



Students vote off KSU's weakest link.

See **WEAKEST LINK** • Page 6

The SENTINEL

Softball team sweeps weekend series



See **SOFTBALL** • Page 10

2 News
Children hunt for eggs at KSU's Easter egg hunt

4 Viewpoints
Consensus Editorial: KSU Place becomes 'Funkytown'

8 Features
Video game phenomenon invades colleges

11 Sports
Is it time to scrap Scrappy?

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Glowacki plays Sit-Volleyball for the United States Paralympic Team.

Paralympian visits KSU

Matt Glowacki discusses life with disabilities

Jason Nimer
Sr. Staff Writer

Paralympian Matt Glowacki used humor to place a harsh light on many of society's stereotypes concerning disabilities while speaking at KSU on March 28.

Glowacki shared his own experiences to show the audience how foolish their involuntary prejudices were.

Glowacki was upbeat, entertaining and positive about his many experiences. He spoke about his childhood, his time in the Paralympics and his life overall. He even paused half way through to field questions from the audience. Though billed as a motivational speech, Glowacki's performance would more accurately be described as a one-man show.

Glowacki was born in 1973 in Janesville, Wisconsin. Though his DNA was checked and found to be normal, Glowacki was born without any legs. His parents, he said, tried to give him every opportunity that other kids enjoy. At a young age, he would sit in the bed of a Tonka truck and scoot around. By the time he reached school age, the truck was replaced by a skateboard, which instantly made him the coolest kid in school.

"There are no speed limits in elementary school hallways," Glowacki said.

In his speech, Glowacki detailed extensively his parents' attempts to get him to use artificial legs. He hated the prosthetics, which also required him to use crutches. As soon as he got to school, he would hang the legs on a coat rack and use the school's wheelchair. This worked well for him until his parents discovered what he was up to and started forcing the legs on him. To combat this, Glowacki would purposely fall down in public. Strangers would say to his parents, "Those don't look like they're working out too well." Eventually, his parents gave in and he began using a wheelchair full time.

Glowacki graduated from Wisconsin's Craig High School and went on to earn a bachelor's degree in communication, with an emphasis on public speaking. While at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, Glowacki became proficient at wheelchair basketball. He also started a community awareness program called "What It Takes: Cornerstones for Success," which focused on bringing competitive wheelchair sports to students across his home state.

After college, Glowacki started a successful disc jockey service, began designing custom sport wheelchairs and tried out for the Paralympic sit vol-

■ See **GLOWACKI**, Page 2

Same job, higher pay, that's the American way

In the know equals in the money

Tara O'Shea
News Editor

Administrators and staff members voiced their concerns about last year's reclassifications of staff positions at a recent Staff Council Town Hall meeting.

One of the biggest issues addressed was the lack of communication. Few people knew about the reclassifications. As mentioned in the March 2 issue of The Sentinel, "reclassification would permit certain staff members to have their salaries raised after having their titles renamed."

According to the Oct. 19, 2004 staff council meeting minutes, "there were 64 reclassifications since July...reclassification was used when individuals were doing different work rather than a

greater amount of work."

One question raised was "If individuals were doing different work rather than a greater amount of work, might an internal job offering have been appropriate so that other qualified staff members would have an opportunity to apply for this new and different work?"

Event Staff Coordinator Rocky Barnes said, "I have no problem with the reclassifications. It's the process from which it was handled. I am a firm believer that the process was wrong. It

started too late and some didn't hear about it. Everybody needs to have an opportunity to have a reclass."

In the same meeting minutes, "Nancy [Sullivan] indicated that calls for reclassification for July 1, 2005 will begin in January and that the cabinet determines who will be reclassified." Not everyone heard about this, despite the campus wide e-mail available to all KSU staff.

Several of the reclassified salaries

■ See **SAME JOBS**, Page 3

Students complain about living conditions

Is the mold manageable?

Chauntrell Lofton
Staff Writer

Several students have decided not to renew their lease at KSU Place due to lack of response to continuous complaints about living conditions.

Brandi Supratanapongse and Heather Smith first complained of the mold growing in their apartment in Dec. 2004. The girls are angry that Place Properties, which manages KSU Place, has not responded to their repeated complaints about mold growing in their apartment, and say that it is standard practice for property management to not respond to maintenance issues for months at a time.

"We have told the office about our mold numerous times, and they still insist they had no work order on us," said Supratanapongse in a letter to Resident Life. "The reason why they have never had a work order about our ceiling is plainly because they neglected to write one up every time we contacted them."

According to Supratanapongse, Place Properties did not respond to complaints until March 17 when her roommate's mother placed three calls to Place Properties regarding the mold.

Supratanapongse and Smith visited a doctor after weeks of having reoccurring symptoms including coughing, congestion and phlegm. After informing the practitioners at the KSU Health Clinic about the mold, the roommates were told to take pictures of the mold and send them to Dr. Betty Siegel, President, and Michael Sanseviro, Director of Resident Life.

In a letter responding to Supratanapongse, Sanseviro suggested the girls clean the affected area with bleach-based products, and wipe off

condensation on the windows with a towel.

Sanseviro's letter stated that "mold is unfortunately a reality of life, but there are ways it can be managed to minimize its effects."

Sanseviro also suggested the girls obtain a copy of a memo that was distributed earlier this semester to residents, which gave residents tips for reducing and controlling mold. The letter was sent from the Place Properties management office.

Supratanapongse and Smith are not the only students with complaints.

"The mold in these apartments is such a problem that I think its effecting our health," said Kyle Houser, sophomore, Art. "The mold had eaten through a majority of the ceiling, causing it to bulge out at least half a foot. Once we reported it to KSU Place Properties all they did was paint the ceiling so that it didn't look black anymore."

During a phone interview, Place Properties Public Relations Director Jessica Harrison said the complaint by Supratanapongse had obviously fallen through the cracks until they received another maintenance request in March.

In response to the mold issue, Place Properties said they have contacted a mold specialist, PSI to assess and correct the problem.

"Donna Passow, Executive Business Manager of all properties located at KSU, is trying to improve the turn around time on maintenance requests. To facilitate this the maintenance staff is working overtime until an additional mainte-

Photos courtesy of Brandi Supratanapongse
Mold grows rampant on KSU Place windowsills.

nance technician can be hired," Harrison said. "Place Properties definitely cares about our residents, and would like to provide comfortable housing for all residents."

"The staff's focus is on maintenance issues and doing things to make things better at KSU Place. Place Properties are definitely making positive steps to address issues of the residents," Harrison said.

"Place Properties is in charge of maintaining the properties, but if students are not getting results from management they should give Resident Life a call, and we will try to get the issue resolved immediately," said Sanseviro in response to student allegations that Place Properties were not "getting the job done."

Sanseviro also said the students should be proactive in keeping their apartments clean and healthy. Sanseviro suggested students open their windows after showering to allow the steam to escape from the apartment. He also suggested students clean their windows and windowsills regularly, but more so when they notice dust or abnormal growths on them.

Students who live on campus can address concerns about issues in their apartments via Web site, www.ksuhousing.com, or by calling the office telephone number for the property.



Pictures of mold were easy to come by at KSU Place.

Twenty-five million people suffer from eating disorders

Sorority women and college athletes are at a higher risk

Colleen Wells
Features Editor

Terri Schiavo suffered severe brain damage after collapsing and experiencing five minutes of cardiac arrest, disrupting the oxygen supply to her

brain, in 1990.

Schiavo's tragic state, and the legal battles that resulted, has acquired attention from the entire nation, 25 million of whom suffer from eating disorders and risk heading towards the same persistent vegetative state, according to the National Eating Disorders Association.

Medical records indicate that Schiavo's potassium level dropped extremely low and caused brief heart failure. This suggested the chemical

imbalance resulted from an eating disorder known as bulimia nervosa.

"Bulimia nervosa is known as the binge-purge eating disorder," WebMD states on their Web site. "A person with bulimia binges by eating a large amount of food in a short period of time, and then purges by vomiting, over-exercising or misusing laxatives, diuretics or other medications."

Obsessions with obtaining the ideal body weight and size are combined with a poor self-image and the fear of

gaining weight. Bulimia nervosa often develops "after a severely restrictive diet," according to WebMD.

Symptoms that stem from bulimia include feeling a loss of control and shame for overeating. Purging gives a false sense of control to overcome the shame and guilt of eating. This begins as a cycle that soon becomes a habit. Once the habit starts, it is difficult to eat normally again without treatment.

■ See **BULIMIA**, Page 2

• From page 1

Bulimia

Like many young women, Schiavo desired to be thin in her late teens, according to ABC News. She forced herself to vomit after eating, and attempted to survive on a liquid-only diet, which caused her body chemistry to become imbalanced.

"I have known two people who died of electrolyte imbalance," said John Hopkins' Psychiatrist and Eating Disorder Specialist, Dr. Graham Redgrave to WebMD.

"Neither [of them] were in treatment at the time. Both were actively engaged in disordered eating behaviors. And I have treated patients walking around with potassium levels that are lethal. Their bodies had adapted. But it is not clear that this is a stable state. If life events become more stressful, it is more likely you would decompensate and have one of these terrible events," Redgrave said.

► For more information on eating disorders, and to find help, visit the Web sites of the American Anorexia-Bulimia Association [<http://www.aabainc.org>], Eating Disorders Awareness and Prevention, Inc. [<http://www.nationaleatingdisorders.org>] and the National Association of Anorexia Nervosa and Associated Disorders [<http://www.altrue.net/site/anadweb/>].

Women account for an estimated one to four percent of people suffering from bulimia, according to WebMD, although no national data in prevalence exists.

Eating disorders are most common in college

students. The sudden alteration from child to responsible adult can be overwhelmingly stressful, and eating disorders sometimes develop in students looking for coping mechanisms.

A study published by the Journal of the American College of Nutrition including 1,899 college students conducted at Michigan State found that five predictors were common for both men and women: "purging, use of laxatives, diet pills or diuretics, elimination of high-fat foods, weight cycling and interference with social relationships."

Two sub-groups within the college community were at high risk for disordered eating: sorority women and male and female athletes. These two sub-groups are possibly at higher risk because many university organizations and activities of the like require maintaining a certain weight or size for participation.

"Women living in sorority houses, compared to college women who were not, had a greater fear of becoming fat, greater body dissatisfaction and weight preoccupation, as well as higher concerns with dieting, all behaviors which put them at risk for the development for an eating disorder," according to JACN.

