.

Goldfine remained the only full-time professor until the department hired Dr. Jennifer Beck in 2002.

For the fall semester, the Sports Management Major added two new classes: Introduction to Sports Information and Sports Broadcasting. Dave Cohen, a former New York Yankees announcer, was hired to teach the courses. "I think we are fortunate to have him," said Goldfine, "He will draw more people to the communication concentration." Goldfine went on to add that Cohen's credentials "add luster to the program."

"It's excellent the major is as popular as it is," Goldfine said. "We are getting resources and financial backing, it's great." The funding is not being provided by university grants. Instead, Goldfine credits the growing funding to the growth of the program. The Sports Management Major is increasing its revenue because more students are enrolling in the program.

Middleton relates the increase of students to growing interest in sports. "It's a trickle down from media popularity," he said. More media is being dedicated to sports coverage and showing the diversity of jobs the field offers. Lauren Gaines, a senior Sports Management Major focusing on marketing, said she believes the program's popularity is due to word-of-mouth advertising among students. Goldfine agreed with Gaines' assessment. "Word-of-mouth is quite powerful," he said. "Students who enjoy the program are talking to other people."

According to Goldfine, more additions are just around the corner. In the fall of 2005 the major will introduce both Sports Finance and Sports Economics. Goldfine also said the department is looking at the possibility of starting a Computer Applications of Sport class next fall, as well. The department also plans to

add an experienced associate level teacher to help with the class load. Goldfine said the new teacher will have a doctorate in either Sports Management or a related field and possess the ability to create enthusiasm among the students. The new teacher will allow popular classes, such as Leadership and Management in Sports Organizations, to be offered twice a semester. This move will provide a little flexibility to students who need the class to graduate.

Adding teachers also keeps class sizes at a manageable level. "I don't want to lose the student-to-teacher ratio," said Goldfine. Both Gaines and Middleton agreed, stating the ideal ratio to be around 30-35 students per class. Said Gaines: "In a smaller setting the teacher knows you and there are more chances to talk. It is harder to pay attention in larger classes." Middleton said she favors smaller classes because there is "more interaction with the teacher."

Goldfine described the favorite part of his job as interacting with students. "I love that I can get to know students on a personal level," he said. He takes such an interest in his students that once a semester he invites his class into his home, usually right before midterms, for an event known as a Faculty Fire Side. The students bring food, spend a few hours studying for the upcoming test and get a chance to mingle in a casual environment.

Goldfine reiterated his desire to keep the enlarging program as intimate as possible. He said he enjoys watching the major rise in popularity and add new classes, but he said he will "put the breaks on if the numbers get too big." "Excellence in teaching is still the primary value at this university," Goldfine said, and that value will remain the focus of the Sports Management Major, no matter how large the program may become.

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Lifeguards: Nautix Pools is hiring ft/pt lifeguards for the upcoming summer. Pools located in cobb county. Flexible schedules. Lifeguard training and CPR classes available. Looking for mature, professional and dependable guards. Call Allison at 770-485-3672 or apply online at www.nautixpools.com

Currently seeking part-time & full-time Bank Tellers who are upbeat and ready to promote Riverside Bank. We are seeking individuals with a winning attitude and the ability to be a team player. A minimum of 1 year bank teller experience required. The part-time positions will travel between our Buckhead and Cobb County branches working 20-25 hours per week. Email your resume to lmeer@riversidebank.net or fax to (678) 784-7195.

Sales Office - Hiring detailed individuals for PT clerical/data entry/customer service and pricing inventory/merchandising. M-F 20-25 hrs. Close to campus 770-928-3338 Fax 770-928-1718

Non-Profit Humanitarian Org. in KENNESAW seeks individuals to recruit previous donors. Must have exp. making OUTBOUND phone calls, an empathetic nature, & seeking PART-TIME hrs. Temp-hire opportunity w/FT benefits once hired. 2 SHIFTS AVAILABLE-Mon-Fri 9a-3p OR Mon-Thur 3p-9p & Sun 4p-8p. \$9.50/hr. Please contact Axiom at 678-718-2880.

Zyng Asian Grill is coming to the Avenue of West Cobb. Zyng is a full service, casual theme restaurant. We are seeking energetic, outgoing team players to be part of our dynamic opening team. We will be conducting personal interviews Mon - Sat from 10 to 4 beginning 01/17/05. Positions available include Servers, Bartenders, Hostesses, Line and Prep cooks, Bussers and Dishwashers. We offer a great work environment, flexible scheduling, opportunity for advancement and more. Apply in person at Zyng Asian Grill in the Avenue of West Cobb, 3625 Dallas Highway, Marietta, GA 30064. For

early consideration complete an online application at www.zyngatlanta.com. For additional information visit www.zynginternational.com

Churchill's Pub :Hiring Servers. Well established and high volume sports bar/restaurant in East Cobb. 1401 Johnson Ferry Rd at the corner of Roswell Rd. Apply in Person. Questions 770-565-2739 Ask for Manager

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Billion dollar retail company with call center located in Kennesaw is seeking CSRs. Must have EXCELLENT phone voice, basic computer hardware knowledge, and relevant customer service or electronics retail experience. Shifts avail: Mon-Th-10 hour shift w/ flex start time OR Fri-Sun 12 hour shift w/ flex start time. \$12.00/hr. Please email resume to amm@axiomstaffing.com Attn: Lease

