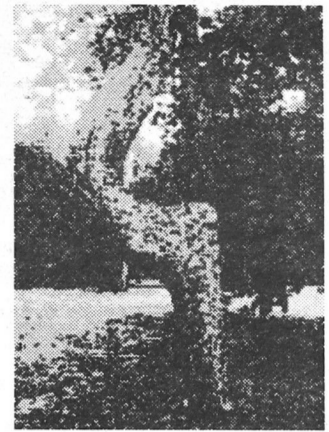


# THE BENT TREE

Volume 33, Issue 5

November 3, 2003

CCSU STUDENT NEWSPAPER



## Feel It! Hear It! Laker Spirit! *Homecoming 2003*

**Clayton College & State  
University's  
2003 Homecoming  
King and Queen**  
Terrence Bates, *Ambassadors*  
Destinee Townsend, *American  
Humanics*



Photo courtesy of Micheal Smith



Photo courtesy of Micheal Smith



**First Place**  
**Decorated Float/Car**  
**Teacher Education Club**

Second place: Delta Epsilon Chi

Third Place: Science Association

*Homecoming 2003 Continued on Page 12*

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# Opinions

## Adventures in Interning

By Jonathan Gillespie

Interning has always struck me as a necessary evil; while I recognize that real-world experience in one's profession is a damn smart idea, I nonetheless find myself annoyed by certain aspects of the entire process. And who doesn't?

Over the past few weeks I, along with many of your fellow students, have navigated the landmine-filled path to becoming someone's apprentice (or indentured servant, depending on how you look at it). Finding an internship is never easy, and in the economy we enjoy currently it has become even more difficult.

The pickings seemed slimmer this year than others. This isn't to discredit the various departments, as I know they work hard, but it is rather a sign of the times. Although I freely admit it could just be coincidental, the number of paying internships seems especially down.

I've never really understood the point of a non-paying internship. Sure, you still usually get good experience, but a non-paying internship doesn't have "the bite" a real-world internship does. I believe this is because it's easier to slack off in a non-paying position. Let's face it—a volunteer

will only be motivated if they truly love what they are doing, but many of us work so much harder under the influence of our good buddy Benjamin. Yes, the heights of inspiration old Ben inspires a money-starved student to be legendary. The man has a gift, I tell you.

There are other problems with a non-paying position as well. Another of these issues is negative reinforcement. You don't get near as much in a volunteer job, and if we're trying to duplicate the real world experience for a student, shouldn't there be the lingering threat of a layoff if they screw up?

Thus, there's little to no motivation (at least for me) to grab a volunteer internship. Frankly, I think many of them are shams (I exclude the non-profit organizations, like Hands-On-Atlanta, from that statement).

Think about the bargain here, though: Company X, a well-known widget manufacturer (and notorious cheap ass) gets a student (i.e. sucker) that will drive up to north Atlanta every day through commuter chaos, all for the honor of toiling from 8-5 under various menial tasks, such as tech support—that seventh circle of hell—

all without a single red cent to show for it. Yes, yes, I know these places often promise "a possible full position later", to which I reply: Mr.

Executive, would you work for free under the promise of "possible money later"? Most students do indeed have expenses, thus most students aren't going to want this non-paying position. The lucky ones have no expenses, and so can take these internships, which is why I guess we see these offered every semester.

Oh, and one other thing, you corporate types...if you are going to make it a non-paying position, do the smart thing that some have done and make it primarily off-site. That way, at least there is a much better chance a working student can meet you half-way.

Still, many would argue that a paying internship is still not quite a does of real-world reality. Thus, I have devised the perfect internship profile sheet, which you can see below:

**Company Name:** Nickel-and-Dime Associates (NADA)

**Internship Openings:** (2) Network Janitorial Specialists

**Responsibilities Include:** Maintenance and cleaning of network

server and administration room, hunting down and eliminating server bugs with packet-sending can. Also responsible for back-engineering cascading overflowed corporate LATRINE system.

**Required Skills:** Experience with Management Operations Protocol (MOP) a plus, strong team skills desired.

**Hours:** Extremely flexible, by which we mean "nights and weekends with a flashlight and a vending machine", or else.

**Compensation:** \$5.75 an hour, although student should be prepared for possible elimination of their position via cost-cutting methods that move labor overseas. Yes, MOP administration is difficult to move offshore, but if it saves us \$2 an hour we'll find a way, even if we're sabotaging our own economy by doing so.

This perfect internship should adequately prepare all students for real-world employment, be it in the promising IT sector or anywhere else.

## There is a Virtue in Failure

By Bernard Asubonteng

One of the most important eye-openers or effective teachers in human existence is *failure*. This may sound a bit philosophical, in which case I would put the "blame" on my former two CCSU philosophy professors—Dr. Ron Jackson and Mr. Snelgrove—for schooling me about the good side of abstract thinking. Does this seem odd to you? Well, just be patient for I promise you that when all the chips are down, perhaps you would make some sense out of the foregoing. At any rate, there is a great deal of virtue in failure. Stated differently, most people tend to be more circumspect and strive harder than before, after they have failed early on. This is not to say that success is not always at the top of one's scale of preference. Of course, everyone wants to succeed in whatever endeavor one is engaged in. And we want to succeed in our first attempt too. But in this transient world of uncertainties, many a time our best shots cannot secure for us the objectives we are aiming at. This scenario then brings us face to face with the cold reality of failure. In most human settings, failing to attain what one sets out to achieve is

seen by many as the end of the road. It is unfortunate how some people allow failure and/or an unsuccessful attempt at a set goal to overwhelm their very existence. Under these circumstances, one usually forgets that one of the most important aspects of life is that every hardship or failure teaches a useful lesson if its victim is prepared to learn from it. To some people, failure is unthinkable, needless to say an anathema that needs to be dumped far away on the fringes of obscurity. When failure hits one hard, often egos are shattered into smithereens, and in most cases depression takes its devastating toll. There are many instances where people even take their own lives because of their inability to cope with the harsh realities of failure. Statistics in most communities show that people harboring suicidal tendencies or those who commit suicide are influenced by *failure* in one way or another. For example, across the nation there is news every day about people taking their own lives because of failures ranging from marriage, job issues, business ventures, health-related issues, among other various factors. Failure has also caused social disorder, civil wars,

coups, economic problems, and a host of other global problems. In other parts of the world, the economic problems can be traced to *failure* to provide governments based on stability and accountability. Or those nations' inability to come to grips with *failure* in order to re-strategize their failed priorities.

By the way, there are some people who can withstand the rigors of failure. Perhaps if the nineteenth century German thinker, Friedrich Nietzsche were alive today, he might have said these people have the "Will to Power." People who embrace failure with determination, dispassion, creativity and the like, indeed, would be Nietzsche's favorite candidates for bravery. Thus, those who rather see failure from the prism of virtue or as a challenge to be taken head on, not only have strong will-power, but have also learned the essence of leadership and a clear understanding of survivability. In fact, every savvy manager or a true leader is aware that failure forms an intrinsic part of leadership in every endeavor. Admittedly, failure is a bitter pill to swallow; but, on the flip side, it gives meaning to human condition or

existence. Without failure how would one know what constitutes success? It teaches what one could have done to avoid a given unpleasant situation; especially for people who are willing to read between the lines after they've screwed up. As stated, failure is an eye-opener to common sense approach. More often, one threads cautiously after this unwelcome phenomenon. Imagine fooling around all weekend and in the process, flunk in exams in school big time the following week. In nine out of ten cases, the next time you have the chance to take the test again your strategies would be more superior to the previous situation. Why? Because failure has taught you a bitter but useful lesson. The Ashanti people of West Africa have a proverb, which loosely translates: "No wise person ever had a dream revisiting the exact spot where he or she got kill." In different context, "Once bitten, twice shy." They say first fool is not a fool. How about a second fool? Always remember that "Experience [failure?] is the best teacher."