"This raises the question whether belonging to and living with a specific group, such as a sorority, causes these disordered eating and body image problems or whether students who are more prone to having high concern regarding eating, weight and body size tend to gravitate toward these memberships," JACN stated.

Among college male athletes participating in the study, one-fourth admitted to using diet pills or vomiting for weight control. The frequency of weight cycling was highest for men in athletes and lowest for women in athletes.

The consequences of an eating disorder are serious and life threatening. They may include an "abnormally low heart rate, abdominal distress, hypotension, anemia, kidney dysfunction, cardiovascular problems, changes in brain structure and osteoporosis," according to the Academy of Eating Disorders.

"Purging by vomiting can cause salivary glands to swell, disrupt mineral and electrolyte balance and erode dental enamel," was reported in the John Hopkins newsletter.

Bulimia is a mentally and physically harming disorder that requires medical and psychological treatment. According to the National Institute of Mental Health, "Eating disorders are not due to a failure of will or behavior; rather, they are real, treatable medical illnesses in which certain maladaptive patterns of eating take on a life of their own."

Determining whether a loved one suffers from bulimia or another eating disorder can be a difficult task. No one recognized that Schiavo suffered from bulimia until it was too late.

"It is really up to people who know the person well to notice changing patterns of behavior," Redgrave said. "Eating disorders are conducted in secret. They are appropriately stigmatized. It is not normal to vomit

after meals or to obsessively exercise or not to eat. People who engage in these behaviors will make excuses or lie. Sometimes it is very difficult to tell."

There are physical and emotional clues that can be apparent, according to Dr. Rich Kilmer, clinical director

of the Atlanta Center for Eating Disorders.

"After someone has been through a binge or a purge, they may be very isolative or moody or embarrassed," Kilmer said to WebMD.

They may also appear tired, have bloodshot or teary eyes and a swollen face. Noticing the person is self-critical and preoccupied with food or dieting is also a precursor to identifying bulimia.

If you are suspicious someone may be suffering from an eating disorder, do not hesitate to act. Voice your concern to the person in a supportive way, and help them seek professional help.

"Tell them that there are people that can help someone be happy and healthy without doing drastic and destructive things," Kilmer said.



Derek Wallace | The Sentinel

Easter Egg Hunt

On March 26, the staff council organized an Easter egg hunt. The Easter Bunny made an appearance and children enjoyed hunting for candy-filled eggs and having their faces painted.

• From page 1

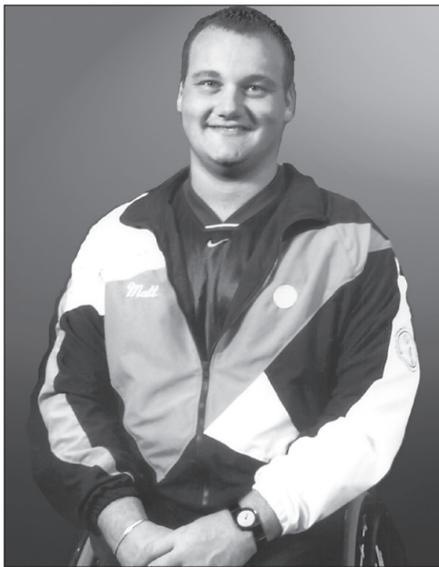
Glowacki

leyball team in June of 1998. His position on the team helped the United States earn a chance to go to Sydney, Australia and compete in the world Paralympic games in the summer of 2000. The team has since traveled the world, placing in many different competitions.

Glowacki detailed some of the annoyances he deals with on an everyday basis. In a hilarious fashion, he told the audience that handicapped bathroom stalls are not there so you can have extra space. They exist for the people who need them. Also, he said, just because his legs aren't there, doesn't mean he is stupid or incapable.

Glowacki claims that he is not an inspiration. He is just a little dif-

ferent, but overall, he is the same as everyone else. After hearing him speak, this could not have been any more evident. He closed the evening with a story. On the Fourth of July, Glowacki was kayaking on a lake near his home. When he reached the middle of the lake, his kayak overturned. He simply floated there until a boat with a family of four on it drove up and asked him if he needed any help. He told them he would need to hop up on the boat and attempt to get the water out of his half sunk kayak. When they agreed, Glowacki told them that he had no legs, in an effort to keep from surprising them. After Glowacki got on the boat, the father said to him, "So you're the one my daughter has been talking about." Apparently, Glowacki had spoken at the daughter's school over two years prior, and she still had not stopped talking about how amazing he was.



Matt Glowacki

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10% OF WOMEN CARRY HIV PROTECTION.
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Dr. Al Siebert
Lecture
Friday, April 8, 2005
7:00 pm
BB 152

In celebration of Adult Learner's Day, the Adult Learner Student Organization (ALSO) is sponsoring a lecture with keynote speaker Dr. Al Siebert Friday, April 8, 2005 at 7:00 pm in BB 152.

Dr. Al Siebert is internationally recognized for his research into the inner nature of highly resilient survivors. He has done extensive research in the area of adult learners and is the author of Adult Student's Guide to Survival and Success. Articles quoting his work have appeared in *The Wall Street Journal* and many other national publications and trade magazines. He has been interviewed about the survivor personality on the *NBC Today Show*, *The Unexplained* and *OPRAH*.

There will be a reception immediately following the keynote speaker. Donation for the reception is \$5 for KSU attendees and \$10 for all others. Seating is limited. You may purchase tickets in the Lifelong Learning Center for from an ALSO officer.

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Female genital mutilation discussed

Oliver discusses the violence of FGM

Natalie Giguere
Staff Writer

Mary Margaret Oliver spoke to students about women and children's rights as they pertain to female genital mutilation on March 28.

"I consider it a personal mission to engage people in the public policies in Georgia," Oliver said.

As a representative of the Georgia General Assembly for House District 83, in DeKalb County, Oliver has worked hard to have House Bill No. 10 passed to make female genital mutilation a criminal offense in the state of Georgia. The bill came close to passing in the past, but was defeated for the purpose of redefining tattooing by Senator Bill Heath in the last hour.

As a practicing lawyer, Oliver has also faced this issue in the courtroom. One of the greatest challenges was to provide the judge and jury with evidence of this abuse as it pertained to the child and her parents, and to make the evidence compelling.

To convey the severity of FGM to the audience, Oliver brought Fortunade Adem to the podium. Adem is a mother of a child who was a victim of FGM by the father's hand.

Adem met Oliver during a legal battle with her husband, whom she recently discovered had mutilated her daughter. After struggling with another lawyer, Adem sought Oliver to help her press criminal charges against her husband, and gain full custody of the child.

"When you find something wrong with your child, you feel helpless that you cannot change what has happened. I felt like a woman who was looking at her child as though she had just been raped," Adem said.

Adem's ex-husband inflicted their daughter with female genital mutilation when the child was 2-years-old. The girl is now 5-years-old, but the trial has still not taken place. Adem explained the cruelty and severity of female genital mutilation in effective detail.

Female genital mutilation is an intentional "medical" procedure practiced in 28 countries. There are thousands of cases of FGM in the United States each year that

go unreported and untried, many of which take place in Georgia. Each culture that practices FGM has its own ritualistic procedure for the process.

The procedure takes place in three stages. The first stage involves the cutting of the clitoris. Next, the clitoris is cut in half, cut off, or taken half off, as the walls of the vagina are carved out. Finally, skin is taken out of and off of the vagina and is sewn up, leaving only enough room for menstruation and urination. The ritual procedure is often executed by a sharp rock, a broken glass bottle, or a razor blade. There is no anesthesia, because the pain is considered a passage into womanhood.

This ritual causes future problems for victims of the procedure with urination, menstruation, intercourse and childbirth. When women of these FGM-practicing cultures give vaginal birth, they must be cut open to make

room for the baby, but are sewn back up, so that they are the same as they were before the birth. Many women who have been victimized die of infections related to FGM.

Upon hearing the unpleasant details of FGM, one listener asked Adem why any culture would inflict this horror on its women. Adem explained that many cultures do it to prevent promiscuity. Intercourse becomes unpleasant and painful for women, so it is easier for women to maintain their virginity, which is a great symbol of family pride where FGM is practiced. The practice is happening in America now, in families who come from cultures that actively carry on the tradition of female genital mutilation.

Oliver stated that such a practice is sexual abuse, and child abuse, and that it needs to be stopped as soon as possible. Oliver pressed listeners to become more actively involved in the public policy debate, as it pertains to FGM and other women's and children's rights issues. "We're in a changing political world," said Oliver. "The Georgia General Assembly in 2005 has been anti-woman and anti-children."



Mary Margaret Oliver

To learn more about female genital mutilation, visit www.amirahsvoice.org or go to www.legis.state.ga.us to find out how to get involved with the passing of House Bill No. 10.

• From page 1

Same jobs

had staggering numbers. Some people received as much as a 136 percent increase. For example, one staff member had his or her salary raised by 28 percent because they went from "Senior Accounting Assistant" to an "accounting assistant."

Most staff members received a two percent raise in salary. However, that two percent was split up between the fiscal year of June-Dec 2003 and Jan-July 2004. It takes six months into the fiscal year to recoup the other one percent. This means that staff that was not reclassified would only receive a one percent raise at a time.

No one under a \$21,000 salary received a reclassification.

In another reclassification, a staff member received a 13 percent increase in salary because he went from being an architectural designer to an architect.

The actual increase is not so much the material in question, rather, how much of a difference is there between their original task

and the reclassified?

Administrators in the Business School received the greatest increases in salary. Staff raised the question of "why didn't we know about this?" if they were in a different department.

In a recent e-mail, Dr. Betty Siegel attributed this to a serious lack of communication.

"Efforts will be made this year to ensure that all reclassifications are handled in a fair and equitable manner," Siegel said.

Some staff members have strong feelings about the reclassifications. According to a staff member, "there were certain areas who knew how to manipulate the process so that their reclassifications were pushed through. Those people who did not know and played by the rules were not able to reward their staff with reclassification."

According to the same source, "reclassifications were used as a means to increase salaries for staff in lieu of a traditional University System raise."

"These reclassifications were an exercise in creative writing," the source said.

Got a bone to pick?

