

THE BENT TREE

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CCSU STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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Clayton State's Population Boom

By Ashley Spillers

As we walk into another year at Clayton, many of you may notice a few more smiling faces on campus. The increase in the student population every semester is a growing trend for Clayton State, seeing as every year the rate of enrollment rises significantly.

In the past two years, the enrollment of students at Clayton State has increased in a dramatic fashion. From Fall of 2000 to Fall of 2002, CCSU's enrollment increased seventeen percent, growing from 4,456 to 5,214. The actual number of students enrolled at Clayton State is surprising and promising. Clayton State's campus boasts a culturally diverse student body and as such a diverse group of applicants submit applications to this university every year.

As of June 13th, 2003, CCSU had already received 3,099 applications for enrollment in the Fall 2003 semester. The number of applications that has filtered into the hands of CCSU staff is three times higher than the 1,124 applications that were received in 2002 on the same date.

According to CCSU's website, 4,232 applications were received for the Fall 2003 semester by July 18th. These numbers being compared to the numbers of last year show that the rate of application to CCSU is up almost 275 percent. These statistics are monumental to the growth and expansion of Clayton State as a renowned university.

Why the recent rise in enrollment at CCSU? Well, there may be a few reasons. First of all, as mentioned before, CCSU is a place of great diversity. The people that make up the student body at CCSU are not only culturally diverse, they also show interest in many different courses of study. While the Arts and Sciences department has most of the majors that interest students at CCSU, the number of people involved in the Technology, Business, and Health Sciences departments is promising for a strong future in all three departments.

A second reason for the great increase in enrollment lies in the hands of CCSU's own Recruitment Office. Along with a regular staff designed to help new applicants and recruit new students, they have a small group of people that call potential students of CCSU and answer any question they may have about the university. Even if they have not visited the campus, potential students already know that the campus is full of helpful people that make the adjustment to a new university even easier.

A third reason for the rise in enrollment may be the great emphasis on technology. Every student is required to own a laptop computer. This benefits every aspect of learning that a student will encounter at CCSU. The emphasis on technology and the use of computers helps many students with their career of choice.

There could be many different reasons for the recent interest in our university. The most important fact, however, is that there is interest. Clayton State is a growing university with a lot of potential, so use this information to adjust accordingly to the increase in population. Remember to arrive early for class as finding a parking space will be increasingly difficult!

Information and statistics were compiled from:

www.clayton.edu

www.usg.edu

Traffic Woes for Third Year Straight

By Jonathan Gillespie

csu12323

Once again I set out to tackle a problem which affects us all—an issue which has proven a thorn in the side of Clayton State's student body and faculty, as no one seems to be able to provide a solution.

For the third year straight, every first fall semester issue of *The Bent Tree* has focused at least some attention on the horrible parking conditions facing people attempting to reach campus not only in the morning hours, but also those non-traditional students (our older, wiser half) who commute to classes around 5:30 PM and who get to gleefully enjoy gridlock at the University's primary entrance during those hours.

This year, of course, the matter has grown even more problematic. Campus attendance has swelled to an unprecedented number well over eight thousand. For those of you keeping tally, last year's fall attendance fell in the neighborhood of five thousand, five hundred students. Forecast calls for road rage and fender benders, people.

At the Bent Tree we've asked various officials on campus what will be done about this problem. We've been told that there essentially *is* no problem.

This conclusion on the part of the faculty is brought about by two determining factors: First, there literally are enough spaces on campus to accommodate 8,500 vehicles. If you don't believe me, check out the asphalt real estate stretching due north of Continuing Education. This is where the "overflow" is expected to park if they can't find a space over at Arts & Sciences. You read that right: a fifteen minute walk from your space and back is something you're expected to take no issue with.

The second reason is firmly set just in front of the Student Center. I refer to the wonderful section of reserved parking spaces where the movers and shakers on campus get to park everyday. If I had a reserved space near the center of campus I'd care less for other people's traffic issues as well.

If we take these two determinants and splice them together, you're left with the overall viewpoint our administrators have taken for the past three years: There is no problem (and it doesn't affect us) so why worry about a few student complaints.

This explains the blind eye the administration has turned to our plight over the past few years, even as the parking spaces at the administration building were closed (and the overflow drifted into student spaces) and then the Clayton Place overflow found its way into campus lots as well.

Sadly, there is no easy solution to this problem. What is becoming more obvious every year is that simply ignoring the issue is becoming more and more of a slap in the face to the people paying tuition.

Something will have to be done soon. Yes, I recognize there are budget issues and yes, I understand that when the new building is finished the problem will be miraculously solved. That's not what bothers me. It's the fact that *no one seems to care*.

Tuition Price Hikes

Interesting Study Reveals What You Already Knew

By Jonathan Gillespie

Although I consider CCSU's price of attendance to be about average compared to typical higher education costs, the "average" price of attendance always struck me as somewhat expensive in the first place. Turns out we were all right in our assumptions.

A recent government economic study was conducted (I first saw the results on CNN) that compared higher education to inflation in terms of percentage growths. What the study found was that during 1970-2002, the percentage growth of inflation number was 371%. During that same period, tuition costs escalated a whopping 723%. What this means is that, following inflation standards; if costs had grown with the economy you should be paying far less than you are for college.

A closer look at the numbers is truly alarming, and fallout over the issue has become a heated battling point in Congress for the past few years.

Consider this scenario. Let's say you have \$10,000 in financing available in 1970 with which you could buy a new car. You can afford this thanks to your occupation. At that point, let's say a new vehicle would cost exactly that \$10,000. Let's also assume that four years of college costs \$10,000. By 2002, under inflation percentage gains, a comparable new car should now cost you \$37,100, a figure you can afford with your job—a figure that matches inflation gains. If you wanted to put a student in school at a typical college for four years, however, you're going to have to spend \$72,300.