# Wild Animals –Should they be “On Display?”

By Linda Godin

*“But for the use of physical punishment by, and fear of, their oppressors, animals would never be a part of a circus.” —Richard Pryor*

After 44 years and 30,000 performances as Siegfried & Roy, Roy Horn was attacked for the first time onstage. Remember the saying, “Play with fire, and sooner or later you will get burnt?” Well it appears Roy Horn finally got burned and is in critical condition. There are conflicting stories of why Montecore (white tiger) attacked Roy. Two reasons given for the attack were; a woman with large hair in the front row, freaked out the tiger, and after Roy fell Montecore was trying to protect him by dragging him off stage. Siegfried said if the tiger meant to kill him, he would have, immediately. On the way to the hospital Roy stressed Montecore was a good cat, and to keep him from harm.

Is this an isolated incident? Should animals be “taught” to perform unnatural acts? Will the animals eventually rebel against their trainer? Are animals in various circus acts treated humanely? Following are a few facts from the PAWS, Progressive Animal Welfare Society Website, Thunder Bay, Animal Misuse and Cok.net (Compassion over killing). “Numerous circus acts across Canada and the world continue to abuse and misuse animals in their “performances”. These animals are housed in small, confined cages for months or even years at a time and are beaten into submission. It is bad enough that we insist on using animals for testing of beauty products and scientific research but it is when we begin using innocent, wild animals for our own entertainment and the entertainment of our innocent children that we have gone too far. Animals such as lions, tigers, elephants and monkeys do not belong in acts, they belong in the wild.”

“Baby animals are exploited from the day they are born. Newborns are prematurely removed from their mothers, which denies them proper nutrition and the natural socialization process required for normal development. Tigers, lions, and cougars are torn from their mothers when they are just

5 days old and de-clawed at 2 weeks of age. Mothers spend weeks calling frantically for their missing babies.

In the wild, tiger cubs stay with their mothers for three years.” The AWA requires that animal exhibitors be licensed with the USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), however,

there are only about 85 APHIS inspectors to cover nearly 8,000 facilities nationwide.

Former animal trainer Pat Derby said, “after 25 years of observing and documenting circuses, I know there are no kind animal trainers.”

Every year, approximately 35,000 bulls are tormented and killed in bullfights in Spain alone.

According to a 1993 University of Minnesota study, 840 horses were fatally injured on U.S. tracks in 1992, and 3,566 horses—or one horse in every 22 races—were so severely injured that they could not finish the race.

**Former Ringling performer Kelly Tansy has this to say:** On my very

first day with the circus, I witnessed animal cruelty. I saw an elephant being beaten in what appeared to be a disciplinary action. The beating was so severe that the elephant screamed. I have come to realize, through all the circuses that I have worked for, that mistreatment of animals is a

standard part of training and is thought to be a “necessary” part of exhibiting them.

As abuse to animals in circuses rises, so does the frequency at which they begin to fight back. In 1994, Tyke, an African elephant, killed her trainer and

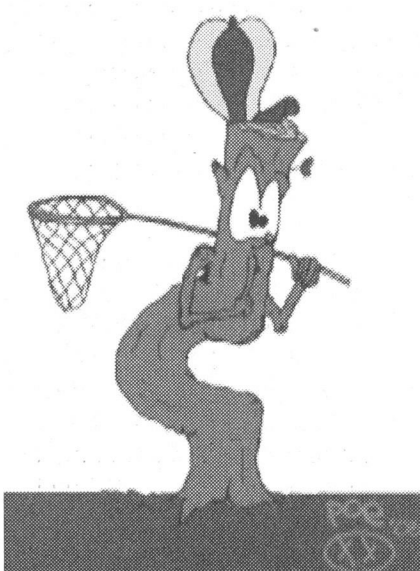
injured 13 others before police shot her to death. In January 1998, Arnold, a tiger performing with Ringling Bros., attacked his trainer during a publicity photo session in Florida. As the public watched, Arnold wrestled his trainer to the ground and bit him in the head. Workers using fire extinguishers and bullwhips forced Arnold and the other 11 tigers back in their cages. After Arnold had been returned to his cage (and therefore no longer posed a threat to anyone), his trainer returned with a 12-gauge shotgun and shot him five times, killing him. The USDA took no action against the trainer or Ringling Bros.

Incidents of animals lashing out at their trainers (especially elephants) are no longer uncommon. One police officer that had to kill a rampaging elephant states, “I think these

elephants are trying to tell us that zoos and circuses are not what God created them for ... but we have not been listening.”

**How do we change the misuse by these circuses? There are several ways to stand up for animal rights:**

- Circuses will stop using animals when we stop giving them our money. Boycott all circuses and traveling acts that use animals. Instead, **support animal-free entertainment** like Cirque du Soleil, Circus Oz, the New Pickle Circus, and Cirque d’Hiver.
- Several communities have banned live animal acts in their area. Some include Quincy, Mass., Takoma Park, Md., and Hollywood, Fla.. Ask your city council to follow the path that these compassionate communities have blazed by creating an ordinance to outlaw animal acts.
- Write letters to local papers encouraging people to boycott abusive events. If such an event does come to your town, organize a demonstration and distribute this fact sheet to your neighbors and patrons of the event.



**“Be vehwy quiet...we’re hunting new writers for the Bent Tree!”**

Contact us at [Btree@mail.clayton.edu](mailto:Btree@mail.clayton.edu)

## YOUNG DEMOCRATS OF GEORGIA

A new Organization for budding Politicos of the Democratic Persuasion is being started. Meet new people who share your Democratic Ideals, help elect Democrats in surrounding Counties and the State, and let’s get together and talk about what’s going on in America and how we can help steer this blasted Hummer. No dues to join. Free food from time to time. Email us at [sgodfrey@ugaalum.uga.edu](mailto:sgodfrey@ugaalum.uga.edu) or call 770-383-9872 to register by phone. A meeting will be called as soon as 10 or more register. Then a student leader will petition for College Recognition.



# Features



## Me, My Body and I Got AIDS?

By Christina Mapp

"Baby, why don't you go on birth control, because condoms don't feel the same."

"Ok, you are right because we are not ready for any children."

This deadly exchange of words has been used a multitudinous amount of times in regards to practicing "safe" sex. While this young couple are correct about using birth control as a tactic for preventing conception, they have made themselves perfect candidates for contracting every STI (sexually transmitted infection) you can possibly imagine, including the enigmatic and dangerous AIDS disease. And boy, you thought *children* were hard to manage! What is more, these young and old couples are putting themselves at risk for the sake of *love*? Conversely, love is a wonderful complex accessory in some of our lives. However, when a loved one asks you to risk compromising your health for the sake of a "natural" feeling, love can actually kill! Let me explain.

There are a host of foreign particles that indirectly enter into our bodies, from pollen to the organism that gives you the flu. Fortunately, we have an immune system (the system that fights infections of all types) that is so ideal; if President Bush was indeed aware of its abilities, he would surely send it to Iraq! However, the HIV virus that causes AIDS does not have a happy ending in the end. First, HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) is indeed what its name indicates: a virus. The properties of a virus are indeed direr than say bacterial or fungal infections. HIV, like other viruses is dormant (inactive) until provided with a host, your cells, to enter and replicate. Now you may wonder, so why does HIV get all this attention in the medical and research community? Well, it's the actual cells HIV is attacking that causes a big problem

when approaching methods for curing. The HIV virus attacks the CD4, or "T-helper cells" in your body. Still don't grasp the "big deal?" It is surely a big deal because these cells are vital to your immune response. For instance, when something foreign enters your body, these CD4 cells "tag" the unwanted invader, which then signals other cells from your immune system to come and "swallow" them up. This destroys the invaders and your body achieves homeostasis (that's a good thing). However, HIV infects the actual CD4 cells that identify foreign objects and further deteriorates the immune system as a whole.

