

THE BENT TREE

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CCSU STUDENT NEWSPAPER

Study Abroad and
travel to distant
lands.

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Do you vote?

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President's Gala Dazzles Clayton State Supporters *Annual Campaign Goal Set at \$1.5 million for 2002/2003*



Photo by Leigh Duncan

The Guests mingled on the veranda as the jazz band played tunes for their enjoyment!

By Bent Tree Staff

On Saturday night, Oct. 5, the Clayton College & State University Foundation presented the 2002 President's Gala, hosted by Dr. Thomas K. Harden, president of the University, with a dazzling night of nostalgia, illumination and music.

The theme of the night's festivities was "Sparkling Gem of the Southern Crescent" and everywhere you looked at the Merle Manders Conference Center in Stockbridge, there was affirmation of that theme. From the table settings to the champagne and evening wear, to the astonishing video production, and the 1/2-carat cubic zirconia's, the evening sparkled with a brilliance unsurpassed by any gala of previous years.

"We all work very hard and are all looking forward to a fun evening," said Harden. "In addition we are going to look back over the past 40 years, recognize visionary leaders in the school's history, and meet and show off who we are the most proud of, our students. We're going to show you 'your university' and kick off the

Foundation's 2003 fund raising campaign."

After raising a record-breaking \$1.012 million in 2001/2002, the 2002/2003 Annual Campaign will shoot for a goal of \$1.5 million.

The main event of the evening was a spectacular interactive light and sound program, a virtual living time capsule, narrated by Spivey Children's Choir Director Dr. Martha Shaw and Dr. John Kohler, dean of Arts & Sciences, giving a detailed history of the university, the Southern Crescent region, Georgia and the nation. Music, lights and sounds from the '60's, '70's, '80's and '90's, accompanied a vivid visual portrait that included pictures from the Vietnam era to Geraldine Ferraro to Tiger Woods and everything in between, all produced by Clayton State alumnus James Jernigan and his 1-800-TV-CREWS video production company.

However, the Gala was also about vision and the future. Those honored that evening were leaders and visionaries who saw Clayton State as a true 'diamond in the rough' and who

were willing to pull their shirt sleeves up and 'get to polishing.'

Leaders like Senator and President Pro-Tem Terrell A. Starr and William "Bill" Lee, former state representative who went to work when, in the mid-sixties, then Governor Carl Sanders began his initiative to establish a network of junior colleges throughout the state.

Starr and Lee both were instrumental in seeing the vision and knowing the benefit the college would bring to the citizens of the Southern Crescent. "The college was vital to our area to grow and provide quality higher education, to attract new business and industry and provide better paying jobs for our children," the presentation quoted Starr.

Other honorees included Hollis L. Harris, president and CEO of World Airways, Inc. and former president and CEO of Delta Airlines, Inc.; Joel H. Cowan, CEO of Habersham & Cowan; Anne Plant Blackburn, director of Clayton County DFACS, retired; J. Frank Smith, president of TUFF (The University Financial Foundation); and Dr. Richard A. Skinner, former president of Clayton College & State University. Student members of the Clayton State Honors Program presented the awards.

Soon after the presentation, Foundation Chairman John Parkerson made the announcement about the 2003 goal and the new theme for this fundraising year, Your University... Invest in Success! "All investments in 'your university' are destined to get results," said Parkerson. "We've plowed new ground. Our 2002 campaign was the first time in (Clayton State's) history to meet and exceed \$1 million."

Dr. Bryan Edwards, vice-president for External Affairs and member of the Foundation, told the audience about all the funds that had been raised so far and thanked the many who have contributed to the campaign already.

After the formalities were finished, the big band sound of Atlanta 17 Orchestra kicked up the atmosphere with such tunes as "String of Pearls" and "In the Mood," only to be momentarily interrupted for a toast to the Foundation and Clayton State and to announce the winner of the 1/2-carat diamond (Lynda Dunn of McDonough) that was hidden within the myriad of CZ's (donated by Morris Neuman of Aztec Jewelers) given away with the purchase of a glass of champagne.



Photo by Leigh Duncan

Dolores Cox, Ambassador Destinee Townsend and Amy Poole take a moment to smile for the camera.

The Bent Tree would like to give a special thanks to the Office of University Relations, the Athletic Department, Student Life, and the Office of Public Safety

Thoughts Under Glass

StudentInfo Can Be Student Spam

By Jonathan Gillespie csu12323@mail.claytonstate.net

My time is valuable; like many, I sometimes wish the day consisted of the standard twenty-four rotation, plus a few "bonus hours" I could add on to the end. You know, for the little things, the things that (I've been told) happen between non-work times.

In a campus with such a non-traditional student body, one in which the majority of us commute, time becomes even more important. We start to equate things irrelevant to Our Time as pesky and annoying. When something else that we didn't ask for interferes with Our Time, we have a tendency to ask why we were bothered with it. It is ironic then, that a Campus attuned and aware of the diversity of its student body believes that one listserv can best serve all students.

Witness the current state of StudentInfo, a subject that several people actually asked I tackle in this article. To be honest, I'd grown so used to the delete key lately, that deleting spam irrelevant e-mail from the Campus has grown as second-nature as scratching a persistent itch. Thinking about the Campus-wide e-mail listserv, I came to the conclusion that the absence of certain features is puzzling.

Let me be brutal for a moment: I get a lot of e-mail I simply, truly don't care about. Usually this mail is something completely irrelevant to me in the first place. I'm a white male, age twenty-three. I work in my hometown. Sadly, I'm more concerned about finals than the BCAA, and I've got little use for women's defense courses. I'm thinking more towards the latest group project, as opposed to FedEx hiring more package handlers (yet again).

