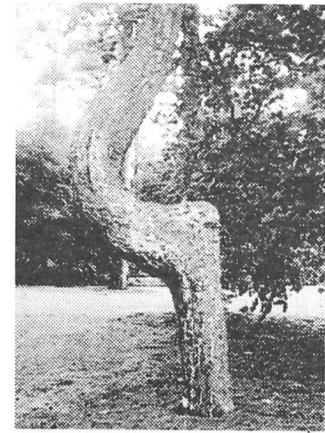


THE BENT TREE

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CCSU STUDENT NEWSPAPER



Clayton State's A.C. McCullers resigns as head coach of Laker women's basketball team

A coaching legend and fixture for women's basketball for 30 years in Clayton County, head Clayton College & State University coach A.C. McCullers announced his resignation as the CCSU women's head coach.

McCullers is coming off his fifth season at Clayton State after coaching 25 years at Morrow High School. He captured his 700th combined victory in January of this year with an 84-77 victory over nationally ranked Armstrong Atlantic State University. Clayton State's season came to an end with a 10-18 record, falling in the Peach Belt Conference tournament to Francis Marion University.

"Clayton State and this community has been great to me over the years, and I will never be able to thank them enough for their support," said McCullers. "It was a tough decision, one that I agonized over, but I feel like it's time for me to move on. It will allow me much more family time with my teenage daughter and wife. I will be able to watch her grow up and won't miss out on the most enjoyable years of her life. I missed her hitting two free throws in the last minute of her last game this year, and it almost killed me."

McCullers took over the Clayton State program in 1999 and provided stability

Coach A.C. McCullers



Image taken from google.com

to Laker women's basketball after the program had three coaches in three years. In five years at Clayton State, he compiled a 53-82 record with his best season coming in 2002-03 with a 16-11 mark, the second best record in school history.

"Clayton State was in need of someone like A.C. five years ago to put our program on solid footing, and he accomplished that," said CCSU athletic director Mason Barfield. "He came in and provided stability to our women's basketball program and developed it into a respected one in the Peach Belt Conference."

In addition to compiling the program's second best overall record

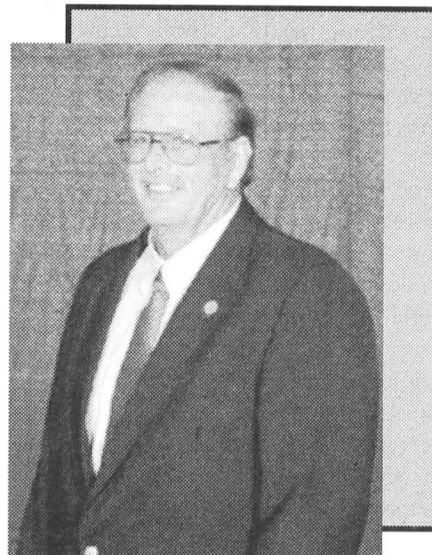


Image taken from clayton.edu

in 2002-03, he also led the Lakers to the school's best finish in Peach Belt Conference play, finishing fifth in the league with a 10-9 mark.

The program had its first victory over a nationally ranked team in 2002-03, defeating USC Aiken and followed that up this year with a win over 11th-ranked Bellarmine University and 17th-ranked Armstrong State. The 2002-03 squad also defeated Kennesaw State for the first time in 18 tries, sweeping the Owls in two games and was ranked for the first time in the South Atlantic Region. The program produced its first All-America in 2003 and finished the season ranked second in the nation in field goal percentage defense.

The most successful high school coach in Clayton County history, McCullers compiled a career record of 648-157, a winning percentage of .803, and won 535 games at Morrow before announcing his retirement in the spring of 1999.

He led the Lady Mustangs to Class AAAA state championships in 1989, 1990, 1991 and 1993 and had nine players sign with NCAA Division I programs since 1990.

In 25 years, McCullers guided Morrow to 19 state tournament appearances, 12 regional championships and nine trips to the Final Four, including his last season when Morrow capped its 12th consecutive 20-win season with a 26-5 record.

A native of Jasper, Ala., McCullers was inducted into the Etowah County (Ala.) Hall of Fame in 1997. He was an all-state football player and four-sport letter winner at Hokes Bluff (Ala.) High School before continuing his football career at the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga, where he earned a bachelor's of science degree in physical education in 1968. In 1980, McCullers received a master's degree from West Georgia.

He and his wife, Renee, have a 15-year old daughter, Andrea Michelle, and reside in McDonough.

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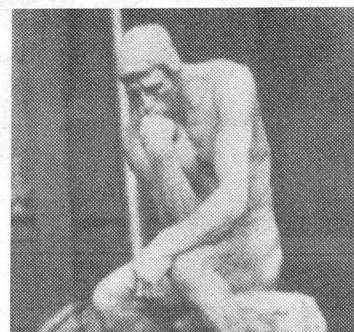
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Points of View



Of Choices, Consequences, and Responsibilities

By Bernard Asubonteng

It is hard to offer an exhaustive definition of the word, *Choice*; because almost every discipline seems to have its own definition or explanation for it. Economists, for example, may define choice in terms of "the selections among scarce economic resources resulting in opportunity cost." In political domain, a choice may assume a different interpretation, among them is a person's right to choose whom to represent whom; a choice to take a witness' stand in the court of law; a choice to disobey civil laws and the like. Irrespective of its contextual connotations, every choice one makes in life has consequences. One hears it all the time that every human being has the right to choose. To a greater extent, there is an element of truth to this choice equation. Indeed, almost everyone has control over the choices he or she makes in life; but, none of us has control over the consequences of the choice(s) made.