Once inside a cell, this retrovirus (has RNA), replicates using your "cells machinery" and can either burst out the old cell killing it, or hide in others cells until its onset. Unfortunately, because this virus is made of RNA, it doesn't have the capability to

"proofread" its new strands; thus, it can mutate forming completely new strands. Yes, this virus should be in the next *X Men* feature! This provides a serious problem for initiating a generic cure. While two people may both be infected by HIV, their strands could differ completely. Also, the virus affects the lymphatic system. This complex system is a reservoir for other imperative immune system cells, such as macrophages and basophils. When these cells are targeted as well, the immune system can stop functioning, AND THAT IS SERIOUS BUSINESS! So serious because this virus can also hide within these same cells that visit your lungs, brain, and other body systems. The Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) is defined by the medical community as a condition in which the virus has decreased the number of "T-helper" cells to under 200 cells per cubic millimeter of blood; whereas, a healthy individual has 800 to 1,200 CD4+ T cells. Furthermore, with a depleted immune system you are a candidate for every disease imaginable, because you can't fight it off. Thus, those infected can die of opportunistic infections, those only brought upon by a dysfunctional immune system. This disease affects the entire world and has yet to be conquered by the scientific community. So the next time you fall in love, don't use birth control as a substitute for safe sex, because while you may be preventing birth, your chances of getting something else is very high. If you can't abstain, PLEASE USE PROTECTION! You can get HIV from:  
Having unprotected sex- sex without a condom- with someone who has HIV  
Sharing a needle and syringe with someone who has HIV  
A blood transfusion or blood clotting factor that you got before 1985  
Open-mouthed or "French" kissing with an infected person because of possible blood contact  
You cannot get HIV from:  
Working with or being around someone who has HIV  
Sweat, spit, tears, clothes, drinking fountains, phones, toilet seats, or sharing a meal  
Insect bites or stings  
Donating blood  
A closed-mouth kiss

\* REMEMBER, most people are not aware they carry the virus or the disease. To find out where to go in your area for HIV counseling and testing, call your local health department or the CDC National AIDS Hotline, at 1-800-342-AIDS (2437)\*

## Intro to Film Class Review

Anonymous

Sometimes we like to know what's going on. Sometimes we like to know how things work. Sometimes we like to be surprised. The new Intro to Film Class being offered at CCSU is for anyone who wants to know anything about films but were afraid to ask. This could be good or bad depending on what you like.

The new class, in its first semester, is a roller coaster of knowledge. Taught by CCSU rookie Dr. Virginia Bonner, Intro to Film includes lectures and in-class screenings of selected films. It covers all the technical aspects of filmmaking including sound, mise-en-scene, film style, camera work, and film genres. The class does have an awkward time frame. Generally it lasts for three hours on Tuesday which includes a 45 minute lecture, clip viewing, and a film screening. On Thursday however class runs for two hours which is composed of a lecture and discussion of films and selected clips. Daily schedules are subject to change.

The class, like most others is progressive in the sense that as the chapters of the book are studied, the students are to pay attention to everything that has been previously taught. Each time a film is viewed in class the students are to use their knowledge and "take copious notes" on aspects of that film. So, when the film *O Brother Where Art Thou* is playing, along with paying attention to the plot and events of the main characters the class is also observing the blocking patterns, use of lighting, sound, props, reoccurring themes, symbolism, and four different themes that the film might be leaning toward. This is a little tricky as many people want to let the film take them

somewhere instead of having to think as it progresses. Speaking of main characters, lets look at the instructor. It is rare to find a professor with such a passion for a subject they teach. I was impressed by the knowledge of the teacher. If the term "movie buff" had something to do with muscles, Dr. Bonner would be Miss Universe. She genuinely loves film and its art. Her lectures are colorful and filled with miscellaneous clips, all concerning the days topic. Although her opinions are strongly voiced in the class, she is open to new theories and opposing criticisms. No other faculty member could teach the class as well, except say...Dr. Spence. But enough of the teacher and the class, I'm going to voice my opinion now.

Like I stated earlier, sometimes we like to be surprised. The class surprised me, the teacher surprised me, and the films chosen to watch surprised me. I am not surprised anymore. I love and loathe the class at the same time. Now that the aspects of film that we have been studying have seeped their way into my brain I cannot watch a Hollywood film and enjoy it at face value. Some films are meant to be watched, not analyzed. I recently watched *The Lion King* and was concentrating so heavily on the implicit meaning of it that I couldn't even sing along to *The Circle of Life*. Then again, it is pretty neat to watch a film and be able to predict the outcome or add meaning to your favorite scene. So, if you enjoy watching films that can be taken apart and analyzed like *Citizen Kane* the class is for you. If you enjoy big blockbuster hits like *American Pie* and *AI* I would not recommend Intro to Film.

## UNIVERSITY RIDESHARE

Are you looking for an empty parking space?

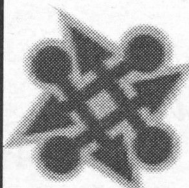
Are you using too much gas?

Are you concerned for our environment?

Could you use your travel time more wisely?

You could help by registering for CCSU's University RideShare Program with 1-87-RideFind and finding a carpool match. When you carpool you save time AND money. You are not obligated to carpool, and the program costs you nothing.

When you start carpooling at least one time a week, you might be eligible for monthly drawings. Contact Joan in Public Safety @ 770.961.3540 for more information or visit <http://adminsivices.clayton.edu/ps/ehsnewprogram.htm>.



1-87-RIDEFIND  
Atlanta Regional Commission



# Sports



## Two second half goals lift #10 UNC Pembroke to 2-1 victory over Clayton State in men's soccer action Sat.



### Game Stats

**M**orrow, GA — October 25, 2003 — The Clayton College & State University men's soccer team came 25 minutes from pulling off the Peach Belt Conference upset of the season Saturday before falling 2-1 to the 10<sup>th</sup> ranked University of North Carolina Pembroke Braves at Laker Field in Morrow, GA.

Leading 1-0 at the 65-minute mark, the Lakers surrendered two goals down the stretch to fall to the Braves on homecoming. Freshman UNCP forward Trond Myrland (Molde, Norway) scored the game-winner in the 78<sup>th</sup> minute of the match, sliding a shot past the outstretched arms of freshman keeper Brian Jones (Johannesburg, South Africa). The game-winner came off assists from junior midfielder Thomas Lindal (Kristianssand, Norway) and freshman midfielder Barat Killian (Raleigh, NC).

Lindal tied the game at 1-1 at the 65<sup>th</sup> minute mark, drilling a shot from seven yards out past Jones after he made a superb save only seconds earlier to deny a goal on a shot by sophomore midfielder Christoph Schiessl (Regensburg, Germany).

Lindal corralled the deflection and scored in the bottom right of the net.

Clayton State took an early lead in the match as freshman forward Pa'Alasan Jahumpa (London, England) converted a penalty kick at the 52-minute mark after a foul in the box. The Lakers also had a penalty kick five minutes earlier on another foul in the box area but was unable to convert as senior UNCP keeper Alex Hall (Knightdale, NC) made a diving kick save to deny an attempt by junior Anthony Wright (Ashington, England).

The Braves finished the match with 21 shots compared to only seven for Clayton State. Jones played all 90 minutes for the Lakers and finished with five saves, while Hall had two saves.

With the win, the Lakers fall to 9-5-1 on the season and 2-3 in the Peach Belt Conference, while UNCP improves to 13-1 and 4-1 in the league. Clayton State will return to action on Saturday, November 1, traveling to play PBC opponent Francis Marion University. The Braves will return to action on Wednesday, hosting Wingate.

## Clayton State women's soccer falls 2-0 to PBC opponent UNC Pembroke Sat.



### Game Stats

**M**orrow, GA — October 25, 2003 — Katie Stokes scored an early first half goal, and that's all the University of North Carolina Pembroke women's soccer team needed on Saturday en route to a 2-0 Peach Belt Conference victory against Clayton College & State University at Laker Field in Morrow, GA.

Sophomore forward Stokes (Charles Town, WV) scored the game-winner in the 17<sup>th</sup> minute of the match off an assist from freshman forward Lefke Boysen (Bremen, Germany). Stokes scored the goal on a header from short range after freshman keeper, Judith Chime (Enugu, Nigeria) deflected a shot by Boysen.

After nearly 55 minutes of scoreless play, the Braves added a little insurance in the 72<sup>nd</sup> minute as junior midfielder Simonae Taylor (Jacksonville, NC) scored on a shot from six yards out after a cross from Boysen, her second assist of the match.

The Braves controlled much of the match and had 29 shots, compared to only eight for the Lakers. Chime finished with 15 saves, while freshman keeper Hillary Helms (Nashville, NC) finished with four saves.

With the loss, the Lakers drop to 3-12-1 on the season and 1-5 in the league, while UNCP improves to 10-4 and 3-3 in the conference.