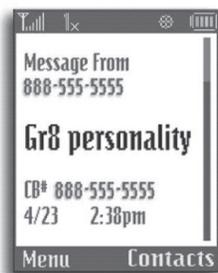
If you've got an opinion, we'd love to hear it. Contact The Sentinel several ways:



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Viewpoints

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Why now? National scene was 15 years too late

By the time you read this, Terri Schiavo will have died. This emotional story has captivated the nation for the better part of two months. It seems that everyone has an opinion on this case. Everywhere you turned, television, radio, in newspapers and at water coolers; everyone seems eager to put in their two cents. It seems redundant for me to add my own opinion, after the fact, on whether she should die or not. Anything I would have to offer on that issue, has been said. Instead, what I would like to comment on is some of the other issues which have generated publicity. The resolution which Congress passed on Palm Sunday allowing Federal courts to review the case, as well as the heated rhetoric on both sides of the debate contributed to its emotional contentiousness.

Immediately after Congress authorized the Federal courts to examine the Schiavo case, there were ridiculous charges that they were doing this to gain political advantage. To even hear that theory suggested is insulting. If they were truly seeking political advantage, why not pursue the matter last November when there was a presidential election? That would garner the most political clout. Florida, after all, was a swing state. Surely this would drive evangelical Bush supporters to the polls. Why wait until 2005? This case has been going on for 15 years. Why didn't these Republicans seeking to pander pounce on this years ago? The next election isn't for 20 months. To suggest that this was just political maneuvering is irresponsible.

We can debate whether or not Congress should have intervened. Keep in mind however, that the family pleaded for Congressional action. So this wasn't just some random act of the legislature. Additionally, a large majority of Americans opposed their action, so was there a political gain to be made, or was Congress just trying to do the right thing?

It has been frustrating to watch both sides of the debate slam each other. Those in support of keeping Schiavo alive, led by former Operation Rescue chair Randall Terry have, in their anger at the situation, used inflammatory and irresponsible rhetoric. For example, Randall Terry described removing Schiavo's feeding tube as something out of Auschwitz.

Though you may disagree with someone on this highly volatile issue, to just randomly throw out Nazi accusations is disgusting and insulting to those who lived through the horrors of the Holocaust.

My challenge to those protesting in Florida for Schiavo's life: If you really care about life as much as you say, why limit it to Schiavo? Each day, you encounter living, breathing human beings who are not in a vegetative state, but may be on an emotional brink. They may need a helping hand or a listening ear. Why wait to care about someone's life until they're ready to die? True concern for life is not limited to high publicity cases, but it is a lifestyle of caring that begins at conception and continues until death.

For those who argue that the government should butt out, it's refreshing to hear small government advocated. If you are to be consistent, then the government should butt out of our Social Security choices. They should butt out with regards to oppressive tax policy and unreasonable regulation on business. You just can't say the government should butt out when a life becomes inconvenient. As emotionally strenuous as this case has been, it cannot be an isolated incident where we discard our true opinions in order to advance our view in a particular case.

Police arrested a man on Wednesday, March 30, who crossed onto the grounds of the hospice in Pinellas Park, Florida, where Terri Schiavo was living.



Terri Schiavo's family spoke to reporters after her death on Thursday, March 31, 2005. Shown are Terri's sister, Suzanne Vitadomo, father, Bob Schindler, and brother, Bobby Schindler.



ERIC MENCHER/PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER



PETER ANDREW BOSCHI/MIAMI HERALD

She's gone

The Schiavo case is closed, have we learned anything?

Dominic Dicciero
Columnist

The Terri Schiavo case is one that undoubtedly invokes strong emotions. These emotions can be felt regardless of the position one chooses to support. I think we can all agree that given the inevitable outcome, there were no winners. Both sides have suffered the loss of a loved one. Both sides are stricken with painful memories of better days when Terri was alive. While the Schindlers and Mr. Schiavo may have their differences, they both share a love of Terri as well as the grief that accompanies her death.

I feel a heartfelt sympathy for the Schindler parents, given everything they have gone through. I can't even begin to fathom having to accept that someone I love is dying and there is nothing that I can do. I can't fault the Schindler family for doing whatever they could to get Terri's feeding tube re-inserted. She was their flesh and blood. They raised her with high hopes and great expectations. However, I also believe the Florida courts made the right decision. Even though my heart goes out to the Schindler family, the majority of my commiseration is with Michael Schiavo.

This man watched his wife battle bulimia, collapse under cardiac arrest and stood by helplessly for fifteen years, watching the woman he married and loved mentally deteriorate into a persistent vegetative state. There was no chance for recovery. If all the pain and suffering that accompanied the ordeal wasn't enough, Michael also had to deal with death threats, repudiation by his in-laws, public chastising and blame in many people's eyes for something that was completely out of his control. I think many forget the fact that Terri's bulimia ultimately led to her condition. It would be cruel and irrational to fault Michael for it. This man has suffered attack after attack, threat after threat, and still remained true to his wife's wishes. We shouldn't have attacked him, we should have commended him.

I realize that some people don't hold the same amount of sympathy or pity for this man. I implore them to set aside the fact that he has moved on to another relationship and instead try to look at things from Michael's perspec-

ive. What would you do if your spouse had specifically indicated to you that he or she would not want to live on a feeding tube and, in the absence of a living will, you were in the spotlight with the final say in the matter of your spouse's life and death? Would you want the government, your in-laws or anyone else intervening and making the decision for you? Would you be able to sleep at night knowing that you held the power to ensure that your spouse's wishes were granted and you let them be compromised? I don't know about you, but for me there wouldn't be enough Ambien at the drug store to help me nod off.

While I can't blame the Schindler's for the monumental fight they've put up, I can fault Jeb Bush for outright hypocrisy and political exploitation. It makes no sense to me why someone whose ideology condemns government intervention - especially federal intervention in state matters - would go out of his way to breach the jurisdiction of the state government. If you're going to stand up for states' rights on principle, you must be for states' rights no matter what. You can't pick and choose sides in certain circumstances just because it might score you a few politics points with your core supporters.

Jeb Bush is not supposed to represent the Christian Coalition; he is supposed to represent the citizens of Florida. As the duly elected governor of Florida, Jeb Bush is required to uphold the state laws, which specifically state that in lieu of a living will, all decisions pertaining to the patient will be made by the spouse. The citizens of the Sunshine State have charged him with this sober responsibility.

This case should have remained a family issue. There is no reason for it to have become a political football or an issue for exploitation. Thanks to either the hypocrisy or colossal shortsightedness of Jeb Bush, Terri Schiavo's life was trivialized by numerous failed attempts to bypass the judicial system. Not only was Terri's life trivialized, Michael's life was all but destroyed, and the Schindler family's grief prolonged by false hope. All parties involved have suffered harrowing losses. It'll be years before we can assess what our society has lost. Governor Bush had the opportunity to help to remedy the situation, but instead he did nothing but twist the knife.

Keeping it real

Can we please pull the plug on news drama?

The lens makes everything bigger at the cost of distorting them. I don't care what kind of lens it is, it distorts things. It may be the finest camera lens in the world, but it can't magnify an object without distorting it. The camera lenses in Florida weren't the finest in the world.

We seem to have this mistaken belief that we can somehow capture reality in a television camera

and broadcast it for everyone to watch. I guess the gritty drama of a real reality is sexier than the gritty lack of drama in our own lives. The problem is the reality we are shown isn't real. It has been distorted by the very lenses being used to capture it. Reality left the room when the cameras entered it.

Jonathan Edman
Columnist

In Florida that distortion was the result of having the cameras too tightly focused. We lost the periphery of the story. The fine details were no longer a part of the picture, they became the picture, and no matter how pretty a picture is, if you get close enough you will find something ugly.

But even that isn't what is wrong with our societal obsession. What is really wrong is that the struggle we were breathlessly watching didn't need to be seen. Perhaps it shouldn't have been seen. It certainly wasn't an

"Reality left the room when the cameras entered."

unusual case. Thousands of families struggle with those same decisions every year. Many of them are torn in two by their feelings and convictions over end-of-life issues. Yet somehow, without network correspondents or camera crews, they make those hard choices. They argue, shed tears, do what they have to do and then move on. Somehow I don't think

■ See REALITY, Page 5

CONSENSUS EDITORIAL

KSU Place to be renamed 'Funkytown'

Webster's dictionary defines incompetence as the state of lacking the qualities needed for effective action. He also defines a slumlord as a landlord who receives unusually large profits from substandard properties. Even if the mold problem at KSU Place turns out to be a minor one, we have uncovered an epidemic of incompetence in the way it has been handled.

A black colored mold has invaded many of the dorm rooms. The specific symptoms of exposure to mold are extensive. Suffice it to say that, according to the Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Air and Radiation, all molds cause endemic problems and some molds are toxic. Mold is difficult and expensive to remove, once it has taken root. Studies are still being conducted to determine the long-term effects of exposure to mold.

Which begs the question: if this mold could be the toxic Black Mold and must be caught early to avoid expensive eradication techniques, what would cause a professional property management company to drag its feet when a resident complains of mold? Every day that passes without effective action causes more damage to the building and a bigger health risk to our fellow Owls. Perhaps denial, incompetence, poor communication or some combination of these factors led to our current problem.

Whatever the cause, one thing is certain: something must be done about an organization that places the health of our fellow students in wanton jeopardy. This same organization is alleged to have ignored other maintenance issues, most notably air conditioning problems. Air conditioners, for your information, reduce moisture in the air, which would be likely to reduce the occurrence of mold.

When complaints were filed, the residents were told to clean their rooms and to use bleach to wash the windowsills. Sorry, but no amount of dusting or bleach is going to remedy a mold problem so advanced that the ceiling actually sags. The other problem with the admonishment to clean the rooms is an entrenched ignorance.



Even an untrained observer would not say that housekeeping would fix a saggy ceiling, so it is fairly evident that the person who made the statement never even

bothered to look at the problem before deciding that the students were at fault. That means that a person paid by KSU to ensure the dorm residents have a safe place to live could not be bothered to go look at the problem.

When a work order was filled out, three months after the initial complaint, the answer was to pay maintenance personnel to paint over the mold. A 30 second survey of information available on the Internet would tell anyone who bothered to look that this is a horrible idea. It is a good example of the wrong way to handle a problem, however, covered up or not, the problem still exists.

A spokesperson for the embattled company indicated that they are concerned for the residents wants and needs as evidenced by the numerous surveys they conduct. Well, here is a clue [without any survey needed]: the residents need clean air. They need work orders to be taken seriously and acted on professionally. They need to be treated like the adults they are becoming, rather than patronized and told to go clean their rooms.

Place Properties, and their unwitting accomplices, have opened the school to a tremendous liability. What happens if all the students interred at KSU Place decide to move out or to sue for damages and emotional distress? In the business world, if an employer knowingly exposed its employees to this threat, OSHA would fine them from sunup to sundown and come back the next day to start over.