Colleges cite several factors for the tuition hikes, according to the report. Chief among these sits the claim that the price per student that the college incurs in operating fees has risen dramatically.

There is truth to this somewhat in that a lot of new resources must now be supplied by colleges. Many of these are resources that either didn't exist or were considered optional in the 70's. An Information Tech infrastructure is a classic example. I don't think anyone will argue that resources like this cost a good deal of money to possess and maintain.

However, before you think I'm defending tuition hikes, let me say this: These are just excuses.

The real core problem here is that universities do not face the same pressure a private business does. The economy is a harsh mistress, and customers are even harsher. No one cares if your operating costs go up in "the real world"—you either adapt or go out of business.

In contrast, most major colleges are federally subsidized. A significant portion of their funding comes from government resources—and even in the case of tuition, a great portion of that comes from federal programs such as Pell or HOPE. That's a lot of guaranteed money.

Thus, there is less of an impulse and motivation to continually cut costs and streamline operation.

Nowhere is this seen better than in the various departmental budgets in place on the typical University, and this is where we reach the real crux of the issue. For those of you unfamiliar with how a state-backed budget works, it generally operates as such: As long as you justify your existence and spend all the cash allocated to you for that fiscal year, a same sum (or a larger amount) is usually guaranteed next year. Most state organizations, such as our ever-competent DOT, operate with this motivator.

The problem with this system is that it encourages growth and further budget fattening, but discourages spendthrift policies.

People are motivated to spend right up to their budget lest they lose it. Thus, the system breeds a "use it or lose it" mindset. Costs are never shrunk because no one wants to lose funding. This, more than anything else, is the core reason why college tuition is climbing. The idea of cutting costs runs completely counter to fat cat spending; in fact budget growth, and subsequent tuition hikes, are almost guaranteed this way.

It's a nasty, self-perpetuating cycle that breeds cost increases but almost never cost improvements. The only motivator present is to spend, not to save. This is another of the fundamental differences between a state-backed organization and a private organization.

If Congress really wants to solve the problem of tuition hikes (and the subsequent stress they will continue to place on middle-class families), they should tackle this problem. But that will force Washington to also point fingers at themselves and their own budget problems.

And when you're a politician, attacking your own overspending is something you loathe to do.

So break out your checkbooks everyone. It's only going to get worse from here.

I welcome comments, complaints, and counter-arguments at csu12323@student.claytonstate.net. Make sure to specify if we can print your comments.

Pirates of the Compact Disc Sales

By Micheal Smith

A year ago this month the Recording Industry Association of America began swarming Kazaa, Morpheus, and other file sharing networks with teams of covert wanna-be music and movie pirates. Not only have they preyed on finding people like you and I downloading "Magic stick", "Bring Me to Life", "Right Thurr", and god knows tons of movies and porn, but they have also created and posted hundreds of imposter files filled with anti-piracy messages. Their target; college students or younger, a defiantly easy target considering most college students don't know jack about the copyright laws pertaining to sharing music, much less their younger cohorts. Their message; Stop downloading copyrighted music, or face a federal subpoena for possible criminal conviction facing up to \$150,000 dollars in fines and up to ten years in "club Fed", per violation. This means for each song or movie downloaded the RIAA can fine you anywhere from \$750 to \$150,000 dollars, usually settling for students or parents life savings. Yes parents too are now in the clause, more than ever if the unfortunate college student doesn't have the money to ante up! The RIAA will then in turn file a suit against the parents for what ever they own or have in their bank accounts, most likely both. People they are coming down harder than "bombs over Baghdad", and effectively getting the support they need from the federal government.

Now most people probably wonder "when did all this start?" good question. The process officially got started in October of 1998 when Bill Clinton signed the Digital Millennium Copyright Act. When this legislation was passed it gave companies the ability to spy on almost anyone they think is infringing upon their own intellectual and copyrighted property. Translated this means if they think you stole their intellectual property, or any kind of digital media or copyrighted materials, then they have the right to search and seize to find out whether or not you did. This act creates a broad extent of power for RIAA which was formed in 2000; practically giving them the power to crack down on file sharing networks by subpoenaing user lists from the file sharing services and also the internet service providers. This not only gives them a name, but accurately targets the user that downloaded "Bring Me to Life" and "Until the Day I Die."

The reasoning the RIAA is using to justify their master plan is the recent drop in CD sales, attributed to CD burning and massive file sharing, saying record sales have dropped from 2.5% to 7.5% during 1999 to 2003, which amounts to about 290 million in lost record sales. Now the RIAA would love to grossly overestimate file sharing user piracy using the old lingo that losses in CD sales are directly related to more people sharing, downloading, and burning more music. Another fact that the RIAA leaves out when factoring in all their stats and figures on CD sales, is that over the past years recording labels have driven the price of CDs higher and further from reach during an economic recession. Simply put, who can afford to go out and purchase bundles of CDs at a time anymore? There is also another factor to consider, who wants to pay 18 bucks for a CD that only has one or two tracks worth listening to? That's nine dollars a track. Here is an analogy, the average student makes anywhere from 6 to 8 bucks an hour for a hard day's work. He or she goes to purchase a CD they think is worth while without listening to it before hand, they get home and pop the CD in and skip around a few tracks at a time. Still skipping through they realize the CD they just paid nearly 20 bucks for is crap and has only one or two five minute songs that are even worth listening to. This person is severely disappointed in knowing they were fooled by the industry and the artist from getting to hear just one hit from the radio. Now that same person with high speed internet can download almost any song they want to hear from the same CD and possibly make an educated choice on whether or not they want to buy the CD and support the artist or just the single from music service providers such as iTunes.com and BuyMusic.com.