## Nieto/Collantes win Alltel Fall Doubles Championship at GC&SU



**M**ILLEDGEVILLE, GA — October 12, 2003 — The Clayton College & State University doubles team of Jackeline Nieto and Nathalia Collantes brought home top honors at the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Alltel Fall Championships, which wrapped up Sunday at the Centennial Center Tennis Facility on the campus of Georgia College & State University in Milledgeville, GA.

Nieto and Collantes, both All-Americans in doubles last season, won the "A" Flight championship, defeating GC&SU's Luiza Biktyakova and Anna Shchupak 8-5 in the semifinals, followed by winning the championship by default Sunday after Brenau University's Lie Devries and Daniela Cavello conceded the match due to injury.

In the consolation draw, Clayton State's Collantes defeated GC&SU's Rachael Porsz 6-4; 6-3 to win the "A" bracket. Collantes fell to the consolation bracket after falling to Devries 6-0 and 6-0 on Saturday. She came back later Saturday to defeat the University of Tampa's Abby Shelide 6-1 and 6-1.

The Clayton State doubles team of Natalia Koulechova and Elizabeth Syrova fell in the "B" Flight doubles championship Sunday to Brenau's Eva Demasova and Helen Macchi 8-5. The duo of Koulechova and Syrova opened the tournament with an 8-0 victory over ABAC's Shermona Culmer and Amanda Cumbess, followed by defeating Otavia Bastos and Dominique of USC Aiken 8-2 in the semifinals.

In other singles action, Nieto advanced to the "A" Flight semifinals, before falling to GC&SU's Biktyakova 6-1 and 6-3 on Saturday. She won in the quarterfinals in a grueling 6-4, 4-6 and 6-4 match over GC&SU's Anna Shchupak earlier Saturday.

Koulechova advanced to the "B" Flight semifinals before falling to Brenau's Helen Macchi 6-1 and 6-4. She defeated USCA's Nicole Coope 6-1 and 6-4 in the quarterfinals and UNCP's Abi French 6-2 and 6-0 in the second round. Syrova also advanced to the "B" Flight semifinals before falling to GC&SU's Chenelle Kruger 6-2 and 6-3. She won 6-1 and 7-5 in the quarterfinals over Tampa's Paula Fillion and 6-2 and 6-0 in the second round over USCA's Bastos.

Come out and support your CCSU teams! Get some Laker spirit!



Photo courtesy of www.clayton.edu



# Entertainment

## Cooking With G'Licious

By Gerald Heavens

### D-BO'S STROGNOFF

1 lb of hamburger or Turkey  
1 onion (diced)  
1 green pepper (diced)  
1 can of cream of mushroom soup  
4 ounces of sour cream  
1 clove of garlic (crushed)  
1 bag of egg noodles  
Salt, pepper and other seasoning: depending on the cook!

To begin this meal, start with a pot of water. Bring water to a boil then add the noodles. While the noodles are cooking\*, start browning the meat. Keep your eye on your noodles—stirring noodles helps prevent sticking/clumping of the noodles. Noodles should not be completely cooked. Rinse the noodles and place in cold water until it is time to put them in later.

Now back to the meat... After the meat browns, drain it. Add diced onions, diced green peppers, crushed garlic, salt, pepper and any other seasonings you desire. Cook for about 5 minutes so that everything blends in well. Add the cream of mushroom soup with half a can of hot water. Cook uncovered for 10 minutes and serve.

**REMINDER:** This recipe is to my taste. If you are a lover of sour cream, use more. If you do not cook with salt, do not add salt. It will not alter the meal much (if any). Experiment with things in the kitchen. You never know what things you may create. One last suggestion, this meal is for 3-4 people. If you are the only one eating, cut your ingredients.

“Even a clock that does not work is right twice a day”

## The Boundaries of Magic

By Thomas Spurlin

A note that simply reads “Thank You” rests upon the London hospital bed of David Blaine after treatment last week. He was under surveillance after losing 56 pounds over a six-week period. A few days prior to his departure from the hospital, he was gradually worked up to digesting solid foods again after his organs had been atrophied from this 44-day amount of starvation. Was he trapped in a mineshaft or kidnapped and locked in a closet by a dangerous criminal? No. David Blaine had willingly locked himself into a glass box without food over the city of London next to the tower bridge – to entertain the crowd.

It seems as if the price for entertaining crowds is growing higher and higher. Movies cost more and more capital to produce towards costumes and effects, and concerts are loaded with pyrotechnics and lighting. Both of these attributes also apply to the world of magic. However, the price of one's life seems to be the theme of magic now, as it was many years ago. It is this danger revolving around an act, the possibility of someone being hurt yet not wanting them to be hurt, that draws us to watch these performers that mystify us. This sense of danger is not a new concept; dangerous acts have been mystifying us for a long time. During the start of the twentieth century, Harry Houdini rose to fame by his stunts involving straight jackets, bathing in tubs of ice water and escaping from scenarios where he was bound with ropes and handcuffs.

However, he might not have been glorified to such a level if the danger had not caught up with him. His body's resistance to the stunts finally stopped resisting as he suffered from intestinal and organ pain due to his constant constriction and the abuse that he implemented on his body. Before a performance, a student punched him in the stomach, which possibly worsened the pains he was enduring through his appendicitis. He did not cancel his performance, however. Houdini passed out and died during his performance shortly after.

David Blaine parallels himself with Houdini in his defying, dangerous stunts. Blaine has said that he has wanted to bring magic “to a level where Houdini had it a hundred years ago”. He has accomplished this through his style of street magic and crowd awareness. Blaine uses techniques of conducting magic that can appeal to just about everyone. In his special *David Blaine: Street Magic* on The Learning Channel (TLC), he performs tricks through cities and less-privileged neighborhood streets with cards and simple props, such as strings and coins. However, his publicity has geared around his dangerous stunts, such as his Ice Box act where he was locked in a frigid ice coffin for 62 hours, and his Vertigo act, where Blaine stood erect above a park in Manhattan for 35 hours on a thin, eighty-foot-high pillar that supported a 22 inch platform for him to stand upon. His latest stunt, the

## R'Eddibles Guide to Impressing People

By Redd Horrocks

Mmmmm Ice-Cream. I love this recipe, and have been known to eat half of this before it is even frozen. There is something infinitely classy about ice-cream, especially that which is made yourself. This recipe requires no cooking, and just a little light labor. It is fantastic as a light dessert, especially if you can find some waffle-cone style wafers to top it!

### Redd's Classy Citrus Ice-Cream

Ingredients:-

1 Sweet Orange  
2 Limes  
1 Pint (500ml) Heavy Whipping Cream  
3/4c + 1 Tablespoon Powdered Sugar  
Tupperware container with lid

Grate the zest of the orange and one of the limes in a bowl. By the zest I mean just the colored part of the fruit, not the white pith. Juice both limes and the orange into the bowl, then stir in the powdered sugar. Stir to dissolve and then add the cream. Now for a little whipping! If you don't have a whisk, you can just use a fork, but you want to whisk this pretty vigorously. You are waiting for the cream to get stiffer, so that it makes soft peaks when you stop whisking it. This usually takes five to ten minutes if you are doing it by hand. When it is peaky, pour it into the Tupperware container and place in the freezer. This needs about forty minutes to freeze, and will keep for three days or so. If you let it freeze completely, take it out for about twenty minutes before serving so that it softens. For troubleshooting on this recipe, please feel free to email me. (csu14389). Enjoy!

London box stunt, truly mirrors the danger of Houdini's acts of suspension and confinement, especially since he was locked in a glass box, much like his predecessor's final outrageous stunt inside the water chamber.

