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WEDNESDAY, JULY 6, 2005



Lighting up the night Kennesaw continues annual July 4 celebration

Olivia Noland, *News Editor*
LaToya Cole, *Managing Editor*

Food, fun and music kept the party going as downtown Kennesaw celebrated the July 4 weekend. More than 25 minutes of uninterrupted fireworks lit the night sky in recognition of America's independence.

The fireworks went off downtown at The Depot, an historical Kennesaw landmark constructed in 1908.

Flashback, the featured band, played songs from the '60s to the present before the aerial fireworks display began.

"This [was] a way for our city to celebrate our nation's birth and to show support for our country," Kennesaw Mayor Leonard Church said.

Church said he believes the significance of Independence Day is "the birth of the greatest nation on earth."

The celebration has been a tradition in Kennesaw for more than 20 years and has attracted nearly 20,000 people each year.

Mayor Church said, "Between six and eight thousand people attend the show on-site."

Arlene Thomas has watched the fireworks from the porch of her antique shop, By-Gone Treasures and A Bit of Glass, located across from the depot. She has been at the location for 20 years.

"As many people that can get into town can come to the show," Thomas said. "They do lovely fireworks."

Peter Youngblood also watches the annual event from his store, Kennesaw Trains. The hobby shop, which specializes in service, repairs, custom painting and train supplies, has been open ten years.

"The event is for parents and kids and families to celebrate," Youngblood said. "I have



All photos by Nick Mracek | The Sentinel
Pyrotechnician, Ken, lights the fuse to three-foot canons during the celebrations in downtown Kennesaw.

seen more and more people each year, and I think that goes hand-in-hand with the growth of the area."

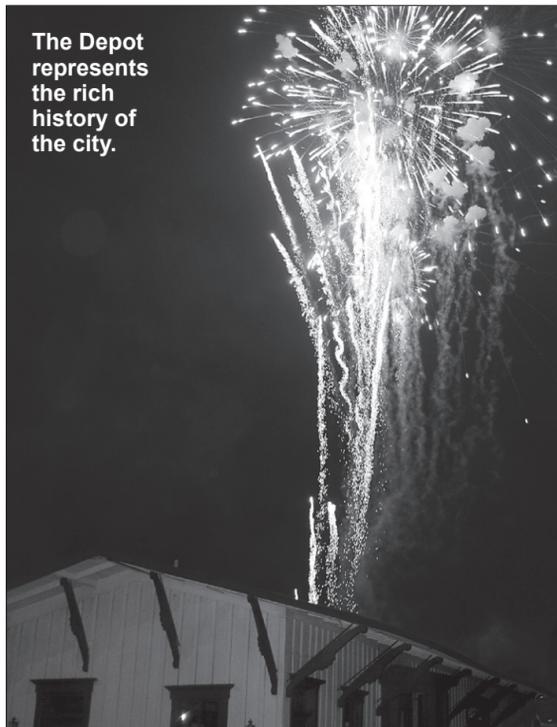
This event is one of the largest in Kennesaw, according to Laurel Fleming, Kennesaw special events coordinator.

"People come with their blankets, lawn chairs and picnic dinners and enjoy it," Fleming said. "We always have a grand time."

Fireball explosives that launch over 400 feet are the size of a softball. This is what is dropped at the bottom of a three-foot cylinder. The fuse is made of crate paper and lit with flares.



The Depot represents the rich history of the city.



Kennesaw's hidden treasure

Olivia Noland
News Editor

The depot in downtown Kennesaw was originally built in 1908 to become part of the Nashville, Chattanooga and St. Louis Railway, a railroad built in 1873 that operated nearly 1,300 miles of track.

Records from Kennesaw Historical Society indicate the depot is also used to house museum exhibits, a collection of artifacts and historical photographs of Kennesaw.

The official city Web site states there were additions made to the depot in 1920 and in 1998. A portion of the depot was restored with the aid of a grant from the Georgia Department of Transportation [Transportation Enhancement Activity].

Recently, a \$150,000 restoration to the depot's interior was funded and completed by the city of Kennesaw and the Kennesaw Historic Preservation Commission.

Water, water everywhere Sanitation line floods Kennesaw Hall

Elizabeth Stott
Staff Writer

The first floor of Kennesaw Hall flooded June 14, due to a sanitation line back-up underneath the building.

"Since there is a slight elevation change in the sanitation line under Kennesaw Hall, it has the potential to clog and leak more than other lines around campus, which have more elevation," Jodie Sweat, Director of Plant Operations said.

Several admissions offices and toilets in the first level bathrooms were also affected by the overflow.

"There was no damage to anything in the office except the carpet," Sweat said.

Vera Lukens, senior communication major, said this was the second time it has happened in less than a year.

"[The overflow was] mostly in the registrar's office," Lukens said. "They closed all the bathrooms in this building, so we had to go to another building."

Plant Operations is taking the necessary steps to correct the problem going forward. For precautionary measures, any future leaks would be contained to the mechanical room.



Jodie Sweat



Olivia Noland | The Sentinel

Meeting attendees gather to discuss scholarship.

Money given for education Scholarship to aid Hispanic youth

Olivia Noland
News Editor

The Celia and Marcos Scholarship, a scholarship program established for the Hispanic youth of Georgia, was awarded to 10 students June 24.

The program is a non-profit, tax exempt organization created in 1998 by the children of Marcos Maus and his wife, Celia. The focus of the program is to help Hispanic high school graduates excel in college.

"This is also an endeavor by all of the people who work at the university," said Julio Espana, Assistant Director of Admissions.

Recipients of the scholarships had to meet a variety of requirements, including being Georgia high school graduates, acquiring a minimum 3.0 GPA, a minimum 20 ACT score and a minimum 900 SAT score.

The most important qualification, however, was that the students could not be eligible for any other scholarship offered at a Georgia accredited college or university.

Espana gave the students a few words of advice for the beginning of their college careers.

He held up an undergradu-

ate course catalog and said, "This should be with you at all times so that you know where you need to be."

"You also need a schedule of classes, to surround yourself with friends who are going to help you graduate and, lastly, the professors - they are not mean. They are your friends."

Senator Sam Zamarripa, of Georgia, spoke to students on the importance of an education in America.

"You are very important to us," Zamarripa said. "Your success is important to me because I am you and you are me."

According to the organization's Web site, "The mission of the Celia and Marcos Scholarship Fund is to overcome the tragic drop-out rate of Latino students in Georgia. The Latino youth are the future leaders who will direct the destiny of the Latino community. In their hands lies the hope for a dignified, respected and fruitful presence for Latinos in this country. We want them to be educated and prepared for this task."

Each recipient received \$5,000 for the first year of college to be divided over two semesters.

"We are always scared of the unknown," said Espana. "Well, don't be."

POLICE BEAT

• Police responded to a complaint from the Unger House June 20. The complainant reported a missing shower unit, toilet, fireplace insert and heating unit. Police later discovered the items were removed by a contractor that had been given permission to remove them from the house June 17. No charges were filed against the contractor.

• A student resident noticed two apartment doors had been damaged at KSU Place June 6, when the student returned to their apartment from an errand. KSU Police found no missing items or subsequent damage to the inside of the apartments, but they did note the two doors had been forcefully entered.

Getting used to the noise on campus

New social science building breaks ground

Alex Danaila
Sr. Staff Writer

A new social science building is scheduled to be completed November 2006, as the push to accommodate the rapid growth of the university continues.

"It will be one of the largest buildings on campus and will have a great impact on KSU," John Anderson, Director of Facility and Design Services, said.

According to documents provided by Anderson, construction on the 161,000 square foot building began May 2005.

