



Hail to the Chief

Last Thursday President Harden was officially named the Third President of Clayton College & State University!



In the presence of many distinguished figures Dr. Harden accepted the responsibility of becoming the third president of Clayton College & State University.

The Gym in the Athletic and Fitness Center was filled with faculty, staff, students, friends and family to witness the inauguration of Dr. Harden. The ceremony began with faculty, staff and students marching in a processional which was led by the Grand Marshall, Dr. Rebecca Haylard.

As the ceremony began many of the honored guests had nothing but great appreciation to share about Dr. Harden. Mayor Jim Millirons, or Morrow, shared his appreciation of being a neighbor of CCSU and giving thanks for bringing respect to the city of Morrow. State Senator, Terrell Starr, also praised Dr. Harden for his accomplishments.

The ceremony seemed to climax as Chancellor Dr. Stephen R. Porch placed the presidential medallion around Dr. Harden's neck, and the crowd proceeded to give Dr. Harden a standing ovation.

As Dr. Harden approached the podium to give his inaugural address the crowd stayed silent in anticipation. He began by accepting the responsibility of his presidential duties and giving praise to those that helped him reach this pinnacle of his career. He showed great appreciation and love towards his family. He emotionally referred to his wife as his advisor, counselor, spiritual mentor, and wonderful mother of their son and three daughters.

Dr. Harden focused his speech around ageless lessons and new perspectives. He shared stories of lessons learned from his life, and not just those from the classroom but those from everyday experiences. He went as far back to state that higher education roots all the way back to the Roman Empire, and that then higher education was only for the elite. However,

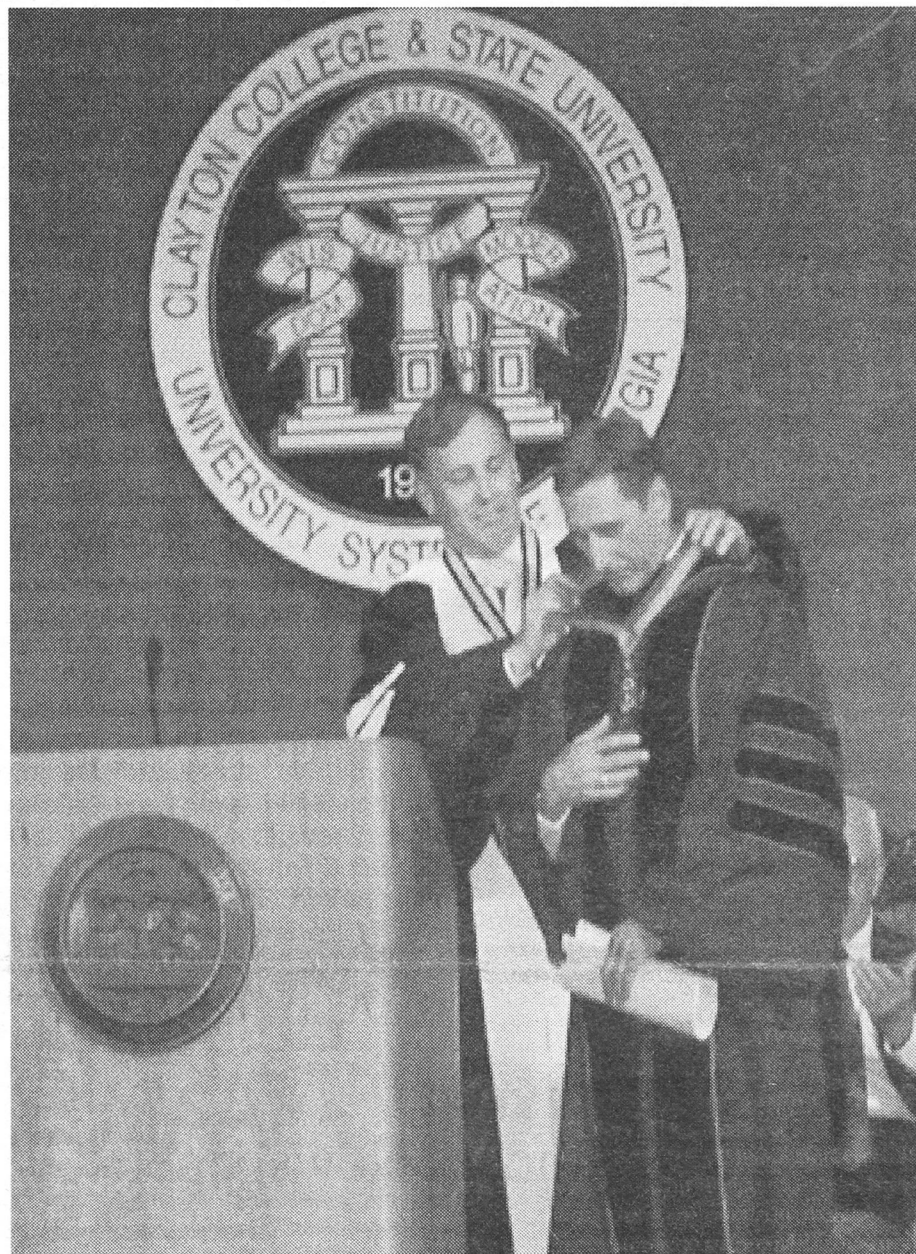
today, higher education can be for everyone, and degrees are being completed in record numbers. Clayton State, also, has proudly contributed to the shift to greater access of higher education. One prime example, is The Information Technology Project that has brought notebook computers to all students at CCSU. Clayton was one of the first universities to become a notebook university. Many universities have since joined us in becoming a notebook university.

Dr. Harden spoke on the identity of the college and how it has changed throughout the years. The fact that this college is known by so many names has given CCSU somewhat of an identity crisis, or has it? Looking back and seeing where we began as a Junior College and seeing what we have developed into, does not create an identity crisis, but gives us an uniqueness that most colleges do not have. Most of all, Dr. Harden emphasized that all these changes are building a road so that we know where we are going: we intend to be YOUR UNIVERSITY.

In the process of becoming YOUR UNIVERSITY, CCSU is making strides to make this institution accessible to students with different interests. Just this past semester we have added the Bachelor of Science in Applied Biology, the Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene, and the Bachelor of Science in Psychology and Human Services. He stated that we will continue to expand our academic repertoire and develop academic programming to meet student's needs.