For years, the world of magic has become placid and monotonous, which is what fuels David Blaine's desire to conduct his unique style of performance. Magical extravaganzas have been well practiced and constructed through the Las Vegas acts of David Copperfield, the Pendragon family and Lance Burton. Grand costumes, intense music and an alluring stage presence involving beautiful women and exotic animals dramatize the majestic nature of the performers. Through their attempted “dangerous” stunts, this entertainment has been labeled and dissected by the desensitized audience as fake. However, the stunts of these performers had been lowered in interest over consistent years, due to their repetitious and uninventive nature. As bold and artificial as they have supposedly become, they are still alluring and wonderful to view, which still sparks the interest of seeing these shows in Las Vegas. However, the danger of the world of magic has stricken this genre as well. Recently, the well-known performing duo of Siegfried and Roy were performing their consistently dazzling routine involving magic and beautiful white tigers. During their performance, one of their tigers grew enraged and attacked Roy, mauling him and delivering a brutal blow to the throat of the magician. The fifty-nine year

old magician survived, yet remained in critical condition for 7 days. While the show has been cancelled at the Mirage in Las Vegas, Roy's partner Siegfried delivered a message of hope that states his and his partner's interest in their pursuit towards animal conservation, even though it is questionable whether Roy will ever perform again.

Illusion and magic have real aspects, as we discover from Houdini's death, Roy's white tiger attack and the dramatic effects of David Blaine's marvelous stunts. This realism keeps an industry grounded that could soar above the clouds if it wasn't made aware of the risks. As citizens who are consistently grounded through our work and diligence of survival and staying grounded, a little magic in this world can be an asset. However, from this realism of the magic that exists in every day people, David Blaine teaches and learns, all at the same time. In that box above London, David was enclosed and lonely for forty-four straight days hovering above a crowd of spectators that watch him conduct his feat. He survived on water and water alone that invoked a hunger that ached his stomach and caused his body to burn off most of its fat content. Why would someone want to do this to him or herself? He further learned about himself and what boundaries that he as a person can push, while his audience is taught that same lesson through his acts – that people have the magical abilities to endure hardships.



## Shopping on a Student Budget

By Redd Horrocks

I am a student, therefore I am always broke. I think that so many of us can say that, but luckily there are ways to still have fun on a minimum budget. When you have car payments, student loans, credit cards and rent it gets very tough to balance things out. When your last pair of pants finally caves in, you need to get something new pretty darn sharpish before you are escorted off the campus for indecent exposure! Also, you have to eat... and what about peoples birthdays! Here are some tricks that I have picked up along the way that might help you.

### Shopping for Clothes:-

Okay, here it is a simple case of where you shop. I know that there is always something very un-cool about thrift stores and consignment shops, but to me they are just 'vintage' stores. I have found designer clothes with the tags still on in consignment stores. It's always worth a look, and the worst that can happen is that you don't like it and choose never to try it again.

When shopping in regular stores, put clothes on hold and continue shopping. If you can't be bothered to go back to the store and pick the item up at the end of the shopping trip, then you didn't want it that much anyway!

Also, when shopping in stores, look on the racks for things with

missing buttons or little holes. If you point this out to the store people, they will often discount you a few dollars. Invest in a sewing kit! Mending a tiny tear can take five minutes and save you five dollars.

Try small independent stores. Many a time you can find a cheap little gem in there that looks fabulous.

Don't take the tags off clothes that you buy until you are about to walk out of the door wearing them, and keep your receipt. Sometimes they just don't look the same when you get them home.

Check Out:-

eBay.com

Psycho Sisters (very cool consignment clothing store)

Goodwill

Army Surplus Stores

### Shopping for Food:-

It's loyalty cards and coupons all the way! Cards like the Kroger Plus card can save you literally hundreds of dollars a year. I'm a big Kroger fan, mainly because I drive a lot and with the Kroger Plus card you also get an extra 3C off every gallon of gas. Go with store brands, rather than name brands. Most of the time it all comes from the same manufacturer but you are just paying extra for the packaging. Don't eat out. I know fast food is extremely appealing, but it is also extremely pricey. Don't super-size your meal unless you

plan on taking home leftovers. It may only seem like a few cents, but if you take care of the cents, the dollars will take care of themselves (my grandmother said that, except she said pounds and pence... she was a very smart lady). If you are eating out, take advantage of free refills on drinks. If you aren't thirsty, just fill it up without ice, take it home and put it in the fridge to drink later.

Check Out:-

Mycoupons.com

Your local newspapers (coupons are not evil, they are your friend!)

### Birthday Presents:-

This is where re-gifting comes in. It may seem like a very sneaky thing to do, but it is economical and pretty safe if you are careful. The concept of re-gifting is that you take a gift that someone else gave you, repackage it and give it to someone else. There are some golden tips for re-gifting. Firstly, don't use the original packaging! Secondly, keep track of who gave you the gift so that you don't accidentally give it back to the same person. Third, be sure that the gift is unopened and unused. This is where checking safety seals, etc. comes in.

Lastly, check expiration dates if it is a food or cosmetic item.

eBay is a great place to get gifts, clothes, computers or anything! eBay.com has been around for a

while now and is a wonderful resource for those hunting for a good deal. Remember, when bidding for items on eBay, make sure you leave it as late as possible to get your bid in to try to avoid bidding wars.

Check out:-

Ebay.com

Grocery store sales bins (you'd be amazed!)

### Shopping for Textbooks:-

This is always a highly debatable topic. With the price of textbooks so high, sometimes you need to cut corners and accept doodling and highlighting. I cannot stress amazon.com enough! Often when you look up a book, you will see a little link that says "Used and New available from \$X". If you check out this link, it will take you to a list of people who are selling your book for a fraction of the new cost. Make sure you check editions and allow time for the items to get shipped to you.

Also, check for software if you need it, and don't be afraid to email the seller and ask for more details. The good thing about this is that you are often buying from other college students and helping them out. I saved over \$150 on textbooks through Amazon.com last semester.

Check Out:-

Amazon.com

eBay.com

Half.com

## Madonna's not-so-Rosy Book Controversy

By Micheal Smith

Most of us did not think ten years ago Madonna would be a parent of two, much less who would have thought she would write a book for children. Especially after the "How-To" book she did eleven years ago on making them. It seems people want to criticize her credibility on writing a book for children only because she has been one of the most sexually charged and controversial artists over the last twenty or so years. Perhaps this is the reason people assume she is not fit to write for children. But are there other reasons for people to believe she could not accomplish this task? After all she does have two children, but this was probably incentive for her to write children's books.

Who says Madonna cannot teach children valuable lessons in life and good morals to live by? The fact that most people criticized her book even before it hit the store shelves is startling, considering they would rather judge someone by their past content and not the real content in them, or by who they are now. Her new book "The English Roses" has

substance worth reading, which some adults should learn to live by. Her book teaches practical spirituality from a Jewish belief of Kabbalah. Most of Kabbalah's teachings are about self-improvement, learning who you are and where you come from, with a little bit of self-purpose thrown in. Madonna yields the teachings in a form that most children (and adults) of any faith can understand and appreciate. Madonna's story begins with four young girls who are jealous and envious of another girl named Binah. They assume she has the perfect life only because she is thought of as prettier and smarter than them. It is not until they take a magic fairy ride that they learn her life is not as ideal as they previously thought it was. They learn that her life is much harder than their own lives and they learn to have some compassion for her and accept her into their little group. I believe the lesson would be compassion, acceptance and to not judge a book by its cover. Apparently a lot of critics seem to be doing the exact opposite and basing their opinions of Madonna's book by her



previous fame as an artist of glamour and sex. The ironic part in her book writing and teachings is that if you have followed Madonna's career, then you know she is a walking ideal of these beliefs. I am willing to bet with my friend's child, that if no one knew Madonna wrote this book people would praise it for the wonderful beauty written within the dazzling cover.

For a material girl who has always shocked the world for her ever-changing tune, she has definitely blossomed into someone no one would have expected. She has created a shallow controversy that ironically goes deeper than materialism. Hopefully people and critics can forget her old persona and perhaps accept the fact she does have some good beliefs to pass on to a younger generation.



# Features

Continued



## In My Experience: Working on Campus

By Ashley Spillers

How many times have you rushed from your slightly stressful class to your job? Or vice versa? After a couple of hours sitting in a class and listening to your professor, then you have to go to work and take orders from your boss. Not to mention the fact that no matter if your job is ten minutes or one hour away, you will have to fight traffic all the way to work.

Well, I have found a great alternative to the normal hustle and bustle of back and forth from school to work. I work at school. I know, I know. You may say that an on-campus job adds extra hours that you have to be on campus, but the work atmosphere is a very different atmosphere from the school atmosphere.