Once again, to paraphrase...I don't care about most of this. So can anyone out there tell me why a mail filter doesn't exist in the DUCK? I wouldn't think something like this would be too terribly difficult to implement. E-mail is already set-up by the students through the DUCK—give it more flexibility.

Furthermore, because of the Campus directive instructing faculty members to send e-mail to students over campus accounts only, we're required to use campus e-mail on Our Time. Why not respect Our Time further if you're requiring us to use campus e-mail?

Why not give us the option to filter out the flotsam drifting on the sea of information? Now sure, those of us that are tech savvy can set up advanced sending/receiving options in Outlook (or Express), but we shouldn't have to, and most students wouldn't know how to anyways.

That, and there's a certain danger to the Campus with mail client filters (as you'll see in a moment).

One might argue that StudentInfo is an important conduit for campus-wide information. Well, I can tell you that a person is more apt to read your e-mail if they had been given the option to opt-in to campus e-mail that targets their specific categories of interest.

After a while, there's an almost Pavlovian effect to StudentInfo. We see that as a sender in a message, and we're conditioned to delete it, even if it might have been important. This also makes the afore-mentioned Outlook and Outlook Express filtering dangerous for the campus, because students blocking the sender StudentInfo are now throwing away *all* campus-wide e-mail.

I like the trend the Campus is instituting on a smaller level with the e-mail sent to students under an individual department. As an IT major, I know that if something comes in over that listserv, it's at least targeted towards one relevant characteristic of myself. The same message thrown into StudentInfo might have very well invoked the almighty delete key.

Let's expand that concept. Let's allow several different listservs to be selected by students, with their e-mail addresses being added in as they opt-in, or removed if they decide the mail is irrelevant. Divide the messages in the channels appropriately. Restore StudentInfo's reputation by ensuring only vital messages (and I mean vital in a sense beyond one faculty member's opinion) are sent via that channel.

Just think of the possibilities: The thirty-year-old mother of two commuting in between jobs won't get mail from a sorority. An online student also taking courses at a different University (common these days) won't have to sift through fundraiser notifications. A business major won't be asked about joining the science club.

And Our Time will be safeguarded.

Why Should You Vote?

By Brian Gardiner
Opinions Editor

Why should you vote? You should vote because that is the primary way that you can exercise your constitutionally guaranteed right to the freedom of speech. There is no other way that the average American can take such a direct role in the governmental processes of the United States government. Only by exercising the right to vote can an American insure that his or her voice is heard. In fact, the right to vote is one of the few actual rights that are guaranteed to American citizens. No American has the right to be rich, the right to be happy, the right to be sexy, the right to be thin, the right to be healthy, or the right to have a loving family. We all have the right to pursue these American ideals but none of us are guaranteed to achieve them. That is why it is so important that all of us exercise the rights that we are guaranteed, especially the right to vote.

By voting we can actively choose those leaders who will decide the laws that will affect us all on a daily basis. Do you believe in gun owner's rights? If so, vote for a candidate who believes in gun owner's rights. Do you believe that marijuana should be legal? If so, vote for a candidate who believes that marijuana should be legal. Or if you do not believe in gun owner's rights or that marijuana should be legal, you should vote in order to prevent my vote from deciding the laws in your community. Each time you ignore the opportunity to vote you allow a person with an opposing political view who does vote the ability to impose their beliefs onto you and your family. So if it is important to you that social security still exist when you retire, or that murderers are executed for their crimes then you should make sure you vote each and every election day.

Not only does voting allow you to actively choose the candidates who will ultimately decide our fate, but it also allows you to credibly argue your political views and ideas. For example, if someone were to argue with me over the benefits of not having strict gun control laws I would find it extremely hard to entertain any of their views or ideas if I knew that they did not vote. By not voting you are actively deciding that your political views are not strong enough to act upon. In other words, if you don't vote, don't complain. I personally love to complain and as a result I make sure that I vote in every single election. If I didn't then I would most certainly not be able to argue my views with much credibility.

However, if you do decide not to vote then that is perfectly fine with me. In fact, I wish no one in the country would vote at all. If that were to happen then I would continue to vote and I would vote myself president of the United States. Then I would erase welfare, erase affirmative action, legalize drugs, privatize social security, privatize public schools, create a flat tax, allow physicians to practice without a license, and require that every household own a handgun. Once I finished with my domestic policies I would begin dealing with foreign affairs. Priority number one: turn Iraq into a smoldering hole in the ground, then I would take over all of the oil fields and create a global oil monopoly that would make me (President Gardiner) the richest man in the world. Then once I have created my vast amounts of wealth I would use all available funds to create a space program that would eventually colonize Mars. But hey, since politics doesn't interest you none of that would matter, would it?



Cartoon by Timothy Jordan

Get to Know Your Professors!

Featuring Dr. June Legge

By Michelle Lawrimore

Many times, students taking French or Spanish at CCSU will describe the class as intimidating, overwhelming, or down right scary. Dr. Legge calmly explains her students' reaction by saying, "When you're in a foreign language class, it's just like being a child again. When you can't express yourself, and you don't know three fourths of what somebody is saying, you tend to get paranoid. It is a very scary thing to become vulnerable again, but that's what you have to do to learn a foreign language." Knowing a foreign language can open many doors and can enable communication in situations where it would otherwise be nearly impossible. Dr. Legge feels very successful when her students are able to speak in the native language when they travel abroad or even when they tell her that they were able to speak Spanish or French to native speakers in a local restaurant.