In conclusion he stated, "To work hard through innovation and new perspectives, through the dedicated work and creativity of the faculty, staff and students, we will be a catalyst and an agent for greater

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College Television Comes to Clayton

SGA proposes television programming for CCSU students

By Jamee Holland
Staff Writer

You know those times when you sit in the cafeteria knowing that you need to study, but not quite being able to bring yourself to do so? Well, those long hours between classes

are about to become a lot more interesting. The Student Government Association (SGA) has presented a proposal to Dr. Harden, CCSU President, and other important voices at CCSU, and if approved it will allow them to sign a contract with The College Television Network. College Television Network, frequently termed CTN, is programming devoted especially to college students nationwide. The broadcast is stocked full of the latest music videos, movie reviews, sports, celebrity interviews, and up to the minute news de-

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IMHO IN MY HUMBLE OPINION

College Life Outside of Class

IS the Georgia State Flag issue helping us look towards the future or is it keeping us living in the past?

By: Kevin Dixon
Editor-in-Chief

For the last ten years of my life I have had the privilege of calling myself a Georgia resident. What does it mean to have a home? Does it represent a place where you feel comfortable and are always happy to be, or does it stand for a place that is constantly bickering over past issues? For the last fifty years the state of Georgia has been up in arms over a certain flag that flies over our capital, and they have been up in arms about what it stands for. It symbolizes a time of racism and oppression, or does it symbolize a battle emblem that was flown bravely as Confederate troops died around it? Both sides of this issue have been debated to the point of irritation and it will continue. I have a hard time understanding how a piece

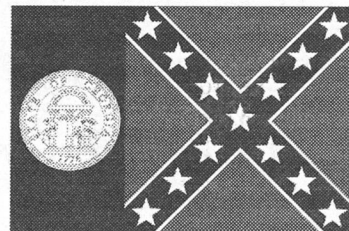
of cloth that represented a time over one hundred years ago can still cause hatred among "American," Georgia residents. For twenty-one years my father served in the military and for eleven of those years were during my lifetime. I have seen so much in my still young life, but I have never seen has much hatred than that of what I have experienced here in Georgia. Living in Arizona, before I moved here, I was told by my parents how the south was a beautiful place to live and how everyone was so polite. By then I was used to moving and just took what they said with a grain of salt.

When our family finally settled down into the small town of Warner Robins, Georgia, I was introduced to a different style of living that I was not accustomed to. I did find that people were much friendlier here than out west, but I was still adapting to other things, like fried food. When it came time to enter high school and football season rolled around I was introduced to a whole new experience that was like nothing I had ever seen before. Our school was famous for two things, one, our nationally ranked football team and two, our "Dixie" Demon Marching Band. Every time our team scored a touchdown you could hear the melody of the song "Dixie" for miles away. Being an ignorant freshman, I had not a clue what that song was or what it meant. Well, about a week into our season signs popped

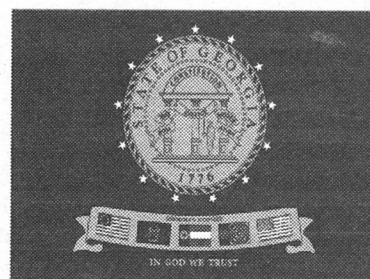
up saying, "We support the Demons, but we don't support Dixie!" Finally I asked my folks what "Dixie" was, and they finally filled me in. The only thing was that not one of the players knew or even cared what the song meant; yet it still managed to cause disruption. Warner Robins is widely known as a military town, and it has a mixture of races within its borders. I will never forget the day that the parents of several black kids pulled their children out of class in an attempt to boycott Warner Robins' football season. Luckily, a compromise was reached and Dixie was not played for the remainder of that year.

The point I'm trying to get at is that hatred and vengeance from a hundred years ago can affect a petty thing such as high school football. I was always taught not to live in the past, but to learn from the past. Heaven knows that not a soul on earth can change the past, but every soul on this earth can control the future. If our society continues to thrive their passion towards the past, we will never gain any ground. I will be the first to admit that if I could change what hap-

pened to cause the Civil War I would, but I can't. All I know is that I want to create a world that is a model for my future children and all those that come after them, and I hope more will come to realize this as well. The examples that we set for our youth are what they will learn and it is what they will do. For it is they who will lead us into the depths of 21st century.



OR



which do you prefer?

The Bent Tree CCSU Student Newspaper

Editor-in-Chief:
Kevin Dixon

Assistant Editor:
John Dixon

Editors:
Heather Starr, Opinions
Jamee Holland, News
Brian Magill, Entertainment
Dillema, advice

Special Thanks to:
Gid Rowell,
Athletic Articles
Jon Shiffert,
University Media Relations

Bent Vent

Frustrated? Aggravated? Irritated? Do these words describe how you feel? Well, now is your chance to let your angst out! This column is dedicated to you, the students of CCSU to express yourself through words. This is the place to air your grief and beef with society and of course our beloved campus.

My Liberty Bay account is down so much, I had to treat it for clinical depression.

My Internet connection has the greatest security features, even I can't get on.

SSSHHHH!!!! The library is not a social gathering place, so shut-up!!!

If I wanted a yellow car I would have bought one. I hate pollen.

WARNING!!! The geese are mating, walkers beware!!!

I want my french fries, I want them hot, and I don't want to pay half of my paycheck for them.

Hey, my car tag cost as much as my technology fee!

Why is it called a 1040 EZ, there is nothing easy about it.

ITP Choice, anyone have an extra \$2500 I can borrow?

Where oh where has my web space gone, where of where can it be?

Thanks for a great year! See you all in the in the Fall.

Respectfully Submitted,
Heather Starr
Opinions Editor

Dear Dilemma

Dear Dilemma:

I've been with this guy since December of 2000. Since then we've broken up 2 separate times. He had just gotten out of a horrible ending relationship, and he claims that he's not read. Then it seems in the very next breath he is asking to be with me again. It hurts to break up with him all the time, but I enjoy being with him. I'm wondering if I really should give him time to get over her, because he really does want to be with me and is honestly not ready just yet? OR does it sound like he knows I'll be around always, so he knows he can keep breaking it off, then asking me back?