It will be five stories tall and provide 47 new classrooms, a 300-seat auditorium, which will mainly be used for presentations and social science related subjects, five research centers, five project centers and 120 faculty and department offices for the College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

"Now departments like sociology, anthropology, geography, psychology, the Dean's office and others will all be consolidated in one place," Anderson said. "We're all very excited about it."

The \$22.8 million project is funded by state government. Anderson said university officials have chosen The Facility



Concept artwork of what the new social science building will look like inside.

Group to be the primary builder based on the quality of work and past experiences with the company.

The building will also be Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design [LEED] certified. It is the first of its kind in the University System of Georgia.

According to the official LEED Web site, "Based on well-founded scientific standards, LEED emphasizes state of the art strategies for sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, ma-

terials selection and indoor environmental quality."

"It was something that started in the early part of the design," Anderson said. "We are looking into creating water and energy efficiency, recycling, indoor air quality, as well as saving the three giant oak trees and locating the building in an environmental friendly position."

"I think it will give KSU extra points because sustainability and environment have become a major issue," Anderson said, "however, there

is still a lot of paper work to be completed before it can be LEED certified."

Additional parking spaces will be built around the building. The primary parking for the building, however, will be in the North parking deck. Anderson said he hopes students will use the parking deck, which was not used to its full capacity in fall 2004.

The building, on the east side of campus, will be opened for faculty and students spring semester 2007.

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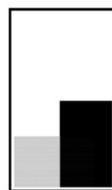
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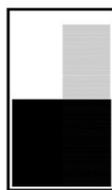
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VIEWPOINTS

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The other side of the fence Students square off on Dean's recent political stance

From the left...
Mike Miracle

Howard Dean has once again proved himself the Democrat one would least like to kick in the groin, lest you end up with a broken foot.

Showing his brass ones in a fashion only he can manage, Dean summed up the Republican mantra in two words: white Christian. Dean's objective was not to alienate all non-white, non-Christians from the Republican Party, but rather to show the people of the United States, or at least those listening to Dean's rant, that the GOP's majority of white Christians is a huge factor in their slight-sightedness of how our government should be run. Dean, himself a member of the Christian faith, understands our increasingly diverse country needs government parties that reflect this diversity. Not to say that a party filled with, and led by, white Christians is necessarily a bad idea. However, managing in our world politically with said strategy is absurd.

The growing number of immigrants, coupled with our ballooning global economy requires us, the United States, to have a plethora of heterogeneous governmental heads debating, talking, deliberating and conversing inside the political arena. The blurred lines of our economy, of our self-defense, of our boundaries demand such action.

Dean's brassy observations help bring these discrepancies to light. Sometimes it takes loud and blatant insight to clear the smoke from the hazed eyes of the majority. Dean sees the United States from a global perspective and what he may lack in political savvy, he gains with rigid truth.

Thank you, Dean, and preach on.



... And the right
Chris Bennett

When the Democratic National Committee elected former Governor Howard Dean they knew exactly what they were getting. Dean was recently quoted as saying the Republican Party is pretty much a "white Christian party." It is hard to dispute that many Republicans are white and that many of them are Christians but would it be fair to say the Democrats are a mostly "black atheist party?"

The point Dean was trying to make was that the Republican Party only cares about white Christians and the Democrats are much more inclusive. This is not true, and it is absolutely absurd to say so. The Republican Party is not a secret society that only rich white guys join, it is party for people who believe that we, as individuals, do not need the government in every part of our lives. Individuals can make it on their own merits. I do not know what that says about the kind of people who make up the Republican Party, but I do not think it has anything to do with race or beliefs.

Dean believes in little things called entitlement and wealth distribution, and there is a common misconception that because a person is poor he or she must also want these things. I am a poor white Christian. I make less than 20,000 a year. I do not drive the newest car, and I do not play the newest video games, but I do own my own house with the help of my fiancée. I did not join the Republican Party because I am white, Christian or rich. I joined because I believe in making it on my own. I do not need Dean's money, and I certainly do not need his more inclusive party.

The other KSU

by Mike Sengbusch



Letter to the editor

A soldier's letter

Dear Editor,

My unit has been on computer blackout for almost two weeks, so I have not been able to write. This happens when someone is either killed or wounded. We have had one of those weeks where improvised explosive devices [IED] have been frequent. My theory is that it is due to the large sandstorms we have had. So this has brought about sporadic IED, rockets and mortar fired at our forward operating base.

This place has been an experience and one thing that stands out in my mind is time. Back in the states, we focus on it but we most often let it go by without thinking. Here, time is everything: it is the difference between success and failure, good and bad, getting him before he gets you and if you see tomorrow or not. Time is looked at when you are getting ready to go on patrol, how long it takes you to react to an IED on a roadway, getting grid coordinates and if there is any damage to headquarters.

We are constantly running out of time trying to find, and get a fix on, enemies who are trying to end our time on Earth. Time is getting through the process of cordoning off an area, sealing it up so no one gets in or

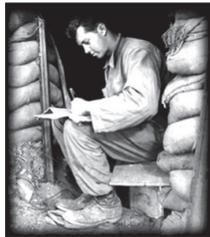
out, and searching every house in that particular village. Time determines clearing and searching all these homes, more than 55 total, and getting the hell off of the objective before the sun comes up. All this must be done even though we have all been up for more than 49 hours.

Time is wondering if you had gotten there two minutes sooner, would Sergeant "X" still be alive after the ambush. When we have a lot of time, we ask ourselves just what we could have done. Time is training the Iraqi army to above standard so that, one day, we can go home. We can leave Iraq to return to a more peaceful place where, to quote Mick Jagger, "Time is on our side."

Time is, finally, me sitting here thinking about all I put into planning, rehearsing, executing, thinking, wondering, longing, questioning, praying and counting down the days until my time is up. I hope sooner rather than later, the freedom bird will bring me back to the states and my loved ones can give me the time of day.

It is crazy, but through it all, I pray for time. To do the things that we do not normally think about, as time passes us by.

ILT Allen Hill
HHC 2-70 AR
Alumni



Is MARTA the answer?

Metro Atlanta needs public transit options

Hannah E. Key
Advertising Manager

How much worse will congestion have to get before something is done? As the premier metropolitan area of the South, it is utterly embarrassing to call Atlanta my home while nothing is done about some of the worst congestion, and the worst air quality, in the nation. It is not that attempts have not been made. They have. The good ideas are either defeated or buried, and the bad ideas are too costly and get us nowhere in the long run.

MARTA, in its current state, is not a viable public transportation system. Expansion of MARTA is not likely for two reasons: it requires voter approval, and MARTA uses a system of heavy rail, which is exorbitantly expensive and takes a significant amount of time to construct. The cost of expanding MARTA is a burden of which both tax payers and riders of the system are not likely to shoulder.

Most of the south Georgia legislators are not receptive to any sort of mass transit system, particularly rail-based ones. They see it as another money drain toward Atlanta and north Georgia from which their dis-

tributions receive few benefits. Their solutions have come in the form of building more roads [double-decking the interstates] and bus-rapid transit [BRT]. The problem with building more roads is that the cost is \$1,000 per square foot and construction cannot begin until seven years of impact studies have been completed. With an average of 80,000 residents added to the metro Atlanta area every year, that translates to 560,000 new residents just during preparation for road construction. Further, adding new roads does nothing to help improve Atlanta's horrendous air quality.

While bus rapid transit does theoretically improve air quality by removing passenger vehicles from the street, each bus only holds an average of 60 passengers. Although you are taking those cars off of the roads, unless the bus itself is using an alternative form of fuel, there are no real improvements due to the relatively low number of people transported. Another problem with BRT is that people are particularly skeptical of riding buses, especially in suburban areas. The popular belief is that they are crime-ridden and dirty. Few commuters in northern Cobb County would ever trade their Lexus SUV for the BRT, even if it eliminated sitting in traffic for two hours on a 15 mile commute.