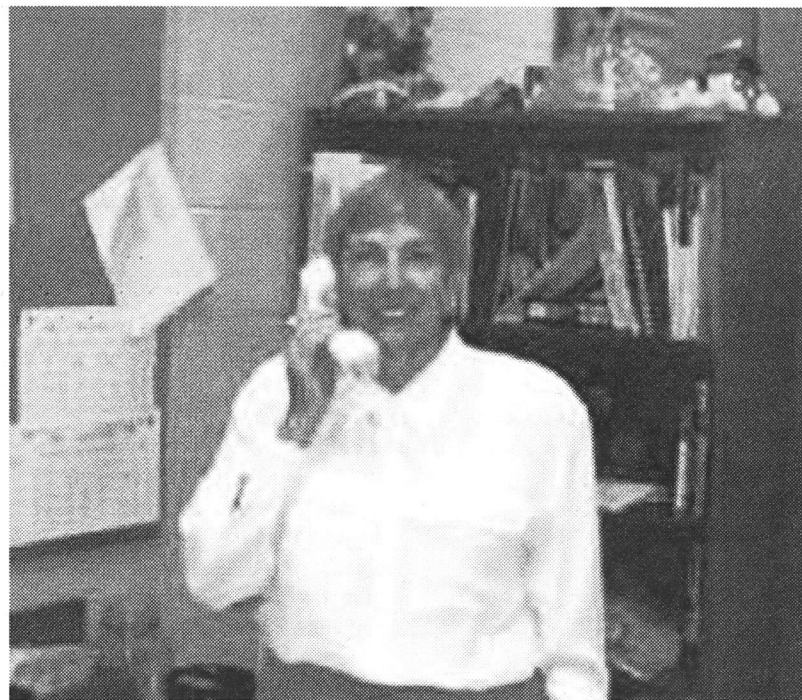
Since 1978, Dr. Legge has been a one-person foreign language department. She gives credit to the students and the surrounding faculty for helping the foreign language program to grow over the years. She teaches Elementary Spanish I and II, Intermediate Spanish I and II, Elementary French I and II and Intermediate French I and II. This past Spring, for the very first time, she taught a world humanities course. The humanities class traced man's journey through things like religion and literature from the Middle Ages to the present with an emphasis on international perspectives. Dr. Legge enjoyed teaching the class, and the students really loved it too. It was taught entirely in English so, "for the first time, they were not afraid. It just shows that if students understood what I was saying in French and Spanish, they wouldn't be scared," says Dr. Legge. Having grown up in the rural North Georgia mountains with eight siblings, June aspired to stand out and to make a difference. She was a first generation college graduate in her family. She began with an AA from Young Harris College where she was taught political science by Zell Miller, followed by a BA in French and Education from UGA. She taught high school French and Spanish briefly at Franklin County High, but given her young age (only 19), she was becoming far too comfortable with her students, and she knew that if she didn't leave then, she would never get the advanced degrees of which she had always dreamed. She earned her MA from UNC and soon after, won a grant that allowed her the privilege of gaining first hand experience in a foreign country, namely France. She earned her Degré Supérieur from The Sorbonne in Paris. Also while she was in France, she worked as a high school French teacher. This experience gave her an interesting new perspective on the way that cultures stereotype other cultures. Her French students asked her if she lived in a mansion, if our restaurants were all made from trailers, and why our soldiers were killing civilians in the Vietnam War. She became completely absorbed in the culture, visiting museums every weekend and seeing French movies at least a couple of days each week. She dressed like the French and wore her hair like the French, and one weekend while visiting Belgium with some friends, was mistaken for a French woman by a group of ogling American men. She caught them by surprise when she revealed that she was bilingual and could understand everything they had just said. Finally, she came back to America, and resumed her enrollment as a student at UNC. There she earned her Doctor of Philosophy with a major in French and minor in Spanish, and was then qualified to teach college. She began at William and Mary, and she also taught at Clark College and Atlanta University. She was recruited to teach at Clayton only a few years after the school opened. "There were no sports, only four buildings, no computers, and very few students," she says. She has been excited to see the number of international students increasing, especially since they have represented our school so well in sports.

Being an avid tennis player, Dr. Legge really enjoys playing tennis several times a week with some of our Latin American tennis players. These same girls assist Dr. Legge in the classroom by helping her students practice their comprehension skills with a native Spanish speaker. Few of our athletes are French, but Dr. Legge doesn't need any French speaking students to help in the French classes, because she has Ms. Annie Anderson, a French woman who gives of her time to help foreign language students improve their speaking skills.

Dr. Legge has traveled to many exotic places, including France, Belgium, Africa, Mexico, and Brazil. She says, everywhere she would go, she would be so overwhelmed with the beauty of the other cultures and lands that she would swear she had been dreaming.

Her proudest achievement on a personal level is raising her two children, Dean and Jessica. Both of her children have pursued higher degrees and they are very well rounded individuals. Dr. Legge advocates well roundedness. She says, "every student should be intellectual, play a sport, and enjoy music." She recently became a grandmother to twins, James and Emma (currently five months old), and she jokes, "James already speaks a little Spanish, and Emma is working on her French!" Being a survivor of both breast cancer and leukemia, Dr. Legge has been able to place her priorities in order and remember to focus on what is really important in life... the people that she loves.

Dr. Legge is truly satisfied with her work. She loves Clayton State, and she feels that the students are the school's best assets.



Dr. Legge: Is she really working or just pretending?