For instance, one has the right to choose to drop out of college, but the consequences of perhaps not securing an enduring career or not getting a college degree go far beyond one's control, although the responsibilities of such action lay solely on whomever made that choice. There is no doubt that humans have a natural right to choose, however, the same argument cannot be made concerning the "right to consequences." That is why one must be very careful when it comes to making choices in these uncertain times. I do not know for

sure, but more often it appears to me as if firmly knitted into human nature that we all enjoy having control and/or making personal choices, but as soon as we are faced with the consequences, especially a not-too-pleasant one, most people engage in buck passing. Others even start to question God's compassion and/or His existence as if he persuade people to commit crimes. To put this in a different context, much as humans have the right to choose, so also must one always remember that at the heels of choice come consequence and the mustering of moral courage to accept responsibility of one's action(s). I strongly believe that consequence and responsibility are the two most important components of choice; in other words, all of these three elements work in unison. Thus, they come in this perfect order: *Choice, Consequence, and Responsibility*.

Let me stretch the discussion a bit further. In most corrupt societies, for example, the rulers choose to misuse public meager funds; rather than bear the consequences of the underdevelopment and poverty that come with poor economic choices in a "graceful" manner. These corrupt leaders always attempt to shift the blame on to the so-called "unjust world economic order." The arguments advanced by most of these corrupt leaders to cover up their irresponsible choices range from the fact that there are some powerful na-

tions out there who are bent on bringing the less powerful nations down on their knees, socially or economically. For example, have you ever seen or heard Fidel Castro addressing Cubans on TV before? Most of the Cuban dictator's marathon speeches are directed against the Western countries, mostly the U.S. Hardly does Castro willingly admit that his failed economic and his flawed political choices for the past four decades account for the greater part of his island nation's predicaments. Indeed, this buck passing "tango dance" is not exclusive to countries and their leaders only. A closer look around us will bring to the fore some complaints and/or accusations within our various communities that government authorities are putting more people behind bars than the prison walls can hold. Regrettably, it's a travesty of justice to jail innocent people. Certainly, these are not the kind of consequences and/or responsibilities this column is focusing on. Instead, the focus is on the scenario in which one exercises his or her right to choose to shoplift and gets caught, then turns around to put the blame on the "unfair justice system" as if the law pushes the culprit to steal. There is a popular saying that "Even though trouble per se hates human beings, it is the latter who always tries to befriend trouble." I think you know where I am coming from. For instance, does the law ask you to rape or rob your neighbor at the gunpoint? How about the merchandise at the Mall you don't want to pay for but want to take them anyway? Of course, if one is willing to steal or rob at gunpoint, then one must also be willing to

accept the consequence or the obligations that comes with the robbery. It's a good thing that our "Creator" endows all human beings with rights, including the right to choose. However, like everything else, I believe nothing is free in this world. In fact, everything comes at some cost; if you can, you may approach an economist and ask for clarification on this cost theory. The result(s) and/or "cost" to the choices we make may be positive or negative. Often it puzzles me to see or hear some people, especially in this country, who have "deliberately" failed to seize the vast opportunities existing so as to turn them into their advantage and yet keep blaming the "system." Sitting on the sidelines without taking any productive initiative is a choice in itself. So, rather than attributing your inertia onto some faceless "unfair systems" (remember always that this imperfect world will never be fair) prevailing in some places, how about you take the "bull by the horns" and apply your creative abilities positively, that way, I believe, success and industry would be within your reach. Folks, the sermon today is: a human's life is rife with choices; that from cradle to grave, choice forms an intrinsic part of a person's lives. In fact, everything we do in this transient world involves choice. As soon as we make a choice(s), it triggers consequence and responsibilities. These phenomena are natural processes of life—none of us can run away from them no matter how hard each of us tries!

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Patrolling the Airwaves

By Patrick Harbin

Nearly two months after Janet Jackson's infamous "wardrobe malfunction" during the 2004 Super Bowl halftime show, television and radio networks are still fighting a battle against indecency over the airwaves. With both the Federal Communications Commission and Congress demanding that networks clean up their content or face severe penalties, several broadcasts in recent weeks have been either edited or completely removed from lineups; leaving many to wonder if this is a case of asserting morals or one of blatant censorship.

One of the first networks to make changes to its programming in the aftermath of Jackson's breast-baring stunt was CBS, the network initially responsible for broadcasting the halftime show. In the days following the incident, FCC commissioner Michael Powell blasted CBS for airing such "crass" and "classless" material and vowed to launch a "thorough and swift" investigation. In response, CBS president Les Moonves issued orders to executive producers of several programs aired on CBS and its sister station UPN calling for a decrease in indecent material. In some cases, scenes deemed inappropriate were edited from shows just days before they aired.