I personally work in the admissions office at CCSU. I have found that there are so many advantages to working on campus. For one, you gain experience in a professional atmosphere. You can practice your people skills and your general office skills on a daily basis.

Second, you have the ability to set your own schedule and cannot work more than 19.5 hours per week. This prevents the temptation to work so much that your schoolwork (and social life) may suffer. The ability to set your own schedule also creates a flexible and relaxing balance between school and work.

Third, you meet so many people. You get the chance to interact with a lot of different people on campus, outside of the group that you normally see in your classes. Learning to deal with so many different personalities and interacting with so many different people allows you to grow into a better, more tolerant person.

My experience with working on campus has been a very positive one. I enjoy the job and genuinely like everyone that I work with. Don't get me wrong—there is much work to be done, and I am expected to pull my weight in the office; however, there is something to be said about having fun while you work!

## Married... and Loving it!

By Redd Horrocks

Relationships govern so many of our lives. Many of us are married or in long-term relationships. We live in a society wildly different from the one which people were raised in thirty or more years ago. Nowadays, it seems that the average age to marry is around twenty-five, and many people have children with their partners before they walk down the aisle. The traditional weddings seem to have given way to smaller, quicker, weddings, with shorter duration marriages. I have been in a solid relationship for more than a year and a half, and I found myself wondering if young, traditional marriages are just out of style, or if they just don't work. This being a concerning thought, I decided to find a traditional student who was happily married before this average age. Enter Rebecca Daniel. She is a promising student who plans on attending Medical School. She is also a Student Orientation Leader, a member of Honors, and she is about to have her second wedding anniversary. I sat down with Mrs. Daniel to discuss what led to her being married at the age of nineteen.

Rebecca and her husband Steven met at a wedding (coincidentally!) and dated for eight months before he proposed. For a period of that time, they lived in different States, and although they agreed that while they were apart they would date other people, neither of them did. Becky says she just knew he was the one for her. They were engaged for a year, and were married on November 10<sup>th</sup> 2001. Rebecca designed her own wedding dress, and was helped down the aisle by nine bridesmaids in front of four hundred wedding guests. The

wedding took a huge amount of planning. As their families believed in tradition, Rebecca and Steven did not live together until they were married. The first year of their marriage enabled them to adjust to living together, which was not something they had much experience with. They have an apartment together and are looking forward to getting a house once Rebecca decides where she wants to go to Medical School. Rebecca told me that Steven is extremely supportive of her schooling and that she thinks that is one of the big perks of marriage. As he has finished college and works, he is able to support her so she can focus on her studies. They do not plan on having children until after Rebecca is finished with all of her schooling. They have two Chihuahuas, which are their kids for now! Rebecca says that the second year of marriage has been easier than the first. She and her husband are used to each other now, and they have fewer disagreements. She joked that they don't have time to argue over everything, so they just pick what is important enough to fight about. They are both very busy people! Rebecca says that for her, the key to marriage is being willing to support each other. She believes that the age you marry is not as important as the stability of your relationship. It is being mature and stable that makes a marriage successful.

So it seems that it is possible to have a traditional wedding at a below average age, and have a great marriage as a result. Rebecca and Steven are living proof that there are exceptions to every statistic, and who knows, maybe tradition will make a come back.

## Clayton State Theatre Presents:

### *Moments*

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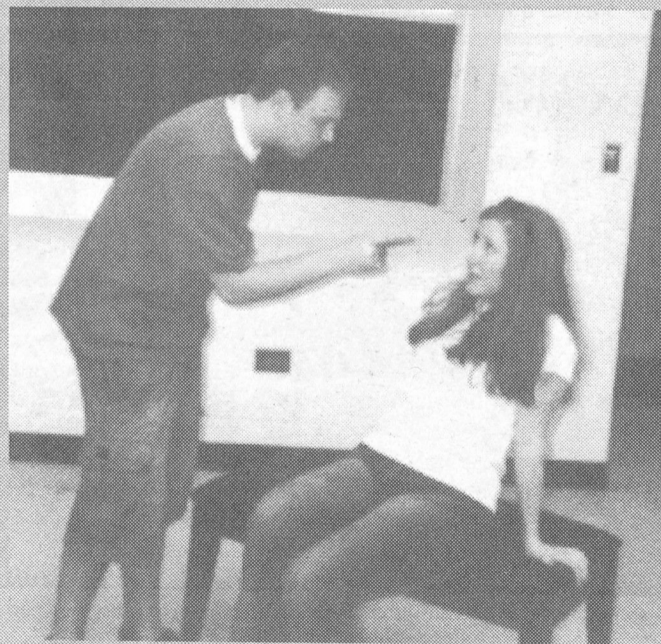


Photo by Redd Horrocks  
Edited by Micheal Smith

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# The Ever-Holy, Always Sacred "Nod"

By Jeff Hensley

First impressions are hard to break. In the blink of an eye, we've already made character judgments about someone we've just met. Ladies, most of you could make Nostradamus look like Daffy Duck when it comes to using the "clairvoyant character detector." Especially when it comes to other women! My wife, Amanda, knows before our Waffle House Waitress sets the silverware on the table whether we're going to get good service or not. And it usually doesn't take long for the waitress to figure out if she's going to be getting a good tip. Most women either hit it off right away or want to claw each other's eyes out the first chance they get. Being a typical, low life, mind always in the gutter man, I say there is absolutely nothing wrong with a good catfight. Am I right boys? Men get along with each other a little better. Hold on now girls; what I am trying to say is it takes more time for men to want to beat the hell out of each other. We're pretty easy going, until one man puts a boot down on another's fragile ego or a guy takes too long a glance at somebody else's girl or breaks any other of our sacred masculine laws. Oh yes, ladies, we do have rules and regulations. I know you thought we weren't smart enough to create a system, (or remember

something that isn't written down for that matter), but we have one, and it is pretty elaborate. Unfortunately, some guys haven't been clued in or just can't seem to figure it out. You are familiar with these guys. They bring you flowers for no reason at all, always have their "honey do" lists up to date, and never seem to make it over to the Saturday night poker game. There is one sure way to know if a fella is not an honored member of the blessed brotherhood of the male enlightenment. He doesn't nod his head when you walk by. The "nod" rests atop the hierarchy of the sacred institutions of masculinity. Yes, the primordial nod; it's the simplest way for us to acknowledge each other without giving up too much ground; it is the reason men are walking upright, and the only reason why men have not destroyed the planet with nuclear weapons! There are countless varieties of the nod. Fads come and go. There is the "side tilt" nod, popular with today's hip hop crowd or the "tilt back" nod, made famous by the Fonzie, and, of course, the always classic "forward" nod employed by the most important figure in the storied history of machismo, the great, John Wayne. All styles and variations are acceptable; no form of nod can be denied, but the deadliest blasphemy

known in the masculine universe is to forgo the sacred nod when passing by. Nothing appalls men more than when we're walking along, whistling a tune, or goofing off, (we excel at such things) and we pass by a fella who doesn't return the sacred nod. There are exceptions, but they are few and far between. Say for instance, there's a very scantily-dressed supermodel in the vicinity (in which case no man will have the presence of mind to nod), or maybe you're at game seven of the World Series, and someone hits a walk off grand slam, or better yet, the sky is falling and the world as we know it is coming to an end. Otherwise, come with the nod. Custer and his Seventh Calvary might have made it home for Christmas if he would have only returned a simple nod to Crazy Horse. Former President, Ronald Reagan, ended the Cold War with a nod of his head, (OK, so it was really just his neck waving in the wind), and that whole "thousands of years of war" thing between the Israelites and Palestinians, you guessed it: they don't nod! So, bestow all the unwarranted flowers on your wife, or girlfriend, you like, do the next ten years "honey do" lists in advance, and we'll learn to get by without you at the poker game.

Hell, we'll even put up with "why can't you be more like Sarah's husband? He does this, and he does that, blah blah blah, and nag nag nag!" All we ask in return is that you nod! Civilization as we know hangs in the balance. Come on, fellas! Now is your chance to stand up for world peace. Can't you see what a wonderful place this world would be if we all just "nod" along?

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your opinion  
with the  
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# Campus Question:

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in the following responses do not necessarily reflect the views of the *Bent Tree* staff.