"Many people would be surprised to find out that I really do like rap music," stated Dr. Legge.

Oops, Our Bad! Let us make a clarification!



I think Dr. McCarty let her psychological studies go a little too far. However, this is not how she looks on a daily basis. Sorry 'bout that Doc!



This, however, is how Doc McCarty portrays herself on a regular basis. But we think the pig nose adds character!

Creationism: In God's Image?

By Jonathan Howell
jonathan31882@juno.com

Before anyone can even begin to debate on creation/evolution, you first have to define what you mean by evolution. There is micro-evolution and macro-evolution. Micro-evolution is changing within a species, such as people breeding dogs to become new breeds of dogs. Obviously, creationists have no objection to things like this whatsoever. In fact, we know that the first colonists that came to America were shorter than Americans are today. The only problem creationists have is with macro-evolution, the changing from one species to another. This is because, unlike what you learn in school, creationists are ALSO interested in scientific evidence, and NONE of it supports macro-evolution. Every time that you have had a science teacher who has drawn all the lines on the chalkboard to connect species to other species, have you ever wondered what is actually in those lines? Well, next time you should ask them what evidence lies in the connecting lines, because there actually is none.

The scientific method is about testable and repeatable facts. Unfortunately, you cannot get any of these when you are dealing with the past, because we cannot go back and watch the past. Creationists and evolutionists have the exact same evidence to work with. A lot of confusion comes with this issue for many people, because most people do not realize what this debate is *really* about. Creationism AND evolution are just belief systems about the past. People come to different conclusions based on the exact same evidence, because they both start out with presuppositions. These are things that we think are true, but cannot actually prove. In fact, all reasoning stems from presuppositions and it just becomes more evident when we are discussing the past. Right now, many people are thinking "you're wrong, evolutionists just want to know the truth and creationists are the ones starting out with the presupposition that the bible is true!" While creationists do believe that the bible is true and that we can believe the words of God who WAS there in the past, but not the *opinions* of men who were not and cannot prove anything, you have to realize that evolutionists DO have their own presuppositions too. They believe the idea of *how* evolution is negotiable, but not *whether* it really even happened. If evolution did not happen, evolutionists would never come to that conclusion because no matter how much evidence might point in that direction, when they come across it and it does not support their idea of evolution, they throw it out. "At the 1967 Wistar Institute Symposium, top-level evolutionary biologists and mathematicians met to mathematically test the idea of evolution by mutation/selection. When the super-computers finished crunching their numbers, it was obvious that the answer was 'impossible'. It was reported that when someone very cautiously (maybe even rhetorically) asked whether this meant that perhaps one should look at special creation as an option, there were loud cries of 'No!' 'No!' from the floor."

You can find this quote by Carl Wieland on the answersingenesis.org website.

There are many different issues that are always being argued in the creationism/evolution debate. I will not be able to even scratch the surface in this article, but I will quickly mention one from the creationism perspective, since you unfortunately will not be hearing it in any of your classes. (My biology teacher actually quietly told me to stop asking questions and making comments in his class, because he could not explain any of them and I guess he felt threatened.) Anyway, the issue I will address now is how many evolutionists discuss 'vestigial organs'. What they are saying is that some animals have useless organs, which proves evolution. That does not mean anything, because first of all, you cannot prove any organ useless because we have thought many organs to be useless in the past, while finding out later that they do serve a purpose. One quick example could be the hip bones in whales that some scientists try and use

as evidence for evolution. Well, a study by Bergman and Howe showed that the hip bones are actually different in the male and female, and they are not useless whatsoever. They help the male with penis erection and the female with vaginal contractions. (Dr. Don Batten and Dr. Jonathan Sarfati). Second, even if it turned out that it was indeed a useless organ that would not prove evolution, but DEVOLUTION. Any creationist believes in the deterioration of an originally perfect creation. That actually goes right along with scripture in the bible, such as our perfect relationship with God in the beginning, but because of the fall and our sin we now need our relationship with Jesus Christ to bring us back into a perfect relationship with the father. Finally, if you have not been empathetic, looked through the eyes of another person, and through *their* presuppositions then you have not thoroughly explored all there is to explore, and you have prematurely come to a conclusion. There is so much evidence out there that you are NOT reading or hearing about in school, but now that you have read this you are responsible for finding out what it is for yourself. Answersingenesis.org is a wonderful place to start out. God bless.

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Evolution: Believe it, or not?

By Timothy Jordan

*Let's
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On!!!*

First let me clear up any discrepancy that may exist about what exactly evolution is. Not many people actually have a good idea about what the difference between the process of evolution and the theory of evolution is, especially creationists. The process of evolution is the heritable changing of an organism's physical structure that takes place over many generations. The theory of evolution consists of the biological and chemical processes that cause this process. The main problem with creationists is that they are ignorant to these definitions. What creationists do is merely "define" evolution as man descending from apes, and this is odd, because unless you know what a theory is and what it states you cannot even begin to criticize it.

Now, creationists have concocted many arguments in their attempts to oppress evolution. All of these such arguments are merely uneducated attacks on a theory they do not fully understand and because this theory contradicts what it says in Genesis, it cannot by any means be true. Some of the types of arguments creationists use are

straw man attacks, attacks on science, and religious egocentrism.

Since creationists do not understand the theory of evolution fully, they attempt to make uneducated attacks that totally misrepresent what evolution really is in attempt to make Evolution look bad. Many Creationists disregard Evolution due to the fact they do not believe that many of the complex structures contained in a living organism could have possibly evolved.