A steamy segment in March 15th's episode of *America's Next Top Model* was removed just before the broadcast. The scene involved four female contestants and four Italian men groping each other at a party in Milan. According to E! Online, UPN never planned to air the whole segment, but just "enough to make clear what happened." Regardless, the producers had no choice but to take the entire scene out of the episode.

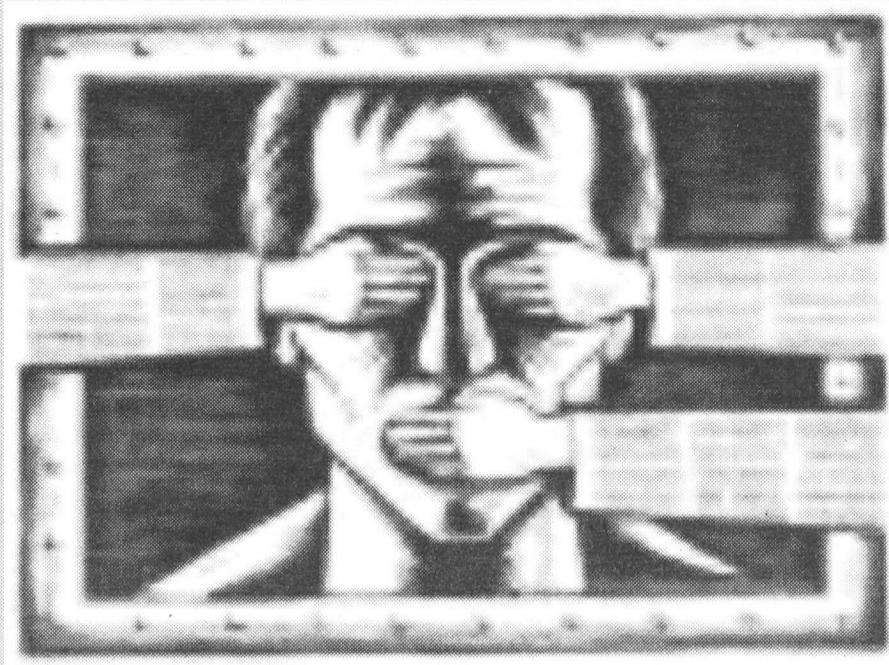


Image taken from google.com

Another UPN program, the animated sitcom *Game Over*, was also forced by executives to edit some of its racy material. The producers were told to remove a shot of the cartoon family's mother in the shower with her backside clearly visible.

In addition to editing mature content out of television shows, many networks are also using delays on live recordings in order to avoid potential problems. The most prominent example of this was ABC's use of a five-second delay during this year's Academy Awards. Also, ABC used the same tactic again on March 31st when Janet Jackson was scheduled to appear on *Good Morning, America*. However, the delay only applied to Jackson's segment and not to the rest of the show.

Television networks are not alone in their efforts to appease the FCC. Radio stations across the country have also started censoring their content in

hopes of deterring potential indecency charges. On February 24th, radio conglomerate Clear Channel dropped Howard Stern's syndicated talk-show from six of its stations. While Clear Channel officially cites Stern's explicit content as the reason behind the decision, the famous shock jock blames politics.

Stern claims that Clear Channel abandoned his show when executives became unhappy with his vocal criticism of President Bush. Recent data published in *USA Today* revealing that Clear Channel donated over twenty times more money to Bush's campaign than to Senator Kerry's seems to give Stern's opinion some credibility. However, it is important to note that large corporations have a history of supporting incumbent candidates over challengers.

One of the chief reasons that radio and television networks are so readily complying with FCC demands is the threat of crippling fines. The current fee for a broadcaster found guilty of airing a program deemed indecent is \$27,500. While this fine, especially if levied multiple times at a single party, can be devastating, Congress is currently considering a plan to increase the amount to \$500,000. The increase, which faces strong opposition from the American Civil Liberties Union, has already passed in the House and is pending Senate consideration.

At the center of this entire issue is the question of who should determine whether or not something is indecent. The First Amendment Center, an advocacy group based in Arlington, Virginia, strongly believes that the decision should not be in the hands of the government. According to the FAC, if concerned citizens feel that certain programming is unsuitable for them or their children, they should either block it with the V-Chip found in all televisions built after 2000 or call their cable providers and have that particular channel blocked. With the current push for increased government involvement in media content showing no sign of letting up, FAC director Kenneth Paulson is dumbfounded. "What's disheartening," he says, "is that some people want Congress to do what they are in a better position to do at home for their families."

Perhaps the best way to avoid indecency over the airwaves is not to edit programs or fine broadcasters, but for people to simply decide for themselves what is acceptable entertainment. If people can do that, then no one's rights or freedoms would be compromised.

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Campus Question

The question we asked was... *Do you think that the clubs/organizations on campus reflect the diversity of the student body at CCSU?*
Here are the responses we collected.