The administration is entrusted and charged with the health, welfare, morale and education of its students. Parents from almost every state in the country and many foreign countries have handed KSU their children along with bags of money, and we have failed to provide even clean air. While the debate over a smoking ban rages on, your classmates may be inhaling, through no choice of their own, a possibly toxic substance with immediate detrimental effects.

It is the position of the Sentinel Editorial Board that immediate action must be implemented.

We also urge that an investigation be launched to determine what went wrong, what the correct process should have been and how to avoid a repeat of this fiasco. We are not interested in excuses, justifications or resignations. There is no excuse or justification strong enough to exonerate a person or company who potentially jeopardizes our classmates.

Were you raised in a barn? Wash your hands, please!

Danielle Arieux
Columnist

Have you ever used a public bathroom and left without washing your hands? The average restroom has 60 billion germs that are dwelling and waiting to reproduce and spread.

Although the faculty and some students try to keep the restrooms clean, there are bacteria that are still there. They reproduce because students and teachers use the bathrooms.

When people use the restroom and do not wash their hands, they spread the germs throughout the entire school and throughout their own bodies.

The bacteria enter through our pores and other holes in our bodies. Germs will remain on people's hands unless the hands are washed properly. One must use a sufficient amount of soap and warm water. Then, a rich lather must be formed and continually rubbed for the length of the birthday song. If warm water is not accessible, cold water will do, but without the soap, cold water will actually cause the bacteria to reproduce on your hands instead of killing them.

Finally, people should rinse and instead of using their bare hands to turn off the faucet and gather all the germs back that they just killed, they should use a dry paper towel to turn it off. Once the faucet is turned off, a new dry towel should be used to open the door of the bathroom.

"Although I wash my hands every time I use the restroom, I did not know that there was a certain length that you had to use while washing your hands to get all of the germs off", said Jared Ray, freshman.

It may sound crazy, but this is what will keep people from most illnesses. People that use this method still get sick, but not as often as others who do not use these precautions. Any doctor will tell you this.

However, just because someone is sick it isn't an indication that they do not wash their hands.

"I am a germ freak and I always wash my hands, and keep sanitizer in my truck, I find that I am healthier than some other people. Whether this may be a coincidence or just the fact that I am cautious, I tend to find myself more healthy than others," said Vic Rosati, freshman.

When using the restrooms, there are also other things that students can do to prevent bacteria from dwelling on their bodies. For males, it is quite easy, because most of the time they do not have to sit down. However, for the females they always have to sit. When people have to sit, the toilet seat is where many germs and diseases rest, therefore, if possible, direct contact with the toilet seat should be prevented.

You can do many things to prevent direct contact. One way is to use a lining, whether it is toilet paper, or the provided liners.

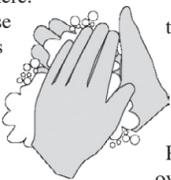
People may also hover over the toilet. People could also use paper towels to open and lock the stall doors before they use the restroom to avoid the bacteria.

"I hover because I try to avoid all contact in the public restrooms as much as possible," said Amanda Cowart, junior.

Another problem that some may have is when students put their feet on their desks and chairs. Although most people do not understand the problems of this, there are a few. When a student puts their feet on a desk, and then leaves, the next student that sits there does not know what is on the desk. However, the student still proceeds to put their head down on the desk and allow germs to enter through their mouth, nose, and other pores that may come into contact with the bacteria.

"I never lay my head down on the desks at school and after every class, I sanitize my hands because of all of the germs that my hands come in contact with after having to use the desks," said Heather Donaldson, sophomore.

I am hopeful that, after reading this, people who do not wash their hands and use other improper precautions will change their ways to prevent themselves from getting any illnesses and to keep themselves healthy. If you don't, you might be making other people sick too.



Plan B contraceptive not readily available

R-U-4 86-ing a woman's choice?

There's a new kid in town playing the "after intercourse contraceptive" game. This new player has a few aliases: "ECP" [Emergency Contraceptive Pill], "plan B," "the backstop" and some people are calling it the morning after pill. Calling plan B contraceptives by the name "morning after pills" is a small misnomer. It is too easy to confuse ECPs with RU486, which was also called the morning after pill. Here's the difference: RU486, which is available by prescription, will end a pregnancy during the first few months. You can safely think of RU486 as an abortion in a bottle, as opposed to an abortion in a clinic. ECPs will not end a pregnancy. Let me say that again: ECPs will not end a pregnancy. ECPs are intended as the last line of defense to be used immediately after unprotected sex. The window for ECPs to be effective is less than three days. Now that I've used 152 words to bring you up to speed, let's talk about the politics.

RU486 has been found to be safe for use in humans. The drug was tested in France for several years [and honestly, what better place to test a potentially harmful drug?] before it made to long trip across the

Atlantic to the FDA. The sulking bureaucrats and political appointees at the FDA stalled it for as long as possible, and just as they were getting ready to approve it for non-prescriptive sale, it died. Poof! No explanation, just gone. Oh, you can still get it from the doctor, if you can find a pharmacist who is willing to do his or her job by filling the script, but for no apparent reason you can't buy it over the counter. Score one for the puppet masters.

The ECP idea is not really a new one. When I was in high school girls would take massive doses of birth control pills to accomplish the same thing. It always struck me as odd to have access to birth control pills and not take them until after the deed was done, but I tried not to be too judgmental. So a pharmaceutical company decided to normalize this practice by establishing what doses were safe and effective. At this point, if you have sex and experience a latex malfunction or a loss of traction, you should be able to go to Walgreen's and buy a blister pack of pills to prevent the egg from welcoming the little swimmers.

Did you notice that I said "should?" You cannot do that at this time because ECP, which I may have mentioned, will not terminate a pregnancy after the egg has been fertilized, has

not been approved for over the counter sale. It's safe, effective, been done for at least 20 years but the FDA is still dragging its feet. You have to go to a doctor, get the prescription, go to the drug store and get the pills taken within three days for them to have any chance of working. I guess if you have a packaging problem on Friday night, you're just out of luck.

Are you wondering what my opinion is? Well, I could say that it's not my problem. I'm surgically done having kids and my girls, even the two year old, know that all boys are icky so I really don't need to worry about it. That wouldn't be true though, because problems like unwanted pregnancy, child abuse, child poverty and unfit parents are everyone's problems. They affect the quality of our schools, the rate of our taxes, the overcrowding of our prisons and even the cost of insurance and energy. It's also a poor way to welcome a human being into the world.

I've got this sneaking suspicion that something bigger is going on. My Spider Sense is tingling. I get the feeling that this is about more than a retroactive contraceptive. The concern runs deeper than a bottled abortion. The target is Roe v. Wade. In the same way that a tank battalion will focus all its magnificent destructive might on one area of the enemy's lines to force a breach, the anti abortion movement is trying

to punch through the Supreme Court's decision. Small steps at first to gain momentum, and then it will be a full-blown cavalry charge against a woman's right to decide her own fate.

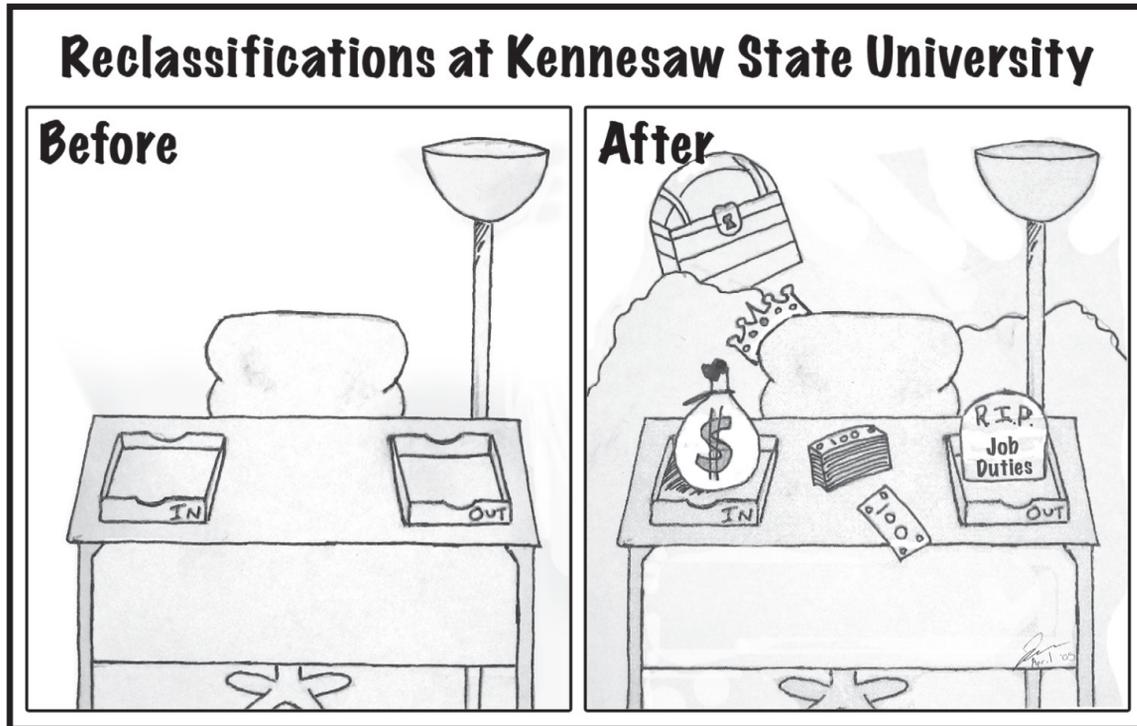
At the moment, abortion is legal, so can you tell me why RU486 is not readily available? Plan B contraceptives do not even abort pregnancy, so do you have any idea why are they not readily available? The people arguing against these pills are also arguing against abortion. Guess what - no pregnancy equals no abortion. I'm no arithmetic wizard, but it's just a simple linear equation. I suppose a cynical person would say that religion has hijacked the FDA and is trying to impose its view of morality on the rest of us. I think they ought to wait, at least until they actually get abortion outlawed, before they start working against birth control.

What do you think? Most of you are smarter than I am, although I'll never admit it. Does it seem just and proper for Viagra to be covered by insurance - no questions asked in many cases - but you can't buy plan B over the counter? I hope the intelligent and ambitious ladies [and all the rest of them, for that matter] in my readership are ready to take off their shoes and head back to the kitchen, because it's not that far over the horizon. At least Martha is back on television to help you remember how to cook.