They may argue that there is no way a structure as complex as an eyeball for example could have just evolved. Well, the reason the creationists feel this way is because they do not understand what it is exactly that the theory of evolution suggests. The theory of evolution does not suggest that structures such as eyeballs just evolved. Evolution describes many steps from the first light sensitive organism to the complex eyes we have today. Only in Genesis does it suggest that an eyeball can all of a sudden just be present.

Another way in which creationists attack the theory of evolution is to attack science itself. To do this, Creationists will try and make science seem similar to creationism in that they are both equally difficult to believe. However, in science it is not a matter of believing because there is not a question as to the truth value of science. To illustrate this more, let us compare science and creationism. Science accepts nothing that is not observable and cannot be

analyzed, while religion accepts phenomena for which there is no proof for and is beyond all human comprehension. Creationists say that because the Bible says it is true, then it is true because it is the "word" of God himself. Now, creationists like to say that science does the same thing in that it appeals to some authority for answers, but this is totally fallacious because in science there is absolutely no appeal to any type of authority. Every single scientific theory was brought about by observation and analysis, and not because someone said it was so. The only reason creationists have such a hard time accepting evolution or even considering it is because they have not taken the time to research it and learn what it is really all about, and creationists can do so at anytime because all the information is at their fingertips.

One of the worst ways in which creationists disregard evolution does not involve any direct attacks on evolution itself. It involves a type of religious egocentrism, which is basically the idea that everything was created by God for man's benefit and that God will help people through hard times and solve all of their problems, and you will be rewarded in Heaven for living a "good" life. Now, this is some of the most selfish and uneducated thinking I have ever seen and this type of thinking is reflected in a lot of creationist arguments. One of the best examples of religious egocentrism is when creationists say that there is no way man and apes are in any conceivable way related. This reflects the creationist belief that humans are superior to the animals of the world and we cannot possibly have anything in common with them. In many ways, humans are inferior to the animals of the world, but we will not get into any of that. Creationists think that we cannot have any similarities to apes even though we have biological evidence that proves we do, and they have no evidence to support their belief that man has no relationship at all with apes. In fact, the only thing that puts humans "higher" on the food chain than apes is the ability to speak and to reason. That is, if you want to call it the ability to reason; however, it seems that creationists may lack that ability to reason, doesn't it?

Now I do not mean to disrespect any creationists, because there are many great people in the world who follow that belief system. I am simply trying to make a point that a lot of people need to slow down and think about where their faith lies. Be open to anything and everything, because life is pretty dull otherwise.

Source: <http://www.stardestroyer.net/Creationism/index.shtml>

E-mail us your thoughts and we will print the best responses.

Btree@mail.clayton.edu

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Study Abroad: Expand Your Horizons and Journey to Distant Lands

By Michelle Lawrimore

In an effort to increase the amount of study abroad participation by Georgia college students, the Board of Regents decided in 1997 to appoint a Coordinator of International Studies for each of the universities in Georgia. History professor Dr. Robert Welborn was appointed to this position for CCSU, and he has since established a well-rounded, interactive, incredible learning opportunity for our students. Students now have the chance to receive academic credit while enjoying a few weeks of the summer in their choice of England, France, Italy, or this year, even Ghana! They are able to experience the culture of the country, meet new people, and be exposed to new ideas that they may have never considered before, without giving up all of the comfort and familiarity of home. They register for one or two classes that meet two days a week for two and a half hours each day. Each class also includes a separate fieldtrip day each week in which students travel to nearby cities or towns to visit famous landmarks related to the material covered in class. Friday, Saturday, and Sunday are free days for students to explore the country on their own. The program fee covers airfare, lodging, food, and transportation. London, England is the most popular country of choice, mainly because the University of Surrey-Roehampton is able to offer the largest variety of classes. This summer, the university will offer theater, film, art, marketing, management, communication, history, political science, literature, and psychology classes. Students stay in single dormitories on the university campus. Fieldtrips will be taken to Stonehenge, Hampton Court Palace, Wimbledon, and the Royal Park of Richmond, to name a few. They will have easy access to London's theaters, museums, and historical landmarks. Part of the program fee also covers an 8-day youth travel pass for unlimited travel throughout Britain on the British Rail System, so students can easily explore neighboring countries such as Scotland and Ireland on the weekends. The entire London package costs \$3799.

The second most popular location for studying abroad is Paris, France. France is also offering a wide array of classes including, art, political science, history, business, music, literature, and French. France is a wonderful place to study history and art. Students will see art museums including the Louvre, the Cluny, and the D'Orsay. They will visit the Conciergerie where Marie Antoinette was imprisoned during the French Revolution, the Church of the Invalides where Napoleon is entombed, and of course the beautiful Eiffel Tower. An international student residence in Paris will provide accommodations. The cost for studying abroad in France is \$3795.

Another European adventure is in Italy. It is based in a Renaissance hill town in Tuscany called Montepulciano. Students will explore the piazze, palazzi, porte, and chiese. They will have the opportunity to see Rome, Venice, and even travel to nearby Greece or Sicily on the weekends. Courses in Italy are slightly more limited, but include literature, art, history, communication, and for the first time this summer, business. Students will stay in apartments right in the heart of Montepulciano. The cost for studying abroad in Italy is \$3450.

CCSU students who are interested in learning more about African cultures have the opportunity to study in Ghana! A variety of classes pertaining to African literature, culture, religion and economics will be taught. Participants will stay with faculty families and attend the University of Cape Coast. Some of the fieldtrips will be to the Kakum National Rainforest Park, Accra City, marriage and funeral ceremonies, slave castles, and a bonwire weaving village. The program in Ghana costs \$3625.