In my opinion, CCSU does not reflect very much diversity in its activities on campus. The reason for this comment has to do with the diversity within certain organizations on campus. For example, the Greek fraternities and sororities are mostly based on the African American cultures. However, where are the organizations for the Caucasian cultures? What about organizations for students who attend school at night. Most people cannot attend college full time so therefore, the organizations are mainly for the students who attend school during the day. Which does not leave much leeway for diversity?

Crystal Landers

No. I am a non-traditional student. I pay the same fees as anyone else; however, working full time and attending school at night, I have not seen many activities that I can attend. The few that I may be interested in stop at 6pm and are shutting down by the time I get on campus.

Pamela Walker

Of course not! As one of the many evening students attending CCSU I feel that the University, and most campus associations cater to the young, non-married, no job, no responsibilities individual. In most

instances, that's okay. I honestly don't mind the college and campus associations directing their attention to the majority of students who fit the profile they are looking for, and who can attend and participate in their activities.

However, I do mind when courses and activities are directed toward younger students without consideration of those individuals who are attending college despite having jobs, families, and "another life". These students do not always have the time to attend functions (because they have other commitments). That is not the university's fault. However, it appears that no effort is ever made to have the activities held in the evenings. How about an evening meeting, let's say, once a month? What about establishing some "professional organizations" to help those who are already employed but are trying to improve their lives and get a better job to provide for their families? These people need help as well.

Raleigh Chastine

I wouldn't know. As most of the interesting-sounding activities are during the day, and I work all day, I have not been able to participate in any.

Panda Smith

No, I do not think that SLAC's events are diverse; however, SLAC is not diverse. If SLAC had more diversity, it would be easier to put together programs that reflect the student body. SLAC could make a point to get with other organizations such as International Awareness, Vietnamese Student Association or Honors <they do an International Dinner> in order to get ideas. We do have an entire office set up for diversity. I encourage the student body to join these organizations so that they are a true reflection of the campus. It is one thing to have a valid point-- not much diversity in programs—, but it is something totally different just pointing the finger and not doing anything to help. It is obvious that SLAC has a majority black membership, but the organization's constitution states that it is OPEN TO ALL. Make a difference from the inside instead of pointing the finger from outside. SLAC is supposed to be the programming committee for the entire campus, not just the current members. This is why I pointed out SLAC and not any other organization.

Gerald Heavens

No, campus activities most reflect African American culture and interests. Few make a point to include other races, nationalities and genders.

Emily Trexler

I do not feel that the college activities reflect the diversity of our students. I am Hispanic, and I am still waiting for an activity that I could enjoy. Also, I am one of many parents who attend our school. We are in need of more family activities.

Aricely Saez-Anderson

Yes, we have all types of activities at CCSU. The problem is the student body never attends the activities. It's very common to hear a conversation going on about how there is never anything to do, but there is! We have a variety of activities ranging from seminars on health issues to financial issues. There is always a social/entertainment event happening. Whether being diverse on an ethnical level, economic, or social level, there are activities targeted at all of us. If we would rid ourselves of the "delete syndrome", maybe we would be more aware of these activities. And if there you feel that you are not being represented, GET INVOLVED! There is no rule against starting your own interest group...only a process (if you want to be recognized as a legitimate group). Then there is always the option of joining established clubs as a catalyst to bring your ideas to life. As with anything, there is always room for improvement, but all things considered, I think CCSU is on the right track.

Tonya Lee

These responses do not necessarily reflect the opinions or ideas of the *Bent Tree* staff.



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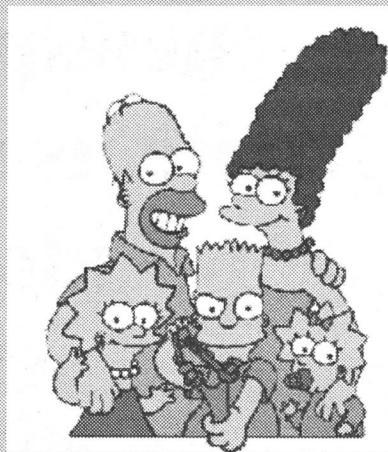
Arts & Entertainment

Current Cartoons Drastically Differ With Social Contexts

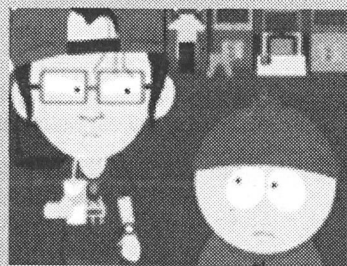
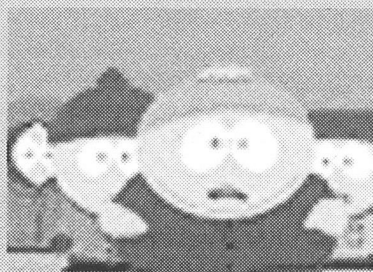
By Shea Haley

Whether you are a die hard Simpsons or South Park fan, it's fun to watch how these two shows confront social issues that are arising. "The Simpsons", who are going on their 15th season, deal with "the real world" and with social contexts in a way that viewers can relate to and laugh at. The family consists of the typical nuclear family with a stay at home Mom and a working Dad. The town of Springfield is much like any other suburban town with restaurants, a bowling alley, school, etc. In almost every episode, viewers are able to see the same characters in different situations; whether that is with a lawyer, doctor, or newscaster. No matter how wacky and hilarious, situations are handled in a day-to-day reality. For example: in the very first episode, Bart gets a tattoo and Marge has to spend all of the Christmas money for gifts to have the tattoo removed. It's an animated "real world" that allows the characters to feel real feelings and deal with things such as bullies, friends, and that pesky neighbor.