Commuter rail has solved

problems of congestion in many metropolitan areas such as the VRE in northern Virginia or the TRE in Dallas-Ft. Worth. Commuter rail uses existing railways and, after minor upgrades are made, can run at speeds up to 85 mph. The capacity of commuter rail dwarfs that of BRT and heavy rail, with trains that can hold up to 1,000 passengers. Implementation of commuter rail is fairly short and could feasibly be completed in three to five years. Integration with existing systems could easily be completed through multimodal stations linking commuter rail, MARTA and BRT together via one economical station.

Imagine driving less than five miles from your home in Woodstock to a commuter rail station where you park your car, get on a train and after one transfer to MARTA, you are delivered at the airport 30 minutes later without having to fight traffic or worry that you will miss your flight. Eventually, the Georgia Rail Passenger Program will link seven commuter rail lines in metro Atlanta with other cities and towns across the state,



Traffic clogs metro Atlanta highways.

as well as pairing lines with metropolitan areas in adjoining states, such as Birmingham and Jacksonville. What continues to prevent commuter rail from proceeding as planned is funding. The federal government provides partial funding, but the remainder must be generated through taxes, fares and capital investment.

Every citizen in the state of Georgia should be concerned about the lack of a real public transportation infrastructure in metro Atlanta. However, the foresight in this plan goes beyond metro Atlanta to provide for all Georgia residents, whether you live in Valdosta or Villa Rica. If we all need to pay even 3 cents extra in sales tax in order to fund this project, we should. For once, greed should not overcome a sense of the greater good. If it does, we will all suffer the consequences of daily traffic compounding at an unimaginable rate.

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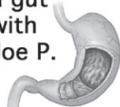
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Joe indulges at Chuck E. Cheese

Joe Pettis
Columnist

Remember how much fun it was when you were a kid to go to Chuck E. Cheese and play video games. Do you wish you could take a time machine back to your childhood so you could relive all those moments in the ball pit or playing Skee Ball? Well my friends, I have good news, not only can you still enjoy the good times at Chuck E. Cheese, but you can actually get drunk at the same time! [Note: I am not encouraging the excess use of alcohol, but let's face it, college kids drink, why not drink in a family environment?]

Busting a gut with Joe P.



That is right, anyone 18 or older is allowed into Chuck E. Cheese anytime to enjoy the fun games and awesome shows. Those 21 and older can actually enjoy a cold beer at the same time. However, there is one catch. If you plan on drinking at Chuck E. Cheese, you must bring one thing with you. And no, I'm not referring to your identification. The only way you can order alcohol at Chuck E. Cheese is if you have a kid with you.

Now, I know what you are thinking, "Why on earth would they serve beer only to someone responsible for a child's safety?" Well, there is some logic to it. They don't want a bunch of alcoholics running around the place scaring all the kids, and they figure the only way to keep crazy party animals out of the family-friendly environment is to keep drinking down to a minimum by only serving alcohol to those to have kids with them.

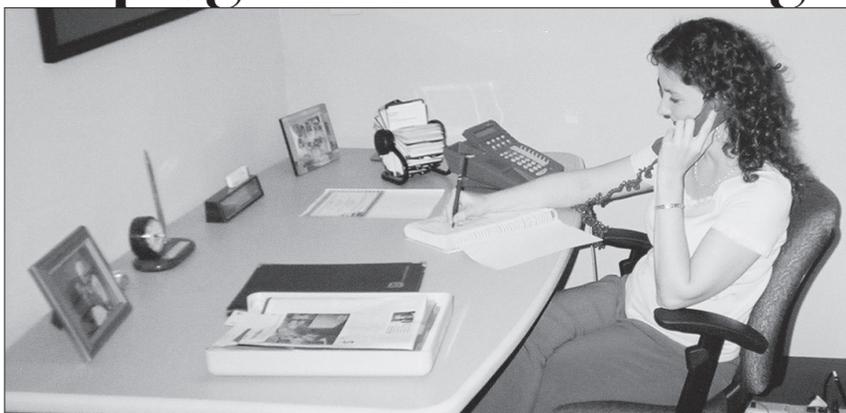
Don't let this deter you from finding a way to increase your fun while playing at Chuck E. Cheese. Like everything in life, there is a loophole. The policy is that you must have a kid with you, they say absolutely nothing about it being your kid.

The solution? Find a random kid off the street and ask them if they want to go to Chuck E. Cheese. After all, what kid is going to pass up an opportunity like that? Now, it helps if you actually know the kid, otherwise you might run into other trouble, such as kidnapping. So, find a younger sibling or cousin and have them tag along.

Give the kid \$10 in tokens and let him do his thing. All you have to do now is sit back, enjoy the cold beer, and don't get so plastered you end up passing out in the ball pit!



More than words: Keeping in touch after college



LaToya Cole | The Sentinel

Samantha Mote keeps in touch with her friend Clark who she met while attending KSU.

LaToya Cole
Managing Editor

Climbing the collegiate ladder is a social experience. For many students, the college years are filled with once in a lifetime moments. More memorable than the classes or the teachers, are the good friends. The strength of those bonds can be tested after college, when many people have a significant amount of time, miles and life separating them.

Technology has made the world a smaller place. "Thanks to the advent of email and the Internet, we are constantly in conversation," Stephanie Stinn said of her college friends. Stinn, a 1998 graduate of the University of South Carolina, rarely hears from the guys she a "different story."

"We all go out with our husbands, who get along well, so that helps," Stinn said. Several of them have the same cellular service provider, which allows them to talk for free. One friend keeps an electronic Web journal they all visit frequently.

While email and cell phones make constant contact easier, one literally has to be willing to go the extra mile.

Stinn, who lives in Atlanta,

drives to see one of her college pals in Birmingham, Alabama. "It is such an easy drive from here, I meet up with her several times over the course of a year," Stinn said. Stinn said she also believes an individual has to want the friendships to work. "We all take time to keep in touch because we know it is vital to the survival of our friendship."

While Stinn's college guy pals are all missing in action, Misty Lacefield's post college circle of friends is the exact opposite. "What surprised me most about the friends I keep in touch with is that it's mainly all the guys," Lacefield, a 2002 graduate of Georgia Southern University, said. For her, the girls have become "fair weather" friends. "I know my guy friends will always be there to listen to me," she said. While Lacefield talks to her friends all of the time, for them nothing is better than a good old fashioned party. "Mainly it's for celebrations, like birthdays and weddings."

Although most in the sea of friends swim, some sink. Samantha Mote can attest to that. "As the years rolled on, we were in contact less and less," said Mote, a 1992 KSU graduate. Aside from Christmas

cards, she does not talk to many of her college friends. All is not lost for Mote, though. Her "forever friend" in her group turned out to be her friend, Clark, who eventually married her sister.

Time, effort and desire are the keys to success for any friendship. When friends are extremely close in college, the relationships seem to carry on naturally. "These are amazing people, and I want to keep them in my life," Stinn said, "even if we don't live in the same dorm anymore."

Blame Will Smith Independence Day not lost on Adam

I experienced my first American-style Independence Day barely three months into my stay in this country last year. To be honest, my impressions didn't linger long. I'm hoping this time around, now that I'm fully immersed into the United States, the experience will be a little more interesting. The circumstances of American independence certainly call for a celebration.