A new program added for students to choose from this year is the opportunity to study in St. Petersburg, Russia. Unlike other European Council groups, Russia is based at St. Petersburg Technical Institute and all classes are taught by Russian Professors. For price information and dates contact Dr. Welborn for further information on this new program.

The relatively high cost of the study abroad program will no doubt dissuade some students from participating, but Dr. Welborn assures that, "This program is not designed for or limited to rich students." The good news is that program costs for any of these study abroad programs can be covered partially or entirely by scholarships and loans, specifically the Pell Grant and the Regent's scholarship. Tuition is paid as usual at Clayton State, and can of course be paid for by the Hope scholarship. The financial aid office also has a variety of other scholarships that students are welcome to apply for. The deadline for applying for the study abroad program is March 15th, with the exception of Italy which is February 15. For additional information or for an application for one of the programs described here, contact Dr. Robert Welborn in office G110C or by telephone or e-mail. Phone: (770) 960-5189, E-mail: robertwelborn@mail.clayton.edu.

Campus Clean-Up: Making Clayton State A Beautiful Campus

Two CCSU organizations challenge fellow clubs to take the initiative to clean up Clayton State.

By Kevin Dixon

A new trend has started here at Clayton State and many hope that it will begin to catch on as two clubs have set the standard on keeping our already beautiful campus clean!

In the early weeks of September, the Ambassadors Club set out to try and make Clayton State just a little bit nicer by picking up trash around the campus. With trash bags at the ready and gloves in hand they set out to pick up what other leave behind. After a few long hours and a close encounter with a snake they called it an evening in hopes that another club would notice what a little bit of initiative could do. Little did they know that they were starting a new fad here at CCSU.

On Saturday, October 5th, Circle-K volunteers armed with trash bags and even a fishing pole picked up garbage all over campus, including bottles, cans, and wrappers thrown in the lakes. Their efforts were intended to help spruce up the campus for upcoming Homecoming festivities.

The Ambassadors, advised by Recruitment Director Diane Burns and Recruiter Aaron Bailey, have not only made a Clayton State cleaner but make it a comfortable place to be. With their club growing larger by the day, they are the few students that high school students get to talk with when considering Clayton State as their college. When they are not cleaning up the campus they are giving tours, making phone calls or rooting on their fellow Lakers at soccer games. They are always on the look out for future Ambassadors, and if you're interested in joining contact Aaron Bailey at aaronbailey@mail.clayton.edu.

Circle-K is currently in the chartering process on campus, and its new officers, Lauren Suderman, Felicia Montgomery, Cory Johnson, Bridgette Farley, and Bridgett Stephens, lead a group of some thirty creative and energetic members. Circle-K International's mission is to engage college and university students in community service activities while shaping them into good leaders and citizens. The organization is affiliated with Kiwanis International, and CCSU's sponsoring chapter is the Riverdale Kiwanis Club. Kiwanis liaison member Michael Bagley is working closely with CCSU Circle-K sponsors, Dr. James Bogert and Dr. Susan Henry, in completing the chartering process. For more information on Circle-K contact Dr. Susan Henry at susanhenry@mail.clayton.edu.

To all the additional clubs on campus, consider yourselves challenged! Can you make a difference at Clayton State? Make a difference and keep Clayton State clean!



Circle-K Members stop to pose for a "dirty" picture!

What can you do to make Clayton State Clean?
Take the challenge and help keep Clayton State a beautiful place!

The History of Halloween



By Isabel Lentini

Fall brings along all kind of wonderful things. The leaves change colors, the weather gets cooler, and Halloween, one of my favorite holidays, comes around. How could you not like dressing up, eating candy, and being scared all in one day? I remember when I was 7 and I just had to be a cowgirl, nowadays, the more creative the costume the better. I always participate in Halloween; I was just never sure how Halloween came about, until now! Halloween is on October 31 and is celebrated around the globe. The holiday dates back to a Celtic festival called Samhain, in the area of what is today Ireland. They celebrated their new year on November 1, which marked the end of summer and the harvest and the beginning of the dark, cold winter, often associated with death. Celts believed that on the night before the new year, the boundary between the worlds of the living and the dead became blurred. It was on October 31, at the festival of Samhain, that the ghosts returned to earth. To commemorate the event, the Celts built sacred bonfires where crops and animals were burned to honor Celtic deities. During the ritual, the Celts wore costumes and attempted to tell each other's fortunes. When Rome conquered the majority of the Celtic territory in AD 43, they combined the Samhain celebration with two of their own. The first was Feralia, when Romans commemorated the passing of the dead on a day in late October. The second was a day to honor Pomona, the Roman goddess of fruit and trees. The apple is the symbol of Pomona and her incorporation explains the tradition of "bobbing" for apples. In the 800's, Christianity greatly influenced the Celtic lands. Pope Boniface IV designated November 1 as All Saint's Day, a time to honor saints and martyrs. It is believed that the pope was attempting to replace the Celtic festival of the