Now "South Park" on the other hand has some of the same qualities as "The Simpsons", but at the other end of the spectrum. The town of South Park is comprised of different kinds of families; they are dysfunc-



'Simpsons' image taken from google.com



'South Park' images taken from ComedyCentral.com

tional in many ways. The character Kenny, who is killed in almost every episode, has parents for drunks and we see his mother go through domestic abuse. There is Cartman who is the over weight kid that is sometimes jibed about being fat. Then there is the police officer that cannot read and just walks around. South Park does not confront day-to-day reality and some of the episodes are clearly for laughs and perhaps come across as a joke (for example, when Satan and Jesus are in a boxing ring fighting). It's almost as if the creators are "mocking" our social issues, for instance the teacher named Mr. Garrison that is gay without a doubt and talks to a puppet on his hand. I believe there are underlying good things about the show, such as the episode when the school nurse has a conjoined fetus on her head and the town supports her by making and wearing their own conjoined fetus, but the situations themselves are nothing to be compared to "The Simpsons". The kids use vulgarity, fight and talk back to their parents, and one must wonder what good this is doing. Of course, we all need a little crude humor, but do we go so far as to watch one of the children talk to his imaginary friend named "Mr. Hanky"? But in its 8th season, we still tune in to see if "we can't unwind."

*Quotes and information borrowed from www.simpsons.com and www.comedycentral.com

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Carrey Shines in "Spotless Mind"

By Thomas Spurlin

Never has a movie so rich with imagination, beauty and inspirationally blistering content come in such an unusually obscure, dazzling package. From Charlie Kaufman, the same mind who brought the world "Adaptation" and "Being John Malkovich", viewers are introduced into a world layered with warming sensitivity, frigid callousness and electrifying emotions that surface when the love of another is deleted from existence – instantly. Joel, played unrecognizably by Jim Carrey, is a shy man who discovers that his unreserved, rambunctious girlfriend Clementine, played by Kate Winslet, has undergone a procedure provided by the Lacuna corporation to erase every memory of him from her mind. Out of spite, Joel seeks out the doctor that conducts the procedure and decides to have it done as well.

The journey we are led on is a

vortex of winding memories twirling backwards in history through their times and trials. As these memories are erased, Joel must relive each of them in this descending order. After watching the pain of their tumultuous breakup, as well as his actions that provoked the incident, he decides that he doesn't want the memories to be deleted and that he still loves Clementine. He then takes Clementine, in all forms of herself (whether Blue Ruin, Cherry Red or Tangerine Orange), on a journey through his database of memories in order to preserve her presence.

Eternal Sunshine's bizarre, topsy-turvy nature is enough to boggle the mind for days afterwards. Charlie Kaufman shadows elements from such films as "Memento" and "Mulholland Drive" in order to illustrate a story rich with symbolism, emotional upheaval, and undying love. On a broader note, viewers discover that memories are the most important things that people can ever possess – and lose. The essence of life itself is in the fact that memories make people exactly what they are. The

experiences they endure comprise so much of their own life that is shocking, nay devastating, when such a crucial element of one's life is "deleted". Clementine, in all of her imperfections, all of her zany ways of living, has become a part of Joel. We see the effects that removing such a part of our lives, whether purposefully or not, can have upon a person.

Jim Carrey and Kate Winslet are absolutely perfect in this film. The truth about their relationship is that they represent two sides of a Yin-Yang; Jim represents all that is logical and shy, while Kate resembles all that is wild, unbridled and emotional. Their character study is almost something out of Swift's Gullivers Travels to the Land of Houyhnhnms, which analyzes the problems of being overly analytical, as well as overly emotional. All at the same time, Joel and Clementine's characteristics interlock, yet portray the problems with complete opposites. The audience could almost scream at each



Jim Carrey in '...Spotless Mind'

Image taken from google.com

character to change their ways, yet then they remember that it is all a memory. Carrey's ability to contain electricity in his eyes and facial expressions enchants the viewers to suffer with him through every step of his turmoil. To say any more would possible forfeit some of the secrets that lie in the great winding tale. Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind is one of those movies that you will never forget, and will never want to forget.

Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind

**** 1/2 / ***** (4.5 out of 5 stars) 97 A

Outwrite Bookstore & Coffeehouse

By Donna Bess Duncan/cs20939



Outwrite storefront
Image taken from google.com

Outwrite is an eclectic, trendy little shop, located on the corner of Piedmont Avenue and 10th Street in Midtown Atlanta that proudly boasts its gay and lesbian clientele. The shop offers not only books, but also small novelty gifts and light fare in its café area, all catering to the fancies of its patrons. There is a seating area to the left of the entrance, which not only serves as a comfort zone for those conversing, reading or enjoying the fare, but also hosts various authors for signings and readings. To my naïve eye, aside from the colorful décor, risky novelties, and smaller scale, there didn't seem to be much difference between Outwrite and Barnes & Noble. I saw both as offering a relaxing, inviting atmosphere to enjoy a wide variety of reading materials as well as a light snack and beverage.