The hunt is on people, the RIAA is grabbing up user names and massive databases from ISP and colleges on a massive scale. And they are trying to broaden their reach by slipping in amendments to legislation that are being passed all the time. Not only do they have immense legal resources; they are now employing senators and congressmen to their aid hoping to squeeze their claws deeper into students and colleges. The latest trend is to go after the colleges that show the most amount of file sharing; this also includes the dorms they harbor. Students beware if you think they won't get you, you're wrong. They subpoena hundreds of users every month and the colleges and universities are all too eager to give us up. The last thing any school wants is a liability lawsuit because their networks are harboring music pirates; they would rather help find the culprits than face a multi-million dollar lawsuit. Just imagine what such a suit could do to Clayton State's credibility and financial situation as well as you own.

Get Involved! CCSU Offers a Variety of Extracurricular Activities

The Science Association is a group of students who really enjoy science. We welcome all students no matter what their major. There are no fees to join our club - but we do have great t-shirts! Each year we set out to provide great learning and fun experiences for all of our students and events that they can also bring the kids to. Some of our past events include: nature clean-up days, participation in homecoming, a rafting trip, field trips to graduate schools and we have volunteered in the past to work at Zoo Atlanta. We also have had a few of the many researchers in the Atlanta area come out and talk about some of the latest developments in their research. We have a ton of fun and lots of free food! From IT majors, to Teacher Education, to Science majors, and everyone in between - we are the club for you! Check out our bulletin board in the Business and Health Sciences building!

Our "Know the Pros" BBQ and picnic will be on August 30th for all science majors to come out and meet the faculty here at CCSU and have fun while making a few contacts that could really enhance your career!

Our Fall 2003 Semester Kick-Off Party and Officer Elections will be September 2nd from 12:00 - 1:00pm. There will be free food and we will plan some of the things that we will do for the next year. Come out and meet us!!!

Contact: scienceassociation@yahoo.com for more information - Margaret Mills (current president) will answer your questions.

Circle K International is the largest college-level service organization in North America. CCSU's Circle K was chartered last year and is sponsored by Riverdale Kiwanis, and its members actively volunteer for on-campus and community service projects while developing leadership skills. Members also have fun. Last year Circle K members participated in Trick or Treat for UNICEF, Chain of Love for terminally ill children, AIDS Walk Atlanta, YMCA Healthy Kids Fair, H.E.A.L.T.H.Y. (Health and Exercise Lead To Healthy Youth), Military Student Recognition Day, Open Hand Days, playground renovations, tutoring programs, a campus clean-up, and many other activities, some with sister clubs in Georgia.

Circle K's faculty sponsors are Dr. Jim Bogert in the School of Business and Dr. Susan Henry in the School of Arts and Sciences. Circle K meets each Thursday in Business and Health Sciences, room 26, at noon. Since we have lost some leaders due to transfers, we are looking for new, energetic people who like to have fun and want to serve the membership and the community at large. The membership fee is \$33, which can be paid in three monthly installments. Membership applications can be picked up from Dr. Henry's door in Arts and Sciences, room 210N. Felicia Montgomery, the current president, can be reached at queenfel@yahoo.com. Dr. Henry can be reached at 770-961-3466 or at SusanHenry@mail.clayton.edu. Dr. Bogert can be reached at 770-961-3451 or at JamesBogert@mail.clayton.edu.

Delta Epsilon Chi is an international organization for college students preparing for careers in marketing, management, merchandising, and entrepreneurship. Its local chapters and state associations are a division of DECA Inc. Delta Epsilon Chi is currently active throughout the U.S., its territories and Canada. Students compete in National/Regional competitions in many categories including: Advertising, Entrepreneurship, Fashion Merchandising, Visual Merchandising, Sports Marketing, MIS, Ethics, Restaurant Management and many more. Please contact latashahurt@bellsouth.net for more information. Activities promoted by Delta Epsilon Chi integrate with and enhance the student's college curriculum. In addition, the organization's close ties with the business community provide both opportunities for members and an appreciation of the free enterprise system. Delta Epsilon Chi membership is an essential resource for future professionals. Advantages of membership include career development, awards and recognition, and leadership and employment opportunities. CCSU's chapter is led by an excellent advisor, Dr. Russell Casey, Assistant Professor/Marketing Coordinator. Members assemble on the third Thursday of each month at Noon in room T-115.

Advisor, **Dr. Russell Casey**
770-961-3453

RussellCasey@mail.clayton.edu

President, **Latasha Hurt**
latashahurt@bellsouth.net

The Black Cultural Awareness Association (BCAA) exists to cultivate cultural enrichment for the student body at Clayton College & State University and the community at large. BCAA provides activities that promote African American history and culture. BCAA also finds and implements ways to assist the economic and social development of the community by volunteering, tutoring, and mentoring.

We are currently seeking new members committed to helping the BCAA fulfill its mission. These new members will be considered for vacant offices as well as roles on various committees. The upcoming fall semester should represent a period of drastic growth for our organization.

contact: John F. Dilworth II
(678)570-4914
massmotivation@aol.com

Ambassadors assist the Office of Recruitment in bringing potential students to CCSU. Past members have served as tour guides and greeters at orientations and events. One of the Ambassadors main activities includes running a concession at Clayton State home soccer games. The club also spends time volunteering around campus with activities such as a campus cleanup. Along with volunteer activities and leading tours the Ambassadors have several club outings including Braves Games, retreats, and trips. The club meets on Thursdays at noon in the student center in room STC222. All enrolled students are eligible to join and can receive information through the e-mail address 16069@mail.claytonstate.net