DOWN UNDER
By Adam Stevens

Unlike most nations, Australia doesn't really have an independence day. We have something close – the anniversary of federation, but since the country is still part of the Commonwealth, full and irrevocable independence has continued to elude us. Considering the date of federation, January 1, is already a public holiday with New Year's Day, not many people are aware of it. Ask any Aussie what July 4 means to Americans, though, and it's almost guaranteed they'll know the answer. Blame this on Will Smith, Bill Pullman and those pesky aliens if nobody else is around to take the fall.

Independence Day certainly carries more importance to Americans than pretty much any Australian national holiday, with perhaps the only equal being Anzac Day. The Fourth of July is a time when, even if only temporarily, Americans unite to celebrate the spirit and good fortune of their nation before collapsing back into partisan bickering. All the rousing spectacles that take place across the country are ample illustration of the meaning of the day. As an outsider, it's great to see such patriotic pride. Australians are by no means unpatriotic but the expression of this feeling is certainly much more understated. So, for me, it's just as interesting to see the way Americans treat the holiday as it is to know about the meaning behind it.

One of the wonderful things about celebrating holidays in the United States is the food. Back in Australia, a barbecue was pretty much the done thing, and here it's pretty much the same. Any day that involves grilled steaks, ribs and sausages is a winner in my book. My new mother-in-law delights in putting on a feast, so much so that I suspect I'm fattened up for nefarious purposes, but there's nothing like a good banquet to add to the occasion.

Who can forget the fireworks? The only time I've ever really seen fireworks go off is New Year's Eve, and unless one wished to cram oneself into the center of Melbourne with literally 500,000 other people, one would be watching those on the TV. We saw the fireworks display in Smyrna last year, and even for a small city they had some pretty impressive pyrotechnics going off. I can only imagine how wonderful they'd be in a city like Washington D.C. or New York.

I'll be checking them out again this year – let's hope they're just as impressive. Hope y'all had a wonderful, patriotic weekend.

Foundation shares the American dream

Teri Sforza
The Orange County Register

Kids would shout nasty words at her in English and laugh. The frustration, the fury of not understanding their language burned sharp and sour in her throat. It's a feeling Mayte Santacruz Benavidez will not soon forget.

Santacruz Benavidez, then 11, would not allow an unfamiliar language to stand in her way for long. A few months after she arrived in California, in 1993, she was proficient enough for "English learner" classes.

In her junior year of high school, she slipped behind the looking glass into a completely different world: honors classes.

Santacruz Benavidez, 22, became the first member of her family to graduate from high school. This June, when the University of California at

Irvine grants her a degree in political science, she'll become the first to graduate from college. And this fall, she'll attend UC Berkeley's Boalt Hall School of Law.

Santacruz Benavidez is one of 14 immigrant students who will get a \$20,000 stipend from the Merage Foundation for the American Dream to help pursue their goals over the next two years.

Paul Merage, a philanthropist from Newport Beach, Va., came to the United States from Iran as a teen, went to school, worked hard and made his fortune in frozen foods.

He and wife Lilly started the foundation last year to counter the perception that immigrants are a threat to the United States.

Immigrants, the Merages strongly believe, are the backbone of America, part of what

makes this country great.

The "American Dream fellows," are that ideal incarnate. Eric Myukiyeh will be amid American Dream fellows with Santacruz Benavidez.

Myukiyeh, 28, was born in the African nation then known as Zaire. He was studying medicine in the capital, Kinshasa, when the uprisings against iron-fisted ruler Mobutu Sese Seko began.

He joined the student protests for greater democracy. After a violent rally, where a man drove a car into a crowd of students, and a hospitalization, he felt compelled to become more active, and switched from studying medicine to law.

When his country began to implode, civil war broke out, Myukiyeh, with the help of the United Nations, escaped to Cameroon in 2000. Eight months

later, he arrived in Seattle.

At first, he got a job moving boxes in a warehouse, and felt incredibly lucky. He studied English with ferocity, worked his way up to sales manager. He banked as much money as he could, and soon found himself burning to return to school.

So Myukiyeh took a great leap of faith. He quit his job, enrolled at Seattle Central Community College and earned his associate of arts degree. He couldn't believe it when he was asked to be a commencement speaker.

He transferred to the University of Washington, volunteered for the Desmond Tutu Peace Foundation and the Refugee Assistance Program, and got his bachelor's degree in political science.

He'll use the Merage stipend to help pay for doctoral stud-

ies at Columbia University. He plans to focus on international relations, conflict resolution, globalization and democracy.

"At every step of the way, I thought that was the best I could ever achieve. But every step opened up new doors, new opportunities. Where I went was even more amazing than what I left behind," Myukiyeh said.

He's excited about going to New York City, but he knows that someday, somehow, he must go home to the chaotic place of his birth. To what used to be Zaire, and is now called the Democratic Republic of Congo.

"It has always been within me. Whatever I do should be in the purpose of helping the country I come from. It has always been my intention," he said.

The Merage Foundation is banking on it.



Roaming Reporter

What are your plans after graduation?

Compiled by Alex Danaila



Scott Aolbers
 Informations Systems
 junior
 "No Idea, I just want to graduate."

Jani Bumann
 Nursing
 junior
 Be a nurse.



David Wyatt
 Exercise and Health Science
 senior
 Personal Trainer.

Jonathan Sanders
 Secondary English Education
 junior
 Teach in metro area and go to grad school.



Matt Denis
 Marketing
 senior
 Do marketing for a construction company.

Stephanie Dye
 Nursing
 junior
 Work in an Intensive Care Unit.



Titus Sairo
 Nursing
 junior
 Work at a hospital as a nurse and go to grad school.

Crossword

- ACROSS
- Coll. employee
 - Decisive defeat
 - Demi Moore film
 - Spout nonsense
 - Coastal bird
 - Too weird
 - Creative flash
 - Primary
 - Extended family member
 - Transgressions
 - Certifies under oath
 - Error
 - Plant sprayers
 - Took ten
 - Greek letter
 - Picture holders
 - Short, witty remark
 - Actress Witherspoon
 - Make lace
 - In crowd
 - "__ from Mars"
 - Subleases
 - Goddess of folly
 - Be nervously irresolute
 - Comforts
 - Gnats and ants
 - Vie
 - Entice
 - England's __ Downs
 - Funnyman Johnson
 - Pig or cast follower
 - Tempest
 - Cake layer
 - Feels unwell
 - Finnish bath
 - Remnants
 - Foot feature
- DOWN
- Spectrum maker
 - Diameter halves
 - Bakery appliances
 - Lavish meal
 - Do-over movies
 - Sermonizes
 - College credit
 - Apartment building
 - Chaps
 - Stick up
 - Raw mineral
 - __ transit gloria mundi
 - PGA peg
 - Lateral part
 - Packing heat
 - Banks of baseball
 - Fictional Butler
 - Bumps and bruises
 - Browned bread
 - Met songs
 - Slow, in music
 - Slanted surface
 - Land of the free
 - Lascivious looks
 - Under the weather
 - NY, NJ and CT as one
 - Idyllic place
 - Submits for approval
 - Gave clues
 - Future oak
 - Pause mark
 - Inventor Howe
 - Bric-a-brac piece
 - Fairy-tale villain
 - Perceive
 - Celtic land
 - Snaky shape
 - Sch. org.
 - Old French coin

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
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59	60	61						62			63		
64								65			66		
67								68			69		

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Solutions on page 9

KSU summer calendar

Alex Danaila
 Sr. Staff Writer

July 2005 calendar of events. For more information visit www.kennesaw.edu/student_life.