Sincerely,
Confused

Dear Confused,

It sounds like you picked this guy up when he was very much on the rebound, and now you are experiencing the very typical results of that. He won't let things take off between the two of you, because he is paranoid about getting hurt again in a relationship. At the same time, he is longing for the emotional and physical closeness that he experienced with his ex, and he sees the opportunity to fill that void with you. As long as it is obvious that you are interested in being with him, he will see you as a safe person to date. You pose no threat to him of being dumped or being hurt. He keeps breaking up with you because 1) He doesn't want to give you the chance to break up with him first. His fragile ego couldn't take that right now. 2) He still misses his ex, and he is afraid that his residual feelings for her will ruin what he has with you, and 3) Part of him just doesn't feel like getting involved with anyone. Have you ever been hurt very badly in a relationship? Losing someone you care about through a break up can be devastating, and most people need to go through various emotional stages before they can accept the loss. Elizabeth Kubler-Ross's Five Stages of Grieving actually are entirely relevant in this situation. Her stages are denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance. Feelings of denial and shock would make him feel numb to any relationship. Feelings of anger would no doubt manifest themselves into feelings of rejection. He would be angry with himself for whatever he might have done to make her break up with him. He would be angry with her for making him so miserable, and he might even feel some overgeneralized resentment toward all women for having the potential to reject him the same way. It sounds like he is in the bargaining stage right now. He is preoccupied with thoughts of his ex, and he is intensely pining for the euphoric feelings that he experienced in the pinnacle of their relationship. He now sees the opportunity to experience those feelings again with you; however, he's

absolutely not ready. Before he can start a healthy new relationship with you or anyone else, he will have to go through a period of depression. I don't mean he needs to lock himself in a dark room for a month and cry. He just needs to allow himself to feel all of the emotions. It is healthy for him to let his sadness out. It is a terrible idea for him to pretend like he is not hurt and for him to skip the depression stage. This will only cause him to bring emotional baggage into his future relationships. Once he has experienced the full range of emotions, he will be able to accept the loss and the rejection, and only then will he be able to have a normal relationship with you.

Unfortunately, there is no set time frame for the rebound process. He definitely needs a little more time to recover. The best thing for you to do is to be honest with him. Tell him that you care about him, and you would really like to date him, but you feel like maybe he should take a little more time to make sure that he is actually ready. Just make sure that during his recovery time, you do not become the friend that he vents to. I know you want to help him get through it faster. You want to help him get his feelings out, and you probably want to join him in bashing his ex. BUT if you let him tell you about all of the things that he loved and hated about his ex, you will earn yourself the wonderful position as non-datable best friend. Leave that job to his guy buddies. Just keep his interest with some occasional flirtation, and let him come back to you when he truly is ready.

Dear Dilemma,

I have had these questions on my mind since I became a student here two years ago. Why do we have a library that cannot keep people from talking? Why do we hire people to control this problem, and they can't even do that simple task? Why is our college library barely stays open past "bedtime?" I know the college has plans for a big library in the future, but I would like to have seen this problem solved "yesterday!" After all this is one privilege that I do pay for, and I would like to receive the courtesy that I have paid for

Anonymous

Dear Frustrated with the Library,

I understand what you mean about there not being a good place to study on campus. The library and the student center are the only places on campus where tables and chairs are provided and where studying might be feasible. During the breaks between classes the library can get pretty crowded and noisy, and it is absolutely impossible to study in the student center.

I was curious about whether or not our library even has an official rule about students being quiet, so I called and asked. It turns out that such a rule does not exist. The very friendly librarian

that I spoke with told me that there are signs posted in the library requesting that students stay quiet, but it really is just etiquette. She said that being quiet is just expected in a library setting. She told me that whenever there is a noisy person or group of people disturbing others, one of the librarians will gladly ask them to leave upon request.

You can check on the library's hours at <http://gil.clayton.edu/caldisp.php> to make sure that it is open before you go. Most weeknights, the library closes at 10:30pm. You must understand that since Clayton is a commuter college, the library does not expect many students to be on campus much later than that anyway, and there really is not a big demand for later hours. Also, the school is on somewhat of a tight budget due to all of the plans for expansion. This means that it cannot afford to keep the library open all night just so that a few students can study. If there really is a demand for later hours, and I am just not aware of it, you may want to start a petition for students who would like the library to be open later, and then present your argument to President Harden.

Since you are so adamant about being able to study late at night, I would think that you have a pretty busy, inflexible schedule. I would also assume that your home must not be a convenient place to study since you are so concerned about the library. It is a common problem for students to become frustrated, because they cannot find an appropriate time or place to study. Maybe they have to work a job, maybe they have children that are noisy and demanding, or maybe they are spread thin with numerous campus sports and clubs. Since the library is an icon for learning, it is easy for students to use it as a scapegoat when they are having trouble learning. Yes, it is frustrating when the library gets too noisy, and it certainly is understandable that some people need a quiet place away from home to study late at night. I really think that dwelling on the problems you see with the library will only stress you out more. My advice to you is to rearrange your schedule so that you can study earlier if you need to study in the library. Choose a nice quiet corner, and if anyone bothers you, ask the librarian to kick him or her out.

Dear Dilemma,

If you have problem with a professor of yours that tends to degrade women just about every other day, what would you do?

This professor doesn't say this in these exact following words, but if you were to ask anyone in his/her classes, they would tell you that this is what is implied. See following:

He/she has basically stated that women are no good for anything except sex and that men are smarter than women, and so on. Also, another thing he/she talks about is death.

In my opinion, these are not subjects that should be discussed in a classroom. There are way too many debates there. This is NOT a debate class, it's a Lecture class.

I don't want to get this teacher fired because he/she comes off as a very nice person when they're not in class and when they're teaching, I just believe that he/she should keep their degrading opinions to themselves.

Thank you for listening to my complaint. I know you can tell who I am by my e-mail address, so please contact me and let me know what I should do in this case. Whether or not I should talk to him/her first and let him/her know that what he/she says bothers me or should I just go to the Dean? Or any other suggestions would be greatly appreciated.

Thanks,
Tired of being Degraded

Dear Tired of Being Degraded,

My best advice to you is to contact the Counseling and Career Services, in the Student Center. They keep all issues, like yours, completely confidential and handle problems like this all the time.

One thing you might want to consider doing is invest \$30 or so into a portable tape-recorder, and record his/her lectures. You can be completely obvious about this, because students record lectures all the time to help them learn the material better. Many times, if professors know that everything they say is being recorded, they will clean up their act and be much more careful about what they say and how they say it.