Upon speaking to Topher, a manager at Outwrite, my view was quickly changed. Topher informed me that Outwrite in no way compares to the monotony of Barnes & Noble. He stated, and I have to agree, that no matter which city you're in, each Barnes & Noble looks just like the one before. Outwrite is an independent establishment and was created to supply a specific demand. Topher further stated that the clientele is both unique and devoted. The staff is dedicated and committed to creating a

warm, welcoming environment for all to enjoy. The shop has become the first stop for newcomers to Atlanta who are "in the life," meaning those people who live the gay lifestyle. Since it offers a comfortable, non-judgmental atmosphere for both gays and lesbians, it serves as a great meeting place for regulars as well as first time customers. The clientele is mostly male, but has increased in its number of female patrons over the last two years.

Outwrite is celebrating its ten year anniversary this November. The bookstore was one of the first establishments to open in the Midtown area, and it contributed greatly to the revitalization of Midtown. Back then the area was not a very popular location for businesses, as it was not considered to be a very safe place, and most people avoided it. When I asked Topher if a franchise here in Atlanta or another city was a consideration, he quickly responded that Outwrite was a one-of-a-kind establishment and duplication would take away from the ambiance and uniqueness of Outwrite. He did indicate that someone had visited on several occasions and subsequently opened a store called Outwards in Cincinnati, which tried to directly follow the layout of Outwrite. Upon searching Outwards on the net, I came up with a store with that name in Milwaukee; from its description, I

believe that is the location Topher was speaking of.

After my conversation with Topher, I retreated to the seating area with a cup of peppermint tea, which was freshly steeped, and a slice of spinach and cheese quiche. I set up my laptop to type my notes, and felt the comfort in which the staff strives to convey. There were two other patrons who also had their laptops in operation. One with cell phone in hand, going non-stop from one call to another, apparently selling advertising time and/or space, the other seemed to be just passing time as he enjoyed the ambiance of Outwrite. The seating area housed several small round tables, each with a cobalt blue vase drenched with fresh flowers, and surrounded by two or three chairs. The tables were just large enough for my venture, or, small enough to house two or three people socializing. There was also a semi-circular, off-white leather sectional sofa with a coffee table situated in front of it. The shop was infused with a sound system that was neither too loud nor too soft. The mellow tunes, that were both a little jazzy, as well as a little funky, seemed pleasing to even the most critical ear. There was a small patio off the seating area with a semi-circular wooden bench, which allowed patrons to sit and enjoy the fresh air, and the colorful array of passersby.

The bookcases located in the back of the shop bore labels that read "Health & Fitness", "Families", "Travel", "Spirituality", "Relationships", "Coming Out", "Sexuality", "Women's Erotica", "Staff Picks", and various other titles. Other items available were CD's, DVD's, calendars, flashcards, picture frames, magnets, mini disco globes in rainbow colors, magazines, postcards, fresh flowers and many other very trendy theme items. The café offered various pastries, bagels, sandwiches and quiche. A large variety of coffee flavors and many canisters of fresh teas, offered hot or iced, were available, as well as soft drinks and fresh juices all moderately priced.

I finished my tea, thanked the staff for their warm welcome and willing assistance in answering my questions, and left the shop. Once outside, I observed the various color splashed about the shop that seemed almost childlike in its appeal to the eye, yet pleasing and tasteful. The bright, festive window display advertised five copies of the same book. Although they all had the same title, *Queer Eye For The Straight Guy*, each jacket cover was different; each bore one of the colors of "the rainbow." While peering through the window I realized my ignorance in comparing Outwrite to Barnes & Noble.

10-Minute Plays

By Linda Godin

Clayton State's Ten Minute Play Festival was a complete production by Clayton State college students. From stage management and costuming, to acting and writing, the students took their turn at maintaining complete control over the production. There were four short vignettes, covering various subjects, such as a man talking to a ghost, two women contemplating having an affair, and a pair of goofballs trying to raise four hundred dollars to party with their sexy landlord.

The Edible Complex was written by James Corey Kaufman and directed by Richard Khouri. The actors were Phillip Collins, Kyla Thompson, and Julienne Harry. The story was about a man in a mental institution who was still having conversations with his dead wife.

The second vignette was *Lift and Bang*, directed by Sarah Baggett. Sarah played Grace, while Jordan Poole was Ben. The story was about a couple whom have been together, even though Ben has another woman somewhere else. Ben is struggling with whom he wishes to

be with, while Grace feels hurt that Ben is messing with her heart.