July 9
 12 p.m.
 Delta Sigma Pi summer meeting

July 10
 5 p.m.
 SIFE summer project meeting

July 11
 7 p.m.
 The Bridge meeting

July 15
 7 p.m.
 American Chemical Soc. meeting
 7:30 p.m.
 Faith on Campus bible study

July 16
 8 a.m.
 TPS Culture Camp field day
 5 p.m.
 SWORD LARP event

July 17
 3 p.m.
 Delta Sigma Theta chapter meeting

July 23
 4 p.m.
 SWORD LANS party

July 24
 5 p.m.
 Phi Mu summer recruitment workshop

July 26
 8 a.m.
 Bookstore book buyback table
 11 a.m.
 Career Services summer job table/UPS

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The second coming Sony's PSP forces gamers to choose

Jason Nimer
Viewpoints Editor

It's been a few months since Sony released its handheld, the PSP. When the handheld launched in April, it was barely a week before more than 30 games hit the market. This marked one of gaming histories' best new console launches, but since then, releases have been few and far between. Sony has managed to rush a small number of titles to market, but with the summer's few upcoming releases already garnering bad reviews, where do PSP owners turn? Well, an unlikely answer has just come down the pike, and Sony couldn't be angrier.

All across America, gamers have been frustrated with Sony's apparent inability to support its new handheld. In many gamer's eyes, this summer's E3 video game conference was the final straw. A mere two months after the PSP's release, Sony's information booth had little-to-no new PSP offerings for the public. Instead, they used the conference to focus on the companies' upcoming Playstation 3. PSP owners were looking at a bleak gaming future, with the nearest big name releases falling in late August. Just as many were considering selling their PSP's, a ray of light came from an improbable source.

A few weeks ago, hackers in Spain developed a "crack," or way to break into the PSP's operating system. What does this mean for the casual gamer? Without getting too technical, this means emulators can now be run on American PSPs. "What's an emulator?" you might ask. An emulator is a program that mimics other video game systems, allowing gamers to run older, classic video games on their PSPs. Instantly, the PSP's measly game library exponentially increased, giving new life to the lagging handheld.

Now that gamers are happily running old Nintendo, Super Nintendo, and Sega Genesis games, Sony is scrambling to stop the trend. They have announced updates to the PSP's source code, included in upcoming game releases, which would prevent the system from running these emulators. Sony has also released downloadable updates that tighten up the security of the handheld. So at this point, gamers have a choice: do they purchase the new, big name PSP releases and sacrifice the ability to run old games, or do they stick with the classics? Only time will tell, but as of right now, it seems the majority of gamers have jumped on the emulation train, and most are not looking back.



Sarah Goehler | The Sentinel

Crimea rocks Atlanta fans

Earthlink Live hosts London transplants

Sarah Goehler
Staff Writer

Earthlink Live hosted a sold out show Wednesday as special guest Billy Corgan set out to promote his new solo album "The Future Embrace." Fans poured in and ones fortunate enough to arrive early caught the first band of the night, The Crimea.

The Crimea is a group that has been working their way into the hearts of fans all across the globe. The London natives started their career with Warner Brothers Records in 2003, and their latest album "Tragedy Rocks" is bound to launch these guys into stardom. The Crimea was labeled "The Ones to Watch" in 2004, and rightfully so. They have a style all their own. It is one that can be appreciated for its originality

and intensity. Seeing everything brought to life on stage confirmed this is a group of talented individuals. Their performance at Earthlink Live was a spectacle to say the least.

After taking the stage, Davey MacManus [vocalist/guitarist] mumbled his British tinted greeting and began to make magic. His stage presence was so strong the crowd watched just to see what he was going to do next. As he sang, the way his body moved was enough to make the onlookers smile. Andy Norton [lead guitar] played his riffs perfectly while enjoying himself at the same time. It was obvious these guys are having a blast on this tour. After The Crimea completed their set, MacManus stumbled off stage in what appeared to be a state of exhaustion, after giving the crowd all he had.

Doris Henson was next on the bill for the night. These guys were a little upbeat and fluffy in comparison to the other groups

in attendance, but the show went smoothly. The only comments about the band that could be overheard were regarding the lead singer's cheese-ball grin that he managed to maintain throughout the entire show.

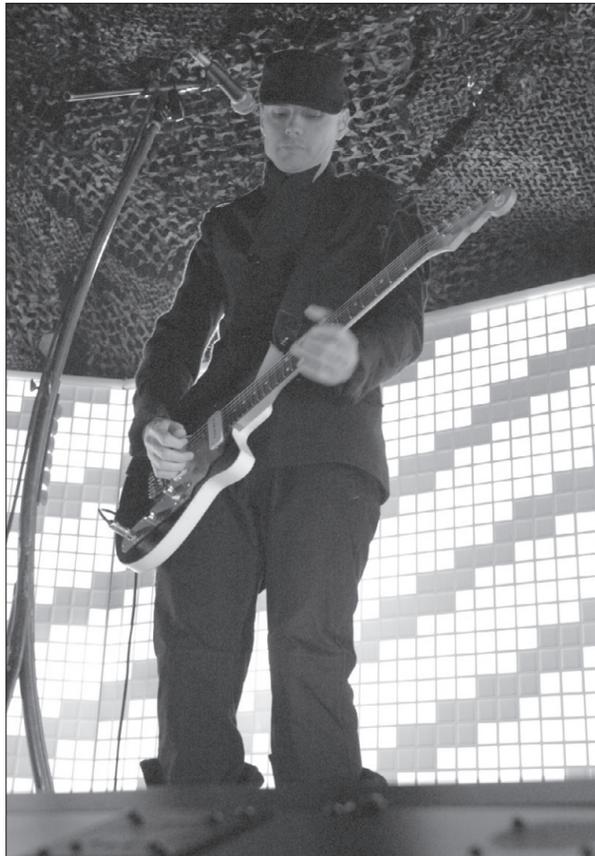
To contrast Doris Henson's bouncy performance, Billy Corgan took the stage and gave a dramatic performance. His show was all about the attitude, and Corgan definitely has it. The light-

ing for the show was amazing. It gave the show a sense of professionalism and intensity. There was not a whole lot of energy on stage, as it was more of a hypnotic vibe that Corgan gave off. It was a neat performance and it proved that Corgan still has what it takes to draw the masses to his shows. Maybe resurrecting the Smashing Pumpkins is not such a bad idea after all. It is clear that Corgan is still capable.



Photos by Sarah Goehler

Billy Corgan's band entertained with Crimea.



The new age of porn Adult Web sites step into the 21st century

Jason Nimer
Viewpoints Editor

Since its humble beginnings, the Internet has been widely used to distribute and view pornography. The modern Internet has grown beyond anything anyone ever expected, and the porn community has followed suit. It is extremely difficult to conduct a search for anything on the Internet and not run across at least one porn site. While many take issue with Internet porn, it continues to be one of the Internet's biggest businesses. So far, the Internet has been out of the reach of government censorship but, starting very soon, it will be easy to distinguish explicit sites from normal ones.

In a recent development, the International Foundation for Online Responsibility [IFFOR] conducted a study on the possibility of creating a TLD string to differentiate adult sites from mainstream ones. A TLD string is the last three letters of a Web address, much like .com or .org. The IFFOR selected .xxx as the best TLD string to use for these Web sites. Other TLD candidates, such as .porn or .adult did not transcend as well to other countries and languages, so .xxx seemed the perfect choice. After their research was concluded, the IFFOR shopped the .xxx TLD string to the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers [ICANN], the Internet's main oversight body. ICANN voted 6-3 on the proposal, and we could now start seeing .xxx Web sites by the end of 2005.