Christian Campus Ministries is not your parents' campus ministry. We try to take on the hard topics with an intellectually honest approach. The meetings include free food and are held each Tuesday, noon-1:00 in B-11 (lecture hall). In the past we have talked about: war, romance, gender roles, science and faith, how the Bible was translated and assembled, and how to get scholarships. Everyone is welcome, and we enjoy the participation of a very diverse group which includes, students, staff, faculty, Christians, non-Christians, agnostics, and none-of-the-aboves. We believe that the Christian faith benefits from the scrutiny of all those who search diligently for truth. Website <http://a-s.clayton.edu/hampikian/CCM/default.htm>
Contact our activities chair, Molly Martin

The Clayton State BSU (Baptist Student Union) meets **every Tuesday** from 12 noon until 1 pm in **B (Lecture Hall) 13**. Join us every Tuesday starting August 19th through December 2nd for free lunch, bible study, and worship as we journey through college life together. We will be dealing with every day questions and concerns as we look to the Bible for guidance. Drop by and check it out. Everyone is welcome. You can contact the following individuals for more information or questions: Rhonda Boozer, our faculty adviser, at Rhondaboozer@mail.clayton.edu or Chris Raffield, our campus minister, at craffield@hotmail.com.

CCSU Has Three Swans for the First Time Ever!



It all began in the mid 90's when a generous couple from Jonesboro donated Rhett and Scarlett. In Spring of 1997, Rhett and Scarlett built a nest. In April, Rhett was forced to defend his unhatched offspring when a dog threatened to harm the nest. Unfortunately, he lost his life in the battle. In May of 1997, Rhett and Scarlett's signet hatched and was named Bonnie, sticking with the *Gone With the Wind* tradition. Bonnie disappeared within her first week, likely due to a snapping turtle. Paul Bailey raised funds to purchase a new male swan. The swan arrived in June and was named Ashley. The next month, Scarlett died due to lead poisoning from a lead sinker on some fishing line. Again, funds were raised, and Ashley met his new companion, Melanie. Melanie died in 1998 and was replaced by Belle. Belle and Ashley had one signet, but Ashley died in 1999, leaving behind his unhatched son. This male swan finally was able to grow to adulthood, and has now fathered the new baby swan that you will see if you visit Swan Lake. For the first time in CCSU's history, we have three beautiful swans!

The two male swans that we currently have are not named. We would like to continue the *Gone With the Wind* tradition in naming them. If you have any suggestions, e-mail the Bent Tree and let us hear them!

Btree@mail.clayton.edu

Student Opinion:

What did you think of the bodies of Uday and Qusay Hussein being shown on television?

By Redd Horrocks

The death of Uday and Qusay Hussein seemed to everyone like a huge victory for those seeking the freedom of the Iraqi people. After their deaths, pictures of the bloody and bruised bodies were released for the world to see. Then shortly afterwards, more pictures were released showing clean reconstructed faces, and creepy autopsy wounds. My question is did we really need to see it? When Iraqi television showed footage of dead American soldiers there was a huge deal made about how that shouldn't have happened. In showing the bodies of Uday and Qusay did we step over the line ourselves?

My grandmother always used to tell me 'Two wrongs don't make a right' so maybe we shouldn't have shown those pictures. The first pictures shown were very brutal and a major concern could be the effect these have on children who may have seen the pictures. Should we not have protected them from these visions of death and war? America was not the country that needed the proof, so why did we need to see these pictures? The pictures after the reconstruction were perhaps even worse because they showed plastic-looking bodies that had admittedly been constructed to look the way Uday and Qusay used to look. Showing these pictures may have been a mistake because it instills doubt to whether it really was the brothers. I just don't think we should have shown the pictures. Where will we draw the line? If we find the body of Saddam Hussein will we preserve it and parade it around the country for everyone to line up and see like some sort of gruesome war trophy? I think that we need to try and make sure that we do not push the boundaries of common decency. We are better than that.

By Micheal Smith

In a world full of skeptics, how can a person even begin to explain how dental records and x-rays could prove that brothers Uday and Qusay Hussein are really dead? How can a country such as Iraq and her people ever feel confident to set up a new government with even a hint that they might one day come back to a tyrannous reign? Most people of Iraq are so afraid of Uday and Qusay that they dare not speak against them for fear of being kidnapped and taken off to some remote part of the desert and executed. One of our goals in the war for Iraq was "Regime Change", and the removal of all people within the corrupted government including Uday and Qusay was entirely necessary.

In order to prove to the skeptical people of Iraq that the two would never come to power again, and to prove we really got them and it was not just part of some elaborate American conspiracy, was to show them on the most available resource, Al-Jazeera TV, which is like the CNN of the mid-east watched by over 35 million Arab viewers. Getting viable intelligence in Iraq on the where-a-bouts of WMD and other regime members including Saddam Hussein has been one of the US military's most difficult tasks. Since releasing the pictures of the dead brothers, more people have come forward with good intelligence, most importantly people working in Iraq's chemical and nuclear programs as well as bodyguards that were in service of the brothers and Saddam.

For the people who did suffer at Uday and Qusay's hands such as the Olympic athletes, the Shi'ite Muslims, and innocent thirteen year old girls who were raped by Uday, it is absolutely necessary that these people get some kind of redemption. The simple fact that knowing your oppressor is dead; seeing their lifeless faces broadcasted all over the world almost certainly gives them a little pleasure. I can't deny that it gave me a little gratification in knowing that our military did what they were sent out to do. And it by no doubts gave most of the people of Iraq the same feeling and by all means a sense of redemption. Hopefully this act of salvation will give the Iraqi people some hope for a new and better government. It is no doubt the best means to prove to the skeptic to whom "seeing is believing."