The third vignette, *Anything For You*, was written by Cathy Celesia and directed by Sarah Baggett. Adrienne Gauthier and Celeste Greene played Gail and Lynette respectively. Two women meeting for a simple lunch, where it is apparent that Gail is on a quest for an affair. Lynette tries to persuade her not to, encouraging her to think of her husband. Gail is resolute, she must have an affair or she will explode. Then, as if she has had an epiphany, she asks Lynette to have an affair with her! Lynette happens to be drinking water at the time and sprays the first two rows! After listening to Gail lay out the reasons why they should have an affair, how much better it would be, Lynette finally confesses to being in love with Gail, (who happened to be drinking water at the time too-with the same result!) At this news the women are unsure of how to proceed, and decide to have lunch after all. If they could ever find their waiter!

The fourth and final vignette was a wacky spoof about two guys with no

jobs, no prospects and who like to watch the food channel because they lost the remote! It was written by Richard Khouri, Wyatt Lowe, and Eric Wilkes and directed by Richard Khouri. Richard Khouri and Eric Wilkes played the two main characters Sparkles and Smiley. Wyatt Lowe did an excellent job playing Seamoore Sly, the talent agent looking for the fast buck and Marlana Appel played the sexy landlords daughter, Sky. The remaining actors, Kyla Thompson, Cody Wilson, Sarah Baggett, Jordan Poole, and Phillip Collins, did an excellent job playing the various characters at the cooking show.

The 10-Minute Play Festival demonstrated the students' commitment to the Clayton State Theatre. As they acted and directed these short scenes, their talent and dedication to their craft shone through. As Ed Hohlbein said, "As our theatre program here at Clayton State grows, it will become increasingly important for CCSU students to polish their skills in all aspects of theatrical production. This Ten Minute Play Festival is a step forward in that direction." Thank you for your continued support of Clayton State Theatre.

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Campus Question

Relationship Question

The Bent Tree asked you:

What are the necessary steps to take before you call it quits? What is the fair way to end a relationship if you feel that it is over? How long should you wait once you feel that a relationship has ended?

1. What are the necessary steps to take before you call it quits? Guy's guy- First, you must make sure you have gotten all of your stuff back from her house. This means even getting that old t-shirt back...you don't want to give her a reason to come by one night and catch you with the new girl. This is what we call trouble-shooting. Second, you need to be sure and delete your email from her hard drive and your phone numbers from her cell. Odds are one of the reasons you are dumping her is because she isn't very bright and she has gotten so used to them being right there that she hasn't memorized them. Third, and this depends on how close you were and the length of the dating period, you must tell her parents that things weren't working out for the two of you and that you really hoped to remain friends with them (especially if she has a hot sister). And finally, after all your stuff is gone, all her stuff is back at her place, the parents have been notified and all traces of how to get in touch with you have been deleted, you call her at home when you know she won't be there, *68 of course, and leave her a message telling her that you want out of this lousy relationship, that you never loved her, and that you are already seeing someone else. Nice guy- There aren't any steps to take when dealing with the fragile subject of breaking up. You simply sit down with her, tell her that you have had a blast dating her, but you just aren't happy, and you fear that

your unhappiness is showing through and you don't want to make her unhappy. You tell her that it's no-one's fault, that she did nothing wrong, and you sincerely hope to remain friends. Tell her you hope she finds someone who will be able to treat her as wonderfully as she has treated you, but you just don't feel like this is "it" and the last thing you want to do is waste any more of her precious time. Leave her with a kiss on the forehead and go home, looking sad.

2. What is the fair way to end the relationship if you feel that it is over? guy's guy- It depends on the circumstances surrounding the break-up... If she cheated on you, the only fair way to do it is by messing around with her sister, her best friend, and her mother... if they have pre-existing communication problems, as almost all mother-daughters do. You must then tell her all about the previous stated events and I mean in full detail. Nice guy- The only fair way is to be extremely mature and nurturing. As I stated in the previous question, you must make her feel like it is not her fault and that you do care for her, but don't think that it's "the" relationship you have been looking for.

3. How long should you wait once you feel the relationship is over? guy's guy- Your finger should be dialing another chick's number on your cell phone before you hang up from leaving her the break up message from your house phone. There is no mourning period, no time to let her try and make

things better. You are a man and you should get out there and find your next ex-girlfriend as soon as possible. Nice guy- There is no suitable time to give someone to get over you. You should respect the fact that they could be extremely hurt and sad for a very long period of time. You should make it clear that you did not break up with them for anyone else and you should prove this by not dating for a while.

Just hang out with the guys for a while. It'll be good for you. Then, once you've seen her dating again, you can get out there and start dating yourself.

Andy Pippin

I think you are asking the wrong questions. When it comes to relationships, particularly marriage, you should ask, "What does it take for a relationship to succeed?" Answer: For some people, this may be easy. For other, it will take a lot of work, compassion, understanding and, above all, patience. FAITH, HOPE and LOVE will carry you and your loved one a long way, too.

Eric L. Nicholson

Before you call it quits, make sure that you have done everything in your power to make it work. Determine if you and your partner are on the same page, meaning, do you want the same things. You may want to try talking to a nonbiased person. Sometimes speaking the problem out loud may make you see that the problem is really not a problem... it may make you feel silly. If you determine it is over, let your partner know and move on. Lingering will only make them think there is hope... if there is none, leave!