One Nation Under God should definitely stay, I firmly believe that our nation was built with Christian values which helped us become as strong as we are today. Everyday we see more and more violence and hate towards others that proves that as society pushes God out of their lives, a downward horrid spiral begins. I do not even think that it should be an issue to take it out of the Pledge, if you do not like it don't say it, but don't try to change this great nation's building blocks.  
**Brandi Mitchell**

I strongly believe that "under God" should be left in the pledge of allegiance because if it were not for God we would be as successful as we are. God is Almighty. He is to be worshipped and praised. When prayer was taken out of schools, the public school system began to deteriorate. What do you think will happen if "under God" was taken out of the pledge of allegiance? I will let you ponder that theory.  
**Jasmine Heard**

It should STAY because..... One nation under "God" refers to the beliefs of the founding fathers when this nation was founded....just like our currency in "God" we trust. The reference to "God" means a god, any god to which you may subscribe to—this falls under freedom of religion. And if you do not subscribe to any "God" at all then you just ignore it....or substitute "God" for another word such as "Sun" if it goes against your beliefs.  
**Marie Browne**

First and foremost it's not unconstitutional. Congress is not allowed to create a law establishing a religion and it's not allowed to create one that would restrict a religion. As saying the pledge is not mandatory those words are therefore not unconstitutional. As to whether it's right or not, the Declaration of Independence included a strong reference to God so why shouldn't our pledge?  
**Jonathan Jones**

Why is this even being discussed? It was put there more than 50 years ago and has made the news recently ONLY because someone wanted something to complain

about. LEAVE IT ALONE!!!!!!!!!!  
Thank you.  
**Eric Nicholson**

I think the words "Under God" should stay in the Pledge of Allegiance. I believe that our constitution was based on religion, using the Ten Commandments as our basic laws. Therefore, "One nation under god" should stay just as it is written.  
**April Oxner**

OF COURSE ONE NATION UNDER GOD SHOULD remain! This country was founded on Christian principles, by Christians! Anyone who is offended by this sentiment should get back on whatever plane, boat or donkey that they got here on, stop using our tax dollars and go away! Maybe we could all stop having this argument if all of the glorious government officials got together and wrote a term paper (10 pages minimum, thank you very much) on what the principles are that this country was founded on. Then maybe GOD would be the BIGGEST part of the constitution and our freedom to promote Christian values would be better protected. Even our money says ONE NATION UNDER GOD! That is because we are ONE NATION UNDER GOD! See how it works!  
**Susan Pangburn**

The words should stay! Why do they always have to try to remove God from the picture? After all, He is the One who created us and the world...  
**Mara Cooper**

I believe that the words "under God," that were added to the Pledge of Allegiance in 1954, should stay because the founding fathers believed in God and the principles of the Bible.  
**Daniel Smitherman**

I absolutely believe that this phrase should remain in the Pledge of Allegiance of the United States. This nation was built on fundamental Christian beliefs and behaviors. This includes the Ten Commandments, the Bible, and "In God We Trust" too. Our forefathers built this nation on Christianity. Too bad this nation, and people in general, choose mainly to seek God only when they have a crisis.  
**Lora Salsman**

Dear Bent Tree,  
The current dispute of the phrase "under God" in our Pledge of Allegiance is, in my opinion, an issue of "no contest." This phrase was added to the Pledge in the year 1954; basically, that means, in and of itself, that this very phrase is unconstitutional. The constitution of the United States was ratified by the final state (New York) in the year 1788. Therefore, the beliefs and values of our nation, originally set forth by the founding fathers such as Jefferson, Madison, and Hamilton, in the constitution have little (or nothing) to do with the phrase "under God" being incorporated into a nationally recognized activity such as pledging the flag of the United States. Under the first amendment to the constitution, freedom of expression was recognized as any form of freedom; this idea also applies to religion. Since the pledge of allegiance is incorporated into the daily curriculum of state-funded public schools, then this issue directly relates to the freedom of expression doctrine set forth by the first amendment to the U.S. constitution, and classifies as a valid Separation of Church and State issue. I vote, undoubtedly, in favor of abolishing this phrase from our Pledge of Allegiance to our nation's flag.  
Sincerely,  
**Heather Monroe**

I think the words "One nation under God" should stay in the Pledge of Allegiance.  
**Stephen McVey**

The Constitution allows us to make a choice. The First Amendment defines, in vague terms, the separation of church and state. This concept, written by the writers of the Constitution and Bill of Rights, was written as a device to keep the Church of England from extending its controls to the colonies and to the United States. In addition, the term "God" is a relative term that could mean a deity for Christianity, Muslims, Buddhism, etc. When the First Amendment is reference by other non-religious groups, they forget that this amendment goes both ways. It did not spell out what groups could use it or not use it. If we change the Pledge, then all the money will have to be redesigned. My feeling is that we should keep the pledge.  
**W. Rogers**

God has been the foundation upon which this nation was founded. When the Declaration of Independence was

created that same Congress formed the American Bible Society. Thomas Jefferson who was the chairman of the American Bible Society had on the front of his bible "I am a real Christian, a disciple of the doctrines of Jesus. I have little doubt that our whole country will soon be rallied to the unity of our Creator". Why if we do not believe in God does one place his hand upon the Bible when they take an oath of office? That includes Judges, Congressional persons, and the President of these United States.  
**Ken Bedford**

Because I am a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ, I definitely think the words "under God" should not be removed from the Pledge of Allegiance. The issue isn't even so much about separation of church and state as it is people rejecting their Creator. The purpose for separation of church and state is to prevent any church/religion from becoming the state church and therefore preventing our citizens from having the freedom to worship whomever they choose. The sad thing is that those seeking to remove the phrase "under God" are rejecting the complete Embodiment and Author of love, which baffles me. I don't think people really understand how much the one true living God loves them; if they did, there would be a lot less fuss about two words in the Pledge of Allegiance and a lot more real needs of our country being met.  
**Barry Casebeer**

I believe it should stay because this nation after all, was created by people who were deeply religious. They wanted to serve God without any restriction from the king. So why are we now, as peoples who live under a nation they created, want to change the main principle of which this nation was created on?  
**Nguyen Kim**

Here are my thoughts on the subject:

\* There is nothing in the Constitution banning the use of phrases that have God in it.

\* Our nation was founded on the principals of Christianity.

\* Apparently not many people read the whole first amendment (which came before other amendments and which has not been repealed): "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances." (Most people just stop at the very first phrase.)

\* And the argument about people being "offended" does not stand because there are many things that people are free to do in this



# One Nation Under God: Constitutonal?

country that offend me every day, yet there is no law banning such activity. There are things people say that offend me, but I am capable of forgetting about it and getting over it. In fact, I am offended at the very idea of taking that phrase out of the pledge.

\* God's name is written on many public monuments in Washington D.C. and they have not changed.

**Brian Mathews**

I believe the statement should go. When the pledge of allegiance was created, everyone believed in Christianity back then. Nowadays, there are several different religions that have been introduced, so we should not force students to say things that go against his/her beliefs. If we can amend the Constitution to reflect the change of the times, why should the Pledge of Allegiance be any different? I mean after all, these are actual laws that this country abides by, but to have a debate over a salute that some students/schools don't even acknowledge anyway is ludicrous. Also, since I am a Christian, how would I feel if I were forced to say "One nation, under Allah" or "One nation, under Jehovah...", etc? I don't think I would be happy one bit, and you watch how many people would agree with me.

Even though this country was built on Christian beliefs, we now have to let go of the past and move on with the future. Meaning, with different beliefs, we should let the people decide who they want to pledge to...

**Aneetra Sherrell**

Every other right gets taken away, why stop now. We can't even smoke outside anymore.

**Bo James**

I believe with all my heart that the words "under God" should certainly remain in the Pledge, and in our society, and in schools, and in our everyday vocabulary. I believe that this nations reliance on, and recognition of God up until now, although eroding, has been the reason for the incredible favor and blessing that the United States of America has experienced in it's brief existence.