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Campus News

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velopments provided by CNN Headline News. Also featured are issues that are important to students, public service announcements, and messages broadcast four times an hour to inform students of upcoming events and activities on their own campuses. The magazine, *Link*, works in conjunction with CTN and issues will be available to students while watching the broadcast. This is entertaining and informative; sounds a little more productive than reading history chapters you won't remember two hours later, doesn't it?

So what about the cost of bringing CTN to Clayton? Guess what everyone, it's free! CTN will not charge CCSU anything for the use of their programming, and will even install the monitors, mountings, software, and satellite dish. Their operational costs will be covered by the use of advertisements. CTN will even make any necessary repairs and continue to upgrade the system throughout the duration of the contract. This does not include any damage caused students, so please think twice before throwing any objects at the screen.

There is a small downside to this, however. If approved, the contract with CTN will be for three years. That means, even it does not get a good response, it will be there for almost all of the remainder of

our college careers.

There is also only one channel. However, CTN provides a variety of programs, so that may not prove to be too much of a problem. Even better, there will not be any arguments of what to watch. Choices will be CTN, CTN, or CTN. Still, students will be unable to control the volume of the monitors. This will be done by remote control in one of the offices above the Student Center, more than likely the Office of Student Life. The volume may be lowered in the event of special programs or activities taking place in the Cafeteria.

Because both SGA and CTN are interested in student response, student surveys will be distributed before installation, if the contract is approved. Even though there is not a way to get out of the contract for three years, the Student Services Committee would like to know what everyone thinks of CTN. While Heather Starr, Chair of the Student Services Committee and newly elected President of SGA, stresses that the decision is now in the hands of Dr. Harden and others to which the proposal was made. She reveals that the committee has already mapped out the locations of the monitors, and for

now the monitors will be located in the Cafeteria and Student Center. If approved, the implementation will take place as soon as possible, so that students at CCSU can soon enjoy the programs provided by CTN.

Currently, two million students, in more than 1,700 colleges and universities view CTN. Until a decision is reached by the powers that be, CCSU will have to continue filling the gaps between classes by other means.

continued **Harden** from page 1

growth. I am proud to say that Clayton State is MY university, and I challenge you today to make Clayton State *YOUR UNIVERSITY* as well.

As everyone began to leave the auditorium, and the ceremony was coming to an end, it began to sink in. The fact that this university is in the process of becoming a true academic four year institution and is building quite a following. I am proud to say that I attend Clayton College & State University, and I am proud to help make this *YOUR UNIVERSITY!*



What is an Ambassador?

By definition, 'ambassador' means, "a diplomatic official of the highest rank appointed and accredited as representative in residence by one government to another." Please be assured, the Office of Admissions does not expect such pomp and circumstance! However, several key words definitely convey our message: a representative of the highest rank. **We are looking for the best students to represent Clayton State with pride.**

What about you? Are you a potential Ambassador? Here are a few questions:

- Do you consider yourself a "people person"?*
- Have you had good experiences at CCSU?*
- Do you enjoy meeting new students and talking with them?*
- Would you like to encourage students who are interested in your major?*
- Can you share information about clubs and organizations on campus?*
- If CCSU is a good choice for you, will you recommend it to others?*

This is a unique opportunity. You have a chance to be directly involved in the successful growth of CCSU. The reputation of our institution is strong, but the work of admissions is never really done. As each orientation and registration period ends, we are looking ahead to the next semester's prospects with

anticipation. Through the continued support of our current students, our admissions efforts will be enhanced and strengthened. We utilize our Ambassadors to give tours, host events, visit high schools, and contact students. You will be an integral part of our strategic plan - to attract applicants and to ensure enrollment.

Do you remember the issues you faced when deciding which college to attend? You could make a difference by contributing an hour or two of your time occasionally to help make this process easier for someone else. In addition to a bit of personal satisfaction, we offer several incentives in return, such as: recommendations and references, priority registration time tickets, retreats and recognition of participation, experience for your resume, and an exclusive shirt with the Ambassador logo.

A terrific team of students is now forming to provide assistance with recruitment activities and to commence a new tradition of leadership. We want to issue a note of appreciation to each student who has joined the group. Together we will strive to accomplish some challenging goals and have fun doing it. Come by the Office of Admissions and pick up an application today. What is an Ambassador? Could it be you?

**For more information, contact: Dolores Cox, Assistant Director of Admissions (770) 961-3637
dolorescox@mail.clayton.edu*

IS ITP CHOICE THE RIGHT FIT FOR CCSU STUDENTS?

By Jamee Holland
News Editor

ITP CHOICE: the name includes one of many college students' favorite words, *choice*. We cherish the freedom to make our decisions (whether wise or foolish) and the right to choose which paths our lives may take. However, the name also includes a word that, to many students, has come to be an albatross around their necks: *ITP*. Launched in 1998, the ITP program made it possible for all CCSU students and faculty to have access to their own notebook computers, for a small fee. Our school was only the third public university to do this in the state of Georgia, and suddenly, CCSU was on the map. Academics now emphasized computer technology, and almost everyone enjoyed the benefits of possessing their own computers, having on campus Internet access, and free computer services. However, a couple of years after the implementation of ITP, student satisfaction began to wane. Due to the frequent advances in computer technology, the Microquest notebook computers were no longer up to par, and many students felt that the \$300 technology fee was unfair. Tiny parts falling off the computers, slow connections, and the fact that we were still operating under the Windows 95 system in 2000, combined to create growing discontentment throughout the student body. Taking into account the ITP program's problems and the complaints of the students, CCSU has created ITP Choice.

ITP Choice is a program, which continues the idea of teaching technology, and expands on it. Through the program, students will still be required to have access to a notebook computer, yet they will have the freedom to choose their computer type and how they will obtain it. There will be many options available. Students will be able to rent or buy a new notebook from a company such as Gateway, CompUSA, or BestBuy. They can buy a used or refurbished notebook. They can use a notebook they already own or share a notebook with another student. Or, in some cases, students can rent a Microquest computer from CCSU. This allows students, with special circumstances, flexibility they did not have through the old ITP program. For instance, if a husband and wife are both students at CCSU, they will no longer be required to have two notebook computers. Instead, under ITP Choice, they

can share a notebook computer. In addition, there will be no \$300 technology fee required for registration. The proposed fee is thirty-eight dollars, which will include Hub Services, licensed upgrades, software training and assistance, and on campus Internet connections. This fee, however, does not include Internet service providers. Students will be responsible for choosing and paying for their ISP. Each student will still be assigned a CCSU email account to ensure that there is a reliable means of communication between faculty and students.