dead with a related but church honored holiday. The celebration was also referred to as All-hallows and the night before, the original festival of Samhain, was eventually called All-hallows Eve and Halloween. Later, November 2 would be All Soul's Day to honor the dead. It was very similar to Samhain with costumes and bonfires. All of the celebrations were identified as Hallowmas. The American tradition of "trick-or-treating" dates back to the All Soul's Day in England. During the celebration, poor citizens would beg for food and they would receive pastries called "soul cakes" in return for their promise to pray for dead relatives. Children who would visit houses and be given food or money eventually took up the practice. The tradition of dressing up has Celtic and European roots. To avoid being recognized by the spirits that roamed the earth during the holiday, people would wear masks so the ghosts would mistake them for other spirits. As immigrants came to America, they brought the Halloween customs with them. However, because of rigid Protestant beliefs, Halloween was extremely limited there. The first Halloween celebrations included parties and public events that honored the harvest. Neighbors would tell ghost stories, fortunes, and make all sorts of mischief. Irish and English traditions influenced the concept of dressing up in costumes and going door-to-door asking for food or money, also known as "trick-or-treating." Later, there was a move in America to transform Halloween into a more community holiday. They wanted to get rid of the ghosts, pranks, and witchcrafts. Parents were encouraged to take anything scary out of Halloween; eventually, the holiday lost its superstitious and religious implications. Trick-or-treating provided an inexpensive way to get the community together for the holiday. Families could prevent tricks by giving children small treats. A new American tradition was born and is still growing as the country's second largest holiday with an intake of \$6.9 billion.

Here are some ways to celebrate the holiday in Atlanta:

-Heartlight Halloween with Elton John
Zoo Atlanta
October 26
404) 624-5600

-Nightmare Haunted House
2160 Idlewood Rd.
Tucker, Ga
770) 496-0086

-Netherworld Haunted House
Georgia Antique and Design Center
Oct. 1-Nov 3 (daily, Sun-Thurs, 7pm-11pm, Fri/Sat 7pm-12am)

-Spiralween 2002
Saturday October 26 @ 9pm
Park Pavilion on Marietta Street
www.spiralentertainment.com
\$35

-Horror Hill
Jack and Jill went up the Hill to fetch some Halloween hijinks. Then they went into Booger Woods....
181 Ware Rd, Newnan, GA
(770) 253-4983

-Halloween Festival at Little Five Points
10/26-10/27
All day long
Parade on Saturday @ 5pm

The Laker: Our Mascot or Beast?

By: Brian Densmore

The fog toiled slowly on the top of the lake near Spivey Hall, congregating then dissipating like a Sunday service gone awry, melting together, twisting and forming into new and demonic shapes before going its own separate way. I watched, fascinated at the thickness of it, watched as the ducks floated aimlessly through the water with no apparent course or purpose, though I knew they had both. I heard a splash of water rise from the deep and naturally I looked, expecting an arrival of new ducks ready to feast on the weeds that lay in store for them on the bottom of the lake when I realized that what I was looking at was no duck and if it was, then I was sorely in need of a psychiatrist.

What I saw, I cannot begin to accurately describe it, though bear with me and I will try. The beast (though I would learn its name shortly) was large, far larger than anything that should live in the water at Clayton State, and had a neck that seemed to stretch to infinity. I watched, still, transfixed in horror and awe as it reached out and grabbed a limb from one of the overhanging trees and snapped it as a child might snap into a lollipop. What was I to do, I asked myself repeatedly. I did not know and still to this day have no idea if what I did was correct or not. But I had very little time to think about it before I was startled beyond all recognition by a voice that seemed itself from beyond the grave, tinged with a definite authority and stink of the deceased.

"That there is the Laker."

I turned, what else was I to do, for I thought Death in her physical form had been sent to devour my soul this very night! I was relieved, but only slightly, to see a man there, his countenance hidden by a hood that masked all features and itself was hung with brine and weeds. I did not move for I was too scared to even utter a word. He seemed to sense this and talked again as if what I said mattered little anyway in the wake of this night.

"She is the beast that many have seen, but few have lived to tell about," he said coolly, his face still absorbed by the shadow of the hood.

I tried desperately to see him and perhaps he sensed this and turned to my direction, letting the light fall across what was left of his face and I cried out in sudden shock. The man laughed and I heard a sound of water splashing. I turned my head back to where the Laker had been and was perplexed at my current situation. I was staring into the gaping jaws of the beast itself! I could smell the water, acrid and foul, the partially eaten tree branch stuck amidst the thing's teeth. I could do nothing but close my eyes and wait for the sound of my bones and flesh being rent asunder by the wide hole of death that fate had placed before me. I waited, but nothing came.

Finally I brought the courage up to dare a peek out. It was gone. I turned, looking for the man, but he was gone as well. The water before me still toiled under the fog and as I looked, I swear, I could see the head of the beast sinking into the night.

#14 Clayton State blanks SCAD 3-0 in men's soccer action Friday

Clayton College & State University scored three first half goals to blank Savannah College of Art & Design 3-0 in men's soccer action Friday afternoon at Laker Field.

With the win, the 14th-ranked Lakers notched their 10th win of the year, improving to 10-2-1 on the season. Clayton State will return to action on Tuesday, traveling to face St. Andrews in Lauringburg, NC. The loss drops SCAD to 3-10-1 on the year and will return to action on Sunday at Maryville in Maryville, TN.

Clayton State jumped out to an early lead in the match as sophomore David Dowling took advantage of a short kick by the keeper and drilled a shot from 18-yards over the goalie for a 1-0 lead. Dowling's goal at the 11-minute mark was his sixth of the season.

Senior Aaron Hume gave the Lakers a 2-0 lead with his first goal of the season at the 23-minute mark, blasting a shot in the upper right of the goal off a cross from senior Zuca Palladino.

Sophomore Mark Coulter provided the Lakers a little insurance six minutes later, scoring his seventh goal of the season off another assist from Palladino. The two assists give Palladino 14 on the season, tying the single-season school record. Jason Nidiffer also had 14 assists in the 1995 season.