Regardless of the morality of plastering the images of their dead bodies all over America, it had to be done. Americans don't trust some government official just stating the facts. They want to see proof whether it's gruesome or not.
Ashley Lugsdin (freshman)

By all accounts, both men committed untold atrocities against Iraqi people. Understandably, the citizens of Iraq may have wanted and needed proof of their deaths as an assurance against their return to power. Did we as Americans need to see those photos? I certainly did not. What I need to see are the people of Iraq being freed from tyrannical indignities, rebuilding their country and ultimately finding a better way of life.
Sondra Landrum
Department of Student Life & Orientation

I would just like to say that I think that was a truly morbid thing for the internet, news stations, and newspapers to show. Especially since children were also viewing those images uncensored. Has our country gone so far down that we do not value human life anymore? Do we have to publicize the death of someone's children just to try and make ourselves feel better? Although they were the sons of a man that the world has grown to dislike based on his actions, that does not give us the right to make a mockery of human life; those were his children. To show those pictures and to read the articles that seem to have such sarcastic overtures is

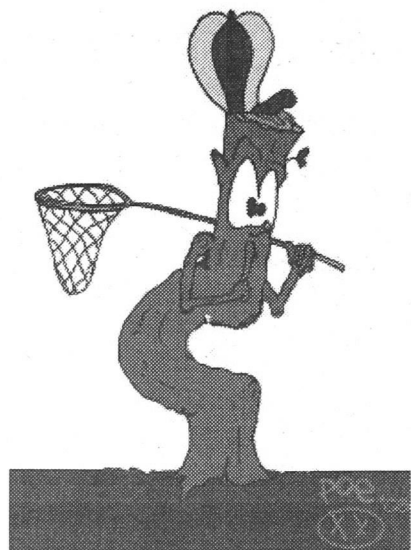
disheartening, not to mention inhumane. We all need to search our hearts and minds and see just what does human life (not just for those we love) mean to each of us.
Destinee Townsend

My opinion of the photos is mixed. It was disturbing, of course, but an ugly necessity. At least our society is still aware of what is appropriate on some level, judging by the reaction of some of the American public. However, when you add the almost mystical and legendary power the Hussein family has over the people of Iraq, proof of their death beyond doubt is key to a new beginning. The Iraqi people fear the return of Sadaam's reign and are adamant in their reluctance to feel true freedom.
Marshall Choka

I feel that it was not necessary to show the pictures to the world. The only justification the government had was to prove to the world that they have killed Saddam's sons. The pictures are nothing but trophies to prove the United States' success. I am proud that we are winning the war on terrorism, but the government had no right to release pictures of dead bodies on national television and newspapers. These pictures were accessible by children of all ages. The country would be in an uproar if photos of dead American soldiers were published in the papers and featured on the evening news. The publishing of the photos shows just what our country is coming to.
Disgusted Student

I have mixed feelings about this question. Being antiwar in general (and opposed to this one against Iraq in particular), I deplore the fact that it took place at all. I do think, however, that if a nation is going to fight a war, people should see exactly what it causes. The US news media has a long history of "sanitizing" what US citizens hear and see about the wars that the US has fought. War is no more than a TV series or a video game to many people in the US. During the recent war in Iraq, I spent hours on Middle Eastern and European web sites looking at the real impact of war in terms of uncensored or unsanitized photos, statistics, and articles. Most of this information never reached the American public. Maybe its time that the American public sees what the rest of the world sees when the US goes to war.
Dale Fuller

Like a horrific car accident, few people could turn their eyes from the television screen as the photos of Uday and Qusay were aired. But I think it is important to remember the reason behind the photos and their target audience. The people of Iraq have been dominated by the Hussein family for decades. People were tortured, slaughtered, or at best, lived in fear on a daily basis. To simply tell the citizen that these men were no longer a threat would not have sufficed. They needed, demanded, and quite frankly, deserved proof. These people could not be expected to speak out against a regime they feared would return to retaliate.
Jenaya Duke



*"Shhhh. Be
vehwy quiet.
We're hunt-
ing new writ-
ers for the
Bent Twee."*

**Write for the Bent
Tree!**
**We always welcome
any new talent!**
Contact us at:
Btree@mail.clayton.edu

Exhaust Pipe

Will the new building ever be completed? The sign says February 2003, but from the looks of it perhaps they were a bit optimistic. Will it be finished by the time I graduate?

Did the library incorporate a happy hour? All of you loud obnoxious people need to shut up and give others a chance to study. Take the gossip outside or to places where it is acceptable like perhaps the student center.

You wannabe corporate execs with cell phones need to put it on vibrate and take it outside. I'm tired of hearing a hundred different ring tones going off every five minutes with people pretending to make corporate buy-out decisions in the library.

I'm confused, does CCSU stand for Child Care & Social Unruliness? It seems that people are confusing our hallways for nurseries and detention centers. People please leave your children in capable hands and not in our hallways - they do not belong here.

Why is it that the people who are a bit conservative minded, are being punished financially and academically? Is the school and faculty trying to push neo-liberal ideas through literature books that keep getting revised every year to keep up with the newest liberal writers?

I grow up with muslims, and my best friend is muslim. I respect her muslimculture and she respect mine. "And I feel that we all have to respect that(culture)"Because culture has a lot of meaning!One of the muslim culture when somebody died, normally, the body can not wait days to be burried and second they never show the died body to the people, evento their intermediate families.A'm trying to imagine how bad, how muslim people feel some one to interruptedtheir culture?. I believed this rised a lot of questions/hungers to themuslims nations.We trusted and believed our soldiers, "nation". We go by what they are tellingus, they are the ones doing the jobs, to let us sleep in peace. They are theones who knows what the did today, they are the ones who face all consequences,I trust them.So I think it was not fair to interrupted someone culture! by shown the bodyimages to the media!
Elizabeth Yengi

I think it is GREAT!!!! Terrorists only understand one thing. Negotiating will accomplish nothing as terrorists are not people of their word. You can only count on them to try their darndest to exterminate the American people.... As for Uday and Qusay? They are the first in a long line of people that have a taste for what it feels like when you mess with the USA and kill 3000+ of her innocent bystanders. Good for you George Bush!!!
Kirk Willoughby