There are a couple of advantages to this program. First, students are given specific requirements for their computers, according to their majors, but a student's computer can be as up to the minute as he wishes. Secondly, CCSU is working with a couple of companies to establish a "Preferred Vendor" relationship, which will permit students' with those companies' computers to have them serviced in the Hub as long as they are under warranty. Thirdly, and perhaps most importantly, with the \$300 saved each semester, students can buy a computer and actually have something to show for it at the end of the year. Thirty-eight dollars is a long way from \$300. Ernest "Bud" Miller, Dean of the School of Business and head of the ITP Choice Task Force contends, "The most important aspect of the ITP Choice program is that it gives students a choice. The original program was great, and we learned a lot, but to replicate the program now would cost \$400 a student per semester. We all have different needs. When you give students a choice, they can choose a computer that fits their needs."

However, there are a few disadvantages that go along with this program. First, what about those students on financial aid who cannot afford to rent or buy their own computer? Or those whose \$300 technology fee was paid by the state along with the rest of their tuition and fees? There may be a short-term answer to this problem: the students may buy a used or refurbished notebook for a reduced price. In addition, there will be a rental option for those with financial need and who are not ITCL students. But not everyone should rely solely on this option. The computers will be rented on a first come, first serve basis, because there is a limited number left. Plus, these computers do not meet the specifications of the ITCL program that will be beginning in the fall.

Anyone who needs additional information on ITP Choice can visit the ITP Choice web site or attend one of the Technology fairs on April 17, 2001 and April 18, 2001. An ITP Choice Help Desk will be open at The Hub on April

19, 2001. Unfortunately, the four open forums on ITP Choice have already passed.

We at the *Bent Tree* wanted to know what CCSU students think about the new program. An informal survey taken by thirty-five students revealed that eighteen students feel that the new ITP Choice program will be less beneficial than the original ITP program. Lisa Isham commented, "In some ways it is [more beneficial], but what about those without financial help? How are we supposed to pay for our own personal laptop?" Thirteen students felt the program will be more beneficial. One student who did not identify him/herself stated, "It is better to a make our own arrangements, as long as the school still offers rental." Two students did not feel that either way was more beneficial. Another unidentified student said, "I do not prefer either way; both have their downsides. Students should have the choice of proving that they have a desktop or other capable access to a computer." Twenty-one students felt that the \$38 fee is fair, while twelve think that it is unfair. Chris Anne Fisher commented, "Every school has a technology fee. Since they will no longer be distributing them to the whole student body, that is a reasonable price." When asked what choice of computer they would most likely make, eight students said that they would rent from a computer company, eight would rent from the school, ten would buy from a computer company, and four would share with another student. One student had not made the choice yet.

We cannot really judge, as of yet, whether or not the ITP Choice program is the right fit for CCSU students; however, at least the students may rest-assured they will have the benefits of that all important word, *choice*.

Coming Soon: Clayton Radio

By John Dixon
Assistant Editor

Are you interested in becoming active here at CCSU in a professional organization with a focus on entertaining and in forming fellow students? Then CCSU radio may be perfect for you. That's right CCSU radio. Coming this summer, with your help, Clayton College & State University will have a web based radio station. Yes, CCSU's radio station will be on the Internet. However, none of this will be possible without your help, student involvement is needed to make this project successful. Your help is needed in several specific areas. First of all, with any radio station you have got to have DJ's. Energetic, outgoing, interesting persons are needed for these positions.

Also needed are sports, weather and entertainment personnel as well as a station manager. Those coordinating this effort are hoping to have the station up and running by this summer and fully operational by the fall. There are also plans for the station to be on AM and FM in the future. Positions are limited so if you are truly interested please contact Sara Foley at ccsu12581@libertybay.com.

Let your voice be heard, and join the Clayton Radio Staff!



Entertainment

A Modern Fairy Tale!

By Brian Magill
Entertainment Editor

Some say that the computer is the epitome of all that is wrong with our society and a tool for the mischievous. I believe the computer is a tool of love and an interface to the creative juices that lie within us all. The world of e-mail and instant messenger programs has allowed us to put on our best presenting selves and from time to time, even get us a date. The computer helps us dodge the embarrassing and some times humiliating confrontations between the male and female species. It gives all of us shy nerds a chance to meet someone before actually meeting them and to build a relationship without even seeing one another face to face. Perhaps I should explain myself better. Every fairy-tale needs that mystical and romantic intro that we as children grew up on. Here goes nothing...

Once upon a time, a young gentleman decided to take a trip with some of his fellow schoolmates to a remote and far away land. The shoes on his trusty steed gave out and caused him to miss his company as they left for their journey. Patience and determination always flowed through the veins of this young lad so he decided to let nothing stop him from joining his friends. He hopped aboard a giant, metallic dragon that safely delivered him to his company and to the ones he longed to be with. Once the young gentleman was with his party, he proceeded to dance and play with his friends and they were all very happy together. The lad's eye caught sight of an unimaginable and rare beauty that left him dumbfounded and with his mouth hovering near the floorboards with which everyone else was engaging in merry delight and celebratory dances. He knew that he had seen the beautiful maiden before but had never actually had the courage to speak to her without muttering and stuttering hieroglyphics that didn't even come close to sounding like words. My friend, the young man, eventually got the courage to speak to the fair maiden and was beside himself when she talked and listened to him for hours and hours without showing any signs of fatigue or excuses to be relieved of the conversation. The two laughed, talked, and smiled at one another the whole way home in the carriage their friends had rented for the trip.

After the trip, the young man came to see the woman every single day for nearly a week and was so nervous to ask her out even though she showed signs of being interested in him. So, the young man decided that he had to find a

way to ask the lovely damsel out for dinner without passing out in her presence. He decided to type a letter on a boxy contraption some call a "laptop" and show it to his friend (now who might that be?) and get his input on his wording and opinions on the situation as a whole. He was filled with fear that she would reject him because he wondered why a maiden whose beauty he believed was far superior to that of himself would actually entertain his notion. His friend told him to stop being a fool and to go for it. "You don't get this lucky everyday", his friend replied. After proofing the letter over and over again and staring at the screen for hours to make his decision of whether or not to send the letter, he clicked the send button and began sweating bullets. It was at that moment that he began to tremble and wish he had never been born. The young man decided to try and forget his fears by keeping his mind busy. Less that a minute later, there she was. "I thought you'd never ask, I was about to come down there and ask you out!" she replied. As he felt his heart leap from his chest, he knew he had a good thing. And they lived happily ever after.