Dave Dalton
Viewpoints
Editor

Editorial Cartoon



• From page 4

Reality

the two families we've been watching are going to be able to do that nearly as gracefully.

In the midst of it all, many faces made sure they got their share of those lenses. They made sure their voices were heard, their opinions

voiced, their agendas stroked. Even more maddening, I can't count how many talking heads told me they were tired of the story, or that perhaps this was a private issue after all, only to proceed directly to a last ditch re-iteration of their position. Do not pass go, do not collect \$200.

Ask anyone who has spent time in front of a camera. They will tell you that the person you see on the screen

isn't the real person. This makes me wonder how much the camera alters the behavior of these average people who find themselves facing not just one camera, but dozens. The young woman in Atlanta who kept getting in front of the cameras to tell us that she just wanted her privacy didn't seem very sincere, but her decision to stop getting in front of the cameras was quite convincing. I wonder how

often the victims of a breaking news drama found themselves looking at the video later and wondering who was inhabiting their body while the tape was rolling.

In the meantime many children have been left to raise themselves, and many elderly have been left to die in isolation because we don't have time to be bothered with our own mundane lives, much less with theirs.

There is always a sexier story around the corner, a juicier reality on prime time. Perhaps we should stop talking so much about someone else's family and spend a little more time talking with our own. We might find out a little more about who we are. We might develop closer relationships. We might gain more insight into what we believe. Wouldn't it be nice if that could be Terri Schiavo's legacy?

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

3.) For verification purposes, students must also supply the last four digits of their student ID number and a phone number. This information will not be published.

4.) Contributors are limited to one letter every 30 days. Letters thanking individuals or organizations for personal services rendered cannot be accepted. We do not publish individual consumer complaints about specific businesses.

5.) While we do not publish letters from groups endorsing political candidates, The Sentinel will carry letters discussing candidates and campaign issues.

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Features & Entertainment

Next Issue:

Former KKK member
delivers positive message

Fleeing brutality

Cambodian author speaks about her youth during the reign of Khmer Rouge

Colleen Duffy
Staff Writer

Chanrithy Him's soft-spoken story of her youth stripped away by war, illness, death and tyranny silenced all in listening distance on March 23.

Him is a distinguished guest author who spoke during the 16th Annual Contemporary Literature and Writing Conference of 2005. Born in Takeo Providence in 1965, Him detailed her life as a child growing up in Cambodia during the plight of the Khmer Rouge regime in her published memoir, "When Broken Glass Floats."

"The Khmer Rouge soldiers, aided by North Vietnamese and Viet Kong troops, began a large-scale insurgency against government forces, quickly gaining control over more than two-thirds of the country," according to encyclopedia.com.

The Khmer Rouge eradicated capitalism by moving everyone away from cities. Essentially, the city was to pit of capitalistic growth, which enabled the Communists to gain control and while keeping their Communist approach secret from the native Cambodians, to ensure that the Khmer Rouge could gain easier infiltration of the country effectively.

"My family lived a really sheltered life which were the first four years of my life," Him said.

This changed when the Khmer Rouge, led by Pol Pot, overthrew the Cambodian government and began executing intellectuals and skilled workmen.

"In 1969 one night a loud noise woke us up, I was too young to know it was war," Him said.

Him retold the account of seeing her father and uncles for the last time, then later learning of their execution by the brutal Khmer Rouge.

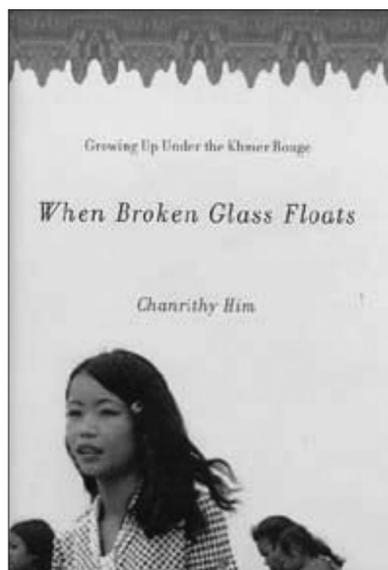
"At that time we could not show our grief and we had to keep everything in, so as not to get killed," Him said.

She spoke of the camps she lived in, where she harvested rice and yams, yet would receive little food in return. She spoke about witnessing her younger brother and many others die from starvation. Hunger and dysentery spread through the country as a perpetual epidemic.

The Angka organization was a stifling faction of the Khmer Rouge that severed family ties and threatened Cambodian liberty. They controlled every aspect of the Cambodians' lives, including who they married, where they worked and even who they conversed with.

"As children we were forced to watch the execution of two couples that were lovers and the one woman was pregnant. They loved each other without the Angka's permission," Him said.

See BRUTALITY, page 7



The Orange Team deliberates an answer for the win.

Joe Pettis | The Sentinel

Students vote off 'the weakest link'

Students In Free Enterprise holds competition

Joe Pettis
Staff Writer

The Students In Free Enterprise Team held the KSU Weakest Link Competition on March 28. Thankfully for those that showed up to the event, Anne Robinson was not there. Nine members of KSU's faculty and staff joined together to compete for the honor of being the strongest link. The faculty divided itself into four teams: Red, Purple, Orange and Blue.

The event's banner asked students to "come and judge the faculty contestants as they educate the importance of ethical and socially responsible behavior in business." The handful of students that did show up were able to vote off teams by making a selection on a handheld remote.

The game began with a warm-up round. Each team was asked a series of four questions and was given one minute to answer. After answering, the audience was given a chance to

cast their vote based on which team the audience thought had given the "weakest" answer. Perhaps for the first time ever, the teachers' fate was in the hands of their students.

Votes during the warm-up round had no real consequences other than the shame of the teachers being cast down by their students. If nothing else, the warm-up round gave the audience a chance to get used to process of voting with the remotes.

After the warm-up round, the mood became a little more serious. The team that received the largest vote after each question was now kicked out of the game. To keep things interesting, the teams that were voted off were given remotes of their own so that they might be able to vote off their former competitors.

The highlight of the evening was the treatment of the Red Team. During the warm-up round they received the majority of the votes after each question. Not surprisingly, they were the first team voted off during

the actual game. What made things even more interesting was the fact that even after they were no longer in the game, the Red Team was still receiving a good majority of the votes. By the end of the game it seemed as if everyone was voting for the Red Team.

The majority of the teams were able to come up with humorous, yet clever answers to each question.

When asked how to deal with disruptive students, Dr. Robert Desman of the Purple Team answered, "Well our first thought was public execution." His team received the least amount of votes that round.

At the end of the game the Purple Team, comprised of Professor Juane Greene and Dr. Robert Desman, found itself squared off against the Orange Team, comprised

of Professor Qjiang Jiang and Dr. Frederick Jones. It was a moment of great intensity as the two teams contemplated over their final question. After one minute both teams gave remarkable answers. Unfortunately, only one team could win. After all the votes were tallied the Orange Team was given the honor of being anything other than the Weakest Link.

"The majority of the teams were able to come up with humorous, yet clever answers to each question."

The Orange Team was not the only one to leave the event as a winner. SIFE held a

ticket raffle at the end of the evening. Three lucky students left with some great prizes, including a \$50 gift certificate for the KSU Bookstore. Next time SIFE puts on an event, be sure to make time in your schedule to check it out. Who knows, maybe you too will walk out as a winner.

Concert revives punk rock in Atlanta

Alexisonfire and Rise Against refresh the energy of punk rock at the Masquerade

Jason Nimer
Sr. Staff Writer

Politically left-leaning punk rock came roaring back into Atlanta in the form of two excellent bands, Alexisonfire and Rise Against, on March 30.

The floor of the Masquerade shook each time a guitar riff was played or an angry lyric was belted out. Though the crowd was certainly not as big as expected, the vibe was good for only people who truly loved the songs were in attendance. Due to The Masquerade management's decision to move the show to the more intimate downstairs stage, this was truly one of the wildest, pulse pounding concerts Atlanta has seen in a while.

The night of rock was kicked off by a collection of three relatively unknown bands, Hank III, Brazil and The Black Maria. Each band put on an energetic set, but their time was limited. Any impact they might have made was severely stifled by their miniscule half-hour sets. As hard as they may have tried, these three only served to build anticipation for the two better-known headliners.

Alexisonfire took the stage first. This relatively new band played like they had been together for years. The lead singer, George Logan, ricocheted around the stage like a pinball,

bouncing off all the other members of the band. As he belted out song after amazing song, he gradually lost his clothes. Logan started the set in jeans and a t-shirt, but by the time the last bit of reverb echoed off the Masquerade's walls, he was dressed in nothing more than his blue and white striped boxer shorts. This fact alone should explain this band's explosive energy, but there's more.

When Alexisonfire launched into what is possibly their most well known and most beloved song, Waterwings [And Other Pool Side Fashion Faux Pas], the crowd hit a fever pitch. Bodies flew all over the pit and most of the band participated in tossing teenagers from the stage. Logan body-slammed one fan directly into the hands of the others waiting to carry him off. This band definitely made its mark on Atlanta and the sooner they come back, the better. Yet still, the best was yet to come.

By the time Rise Against took the stage, the crowd, though they had a break between bands, was foaming at the mouth for what they paid \$15 bucks to see. Rise Against began their set with gusto and did not let up until the very last note. They played songs from all three of their powerful CD's, with "Black Masks And Gasoline" and "Give It All" obviously being the crowd's favorites.



Peyton Deas | The Sentinel

An energetic crowd storms the stage as Rise Against rocks Atlanta.

Lead singer Tim McIlrath provided most of the power while the rest of the band did their best to keep up with him. During each and every song, he climbed the front amps and howled his lyrics directly into the crowd. This wonderful group of musicians finished their set, leaving the crowd wanting more.

After a few minutes of chanting, "One more song!" McIlrath came back to the stage solo with an acoustic guitar. Following a beautiful rendition of "Swing Life Away," which was accompanied by the raised lighters of many fans, the rest of the band entered for one more awesome song. Afterwards, the crowd

breathed a collective sigh and exited the building, satisfied with the great performance.

All in all, this was an A+ show and any who were in attendance were extremely lucky to be there. Though the opening bands were lackluster, both of the headliners turned in superior performances that fed the crowd energy. This pairing of two powerhouse bands is one of the few shows this year that was not only worth seeing in Atlanta, but also worth driving to the next city just to witness it again. Keep your eye on Alexisonfire and Rise Against. They will be breaking into the mainstream soon.