I think it was appalling that the media actually showed pictures of Uday and Qusay's bodies. I understand that many people were skeptical that it was actually them since they had body doubles, but there are better and less graphic ways to prove this to everyone. The media tried to say it was each person's discretion as to whether or not they should view the pictures but everywhere I turned the pictures were in the headlines. I had no choice but to see them, and I think its sad that the media put them out in such a way that children could be exposed to them. Aside from the fact that I don't think everybody should have been exposed to the pictures, I also think that everyone deserves some respect and privacy in death even if they were evil people in life. No one deserves to have their death photos smeared across the media.
Lauren Hughes

How can we show their bodies, but we could not show the American POW's and dead American soldiers? I think it is all hypocritical and expected from the now government led media!
Kevin

I don't feel good about the blood of Uday & Qusay being on our (America) hands. By committing such an act, I feel America will now suffer more terrorist attacks. Besides, I thought the war of 911 was between Bin Laden and us.
Sherlene Nelson

I don't think it accomplished much in Iraq, because so many did not believe it was the Hussein brothers. It was not until Saddam openly acknowledged their deaths that the people trusted that they were dead. Of course, for those who wanted vengeance and retribution, it was probably a great idea.
Diane Burns
Enrollment Services

I don't feel good about the blood of Uday & Qusay being on our (America) hands. By committing such an act, I feel America will now suffer more terrorist attacks. Besides, I thought the war of 911 was between Bin Laden and us.
Sherlene Nelson

**Always feel free to
share your opinions
with The Bent Tree!**

E-mail us at:
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Health and Spirituality

Tobacco: The Legal Addiction

By Christina R Mapp

MMMMMMmmmm. That's the soundtrack to a person who is indulging in a tasty soup as the chilly autumn weather begins to draw closer. Wouldn't it be so yummy to devour a soup containing such ingredients as fiberglass, carbon monoxide, nicotine, and tobacco, just to name a few? You might think that anyone who would consume such poisonous and unhealthy chemicals would be slightly insane, right? Well, people that smoke cigarettes, or better yet "cancer sticks," are certainly not getting enough of this stuff. Moreover, some cigarette smokers have their own favorite "recipes" that can be categorized by the brand of cancer sticks they purchase. But what's the big deal, you ask? The issue is imperative to society because it has an extremely negative drawback: it allows for the creation of what I like to call a legal addict and its careless supplier: the tobacco industry. Conversely, this is not an article that intends to ridicule and insult the smoking population. However, it is a fact that nicotine is the addictive additive that hinders smokers from successfully going cold turkey. With this in mind, any thoughts geared toward cigarettes smokers stems more from concern rather than animosity.

Cigarettes are extremely deadly. You may have heard this from your first grade teacher, parent, or the multitudinous amounts of Truth commercials that pop up during your TV time. However, just telling people to not smoke just makes them more curious. But do cigarette smokers really know what they are doing to themselves? First, all humans have genes associated with the cancerous transformation of cells in your body. Fortunately we are born with these genes "turned off." In other words, they are inactive at the moment. However, cigarette smoke, when consumed, has the ability to turn these cancer genes on, thus triggering the production of cancerous cells. Furthermore, when we cough and hark up foreign particles from our respiratory system (lungs, trachea, larynx, and pharynx) that is made possible by fingerlike projections that brush the matter to your mouth. On the contrary, cigarette smoke has the toxicity to destroy these projections; thus, foreign debris accumulates around the lungs, which is very dangerous. There are a host of medical complications that come with smoking cancer sticks, all which are incurable, and eventually lead to death. So why be so concerned what happens to cigarette smokers? Well, they are definitely not the only ones at risk of getting cancer. The toxicity of second-hand smoke is unfortunately more dangerous than the smoke consumed. In addition, the variety of chemicals found in different brands, are even more deadly. For instance, Newport Menthols are said to have a refreshing mint-like taste. What these buyers don't know is that that mint flavor is really fiberglass that eventually cuts holes in the lungs. Thus, these smokers cough up chunks of their lungs after continuous use.

Unfortunately, as we travel around campus you may see some of these "addicts". All you have to do is inhale or walk into the many clouds of cigarette smoke that invade the entrances to many buildings on campus. So what can be done? Nothing, because the tobacco industry is a multimillion dollar industry with strong power holds on Capital Hill. Our Congress is accepting the fact that cigarettes not only are heavily addictive, but also deadly. It kind of sounds like the all-too-familiar scenario with hard drugs, like heroine and crack. The dealer only cares about their profit, not their customer. Therefore, there is no one to break this deadly cycle of addiction and the population of legal addicts will continue to soar, only to be controlled by their respiratory related death rate. So maybe a soup containing fiberglass, carbon monoxide, and nicotine isn't that bad after all if you have the ideal health insurance. You decide.

What if the World Has No Answers?

By: Bob McPherson

In recent centuries, people have found the scientific method to be a very useful tool in finding explanations for almost any phenomenon. We have become very intellectual, science-based thinkers, ignoring all possible answers about our curiosities that cannot be proven or measured. Science is a fascinating and valuable way of explaining proximate questions – questions that require a concrete cause and effect relationship to be satisfied. However, as far as ultimate questions – questions of philosophical nature, such as "Why are we here?", "How did we get here?", and "Where are we going?" – science has no explanations.