My friend, the anonymous gentleman, used the computer to express his thoughts and to interface in a way that would perhaps have ruined his chances had he goofed or done something moronic. E-mail and instant messenger programs have come a long way. We use them not only to communicate with business partners, but also for most of our daily chores. From inviting our friends to parties to asking out that special someone, you can't go wrong with that utopian piece of circuits and fuses. Just think, our parents had to do it the old fashioned way! I bet they even walked ten miles in the snow to pick up their dates too. You know your parents would say that they did. Whatever your style is, you cannot deny that the electronic world is a part of our lives and it has mutated the way we have been taught to communicate and interact. You can order the flowers online, make reservations, and even pre-pay for your movie tickets straight from your comfy chair and computer while still wearing your pajamas.

Dating in the new world is new and exciting. It gives us an interesting perspective on life and allows us to practice with people indirectly before we ante up and decide to take the world head on. Sure you still have to deal with people on a daily basis, but typing gives you a special style all your own. While this all sounds nifty and convenient, we cannot forget that you still have to talk to your date and make her smile every once in a while. A clever and well-placed joke never hurt either. Learn to make proper use of e-mail when it is appropriate or when you have a hard time saying something in person.

My friend is a great communicator and I know he could have easily

performed the routine in person. However, he decided that e-mail was the most comfortable and less stressful way to convey his feelings for the fair maiden without getting red in the face and becoming nervous. Sometimes it works and sometimes it does not. I know I prefer to do things in person, but that is just the way I am. For my friend, he found peace and happiness in the soft glow of a computer screen, but it still worked. A bit of advice from the love-doctor, just do it! Whether you are old school or new wave, learn to make your fairy-tale the very best it can be. Love is a battleground; take it from me. Sometimes you win, most of the time you lose. Don't try to win the battle, try to win the war. The victory dance is a whole lot sweeter.

By the way, although I am not at liberty to reveal my friend or his fair beauty, let's just say that they make a perfect couple and that I know that is was a match made in Heaven. I wish them the best of luck and am very proud of both of them and the love that they share for one another. I am blessed to have both of them in my life. Keep up the good work, young gentleman.

Jump, Little Children: Truly Rock-n-Roll All-Stars

By Brian Magill
Entertainment Editor

The Band: *Jump, Little Children*

At first look, this band might seem like some kind of twisted version of "Simon Says". But a trip to see the Charleston, SC based band will prove to be a celebrity-like experience filled with catchy pop-rock ballads and riveting instrumental work. *JLC* has made it to the top of college-radio play lists and achieved "cult" status due to the dedication of their fans and the continual release of chart-topping hits in the major commercial radio markets of the United States. A *Jump, Little Children* concert is much like turning on your car, leaving it in park, and flooring the gas to produce that adrenaline pumping sensation. A new fan to the band, I had never heard *JLC* perform in concert except for those shoddy *Napster* spin-offs that somehow made it to my laptop while surfing for quirky tunes to get me through my workday.

My trip to *The Variety Playhouse* to see *JLC* was both exhilarating and hard to leave. *The Will Hoge Band* kicked off the tour's finale with excellent style. Once *JLC* hit the stage on time and with an ear-piercing entrance filled with the screams of old and new fans alike, this band was ready to take the audience for the trip of their life. The band performed older hits from previous albums and several from their newest album, "Magazine". This was the last stop on their nationwide tour before they begin

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recording again for their next album and they truly left their mark on Atlanta. Once the hour and a half set finally came to an end, I had become a new fan and an "impulse buyer" of *JLC* merchandise. The night was perfect and the music even more spectacular.

Jump, Little Children has made its success by producing solid albums with dozens of platinum-potential singles and for giving their fans a reason to come back for more. This band is not your typical rock band and should not be seen that way. Each member of the band can be found playing at least 3-5 different instruments at a typical concert and does an even better job of involving the crowd in their onstage antics. *JLC* has a stage presence that is unmatched by any other band on the planet and the excitement of their fans is contagious. The band is composed of Matthew and Evan Bivens, Ward Williams, Jay Clifford, and Jonathan Gray. With the average age of these performers ranging between 24-28, *JLC* is truly a college experience.

I encourage and demand every mortal with a pulse to check out the melodic sounds of *Jump, Little Children*. Fans of *Dave Matthews Band*, *Barenaked Ladies*, and *All-Star United* will love *Jump, Little Children*. You can join the *JLC* revolution by visiting their website at: <http://www.jumplittlechildren.com> or perhaps download some of their "live" tracks on *Napster*. One song and you are hooked, I guarantee!

CCSU Looks Back on a Successful Year in Athletics

By John Dixon
Assistant Editor

As we close out another wonderful semester, the *Bent Tree* would like to highlight some of the great achievements of the CCSU Athletics Department.

Let's hear it for our men and women's soccer teams; both had exceptional seasons. The men's team went on to national tourney play with a school best record and ranked 14th in the nation. Much of this could not have been done without the help of senior Josh Grenier. Josh captained the Lakers team and led them to an 18-3-1 record. As a sweeper, he anchored the defense, which allowed only 11 goals—one of the nations lowest-goals-allowed average. Grenier received national honors for his performance; he was named to the 2000 All-Peach Belt Conference Team, the 2000 Peach Belt All-Tournament Team, and the 1999 Peach Belt All-Tournament Team. He is the first Lakers soccer player to be named first team All-American. Former players Adrian Drury, in 1996, and Stacy Washington, in 1992, were named honorable mention NAIA All-American. Source: CCSU Athletic web page and the Athletic Department.

The Lakers women had a more subdued season. Although they made it into tournament play, they fell in the first round to USCS; however, they look promising with most of the team returning next season.

Our Lakers men's and women's basketball teams also had a phenomenal season. The CCSU men's basketball team had an overall record of 9-18 on the season. They went on to tourney play; however, they lost in the first round play to Augusta State with a score of 79-68. We at the *BentTree* would like to add a note of praise for Senior Marlin Capers, who started in all but one game for the Lakers. Born Marlin Nathaniel Capers on October 30, 1977 in Bronx, N.Y. ... Son of Barbara Ware Capers ... Majoring in Business. Prior to attending CCSU, Marlin played two seasons at Sullivan County College. In his two seasons, he averaged 15 points and 7.5 rebounds per game and was twice named all region after leading the SSC squad to a 59-6 record and the 1996 NJCAA Division III National Championship. His efforts and contributions will be greatly missed.