This was, and continues to be, a controversial decision. Many fear that explicit sites will not give up their .com addresses. Another concern is the issue of censorship. Who is to say what is and is not pornography? On the other side of the issue, many are concerned that the .xxx move is simply a tool to extort more unneeded fees from the owners of pornographic Web sites. Also, some view the move as identical to zoning regulations that keep pornographic stores out of certain cities and towns. While both sides have valid concerns, it seems the .xxx TLD string will soon be here to stay.

Summer Calendar [Arts & Ent]

Sarah Goehler
Staff Writer

Summer is here and so is the summer excitement. From outdoor festivals to off-the-wall exhibits, now is the best time to make plans to attend some of the many upcoming events available in Atlanta. The Sentinel has the schedule to keep entertainment in everyone's life, and there is even a list of free events the "poor college students," such as ourselves, can attend. The only thing left to do is enjoy.

MUSIC:

Date	Event
July 6	Hot Tuna at Variety Playhouse
July 7	Tom Jones at Chastain Park Amphitheatre
July 9	Smokey Robinson at Chastain Park Amphitheatre.
July 11	Les Claypool at Variety Playhouse
July 12	Sounds of the Underground Tour at Hi-Fi Buys Amphitheatre Static-X at Masquerade
July 13	Dave Matthews at Hi-Fi Buys Amphitheatre
July 15	Destiny's Child at Phillips Arena Himsa with The Esoteric at Masquerade
July 16	American Idols Live at the Arena at Gwinnett Center Kenny Chesney at Phillips Arena
July 17	Elvis Costello at Chastain Park Amphitheatre Kenny Chesney at Phillips Arena
July 19	DuranDuran at Chastain Park Amphitheatre
July 20	Carol King at Chastain Park Amphitheatre Faith Evans at Earth Link Live
July 21	Sugar Water Festival 2005 at Chastain Park Amphitheatre
July 22	Vertical Horizon at the Roxy Theatre
July 23	Hot 107.9 Birthday Bash at HiFi Buys Amphitheatre GBH at Masquerade



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ARTS & THEATRE:

Date	Event
through August 21	The [Impolite] Science of the Human Body. On view at Fernbank Museum of Natural History
July 6-August 7	Mahalia - A Gospel Musical at Theatre in the Square
July 8th	Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Presents a Grand Ole Opry Evening at Chastain Park Amphitheatre
July 12-17	Peter Pan
July 13	Atlanta Symphony Orchestra with Dave Koz and Earl Klugh at Chastain Park Amphitheatre
July 15	Jeff Foxworthy presents One For the Gipper! at the Arena at Gwinnett Center. A concert to benefit GIP Gayle
July 15	Friday Jazz at The High Museum of Art
July 12-31	Hansel and Gretel at The Center for Puppetry Arts



SPORTS:

Date	Event
July 6-7	Atlanta Braves v. Cubs at Turner Field
July 6-9	Ethiopian Soccer Tournament at the Georgia Dome
July 8	Friday Night Fights at Earthlink Live
July 8-10	Atlanta Braves v. Milwaukee at Turner Field



FREE:

That's right -- there are free things to do in Atlanta:

Downtown Rocks

Starting July 9, 99X will be kicking off its free summer concert series, Downtown Rocks. Every Saturday night through August 13, bands will take the stage at the new location in Underground Atlanta. The lineup includes:

Date	Event
July 9	Cake, Stereophonics, The Caesars, Trances Arc
July 16	Weezer, The Bravery, The Dead 60's, Second Shift
July 23	TBA

Visit www.99x.com for more details.

Unplugged in the Park

A free event for audiences 21 and up. This is a concert series that takes place at the Park Tavern, which overlooks Piedmont Park. Shows start at 7p.m.



Date	Event
July 10	Sovus Radio, World Leader Pretend
July 17	Wonderfall, Acres
July 24	Dodd Ferrell, Clay Cook

Lasershow Spectacular

Nightly through August 14, Stone Mountain Park hosts its annual lasershow. This show is free with the purchase of a parking pass. The show starts at 9:30p.m. every night, so do not be late!



Horoscopes

By Linda C. Black
Tribune Media Services

Today's Birthday [07-06-05]. Sure, some of the odds are against you, but the evens are on your side. You have a hidden advantage this year. No need to tell everyone what it is.

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

Aries [March 21-April 19] Today is a 5. The person you find most irritating today is your guru. He or she has been dispatched to help you learn an important lesson. First, figure out what that is.

Taurus [April 20-May 20] Today is an 8. You look for the substance in every situa-

tion, so it's easier for you to find. Point it out to somebody who doesn't have a clue.

Gemini [May 21-June 21] Today is a 6. It doesn't take more work to get rich. This time, it takes persistence. Hold onto what you have, and gather up more. This is not cheating.

Cancer [June 22-July 22] Today is an 8. Nobody said it was going to be easy. Yes, you are being tested. Are you authentic? Do you know your stuff? You bet!

Leo [July 23-Aug. 22] Today is a 5. Confession is good for the soul, but timing is important. Don't tell a person who's not authorized to know, even if pressed.

Virgo [Aug. 23-Sept. 22] Today is an 8. Join up with a good team. They'll carry you to victory. You don't have to actually play the game, but you're involved. No doubt about that.

Libra [Sept. 23-Oct. 22] Today is a 6. Somebody who's important in your life has decided that there's not enough to go around. Instead of being flippant, acknowledge the feeling. It's a scary one.

Scorpio [Oct. 23-Nov. 21] Today is an 8. You're lucky now, in love and with creative endeavors. Conditions are excellent for taking calculated risks.

Sagittarius [Nov. 22-Dec. 21] Today is a 5. You're more in the mood than usual to figure out what you owe. Once that's established, figure out how to pay it off, fast.

Capricorn [Dec. 22-Jan. 19] Today is a 7. One of the most important components of leadership is to know when to step aside and let somebody else do the job. Practice that skill today.

Aquarius [Jan. 20-Feb. 18] Today is a 6. You're quite imaginative, but this time it's your experience that's required. If you don't have enough for this task, find somebody who does.

Pisces [Feb. 19-March 20] Today is an 8. Sometimes you're just in the mood for old-fashioned comfort food. If that's the case now, and it probably is, a little self-indulgence won't hurt.

Baseball

Game	1	2	3
Kennesaw	8	3	3
North Florida	3	7	5

SPORTS

Softball
Lynn 5, Kennesaw 2

Angel in the infield

A look at one of KSU's most dominant softball stars

Matt Cutrona
Sports Editor

Keri McKee impressed softball scouts long before she began attending KSU. This southpaw from Buford, GA started her illustrious playing days at Gwinnett High School and broke almost every hitting record in the county.

"Keri is a big time talent," Head Softball Coach Scott Whitlock said. "The first time I saw her play I told her coach [now that's a softball player], and I knew I wanted her to be an Owl."

McKee was the 2000 Gwinnett County player of the year and was her school's MVP each year from 2000-2002. She finished her high school career with a batting average of .381 and holds the Gwinnett county record for career singles, doubles, triples and RBIs.

At first base for the Owls, McKee's glove is an important factor for success. However, her bat has become a staple of why the team has improved and

how they made such an impact at the 2005 Division II NCAA Tournament. "Keri is not only one of the best players I have ever coached," Whitlock said. "She is also one of the best people I have ever coached."

This spring McKee proved why she is such a valuable asset to the Owls. The women made it all the way to the NCAA Division II National Championship game before losing to Lynn University, 5-3. McKee's bat seemed to make the highlight reel in every game of the tournament, and she was one of five Owls named to the All-Tournament team.

"She's always got a smile on her face, and she's always in great spirits," Whitlock said. "She's got this bubbly personality that everyone gets along with."