**Armand Roca**

Yes I do, but more importantly I think that we as a nation should be more concerned that there is so many people trying to take God out of everything. Our society has been systematically eliminated God from just about everything, i.e. school, work place, public buildings and even television shows (Touched by an Angel). In doing so, our society as a whole, has continued to deteriorate. Schools are not safe, there is an increase in work place violence, and

all the while people seem to be confused as why. I believe that God is simply not pleased with the moral decay and lack of God-fearing indifference this nation is displaying, but if we read our bibles more we would see that all the events that are going on in the world today is prophesied in Revelations. Under God is not what is [the] controversial issue in the Pledge of Allegiance. It is the One Nation. We are not one nation but a nation divided and until we become "One Nation Under God" this nation will continue to deteriorate until it dies.

**Mildred Boddie**

I think it is what our nations forefathers were committed to- [to] plant the grass roots of our society structure on this belief and if it offends people, they didn't need to enter our country with the blending mesh of following the mainstream of our heritage.

**Lynda Cokuslu**

Yes the words "one nation under God" should remain..

**Anonymous**

The words "One Nation Under God" are constitutional. Acknowledging the deity, as did the founding fathers, is not government establishment of religion.

**Paul Sebold**

While I am in no way a part of the moral majority, I do believe that the phrase "under God" should remain in the pledge. Not so much for religious purposes, but more for the sake of tradition. Students in school are already given the choice to not say the pledge, which is a fair compromise. Completely removing it is overkill.

**Patrick Harbin**

I think the words should stay. Not just because I am a Christian and believe in God, but because the word God means Supreme Being, so whether a person intends it to mean God-from a Christian view or God from some other religion-they can decide in their own heart. I feel the majority does believe in a Supreme Being and that needs to be recognized. I feel this country has spent a lot to try to recognize "freedom of religion", however we have come to a point of being so picky, and sensitive to terminology that it has almost eliminated any religion. It was voted and God was taken out of schools now we have school shootings, not to mention many other instances. People don't hesitate to call on God when things are going bad, but when "they" feel things are self-sufficient and "they" are handling everything, "they" do not want God involved.

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A quick search of the Web will reveal the history of the Pledge of Allegiance. It appeared in 1892 in a children's magazine whose editors and publishers were interested in promoting patriotism in schools. A quarter century later it began to be used in public gatherings. In 1954, President Eisenhower encouraged the inclusion of the words "under God" into the pledge. Recently a lawsuit demanded that a public school refrain from requiring children to recite these words on the grounds that they violate the First Amendment requirement that the government refrain from establishing any religion.

Here are my thoughts on the issue. If "under God" is retained in the pledge, there are two possibilities: Perhaps the reference is to a specific God and therefore, to a specific religion. For any government agency to require recitation of this statement of belief in a given religion would clearly contradict the meaning of the First Amendment.

Alternatively, the reference is to a vague notion of God, according to whatever religion the speaker cares to have in mind. This is too theologically sloppy to merit serious consideration. A vague reference to some non-specific deity trivializes all religion. Furthermore, both positions disregard the views of American citizens who do not believe in a specific concept of God.

Restoring the Pledge to its original form—a statement of respect for a national symbol and for the nation itself—would honor the highest principles upon which the United States is founded, freedom of thought and belief. Individuals who wished to add "God bless America" could do so, without using the power of the government to put this sentiment in the mouths of those who do not wish to express it.

Getting back to the original purpose of the Pledge, which was to foster patriotism in children, it probably would be more useful to ask school children to recite the Preamble to the Constitution, or the First Amendment itself.

**Kathryn W. Kemp**  
Assistant Professor of History  
Clayton College and State  
University

YES those words should definitely stay because without GOD there would be no nation.

**Shenelle Emery**

We as a people have been repeating these words since 1954 and it is now 2003, almost 2004 which dates these words to approximately 50 years old. It isn't broken why try to fix it. The words are strong and valid with meaning. Those who never said God were found to call His name when the war began and

the 50 year foundation should not be removed. It is not cracked nor broken, and for those who may oppose we should all respect their opinion, however it important to know that we honor the U.S. flag therefore, these are words that are associated with it and they are the words that our Nation is groomed to pledge. Our Nation is Under God!

**Monique L. Aguirre**

I feel very strongly that the words "UNDER GOD" should stay in the pledge. This country was founded by the Grace of GOD. Our forefathers came to this country so that they could worship GOD. Many of the documents, made by our forefathers, had reference to God in them. I believe that if they had not believed in GOD they would not have relied on HIM and mentioned HIM in their documents. Our children of today and tomorrow need to know about the true history of our country. Not what some would want them to believe. If it is taken away from todays documents and pledges...the history will never be taught again the way it should be. TOO many things are not taught in history now as it is.

"UNDER GOD"....It is not just some words that were written down. If you don't believe in GOD don't worship HIM. However don't take it away from the MANY Americans who do!!!

**Pattie Spence**

I think the words "under God" should stay in the Pledge of Allegiance. How is that people have a problem with the words "under God" but they spend the American dollar, which has the words "In God We Trust". If people are that adamant about mentioning God then they should burn their money or send it to me. Why is it that all of a sudden there is a problem with God's name in the Pledge of Allegiance? America's history and beginnings were strongly tied into the belief and reverence of God.

**Dana Stephenson**

I think the words Under God should be constitutional because our country was founded on religious freedom and the majority of people should have the right to use Under God. We should not be controlled by a few people that do not believe in God. If I was in another country at a sporting event—I would expect to hear a prayer in what ever language they use—why can't we?

**Marty Louradour**



## Homecoming 2003 continued



Photo courtesy of Micheal Smith



**First Place**  
Decorated Banner  
*Student Government*  
*Association*

*Second Place: Honors Association*

*Third Place: Science Associaton*

### Non Student Parade Entry Awards

**Best Musical Unit**

Beecher Hills Elementary School  
"Highsteppers"

**Most Artistic Unit**

Laker Performing Dance Team "Fire and  
Ice"

**Best Use of Theme**

Alumni Association

**Best of the Parade**

Laker Performing Dance Team "Fire and  
Ice"

### Club Olympics Winners

**Champion: Student  
Government Association**

**Second Place: Delta Epsilon  
Chi**

**Third Place: Ambassadors**

### Student Organization Spirit Award

*Laker Cheerleaders*

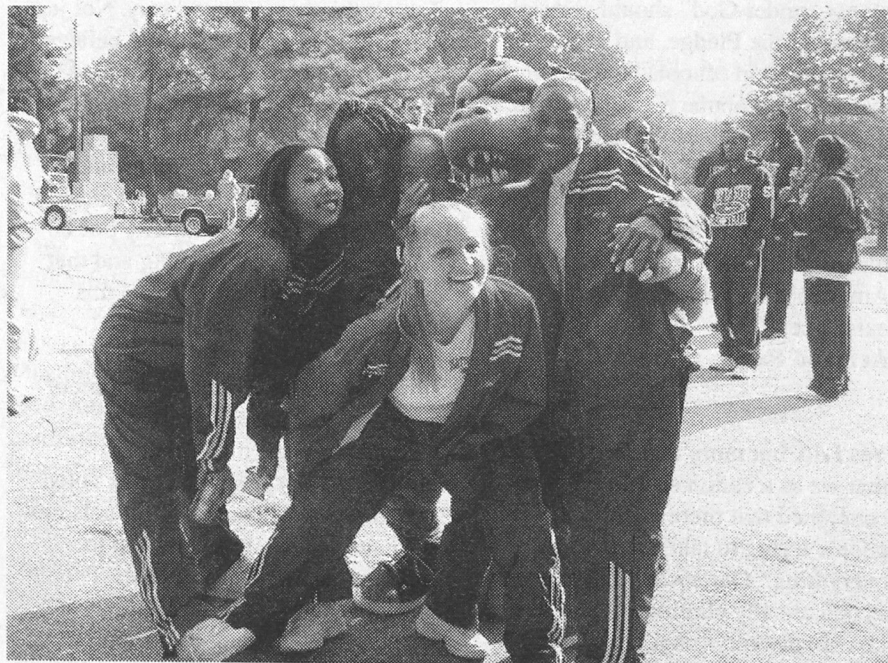


Photo courtesy of Micheal Smith

Information Gathered from  
[www.clayton.edu/studentlife](http://www.clayton.edu/studentlife)