As for the women, this season was one for building a strong team. The Lady Lakers were ranked eleventh in the Peach Belt Conference, in the preseason basketball poll. The *Bent Tree* would like to recognize seniors Misty Amerson and Sequica Lowe. Misty, a scholar-athlete and four-time letter winner at Stockbridge High School, averaged 18 points, three rebounds, six assists, and four steals per game. As a senior, she was garnered the "most valuable player": being an Atlanta tip-off Club honors three times, all-county honors twice named Henry County Player-of-the-Year, and (as a senior) tabbed Athlete-of-the-Week recognition eleven times throughout prep career. Born Misty Lashae Amerson on May 26, 1978 in Fulton, Ga. She is the daughter of Mark and Shelia Coker majoring in Marketing. Sequica Lowe played two seasons at Calhoun Community College (AL) ... Averaged 5.9 points and 3.1 rebounds as a sophomore and 6.8 points and 2.7 rebounds as a freshman ... Led Lady Warhawks to 47-20 record over two years, including a third-place finish at the 1998 NJCAA Division II National Tournament. Born Sequica Lowe on Aug. 16, 1979, in Boston, Mass. She is the Daughter of Valerie Jerome majoring in Information Technology. Thank you to all our seniors. We will miss you.

It is spring, and we want to recognize our men's golf team, as well as our women's tennis team.

Our men are currently ranked in the top 25 golf teams in the country. As for our women's tennis team they are stomping through the nation—easily defeating their opposition. I would like to wish much success to the rest of both teams' seasons.

Last, but not least, our Laker track team is on their way to another successful season. So far, they have had successful meets and are making a name for CCSU in the track and field arena. Much success on their season as well.

Lady Lakers advance to PBC semifinals with 5-0 win over USCS

Savannah, GA—April 19, 2001—The 7th-ranked and No. 1 seeded Clayton College & State University women's tennis team took its first step in winning a Peach Belt Conference Tournament Championship Thursday, blanking the University of South Carolina-Spartanburg 5-0.

Up next, the Lady Lakers will face fifth-seeded University of North Florida at 11 a.m. on Friday. North Florida defeated Georgia College & State University 5-1 to advance to the semifinals. Second seed Armstrong Atlantic State University and third seed Kennesaw State University will play in the other semifinal match.

In doubles action, the top-seeded team of Leah Brownell and Tatiana Semenova won 8-1 over Nada Jaksic and Kristina Ribicic (USCS), while the No. 2 team of Jackeline Nieto and Nathalia Collantes blanked Martina Stoklaskova and Andrea Kerr 8-0. The third-seeded team of Maria Zurita and Natalia Koulechova won 8-6 over Marcela Gonzalez and Lindsay Allen (USCS).

In singles play, second-seeded senior Brownell (Penticton, British Columbia) won 6-3 and 6-3 over Jaksic (USCS), and third-seeded freshman Collantes (Bucaramanga, Colombia) won 6-0 and 6-0 over Ribicic (USCS).

Top-seeded freshman Nieto (Caracas, Venezuela), fourth-seeded freshman Koulechova (Moscow, Russia), fifth-seeded senior Tatiana Semenova (Bishkek,

Kyrgyzstan) and sixth-seeded sophomore Fernanda Zurita (Guayaquil, Ecuador) did not finish their singles matches since the team match was clinched.

Singles

#1 - Jackeline Nieto (CCSU) and Marcela Gonzalez (USCS) did not finish, match clinched

#2 - Leah Brownell (CCSU) def. Nada Jaksic (USCS) 6-3, 6-3

#3 - Natalia Collantes (CCSU) def. Kristina Ribicic (USCS) 6-0, 6-0

#4 - Natalia Koulechova (CCSU) and Martina Stoklaskova (USCS) did not finish, match clinched

#5 - Tatiana Semenova (CCSU) and Lindsay Allen (USCS) did not finish, match clinched

#6 - Fernanda Zurita (CCSU) and Andrea Kerr (USCS) did not finish, match clinched

Doubles

#1 - Brownell/Semenova (CCSU) def. Jaksic/Ribicic (USCS) 8-1

#2 - Nieto/Collantes (CCSU) def. Stoklaskova/Kerr (USCS) 8-0

#3 - Zurita/Koulechova (CCSU) def. Gonzalez/Allen (USCS) 8-6

***For more details on the women's Tennis Team, visit the Clayton College & State University Athletics web site---**

**http://
www.athletics.clayton.edu**

Cross-country runner Guffey named to Div. II CCCA All-Academic Team

Guffey's 3.84 GPA 13th highest among 79 runners selected

Morrow, GA — April 3, 2001—Clayton College & State University cross-country runner Joni Guffey was recently named to the NCAA Division II Cross Country Coaches Association (CCCA) All-Academic Team. Guffey earned the same honor last season.

A junior accounting major from Frankfort, KY, Guffey had the 13th highest grade point average (3.84) among the 79 Division II women runners on the team. She finished 22nd in the NCAA Division II South Region Cross Country Championships last fall in Jacksonville, FL and was one of only two runners

among the 12 Peach Belt Conference women's teams to be named to the squad.

"Joni is the epitome of what a student-athlete should be," said head cross country coach Mike Mead. "She is a dedicated student who is serious about her school-work and a focused runner who puts in the mileage to be a top runner. Joni is both the top student and runner in our program."

Guffey had a break through season in 2000, highlighted by two individual titles and the second-fastest 5K time in team history. She won the University of Alabama Huntsville (UAH) Invitational with a time of 19:27 and the Oglethorpe Invitational with a time of 19:39. Joni came less than four seconds from breaking the school record, running a 18:50.6 time at the Southeastern Classic in Mount Berry, Ga.



Clayton State Athletic Dept. Recognizes Athletes at Annual Awards Banquet

MORROW, GA, April 18, 2001 - It has been a banner year for Clayton College & State University Athletics, two Peach Belt Conference titles, an appearance in the NCAA Soccer Championships, a 7th ranked tennis team still competing for a berth in the national tournament, an All-American soccer player, an Academic All-American cross country runner and a handful of All-Peach Belt Conference performers.

All these accomplishments and more were recognized Tuesday evening in an awards ceremony held at the Athletics & Fitness Center on the CCSU campus.