Big Shanty equals big fun

Civil War history brought to life at annual festival

Are you a Civil War buff? Well, even if you're not, come out to the Big Shanty Festival of Kennesaw Saturday, April 16, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. and

Sunday, April 17, 12 p.m. - 5 p.m. with a parade at 9:30 on Saturday. This festival of Civil War history has been going on for the past 29 years. There will be hundreds of people dressed in authentic Civil War dress. Members of the 10th Texas Infantry, Stephens Light Artillery, Pickett's Mill Artillery, and 37th & 35th Tennessee Infantry will create a Civil War Living History across from the Kennesaw Civil War Museum. Visitors can walk through the encampment and see what it was like back then.

This is home to one of the largest craft fairs in the south as well, so bring your wallets! About 250 booths will be selling handcrafted goods.

There will be entertainment as well. Kennesaw's Little General Cloggers; the Kennesaw Dance Troupe; the Great Gig Dance Company; as well as the ETO Demo Team will all be showcased. The Big Shanty Elementary School Chorus will perform with choirs from Kennesaw 1st Baptist Church and Northstar Church.

You can see the winners of Little Miss Cobb Beauty Pageant as well as the winners of the Master, Miss, and Mrs. Kennesaw Pageant.

The Kennesaw Big Shanty Festival is going on in downtown Kennesaw on both sides of Main Street which is Highway 293. There also be food there. Admissions is free!

In other Atlanta events, if you have kids, this would be a fun event to take them to; 'Locomotion in the Garden', at the Atlanta Botanical Gardens, May - October, with the grand opening on Saturday, April 30.



Home
Journeys

By
Tara O'Shea

Turner Broadcasting System, Inc is presenting an interesting display this year; 'Trains Across Georgia' is a display of miniature trains, railways, and houses all constructed of natural materials. More than 25 buildings and scenes made of natural materials such as bark, acorns, nuts, pinecone scales, and seeds are all included in the display.

It's a pretty cute display because some of the local buildings in the Exhibit include the Fuqua Conservatory, Turner Field, the State Capitol, Fox Theater, The Bank of America Building and Georgia Power Company building. If you go on Tuesdays, thanks to Turner Broadcasting, you receive \$2 dollars off entrance fee. As it is, entrance for students is only \$7.

We have moved!

The **Adult Development and Aging Research Lab (ADAR)** has opened a new facility in Marietta hosting studies on cognition and aging. Georgia Tech psychologists investigate thinking, reasoning, and memory across the life span.

Studies range from single to multiple sessions.

Participation is compensated.

Older and younger adults are requested for participation.

If you want to contribute to our research, please participate in our large upcoming study on memory development and aging.

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Kennesaw

Stupidexbook.com

Seek revenge with new Web site

Stupidexbook.com will let you vent

Elizabeth Stott
Staff Writer

Have you ever wanted to seek revenge on your ex-girlfriend, ex-boyfriend or ex-boss?

Stupidexbook.com is a new Web site, which debuted on Feb. 14 where people can submit stories about an ex of theirs. Each month the founder chooses the best stories and displays them on the Web site, with new stories being added every two weeks.

Julie London began stupidexbooks.com after she was on eBay one day and came across items for sale as a result of a downfall with a relationship.

"I was inspired by people's stories on eBay. There's a lot of ex's items with detailed descriptions-not of the item, but of the relationship and how the gifts came to be," she said.

London decided to create a Web site for people to share these stories. She said this is a way not only for people who wish to seek revenge, but also a step toward moving on.

"It's a great way to vent and that's the first step to moving forward. When people actually read some of these stories, it makes us see we're not alone is dealing with feelings revolving around our stupid exes," London said.

London does not post stories that are common, such as an ex getting drunk and cheating. The stories she looks for are unusual and funny.

"We look for an honest voice, someone who is real and we can get to know," London said.

She also looks for stories written with a dialect style. "Grammar is not important, and having a regional dialect in some of the writings that have been submitted add to the flavor of the submissions," London said.

The Web site has unlimited categories. When the Web site first debuted, people only submitted stories about their relationships. Weeks later people began writing stories about their ex-credit cards or their ex-restaurants. London decided that these stories were just as funny

and began posting them.

"I think they pour a lot of passion into these missives. I like these stories because it appears that the writer is better off without the ex and they've finally come to that realization," London said.

The Web site has such a following that plans are underway to have books published for each category, depending upon the number and quality of submissions.

"An announcement will be made in 2006 as to the first series of books that will be published," London said.

Presently, London wants to reach out to college students for submissions. She believes that college students are intelligent and that they have good stories to share.

London has a message for college students in pursuit of attaining their goals.

"Do what you love and the money will follow. But sometimes we have to work at jobs we don't like and put up with horrible bosses [who later become a story about stupid ex-bosses]."



Julie London

• From page 6

Brutality

A tired child growing up and striving to survive during the tumultuous war and the oppressing Khmer Rouge, Him renewed her spirits with the opportunity to flee the brutality by living with her uncle in Portland, Oregon.

"The picture on the cover of the book is me looking at the horizon on the beach, thinking about coming to America," Him said.

Him currently lives in Eugene, Oregon and obtained a bachelor's degree in Biochemistry from the University of Oregon.

Having fully experiencing the post-traumatic stress disorder, Him became involved as a researcher on the Khmer Adolescent

Project to help other young adults root out repressed war trauma and become more resilient from the times of adversity in Cambodia.

"Despite all of the violence, I am still constantly facing the war trauma," Him said. "But if you want to heal you should talk about it."

Him's riveting book, "When Broken Glass Floats," is a winner of the Oregon Book Awards. "[It is] an inspiring story that draws hope from horror," according to the Seattle Times.

"I risked my own sanity to write this book," Him said. "I think when you write from your heart and soul, you dig deeper."

The KSU faculty and students were privileged to hear Him's detailed account of her trials to regain a sense of faith and spiritual rebirth.

"I have learned to forgive the Khmer Rouge," Him said.

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An odd religion

Down Under

Football season begins

The last week of March saw the revival of Melbourne's dormant religion, as it awakened from its summertime hibernation. In the somewhat religiously apathetic culture of Australia, something had to fill in the spiritual gap. It had to be sports, didn't it?

This time of year is the beginning of the AFL, or Australian Football League season. I'm not aware that I've explained the game, nor would it be wise to, but I'll just say that

Australian rules and American football essentially occupy opposing ends of the football spectrum. And, just as American football has a fanatical following in many parts of the



Down Under
By **Adam Stevens**

United States, Aussie rules is most popular sport in the country, particularly in the southern and western states. Those silly northerners in Queensland and New South Wales would rather follow "thugby," which has never struck me as being terribly exciting or skillful.

Like American football, Aussie rules football is a winter sport. With this in mind, it's a little bit odd that the players wear nothing but shorts and a shirt as their uniform [except really cold days]. I don't imagine that sort of get-up would work too well in the American winter, so perhaps there is some reasoning behind all that padding that gridiron players wear that makes sense.

Melbourne is by far the most important footballing city in the country. There are currently sixteen teams in the national competition, of which nine are based in Melbourne, with another one based in Geelong, which is about an hour down the Princess Highway. The game was started in Melbourne in 1858, and at the time was a variation upon Irish football and was used a means to keep cricket players fit in between seasons. Now, Australian football is arguably bigger than football, and certainly has a more passionate following. Most Melbournians at least follow a side, and the majority of these fans have an active interest in the game, as opposed to those who inherit their parents' side and only give a toss about the game when their team is doing well.

Adelaide and Perth also have strong football communities, which is reflected by the presence of two teams in both of these cities despite the fact they are far smaller population-wise than Melbourne is. There is a certain heated rivalry between these cities and Melbourne, much of which is quite irrational.

Personally, I'm a Geelong fan. I inherited this from my dad, not because of geography, as is generally the case here in the United States. When you have ten teams to select from within 50 miles of your house, it's a bit of a raffle sometimes. Unfortunately, my choice has been depressing - over the last fifteen years, Geelong made the big final [called the Grand Final] four times and lost every single one. It's a little bit like the Atlanta Braves' record. I'm sure all of you Atlanta baseball fans can empathize.

For those of you who are in the least bit interested in the game, there is a team based in Atlanta called the Atlanta Kookaburras that play several games a year, as well as a small metropolitan league that might be well worth a look. The standard is nothing too fantastic, but I can see the game taking off in the United States - it's fast, skillful, physical and best of all, it only takes about two hours to finish. What more could you need?

Video game phenomenon invades colleges

Microsoft Xbox Spring Campus College Tour comes to Georgia

Stephen Owen
Staff Writer

The Student Center is currently a place for food, lectures, organizations and debauchery, but as soon as next year it may also be used for something else: market research.

The modern day video game market is a lucrative one, with more than \$9.9 billion in software sold last year alone according to the National Product Diary Group, a sales and marketing information firm. As such, companies find they must produce increasingly higher quality titles to keep up with this blazing fast market. Instead

of spending millions on expensive market surveys or relying on gamers returning the rating cards found in new games [no, I have never done it either], companies are turning to the direct source: college students.

Typically males ages 18 and up are the most profitable market segment for game companies to target, accounting for 46 percent of sales. Female adults account for the next 24 percent and the remaining 30 percent are sells to youth under age 18, according to NPD.

The games played most often in the Student Center and University Place are also the highest selling games. Any day

of the week, you may see "Halo2" being played, which grossed \$125 million on the first day sales, "Burnout 3" or "Madden 2005" being played, which sold over a million copies during their first quarter released, or "GTA: San Andreas" which sold over 5.1 million copies in 2004.

"[The] industry is benefited by people playing games together and sharing game ideas," said Andy Poore, junior, Computer science information systems.

Apparently the game producing companies agree, as Microsoft combined free games from different companies with colleges full of students possessing the highest potential for sales.

The result? The Microsoft Xbox Spring Campus College Tour, which started earlier this month. The tour will be coming



colleges nationwide, including Georgia Tech, until the end of April.

The tour is a demonstration of the newest and hottest titles, many still in developmental stages, available for play at no cost. Software companies want to hear what college students think of their games and how they can be improved. Unfortunately, KSU is not included in this year's tour, but being that KSU is one of the largest colleges in Georgia, our opinion needs to be considered.

Check out www.gameliveevents.com or send an e-mail to the head director of the game tour at marketing@gameliveevents.com. Let the director know Kennesaw wants to be on next year's tour schedule. It's quite possible that 17,916 e-mails will grab their attention.