This season McKee continued her record-breaking ways as she passed Krissy Bamford's single-season hit record of 94 with a home run in the National Championship game. She hit .415 this season with an unprec-

edented .672 slugging percentage.

"She's going to get better," Whitlock said. "If she wants to play professionally after school, she could definitely do it."

McKee was named an All-American this year, and if her statistics continue at this rate she will be on the list again.

"I'm very honored to be named All-American," McKee said. "I am so blessed and fortunate to have such a wonderful support system from my teammates. If it wasn't for them, and how well they all hit, then none of this could be possible."

McKee has shown why she is one to watch in just her first two seasons at KSU. With two seasons left, and the jump to the Division I Atlantic Sun Conference, McKee is sure to continue turning heads in the softball world.

"Keri is a competitor," Whitlock said. "She wants to win, she doesn't care how. She doesn't care if she's the star or someone else is, she's a team-oriented player."



2005 Division II All-Championship Tournament Team

Brittany Matthews, Kennesaw State
Aimee Murch, Lynn
Elizabeth Beyer, St. Mary's
◀ **Keri McKee, Kennesaw State**
Vanessa Rodrigue, SF State
Courtney Mataik, Kennesaw State
Alex Acosta, Lynn
Jenie Scott, Lynn
Danielle Curcio, Lynn
Jen Hunt, Kennesaw State
Jordanna Freemer, SF State
Krystal Lewallen, Northern Kentucky
Cambria McKay, Kennesaw State

Photos courtesy of Richard L. Johnson [R] McKee had an advantage as a lefty. There are much more right-handed batters than southpaws. [L] She also had a .990 fielding percentage along with her team leading batting stats.



NASCAR: No longer just a bootlegging business

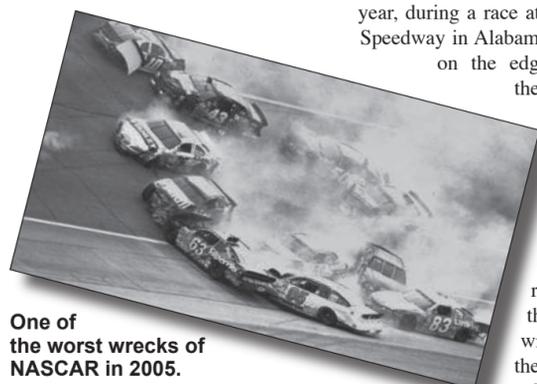
"Boogity, boogity, boogity! Let's go racing boys!"

Berry Dabbs
Staff Writer

In the 1920s and early '30s the best racecar drivers in the country could be found slinging up debris on unpaved southern roads. These drivers had to be fast to elude capture from the law that was hot on their trail. The runs were filled with miles of no holds barred action winding through country towns just as if it were Luke or Bo driving the General Lee. The outcomes of these races could prove to be profitable or deadly.

As the sport of racing entered the '50s and '60s, the cars got stronger and faster. This period also hosted the circuit's only black race winner, Wendell Scott. Scott struggled during this time period, just as Jackie Robinson and Bill Russell endured in their respective sports.

How times have changed.



One of the worst wrecks of NASCAR in 2005.

Today, NASCAR is dubbed the world's largest spectator sport drawing crowds of over 200,000. Hundreds of thousands of people visit each venue at 36 NASCAR locations during the ten-month season. This rise in popularity has also tightened the bond between race teams and sponsors. Sponsors pay up to \$20 million to be part of NASCAR, and it seems both are reaping the benefits. Many advertising campaigns include the young faces of drivers and help build on NASCAR's new makeover.

"Two years ago, I could not have mentioned any drivers by name off the top of my head," Peter Kamau, a KSU student said. "Today I could list ten or 20. NASCAR has recently shown that they are trying to be more diverse and appeal to a larger audience."

This season, NASCAR made some changes. One important change is how the races no longer finish under caution. When a crash occurs or debris is on the track, caution comes out, and drivers must maintain position in the field. Last year, during a race at Talladega Super Speedway in Alabama, the crowd was on the edge of their seats the last several laps. Dale Earnhardt Jr. and Jeff Gordon had battled back and forth from the start. Once the race approached the last 10 laps, a wreck occurred in the back of the pack and forced the offi-

cials to wave the yellow caution flag.

The tape showed that Gordon inched past Earnhardt Jr. as the flag was thrown. The final eight laps were run, to no avail, as Gordon was awarded the victory. As the decision was announced to the fans, beverage bottles and beer cans flew like fireworks on the Fourth of July.

How times have changed.

"NASCAR was not as familiar to me in past as it is now," business major Jennifer Minshew said. "Marketing of the sport has allowed many new fans, such as myself, to gain interest in something I never would have imagined."

The first half of this season has brought some surprises for the drivers and the fans of NASCAR. Many of the drivers who were on top last year, have slid back under the radar. Some of these drivers include Earnhardt Jr., Matt Kenseth, and Bobby Labonte. A couple of youngsters, and some long-standing veterans, have replaced them.

Two of the veterans in the points hunt this year are Rusty Wallace and Mark Martin. This season is the last for each of these drivers, and they are trying to leave one last impression on the sport before retirement. Each of these drivers has been a part of NASCAR for more than 20 years and will be missed by the organization and many of its fans.

This season has also shown how tension between drivers can add to the excitement for fans. Several incidents have occurred when drivers made contact during the race. A slight bump into a rear bumper at 180 mph will cause a car to spin and will usually cause the



car not to finish,

which leads to a loss in valuable points for the standings. This has always been part of NASCAR but has not been as prevalent since Dale Earnhardt Sr. earned the nickname "The Intimidator" before his death a few years back.

This season's disputes have involved several different drivers. Early in the season Tony Stewart and Jimmy Johnson got into arguments claiming the other as the cause of race-ending crashes. More recently, Stewart and Gordon had an off-track verbal bashing in the media. The teams of NASCAR may not like their \$1 million vehicles totaled but for the fans, it goes back to the saying, "rubbing's racing."

NASCAR sets itself apart from other major sports by allowing fans more freedom to bring food and drinks into the event. Fans also have the option to

come early in the week and camp out in the parking lots preceding a race. Coolers are allowed at nearly every venue at which NASCAR stops.

One of the most heralded venues for this activity is Talladega Super Speedway. This track has hundreds of acres of free space set aside for race fans. The party is non-stop and a massive mobile city is created around the track leading up to the weekend's racing action. These incentives have helped NASCAR reach the high popularity it enjoys today.

How times have changed.

NASCAR's effort to stand out in a nation filled with other major sports is paying off. Opening its arms to a larger audience has contributed to this rise in popularity and income. If the past few years is any sign of what the future holds, NASCAR will grow and reach a larger sector of the public eye and finance.

One win shy from trip to playoffs

Owls lose to North Florida in the South Atlantic Region Championship

Matt Cutrona
Sports Editor

It was a season of highs and lows for the baseball team. The Owls added some new players in the off-season for a different look but they couldn't squeak by rival school, University of North Florida, in the South Atlantic Region Championship.

"We were happy with the way the season turned out," Head Baseball Coach Mike Sansing said. "We were second in conference, second in the region and we obviously wanted to win both, but we just couldn't get the final game."

In a best of three series, the Owls took the first game 8-3. KSU had a chance to earn a place in the Division II National Championship Tournament with just one more win against North Florida.

"The team played consistent all season long," Sansing said.

"We didn't have many long winning or losing streaks where losses hurt our record."

The second game started out as a pitcher's duel, as the teams both went scoreless through five innings. North Florida broke the scoreless tie rallying for six runs off KSU pitcher Matt Eckardt in the bottom of the sixth inning. North Florida took the game 7-3 to force the deciding game three in Jacksonville, FL.