"It has been an exceptional year already and we're not finished yet," said athletic director Mason Barfield. "We won our first-ever PBC tournament championship and our first-ever PBC regular season title in the same year. Our program made huge strides this year."

Josh Grenier, an All-American on CCSU's 14th-ranked soccer team, received the Laker Award, which is based on academic and athletic talent and presented to the top male student-athlete in the CCSU program. Grenier, a senior from Bedford, NH, anchored the nation's third best defense from his sweeper position, en route to the team's 18-3-1 record. He started all 59 matches in his three-year career at Clayton State.

"Josh will be remembered as the one player who helped take the Clayton State soccer program to the next level," said head coach John Rootes. "He is a fine young man who recently turned down a professional soccer contract to continue his education."

On the women's side, Leah Brownell, a senior tennis player from Penticton, British Columbia, received the Lady Laker award, which is given to the top female student-athlete. Brownell is among the career leaders in both singles and doubles and one of two seniors on this year's regular season PBC champion-

ship squad. The Lady Lakers are competing in conference tournament this week in Savannah, GA.

"I'm so proud of my seniors," said second-year head coach Elizabeth Nieto, of Brownell and fellow doubles partner and senior Tatiana Semenova, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. "They remained in the program despite some tough times and are now able to enjoy the best season in our history."

Joni Guffey, a junior from Frankfort, KY, received the H. Mason Barfield Award presented each year to the student-athlete with the highest cumulative grade point average. Guffey, an accounting major with a 3.84 grade point average, is the top runner on the Lady Laker cross country team and had a break through season in 2000, highlighted by winning two races and the second-fastest 5K time in team history.

"Joni is the epitome of what a student-athlete should be," said head cross country coach Mike Mead. "She is a dedicated student who is serious about her school-work and a focused runner who puts in the mileage to be a top runner."

Senior Lady Laker basketball player Misty Amerson, Stockbridge, GA, received the Coach's Award after a stellar career, which includes career records in several categories. The all-time steals leader, Amerson ranks in the top 10 in 14 of school's 23 career record categories. Freshman Kandace Walker, Canton, GA, received the women's basketball Lady Laker Award, while junior Corinne Harris, Decatur, GA, was named the team's Most Improved Player. Courtney Strickland won the team Academic Award.

Marlin Capers, a senior from the Bronx, NY, received the men's basketball Laker Award, while Charlie Frazier, Jr., Brunswick, GA, was named the Most Valuable Player. Harris Skoutaris, Athens, Greece, received the team Academic Award.

In women's cross country, Guffey received the MVP and team Academic

Awards, while sophomore All-PBC runner La'Keshia Hayes, Lithonia, GA, won the Coach's Award. The Lady Laker cross country team also received the Academic Team Award for having the highest team grade point average.

All-PBC runner Mike O'Donnell, a junior from Chester, GA, was named the MVP for the men's cross country team and also received the team Academic Award. Senior Luis Monge, Palmdale, CA, received the Coach's Award. Senior LeRoy Haynes, Robbins, IL, received the men's track & field Coach's Award.

In men's golf, sophomore Brennan Cass, Fergus, Ontario, received the MVP and team Academic Award, while sophomore Jonathan Mattox, St. Simons Island, GA, won the Coach's Award. Freshman Jess Shirley, Newnan, GA, was named the Most Improved Player.

Senior Lady Laker Mary Samba, Senegal, Africa, received the Most Valuable Player award in women's soccer. Freshman Jessica Grenier, Bedford, NH, was named the Most Valuable Defensive Player and sophomore Leah Pharr, Macon, GA, received the Most Valuable Offensive Award.

In men's soccer, Grenier was named the Most Valuable Defensive Player, while All-Southeast Region sophomore Barry Casebeer, Austin, TX, received the Most Valuable Offensive Player Award. Sophomore Stephen Hughes, Hampton, GA, received the team Academic Award.

Freshman Jackeline Nieto, Caracas, Venezuela, received the women's tennis MVP award, while Natalia Koulechova, Moscow, Russia, was named the Freshman of Year. Freshman Nathalia Collantes, Bucaramanga, Colombia, won the Player to Watch Award. Seniors Brownell and Semenova tied for the team Academic Award.

Clayton State finishes 13th in Southeastern Collegiate

Valdosta, GA— April 10, 2001—The Clayton College & State University men's golf team shot a three-round total of 936 to finish 13th out of 20 teams in the Southeastern Collegiate held at Valdosta Country Club Monday and Tuesday in Valdosta, GA.

Florida Southern won tourney, shooting a 10-over par 874, followed by Arkansas Technical University, second (883); Francis Marion University, third (888); Delta State University, fourth (889); and Valdosta State University, fifth (901).

Brennan Cass, a sophomore from Fergus, Ontario, led the Lakers as he tied for 39th in the tourney with rounds of 79, 76 and 77. Jonathan Mattox, a sophomore from St. Simons, GA; tied for 49th with rounds of 78, 77 and 79, along with Jess Shirley, a freshman from Newnan, GA, with rounds of 76, 80 and 78. Justin Estes, a junior from Albany, GA, tied for 59th with rounds of 76, 84 and 76, followed by David Peeples, a junior from Jonesboro, tied for 90th with rounds of 82, 87 and 81.

Delta State's Rob Autry won the tourney, shooting a three-round total of 215, one-under par on the 6, 732-yard course. Florida Southern's B.J. Pitzen finished one-shot back at 216, followed by Francis Marion's Dylan Keylock in third place at 217.

Up next, the Lakers will play in the Peach Belt Conference Championships on April 19-21 hosted by the University of South Carolina Aiken.

***For more information on the Men's Golf Team, visit the Clayton College & State University Athletics Web Site---**
<http://www.athletics.clayton.edu>

A Letter from the Editor

Four years ago *The Bent Tree* unfortunately had to shut down, and until last semester it has not been thought of since. We have successfully brought this student newspaper back to life and given it new meaning, and we intend on expanding the goals we have already reached. This spring semester we have gone through a transfer of power and have made many changes internally. This, however, has been a change that will benefit the paper in the long run. Our staff used this academic year as a test run and we were curious to see the response we would have from faculty, staff and students. We were delighted to see that the response was wonderful, and the issues ran continuously during the fall semester. We have used the spring semester as a building phase in which we have formatted a staff that is willing and able to serve the University to their best ability. We intend to report and keep the faculty, staff and students up to date with the activities here at Clayton College & State University. I look forward to growing and learning as we continue to serve you here at CCSU!

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