GAME REVIEW: METAL GEAR AC!D

Solid Snake bites into PSP

Jason Nimer
Sr. Staff Writer

Last week, I put in my two cents on Sony's new PSP handheld. A system can be the best on the market, but if it does not have a single good game, who cares? Sony definitely put great pains into making sure that at launch, the PSP would have at least 25 games of various genres to satisfy every taste.

From what I've heard, and played, most of them are at least passable, even if some of them are not all that great.

"Metal Gear AC!D" is one of the very few games available now that is completely original. Most PSP games, though good, are glorified ports with a few extras tacked on. By changing the "Metal Gear" formula almost entirely, this game took a huge chance with die-hard fans. Granted, some will hate the change and some will embrace it. I, for one, belong in the latter group.

In "Metal Gear AC!D" we once again take control of secret agent Solid Snake. Predictably, there are terrorists involved and it is up to Snake to save the day. Past "Metal Gear" games have been action oriented, placing emphasis on sneaking around and silently dispatching guards. This game changes all that.

The battle system is more strategic, with a card based movement and fighting system.

Anyone who remembers my "Kingdom Hearts: Chain of Memories" review knows my distaste for card based battle systems. Honestly, I think this is first game in history to get it right. The end result feels less like a card game, and more like a deep, well thought out strategy game in the vein of "Advance Wars" or "Fire Emblem."

In the graphics and sound department, this is not the best the PSP can do. The graphics are about half a step behind PS2 "Metal Gear" games. Other PSP games, like "Wipeout Pure," show that this little machine can and will surpass its older brother graphically, so

"Metal Gear AC!D" really has no excuse. The great voice-overs of the past are gone, replaced by text and accompanied by "anime" style pictures of the characters speaking. It is not so bad, I just expected a little more from such a great title.

If you have the patience, this game can and will be worth your time. Most gamers today need faster cars and bigger explosions, but I still enjoy chess-like strategy, accompanied by characters I have loved for years. Get this game, but expect to play it for quite awhile before your opinion is as glowing as mine.

Grade: B+



MOVIE REVIEW: BEAUTY SHOP

A frizz ball of fluff

Brittany Underwood
Staff Writer

Have you ever watched a movie and noticed that all of the funny bits are actually squeezed into their two-minute trailer?

Here is a fine example of such a movie. "Beauty Shop" has a few great laughs but they are scarce throughout this film.

"Barber Shop 2" left Gina Norris [Queen Latifah, "Bringing Down the House"] in Chicago. Since then she has relocated to Atlanta, so her daughter can attend a prestigious private music school.

Gina struggles with her daughter's tuition costs while working at an upscale salon under a Jorge Christophe, played by a very effeminate Kevin Bacon trying a European accent [the key word here is "trying"]. Gina stages a revolt against the highly demanding Christophe and decides to open up her own ghetto-fabulous salon.

Her employees include a country token white girl named Lynn [Alicia Silverstone, "Clueless"] and an eccentric grandma name Miss Josephine [Alfre Woodard, "The Forgotten"].

Her shop is frequently visited by rich girls Joanne [Mena Suvari, "American Pie" trilogy], Terri [Andie MacDowell, "Multiplicity"] and Joe [Djimon Hounsou, "In America"], the hot piano-playing electrician who lives upstairs. Keshia Knight Pulliam, best known as little Rudy Huxtable on "The Cosby Show", also makes an appearance.

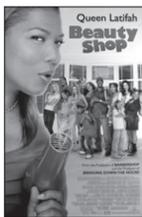
The acting in the movie is mediocre, except for Queen Latifah, who shines with comic brilliance. The whole point of the picture is the banter inside Gina's shop, which is a bit tired. The jokes were big booty jokes and racial jabs at square caucasians

over and over. The story is not very well developed, with the feel of a few sitcoms bunched together.

"Beauty Shop" is a spin off of "Barber Shop 2" starring Ice Cube. Queen Latifah's role in "Barber Shop 2" was small, but so highly talked about that MGM decided Gina Norris needs her own movie. Billie Woodruff [director of both "Barber Shop" and "Barber Shop 2"] returned to direct, but this time had a little bit of help from the Queen herself. Ice Cube stayed behind the camera and acted as Executive Producer while Queen Latifah starred and received a Producer credit as well.

If you are looking for a totally frivolous, non-thinking and played out humor seen many times before, you will love this film. Everyone else should pass up on this shampoo soaked, blow-dried, frizz ball of fluff.

Grade: C-



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Where: At the CETL house, house #54 on Frey Lake Rd, directly across the street from the entrance to the Town Hall of University Place apartments.

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A Lecture by Elisabeth Bumiller White House Correspondent The New York Times

Elisabeth Bumiller was named a White House Correspondent for The New York Times in 2001. Prior to this, she was the City Hall Bureau Chief in New York City for The Times, and from 1995 until 1999, a reporter for the Metropolitan staff.

Before joining The Times, Ms. Bumiller worked for The Washington Post as a correspondent in various cities around the world: in New York from January 1995 until June 1995; in Tokyo from 1990 until 1991; and New Delhi from 1985 until 1987. From 1979 until 1985 she was a reporter for the style section of The Post at its Washington, D.C. headquarters.

Ms. Bumiller is the author of several books. In 1990, she published *“May You Be the Mother of A Hundred Sons: A Journey Among the Women of India”* (Random House). In 1995, she published *“The Secrets of Mariko: A Year in the Life of a Japanese Woman and Her Family”* (Times Books), and in 2001, she participated in the writing of *“For Women Only: A Revolutionary Guide to Overcoming Sexual Dysfunction and Reclaiming your Sex Life”* (Henry Holt).

An American Democracy Project Event
Admission is free.



The New York Times
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INSPIRING THOUGHT



Sports

Next 3 Games: Softball

Columbus State **APRIL 7**
6:00 p.m. - Columbus, GA

Lander **APRIL 9**
1:00 p.m. - Greenwood, SC

West Georgia **APRIL 12**
3:00 p.m. - Carrollton, GA

Softball

Peach Belt Conference Standings

From www.peachbelt.com

Team	PBC	All	Last 5	Streak
Kennesaw State	12-2	38-6	5-0	W5
North Florida	15-3	34-6	5-0	W7
GC&SU	9-5	20-12	2-3	W1
Augusta State	8-6	26-14	3-2	L2
Francis Marion	9-7	33-9	4-1	W3
Columbus State	6-8	21-11	4-1	W1
USC Upstate	6-8	33-9	2-3	L2
Armstrong Atlantic	5-9	19-14	2-3	L1
USC Aiken	5-9	27-13	3-2	L2
UNC Pembroke	3-9	26-15	1-4	L1
Lander	2-14	30-27	0-5	L9

Softball team sweeps weekend series, keeps ball rolling

KSU pulling away from pack in PBC standings

Jessica Sibley
Staff Writer

The Lady Owls have extended their record to 39-6 under Head Coach Scott Whitlock after playing in six games since March 29. KSU lost only one game to GC&SU that interrupted their winning streak of nine but came back to sweep USC Aiken and UNC Pembroke this past weekend.

Both games on Saturday against UNC Pembroke were won in true Owl style. KSU scored the first run of the game in the fifth inning, while UNC came back to tie it up in the sixth. Cambria McKay came to the plate in the bottom of the inning with two runners on base. The pitch was low and outside but McKay connected and sent the ball over the fence bringing in senior Amy Middleton and first baseman Kerri McKee. After UNC couldn't make anything happen in the seventh, the familiar feeling of victory was present once again for the Owls. The final score was 3-1. They went on to humiliate UNC in their second match-up with a shut out, 8-0.

On Sunday, KSU played a doubleheader against USC Aiken at the Bobby Bailey Athletic Complex. The first game was a blowout ending after five innings and the mercy rule. KSU went on to beat the Lady Pacers 10-2. The final game of



Richard L. Johnson | The Sentinel

The Lady Owls are tops in the PBC, and are looking forward to the playoffs.

the day was much closer, and the Lady Owls had to dig deep for a win.

"The girls showed a lot of fight and courage to come back in the second game," Whitlock said.

During the fourth inning, Pacers #24 hit the ball over the center field wall for the three-run homer, making the score 3-1 in USC's favor. In the fifth inning, KSU had enough runners on base to take the lead but failed to reach home plate. The sixth inning added pressure

for the Owls as the Lady Pacers scored another run. Trailing by 3, KSU began their comeback in the bottom of the sixth. Megan Gant singled and Melanie Foster came in as the pinch runner. Next up was Jennifer Nolan and she singled into left field advancing Foster into scoring position. Kate Winstel was walked, but not before a wild pitch allowed Foster to reach third. Foster and Nolan would help KSU close in on the lead by reaching home after two passed balls.

Coming into the seventh

inning, USC was still leading by one. After McKay, Gant and Winstel all reached base on walks, freshman Amanda Malcom drove the ball into left field gaining two RBI's and sealing the win for the Owls.

"Malcom's hit was pretty sweet," Whitlock said. "When it was 4-1 I'd be lying if I said I thought we were going to win. USC gave us one too many chances to win and you can't do that with a good team, sooner or later they will take advantage of it and that's what we did."

Softball celebrates ten year anniversary

Derek Wallace
Sr. Staff Writer

Sunday's softball game against USC Aiken was the Tenth Year Anniversary Celebration of KSU's national championship. On May 21, 1995, KSU beat Bloomsburg 3-2 at the NCAA Division II Championship game held in Salem, VA. Players from that team came to be recognized for their achievement. Dr. Betty Siegel was on hand to welcome the 1995 team back to Owl Field. Head Coach Scott Whitlock introduced the players to the crowd, who gave them a standing ovation.

Baseball

Next 3 Games

APR 9 **GC&SU**
1:00 PM Kennesaw, Ga.

APR 10 **GC&SU**
1:00 PM Kennesaw, Ga.

APR 12 **West Georgia**
5:00 PM Carrollton, GA

Baseball team loses two on road trip

Tommy McNulty
Sports Editor

The Owls baseball team lost a three game series to Barton University in Wilson, N.C. over the weekend, and as a result, dropped out of first place in the Peach Belt Conference standings. With Bubba Blaylock starting, the team won its first game 10-8 on Saturday. The Owls had three players hit homeruns. Kevin Gergel [three-run homerun], John Love [two-run homerun], and Jeremy Brotherton [two solo homeruns] all contributed in what was an impressive offensive display by KSU. Closer Brent Jackson received the win.