We may be able to prove that there was a Big Bang, but we have no idea why an explosion occurred or how it resulted in perfectly round planets arranged in a very orderly fashion. We may have good reason to theorize that life on our planet began with a single life form approximately 3.5 billion years ago and eventually evolved to produce every living creature on Earth today, but we cannot explain how that organism was suddenly *alive*. Moreover, if we rely on science alone, we find absolutely no answers to the questions that matter most to us. We have an innate need, as described by existential psychologists; to find purpose and meaning in life. Why *are* we here? All of us must answer this question in order to have any motivation to live. We are the only animals on the planet that are aware of our unavoidable impending death. This knowledge would overwhelm us with fear and anxiety if we did not have a belief about what will happen to us when we die. Few people can handle the belief that this life is all they get and that when they die, they will completely cease to exist for all of eternity; most people are terrified by this possibility. The fact is that if we are to believe only what can be proven by science, the answers to these three ultimate questions are: We evolved from a single organism that miraculously came to life, our purpose is to reproduce strong offspring, and when we die, we will decompose into nothingness.

All of this may be true, but we are taking these ideas on faith just as much as we would with any philosophical or theological explanation. Philosophy is a good place to start looking for answers. The philosophers who are famous are perhaps some of the most intelligent, deep-thinking individuals to have ever lived. I would venture to say that most people still would not be satisfied with such worldly answers to their questions though. After all, the great philosophers were humans too with the same limited capacity for understanding the universe that we all have. For there to be so many questions for which we cannot find any concrete answers, we must wonder if there is a being who does understand everything that we do not.

Belief systems honoring supernatural beings have existed probably since the beginning of man, certainly since the first civilization that we have on record. The word "religion" means to bind or to tie to that which influences our lives. Only since the Scientific Revolution have we begun to distinguish what is secular from what is spiritual. It is likely that in the ancient past, belief systems were never referred to as religions. They were just the answers to the three ultimate questions that removed their fear and anxiety. By believing in something beyond this world, we feel a sense of mastery over our problems, we name a purpose for our lives so that we feel important and directed, and more than anything, we give ourselves hope, freedom from fear of death, comfort in times of anxiety, doubt, or depression, and we are released from the confines of these short lives. The pressure to make this life perfect is lifted because we can believe that we will live again, whether that will be in Nirvana, Heaven, Paradise, or on this Earth in another life. We are able to believe that forever does not mean blackness with no air, no love, no happiness, surrounded only by dirt and the ground-dwellers that will eventually devour us. That big scary word that blows all of our minds if we think about it long enough – *eternity* – doesn't have to be a daunting, lonely place. We don't have to be limited to a tiny blip of time to know our loved ones. Imagine all of the people on this planet that you will never meet in this lifetime. Now what about all of the people who have inhabited this world for the past 5000 years or more that you missed altogether and never even had the chance to know. What if there was no limit on your time and you could know them all?

By believing that there is more to come after this life, you can tell your loved ones goodbye in the morning and not fear that it could be the last time you will see them forever. All of the religions that have existed are fairly different but share common themes. They give credit to a supernatural power, give human lives a purpose, and they give hope for a better future beyond this life. Although I've found my own answers, I am not going to try to convince anyone that I have it all figured out. Maybe no one does. The simple fact is that this world full of fallible humans is an unsatisfactory source in which to find the answers to these big questions. Why not have a little faith?

Could a Child Care Facility Be In CCSU's Future?

By Kymberly Fletcher



What would I change at CCSU? I would change our policy about an affordable daycare on campus. In my opinion many students could benefit in having the convenience of a daycare on the campus. The majority of the students that attend CCSU are non-traditional students with small children. Therefore, a daycare on the premises would eliminate the parental student from the struggle of finding proper supervision for one's child. If the proper authorities would support a campus survey, the number of students that need childcare would believe to be at an alarming rate. The school is provided to equip us with a proper college education. Unfortunately, many of CCSU's students will not experience a proper college education due to the fact that they are impelled to continue their education at a later date. The reason for many delayed educational advances is the inadequate facility for a student daycare program. I am one of those students that must pay a proper childcare facility for three children. I am fortunate to be able to pay for proper childcare. There are many future doctors, lawyers, writers, and nurses that cannot enjoy the comfort of having their children in a childcare facility. I truly believe that CCSU should consider and research the possibilities of a future student childcare facility.

Sigma Pi- Philanthropy at it's Best!

By Redd Horrocks

Clayton State has a very short list of fraternities, and it is wonderful to see that we will soon be adding another to our number. Sigma Pi is about to explode on to the scene and hopefully become a major fixture at all campus events and in campus life. I talked to Eric Wilkes, the future President of Sigma Pi's Clayton State chapter and he told me that Sigma Pi is all about philanthropy and brotherhood. They are very much against hazing and are for brotherhood, fun and being an asset to society. Mr Wilkes says that he was sitting around one day and just decided that he was bored with campus life. He called up a good friend, Wyatt Lowe and suggested that they start a fraternity. The two of them saw it as being a good opportunity for them, and a good reason to throw some parties and do some good, and the rest is history. Sigma Pi are looking for guys that are in good academic standing with a GPA of 2.0 as well as being "cool, not anti-social, people who will give back to the fraternity". When I asked Mr Wilkes what he planned to do to prevent hazing, a growing concern among many fraternities and sororities, he said that they didn't plan to do physical or embarrassing things during pledging. The first twenty-five members will be considered founding fathers, so they will not go through the pledging process.

Sigma Pi is a big national organization. It is one of the ten largest fraternities nationwide. There are currently three chapters in Georgia, the one Mr Wilkes is creating will be the fourth. Sigma Pi can trace its history back to 1897, though it was ten years later that the name was adopted. Sigma Pi is a very popular fraternity in the northeastern United States.