"We had a lot of young guys that we had to send out on the mound," Sansing said. "It was great to get these freshmen experience for next season, but they were in really big spots in this tournament."

The Owls received some news about one of their stars that made the loss to North Florida a little easier to swallow. The Seattle Mariners, in the 24th round of the 2005 Major League Baseball First

Year Player Draft, selected first baseman and part-time catcher Kevin Gergel.

"Kevin did a great job all year," Sansing said. "We are all very excited about him getting drafted into the Mariners organization and wish him the best of luck."

The Owls will continue to build the team to get ready for

the Division I Atlantic Sun Conference. A scholarship was just awarded to Josh Robbins, a Calhoun, GA native, along with several other freshmen.

"This conference move is a great one for baseball and the university," Sansing said. "The players and coaches are really excited, and we are ready for this terrific opportunity."

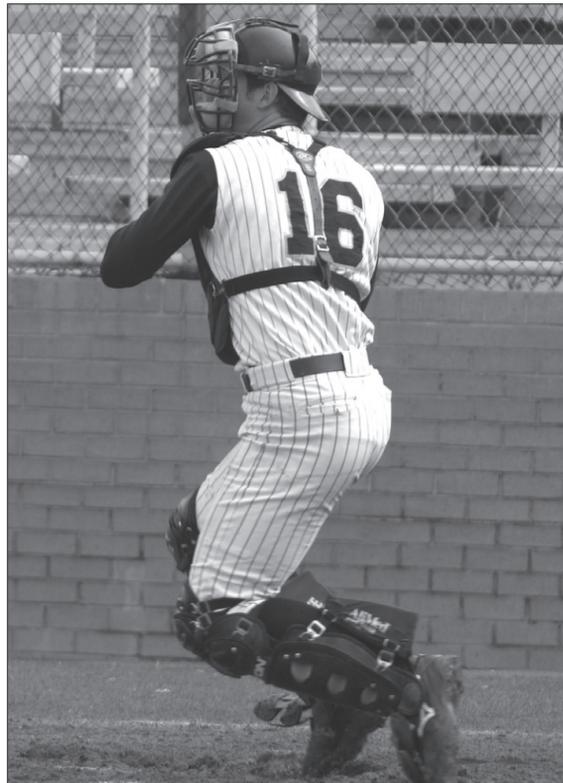


Photo courtesy of Richard L. Johnson
Catcher Kevin Gergel was selected by the Seattle Mariners in the 24th round of the 2005 Major League Baseball Draft.

Owls in MLB draft last five years

- 2004● *Brett Campbell, [Montreal Expos]
- 2003● *Grant Reynolds [Oakland Athletics]
- 2002● *Adam Brandenburg [Cleveland Indians]
- 2001● *Matt Pender [Detroit Tigers]
- 2000● *Donny Hood [Chicago Cubs]
- 2000● *Lloyd Turner [Oakland Athletics]
- 2000● *Landon Stockman [Detroit Tigers]
- 2000● *Jamie Tricoglou [Colorado Rockies]
- 2000● *Nate Cotton [Cincinnati Reds]
- 2000● *Judd Ross [Cincinnati Reds]
- 2000● *Zach Wycoff [San Diego Padres]
- 2000● *Lee Rodney [Detroit Tigers]

* On a current minor league roster as of June 2005

Braves' team of rookies keeps hope alive

The Atlanta Braves won their fifth consecutive game June 28, giving them their longest winning streak of the season. The significance of the winning streak is it was achieved without Chipper Jones, Tim Hudson, Mike Hampton or John Thomson- all vital players for the Braves. In their places were first year rookies fresh from the farm.

After a slew of ill-timed injuries in May and early June, it looked as though the Braves run of 13 consecutive division titles would finally come to an end. First Thomson went on the DL with a torn tendon in his hand, and then Chipper injured his foot. Finally, when things seemed as if the season was a lost cause, out went Hampton and Hudson to leave an empty void in the starting pitching rotation.

Tommy McNulty
Columnist



SIDE LINED

However, due to GM John Scheurholtz's drafting and Bobby Cox's masterful managing, not only have the new Atlanta rookies made do- they have thrived and kept the team at the head of the pack while it waits for the return of its big guns.

Going from a one-time prodigal shortstop prospect to a suddenly mediocre minor leaguer, Wilson Betemit has stepped up big for the Braves as a fill-in at third base for Jones. He batted .325 through June 29, and the potential many scouts saw in him a few years ago is beginning to shine through once more.

After Raul Mondesi was released from the team, Cox realized Brian Jordan could not cover both corner outfield spots and brought up rookie outfielder Kelly Johnson to take over left field. Although Johnson got off to a rough start, only getting one hit in his first 33 plate appearances, his offensive skills clicked in early June and earned him NL Player of the Week honors for the week of June 13-19. In that timeframe Johnson batted .417 and hit three homeruns and 10 RBIs.

Other rookies who have gone above and beyond the call of duty for the team are outfielder Ryan Langerhans,

speedy utility man Pete Orr, catcher Brian McCann and infielder Andy Marte.

As for the hole left in the starting rotation, rookies Kyle Davis and Jorge Sosa have filled in as if both have been big league starters for years. Davis did not allow a single run in his first 13 innings, and Sosa, a former reliever, has duelled with and beaten great pitchers, most notably Dontrelle Willis.

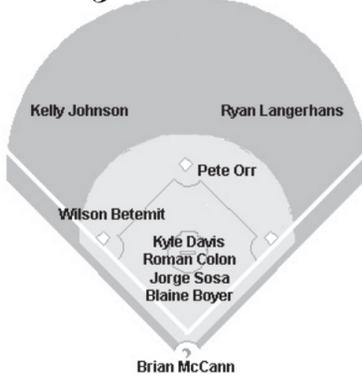
The bullpen, once the Achilles heel of this year's team, has come together and drastically improved with an assembly of young hurlers. Rookies Roman Colon and Blaine Boyer have added depth and meshed well with veterans such as Chris Reitsma and Kevin Gryboski.

As great as the rookies have been, two players have truly carried the team on their shoulders- Andruw Jones and John Smoltz. Jones went on an insane power trip in the month of June, leading the majors as of June 29, with 24 homeruns. And the naysayers who proclaimed Smoltz did not have enough left to go back to starting are now silent. The longest serving Brave has regained Cy Young form and has completely befuddled offenses, maintaining a low 2.74 ERA at the start of July and pitching the second most innings out of any starter in the NL.

This period of injuries and rookies was supposed to be the Braves' low-point of the season- an opportunity for the other NL East teams to knock the annual king off its throne. This period was supposed to be the time the Atlanta Braves finally came back down to reality. But knowing that it's the Braves, and that the Braves always find a way to win- everyone should have known better. So this team of talented rookies will keep dreaming up in the clouds, and their NL East counterparts will continue shaking their heads, wondering if 'America's Team' can ever really be beaten.



2005 Braves Rookies



Nick Mracek | The Sentinel

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CAMPUS POSITIONS

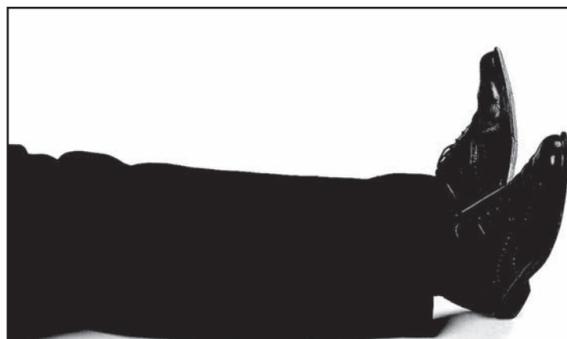
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