During Sunday's double-header, however, the Owls were not so lucky. Despite another three-run homerun by Gergel, pitcher Matt Eckardt could not shut down Barton's offense and took the 5-9 loss. In the second game, KSU starter Ben Sosebee gave a great effort in holding Barton to only one run until he was pulled in the bottom of the seventh inning after giving up a homerun that tied the game 2-2. Pitcher Kyle Muschara came in to try and stop the bleeding, but on a passed ball by catcher Derek Tucker, the winning run crossed the plate for Barton, giving the home team a 3-2 victory. The last runner was attributed to Sosebee, giving the starting pitcher the loss.

Peach Belt Conference Standings

Team	PBC	All	Last 5	Streak
North Florida	12-6	29-9	5-0	W6
USC Aiken	10-5	27-8	4-1	W4
Kennesaw State	11-7	21-14	2-3	L2
Francis Marion	14-9-1	24-11-1	3-2	W3
GC&SU	10-10	21-15	4-1	W4
USC Upstate	10-11	24-15	3-2	W3
Lander	8-9	21-15	1-4	L3
Augusta State	6-10-1	21-14-1	1-4	L4
UNC Pembroke	8-13	23-16	2-3	L3
Armstrong Atlantic	4-7	21-8	2-3	L3
Columbus State	6-11	15-20	1-4	L2

NCAA takes heat for beer ads on televised games

Wrong message sent to students, critics say

Gregory Cancelada
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

ST. LOUIS - Critics of alcohol advertising are lobbying the National Collegiate Athletic Association to prohibit beer ads during televised college sports events, saying they conflict with efforts to reduce underage and binge drinking on campuses.

Led by the nonprofit Center for Science in the Public Interest in Washington, critics also accused the NCAA of being too close to Anheuser-Busch Cos. because of the brewer's financial support.

The fundamental issue is reducing youth exposure to alcohol ads during televised sports events, said Jay Hedlund, director of the center's project Campaign for Alcohol-Free Sports TV.

However, the NCAA does not see any need for a ban given existing restrictions, which limit ads to one 60-second or two 30-second spots for each hour broadcast.

"I doubt an individual seeing one or two beer ads in the course of an hour would be led down the road" to abuse, said NCAA spokesman Bob Williams. In 2003, only about five percent

of all ads aired during the men's and women's Final Four were for beer, he said.

Hedlund, however, said that a ban would help "to break the tie in young peoples' minds that sports and drinking go together and are inseparable, to break the notion that beer marketers can build upon the positive values of sports to reach new drinkers, underage drinkers and excessive drinkers." He spoke Friday in St. Louis.

The NCAA's Division I, which includes the group's highest-profile programs, currently prohibits the alcohol industry from sponsoring activities or promotions at championships, and it bans liquor ads during games. Also, alcohol can't be sold at championships.

However, Division I permits malt-beverage, beer and wine ads if the products have less than six percent alcohol by volume.

Backed by a growing number of universities and colleges that belong to the NCAA, critics hope the sports organization considers a ban when the Division I board of directors meets later this month to review alcohol advertising policy.

The center says 59 Division I universities, representing 18 percent of the division's members, back a prohibition on all alcohol advertising during TV and radio broadcast of NCAA games.

Critics have steadily blamed



Critics say that by running beer ads during the tournament, the NCAA is promoting underage and binge drinking.

alcohol industry advertising for underage problems, though no clear causal link has been found between advertising and underage drinking.

The center also criticized the NCAA for working with Anheuser-Busch Cos. on a poll last year that it characterized as understating the problems of underage drinking in college. It also pointed out that Ronald Stratten, an NCAA official who oversees alcohol education, once worked for the St. Louis brewer.

John Kaestner, vice president for consumer affairs at Anheuser-Busch, defended a \$2.75 million donation given to the NCAA Foundation more than a decade ago for the pur-

pose of alcohol education. He added Anheuser-Busch Cos. has no control over the money or how it is used.

Kaestner also said the center exaggerated the number of young people seeing beer ads during the games. About 90 percent of the television viewers of last year's games were over the age of 21, he said.

Since 1982, Anheuser-Busch Cos. and its wholesalers have spent more than \$500 million to promote responsible drinking and prevent underage drinking, according to the brewer.

"There is definitely a major commitment on the part of this company that is very sincere," Kaestner said. "Nobody wants to see their product abused."

'Scrap' Scrappy - it's time for a new mascot

KSU needs something more exciting and intense

Nathan McCreary
Sr. Staff Writer

KSU has been going through extreme changes over the past couple of years. The school population has topped 18,000, on-campus dorms have been erected, three parking decks are open, a new 4700-seat Convocation Center is finished and KSU athletics are joining the Atlantic Sun in Division I. It might be the perfect time to change another aspect of the school: the mascot.

Owls are used to symbolize wisdom and intuition. They can be scary and are great hunters, but honestly, there is nothing exciting about having an owl as a mascot. [Sorry Scrappy]. At basketball games the students call out, "Hootie hoo," which is not very threatening compared to a savage bark of a Bulldog or the menacing buzz of a Yellow Jacket, although the enthusiasm is encouraging.

In 1982, when then Kennesaw State College, began intercollegiate athletics, they needed a mascot. According to the Owls' media guide, the cat with wings was chosen due to "the tenacity of the raptor and the wit and intelligence that is associated with the bird. The combination of intelligence and tenacity is one which the university proudly identifies with." The reasoning sounds good, but can the university stress intelligence and tenacity while having a cool mascot?

When KSU chose the Owl as a mascot, it also adopted school colors from Georgia Tech [gold] and UGA [black]. Maybe it should have adopted a combination of their mascots as well. How about the KSU "Yellow Dogs" or "Bull Jackets?" Okay, maybe a bad idea, but KSU does need a new mascot,

and not just because owls lack the fierceness a mascot should possess.

Starting in the fall of 2005, KSU sports programs will be competing in the Atlantic Sun Conference in Division I. The problem is, there happens to be a school with an Owl as a mascot already in the conference. The Florida Atlantic Owls have been around since 1971 and joined the A-Sun in 1993. Florida Atlantic actually has a reason to have an owl as its mascot. The campus was built on a wildlife sanctuary that was and still is home to the feisty Burrowing Owl. FAU realized how unparalyzing owls are, so it added the word "fighting" in front of it, just as KSU did. There cannot be two Fighting Owls in the same conference.

If KSU wants to keep tradition and locality in the name of the mascot, why not go with KSU Mountaineers. The campus is in the shadow of historic Kennesaw Mountain. How about honor the military and take the name of the new F-22 fighter jet as a mascot? It is built by Lockheed and flown out of Dobbins. The teams would be known as the KSU Raptors. The area of Kennesaw is home to The Southern Museum of Locomotives and Civil War History, which houses the locomotive, The General. A locomotive which was involved in a famous chase during the Civil War. On April 12, 1862, James J. Andrews and his clan of Union spies, known as "Andrews' Raiders" stole The General out from under the noses of Confederate guards. The KSU Generals has a nice ring to it, or maybe the KSU Raiders.



The F-22 Raptor, constructed at nearby Lockheed, could make a nice replacement for KSU's mascot.

When approached with the possibility of a mascot change, KSU Athletic Director Dave Waples said, "There has not been anything official. You always hear people say the Owl is not mean enough, and so on and so forth." Waples suggested this isn't the first time a mascot change has been brought up. "It has been mentioned to me over the years by various persons, 'why don't you think about doing this, that or the other,' but there has been absolutely no movement on it," said Waples. "Almost every school around the country that hasn't been around for years and years looks at changing their mascot at one time or another, but there has been nothing officially."

With the acceleration of the athletics program, students are finally standing up and noticing that the teams at KSU are pretty darn good. More pride and spirit is needed at KSU if students want to be surrounded with the passion for school sports displayed in Athens and downtown Atlanta. Maybe a mascot change would bring that much needed energy, because when playing Division I competition, the Owls will need it.

Until proven otherwise, Braves are the team to beat

Last week, Harold Reynolds of ESPN's Baseball Tonight picked the Braves to win the NL East division this season. Why? "I picked them to finish fifth last season, and they won it," Reynolds said. "From now on I'm going to pick them first until they lose."

The Mets over-invest on burnt out players, the Phillies spend as much as their budget will allow, the Marlins only go for the Championship once every six years and the Braves take home the division title every year, just like someone who gets out of bed every morning and hops in the shower.

It has become routine for the Braves, who are going for their fourteenth consecutive NL East title this season and will probably get it. The formula is a mixture of confidence and the undeniable genius of the "Holy Trinity," which is comprised of GM John Schuerholz, Manager Bobby Cox, and Pitching Coach Leo Mazzone.

No matter how little leverage Schuerholz is given by stingy owners AOL Time Warner, he always finds some way to get the key players and make the key moves. This past off-season, Schuerholz may have pulled his finest move yet in acquiring ace pitcher Tim Hudson from the Oakland Athletics.

With Hudson on the roster and a rejuvenated John Smoltz finally back in the rotation, the Braves actually have a good chance of making it back to the World Series for the first time in six years and winning it for the first time in ten.

Practically unnoticed this off season were Atlanta's additions of Raul Mondesi and Brian Jordan to the outfield. Though both are veterans of the game and have suffered injuries in their pasts, they are also former all-stars and proven talents. Jordan played with the Braves earlier in his career, where his leadership often fired up a team that definitely some needed spirit. He was traded when the Braves received Gary Sheffield in 2002, and his positive attitude and personality will once again spread throughout the clubhouse.

Mondesi, a former Rookie of the Year and multiple all-star, never quite attained the star-player status he was expected to, but still carries a powerful bat and has one of the best outfield arms in the league.

These two acquisitions, the kind that never really register all that much with the media, are what make the Braves perennial postseason participants and Schuerholz a mastermind. When Atlanta wins the division again this season, it is a good bet that Jordan and/or Mondesi will have had something to do with it.

Also important is the fact that Chipper Jones is back at third base and the number three spot in the lineup, where he is most comfortable. Last season was the first time Jones failed to hit 100 RBI's in nine years, but now that he is back in his natural position and batting spot, his production should return to what it normally is exceptional.

The Braves could win the World Series this season. They could have won it any of the past ten seasons. But it will come down to whether or not the team actually has the drive and passion they so often lack when October comes. As far as winning the division goes? Like Reynolds, I too will consider counting them out when they first fail to make the postseason. But who knows... Barry Bonds might marry the media before that ever happens.

Tommy McNulty
Sports Editor



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