The Lakers finished with 24 shots and seven corner kicks compared to 10 shots and three corner kicks for the Bees. Senior Clayton State keeper Warren van der Westhuizen finished with four saves and posted his fifth shutout of the year, increasing his school and Peach Belt Conference career record total to 36. SCAD keeper Sam Wolgram finished with eight saves.

Each team committed 13 fouls in the match and Clayton State was whistled for offsides seven times compared to three times for SCAD.

Clayton State leads in the all-time series against SCAD 4-2. The Lakers' final regular season home match will be Saturday, October 26, hosting Peach Belt Conference opponent the University of North Carolina Pembroke for homecoming.

The Bent Tree Staff would like to hear from you, the students!

Happy Halloween!

Clayton State women topple #9 Francis Marion 2-1 in Peach Belt Conference soccer action

The Clayton College & State University women's soccer team captured its biggest win in Clayton State women's soccer history Monday, upsetting Peach Belt Conference opponent Francis Marion University 2-1 in Aiken, S.C.

Francis Marion entered the match fresh off a No. 9 ranking in the National Soccer Coaches Association of America poll and sported a 11-2 record. The win was the women's program's first-ever victory over a nationally ranked team.

Clayton State leading scorer Nkiru Okosieme provided the offensive punch in the match, scoring both goals. Her first goal came at the 27-minute mark off an assist from sophomore Florence Okpala. Okosieme, a junior forward, added her second goal in the second half at the 57-minute mark. The two-goal game gives Okosieme 13 goals on the season and is her fifth multi-goal match of the season.

Francis Marion cut the deficit to 2-1 with nine minutes remaining on a goal by Katie Roberts, but the Lakers were able to hold onto the victory.

Clayton State finished the match with 12 shots and three corner kicks compared to eight shots and four corner kicks for the Patriots. Laker freshman keeper Judith Chime finished with three saves compared to five saves for FMU's Mandy Liles.

With the win, the Lakers improve to 7-2-4 on the season and 2-2-1 in the conference. FMU falls to 11-3 and 2-2 in the league. Clayton State will return to PBC action on Saturday, hosting the University of North Carolina Pembroke for homecoming at 1 p.m.

The win was also Clayton State's first-ever victory over Francis Marion as the Patriots did hold a 6-0 edge in the all-time series before Monday's match. The match was played at USCA after being postponed due to a car accident that seriously injured two FMU players earlier this month. The match was originally scheduled for October 12th in Florence, SC.

Please take the time to E-mail us and let us know what you think!

Clayton State women picked seventh in 2002-03 Peach Belt poll

The Clayton College & State University women's basketball team has been picked to finish seventh out of 12 teams in the 2002-03 Peach Belt Conference according to a vote of the league's 12 head coaches.

After posting its highest win total in four years and its most Peach Belt Conference wins ever, the Lakers finished with 55 points in the preseason poll. Kennesaw State was selected the preseason favorite by the narrowest margin in the history of the conference as the Owls finished with 110 points, three points ahead defending champion USC Aiken with 108 points and seven points ahead of North Florida.

The Clayton College & State University women's basketball team took a giant step in the 2001-02 season, and with all five starters returning and a talented incoming recruiting class, the Lakers are poised to continue their climb up the PBC ladder in the 2002-03 season.

CCSU's top returnee will be senior Catreia Shaw, a second-team All-PBC selection last season. Shaw led the club, averaging a "double-double" with 15 points and 10 rebounds per game. She was among the Peach Belt leaders in scoring, rebounding, field goal percentage and blocks.

Apryl Brown, last year's PBC Freshman of the Year, averaged 10 points and nine boards per game, while point guard Nicia Puckett returns after leading the squad in assists and steals. Allyson Rutledge will provide experience at the guard position, while Kate Kauffman and Dawn Baldwin will add depth at the post positions.

Head coach A.C. McCullers' 2002 class of signees is comprised of one Division I transfer and five freshmen. April Taylor, a freshman last season at Georgia State University, joins freshmen in Carlie Anderson, Aletha Binion, Rhonda Bass, Sarah Durham and Ashley Howell. In addition, Cynthia Conseil, a redshirt sophomore will be added to the mix of new players after enrolling at Clayton State during the spring.

Taylor heads the recruiting class, joining the Lakers after playing last season on Georgia State's 21-10 squad that won the 2001-02 Atlantic Sun Conference regular season and tournament championships. Last season at Georgia State, she played in 21 games for the Lady Panther squad that made the NCAA tournament before falling to the University of Tennessee in the first round of the tourney. At Memphis' Craigmont High School, she averaged 17 points and 14 rebounds per game and was named "Best of the Preps" by Memphis' Commercial-Appeal newspaper.

Fans will get their first glimpse of the 2002-03 Clayton State squad in an exhibition game against Georgia State University on Saturday, November 16,

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at GSU. The Lakers will open their regular season on Friday, November 22, hosting Reinhardt in the first round of the Heritage Bank Tip-Off Tournament at Clayton State.

Columbus State was fourth in the PBC voting with 92 points, followed by GC&SU, Armstrong Atlantic State, Clayton State, UNC Pembroke, Francis Marion, USC Spartanburg, Lander and Augusta State.

The preseason vote reflects the parity that dominated PBC women's basketball last season. USC Aiken won the league with a 16-3 conference record, but lost in the second round of the PBC Tournament to eventual tournament champion GC&SU. Kennesaw State won the PBC South Division with a 13-6 conference record, but also lost in their first game at the tournament to Armstrong Atlantic State, who was seeded sixth.