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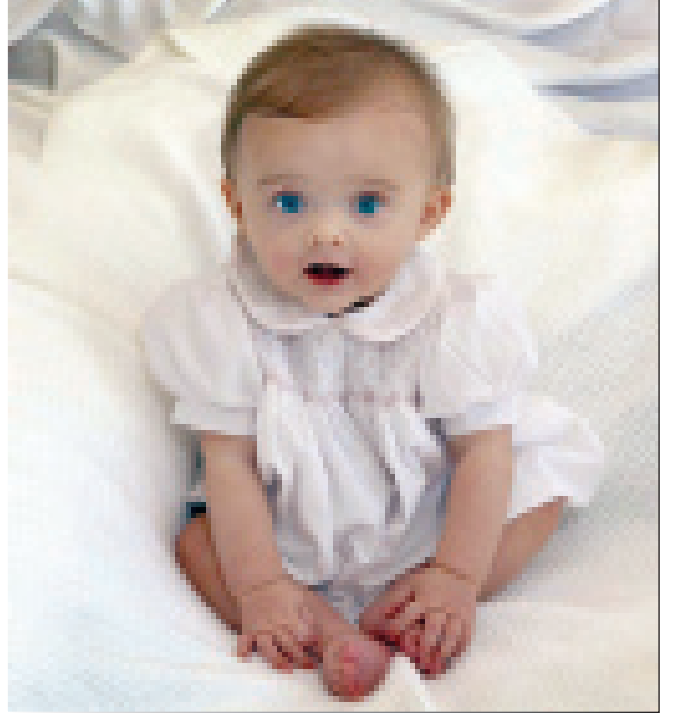
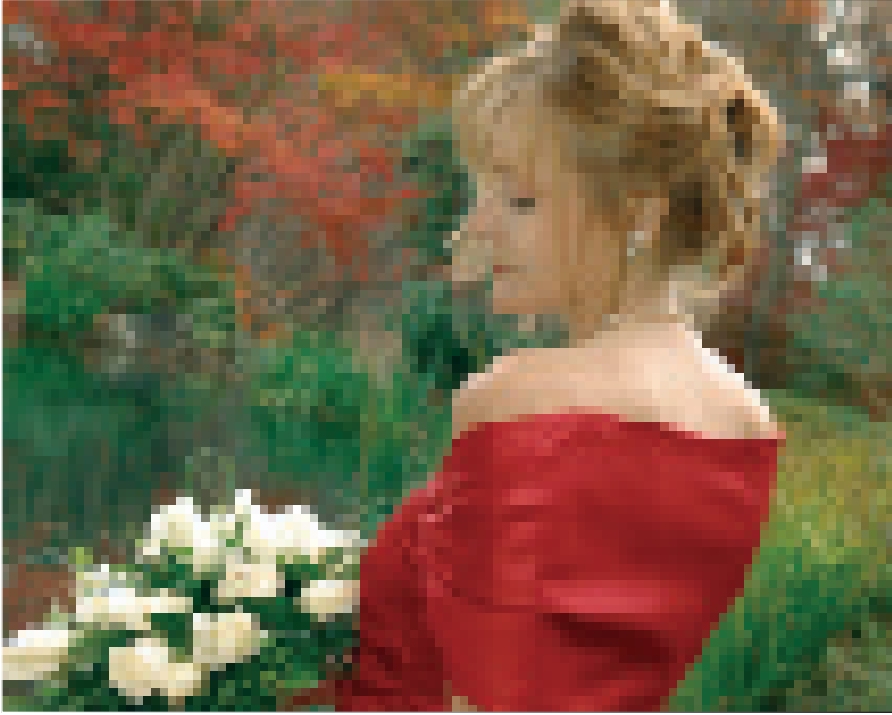
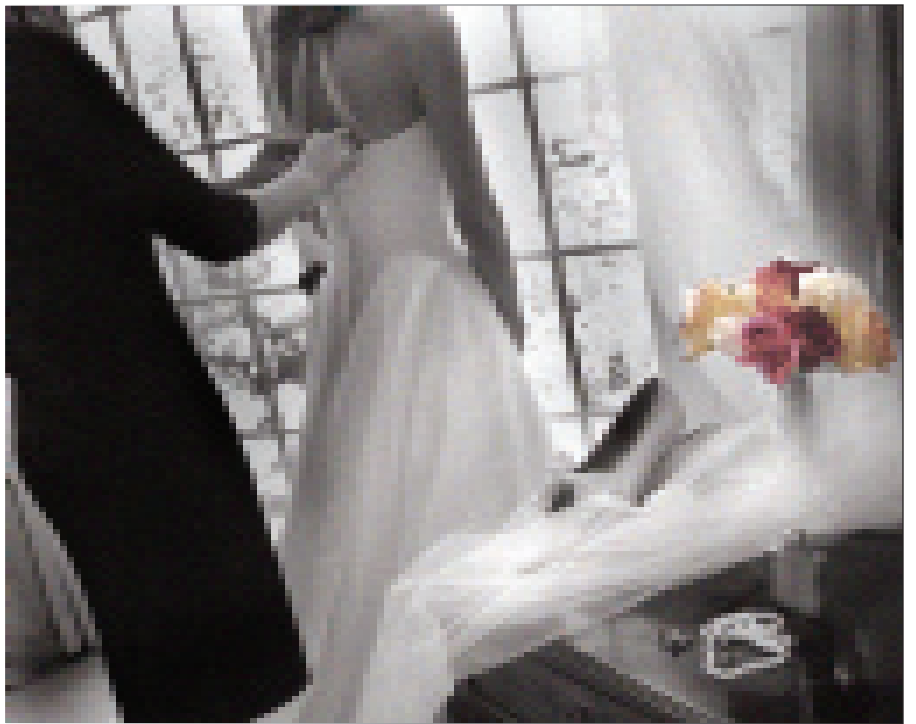
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