I asked Mr Wilkes if Sigma Pi were intending to involve themselves in charity work and he responded that it would be an enormous part of Sigma Pi. They intend to take part in a lot of community service and hosting fundraising events, although it has not yet been determined what specific charities they will support. Mr Wilkes reiterated that philanthropy is a huge part of what Sigma Pi is all about and that they will make that a big focus of their chapter. Mr Wilkes says that the fraternity will not be about drinking and womanizing all the time, just at the right times and that as a rule at any party they host, officers cannot drink in order to protect members and guests. Ben Hopkins will be the fraternities Sergeant In Arms, entrusted with being the cop of the university and acting as a bouncer at parties, and at 6'7" I doubt anyone would try to mess with him. Though partying is a big priority to the guys of Sigma Pi, the fraternity will try and weed out people who are just there to party. They want people to have and make connections, people who will not just take from the fraternity but who will give back as well. They want energized members who will be active and help to make the fraternity noticed. Mr Wilkes says that if there is one thing he wants people to know about Sigma Pi it's that he wants them to shed their misconceptions that fraternity guys are troublemakers who just want to party and drink. He wants to have a fraternity of people that are interested in much more than that.

On August 30th, Sigma Pi will be hosting their first event. They will be throwing a big party in the Continuing Education building with a comedy show, a live band and food. People are welcome to come and hang out and see first-hand what Sigma Pi is all about.

If you are interested in finding out more about Sigma Pi, please get in touch with one of the following people:-

Eric Wilkes - President (ewilkes83@aol.com)

Wyatt Lowe - Vice President

Ben Hopkins - Sergeant in Arms

Shannon Fuff - Treasurer

David Campbell - Secretary

The New Face of Tradition

By Jodee Nagle

The face of tradition can be found on the campus of Clayton State in the diversity of the students attending this fine institution. People from all lifestyles attend CCSU, but the growing number of the non-traditional student has skyrocketed. Conventionally, college is for the fresh new high school graduate, eager for the first-time experience of higher education, and in many instances, the first time away from home. With the coming of a new millennium, traditions change, and with downsizing and layoffs in the workplace, the need for higher education has attracted a new breed of college freshmen. The older student, with jobs, families and financial obligations takes on the added responsibility of college along with new obstacles. From refresher courses to relearning study habits, the non-traditional student is faced with vast new experiences that in the real world may have been forgotten. There is hope, however, not only with classes specifically for the non-traditional student, but the system of support through fellow classmates is a welcome to the non-traditional student.

The tools needed for any college student to succeed include efficient time management as well as good study habits. Clayton State offers a class for students that have been out of school for five or more years; a class that teaches both time management skills and study habits. CSOR, College Skills Orientation, is a wealth of knowledge that can make the world of difference for the non-traditional student with detailed information on how to develop habits to last a lifetime. The class tours the campus and outlines the departments where academic help can be found, as well as encouraging the buddy system, providing students with a foundation that will last throughout college, and life. This support system is fundamental because it helps establish the role of the non-traditional student on campus.

The role of the non-traditional student on campus is an important one because the older student brings the lessons of life learned along with the wisdom gained from these difficulties to share with the younger student, forging a unique bond that enriches the college experience for both generations. The benefits of this bond are found outside the college campus as well, primarily when dealing with parents and teens at home. The older student is able to set an example for their younger counterparts, but can gain valuable insights from their younger peers. To see the world through the eyes of a young person just starting out is to experience a world borne of a resiliency that is rarely found in the cynical adult world.

The beginning of the school year is here at Clayton State, and there are many changes in the attitudes of students of all ages. For the non-traditional student, this is the time to experience an important part of life, college life, which was possibly missed in the past. Going back to school after a decade or more is a scary thing, and it takes courage and fortitude to face such a daunting task, as well as work and a family. However, Clayton State has resources available that can be of help to students of any age to achieve success. As for the high school graduate, this is the time to expand horizons and become the future.

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**UNIVERSITY
RIDESHARE**

Parking and traffic are always a challenge at the beginning of fall semester. University RideShare would like to encourage all employees and students to register as a potential carpooler with Public Safety. This is not a commitment; however, you might meet a new neighbor or a friend who lives nearby and who has a similar schedule.

Even if you carpool just one time a month, you are not only saving money and helping the environment, but also helping by eliminating the need for a parking space on campus. It is nice to know someone who lives nearby just in case your car breaks down.

Through the Atlanta Regional Commission's 1-87-RIDEFIND database, students are matched with students and employees are matched with employees. The more people we have registered, the better chance you will have to find a POTENTIAL match.

To better serve your alternate transportation needs, Parking and Communications, Student Center, D-209, offers C-Trans One-Way passes (\$1.50 each) and MARTA tokens (\$1.75 each) that can be purchased when you want to take mass transit. These passes/tokens do not expire.

Also, remember State employees are required by a Governor's Executive Order to reduce single occupancy vehicle traffic to and from Clayton State each day by 20 percent from May 1 through September 30.

If you have not picked up your new 2003-04 Parking Pass, stop by Parking/Communications in the Student Center, Room D-209. Additional parking passes are available for \$5 each.

For any questions, please call Public Safety at 770-961-3540 or visit our web page:
<http://adminservices.clayton.edu/ps/>

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If you are planning to complete your requirements for a degree or a certificate and want to graduate at the end of the spring semester, **you must file an application for graduation no later than September 15, 2003.**

The Registrar's office will be unable to accept late applications. We strongly recommend you not wait until the last minute to submit your application. While the deadline is September 15, you may submit your application any time up until the deadline. Students who file applications, but are unable to complete their requirements in time for Spring 2004 graduation, can update their applications for a subsequent graduation term. **Failing to file on time, however, will prevent you from graduating even if your degree or certificate requirements have been completed.**

Graduation application forms are available in the academic department of your major. Once the form is completed, turn it in to the Registrar's Office. This must be done in person. You will receive a receipt. Please be sure to retain your receipt for your records.

Need assistance or have questions? Please visit www.adminservices.clayton.edu/registrar/ or call (770) 960-5110 for additional details.

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