Nancey Thompson

There is no formula when it comes to relationships. You can't follow certain steps that will make you sure that you did the 'right thing' before you end it. In fact, there really is no fair way to end a relationship. Nothing in life is really fair, and relationships are not exempt from that rule. Every relationship is unique. Some people are worth trying to work things out for more than others. What you really have to ask yourself is not only what that person is worth to you, but what you are worth to each other. Do you really make one another a better person for just being together? If so, do you have the love and the trust that you need to get through your problems. You see, a true relationship is not just about love. Yes, that needs to be there, on both sides. However, in building a relationship, you have to trust one another. Trust each other not only as far as fidelity goes, but in each and every aspect of your life. Nobody can have a good relationship when you are checking up on each other all of the time. You should have your freedom, whether you are in a committed relationship or not. If you can't trust your significant other when he is "chillin' with da boyz" or she is "out with her girlz", then that shows that you have deep seeded feelings of a lack of self-worth. The fact is that you can't be together every minute of every day. A cheater is a cheater. Worrying about it every day will just put strains on your relationship. You are better off trusting each other, and making the most out of the time that you spend together. If you do feel that you have to worry about your boyfriend or girlfriend 'hooking up' with someone else, then he or she is not ready for a committed relationship in the first place, and you should seriously consider breaking up. A part from what society may make you think, it is not a requirement for you to have a boyfriend or girlfriend. If someone is not

These opinions do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the *Bent Tree* staff.

committed to you, then you should not commit yourself to that person. There has to be someone better out there, and if not then maybe you would actually be better off being by yourself for a while. You shouldn't have to lie about where you are and what you are doing, unless you are really doing something wrong. Going to the club with your friends is not wrong. Having a conversation with another guy or girl besides the one you are with is not wrong. However, talking to someone else on the low or acting shady and keeping a friend of the opposite sex a secret does imply foul play. Everything in your relationship should be out front, and if you can't do that, you don't necessarily have to be in a relationship. 'Dating' may allow you the freedom that you need. In terms of knowing how long you should wait once a relationship has ended before you move on...sorry, but there is no magic number to that. As I said before, every relationship is unique. You might be able to get over someone in a matter of days, while another person may take weeks, months, or even years, depending upon how serious the relationship was and how meaningful that person was to you. Just beware of getting together with someone on the rebound. It is never good to get into a relationship because you 'need' someone. Coming out of a relationship is the perfect time for you to concentrate on yourself, what you really want in life, and spend time with your family and friends. Just remember that you cannot truly be happy with anyone else until you are happy with yourself.

Kate Kauffman

There are different degrees or levels of relationships to consider and each require clear understanding of the circumstances before making up one's mind to separate or end a relationship. For instance, much more enthusiastic consideration is required when two are committed in matrimony, especially when children are involved. In other words, the "Ben's and Jen's" of the world will never know the complexity involved in saving a marriage, or a family for that matter, unless similar couple's reach a higher level of commitment and responsibility in their own personal relationship.

Robert Moffitt

It is easier for many couples today to give up on relationships. People

need to learn to compromise and they need to realize that there is no such thing as the perfect mate or the perfect relationship. People also need to realize that love is a decision - not a feeling. Folks also need to let others know if they are looking for a serious relationship or just a fun time - this will help prevent a lot of misunderstandings. If someone "wants out" of a serious relationship, he or she should spend at least 48 hours away from their partner, and he or she should seek the advice of a trusted elder or peer (someone who is not directly involved in the relationship). If that person decides that the relationship really is over, they need to be honest and open with the other person immediately - and they need to confront the partner IN PERSON. Breaking up over telephone or other electronic means is entirely unacceptable.

Tammy Folsom

Please note being a married couple and just being a couple are two different things. When you are dating someone the easiest way to determine if the relationship is over is to ask yourself "Do I want to marry this person?" If the answer is no, break up with them and move on. The reason for dating (heterosexually) is to find a mate...so why stress out for no reason? Now the issue of being a married couple and calling it quits is different. The fair way to end a relationship is different for every situation: Do what you have to do just make sure the message is clear; to the point: "It's Over" is a good way to put it.

Michelle Walker

Communication is so important! Most of the time arguments come from a miscommunication of some kind. Before you call it quits you need to sit down with who ever you are dating and tell them exactly how you feel. Tell them why you feel the way you do. Then listen to them do the same thing. If there are unacceptable differences between you then breaking up would probably be for the best. But if you simply break up because you're mad about how he burps in public or how he never irons his cloths those things can be worked out. The amount of time I would wait would vary. If we

had only been dating for a few weeks I'd give it a few days but if we had been dating for a year or better I'd give it a month or so. The most important things to remember are you need to take responsibility for your part in the problem, listen to what the other person has to say, never let anyone persuade you to go against what you know is right, and never settle for what you can get when you deserve better!

Kelly Brannen

The necessary steps to take before two people in a relationship calls it quits is...First present the problem face to face and discuss why it bothers or interrupts the well-being of the relationship. Second discuss some alternative to breaking up the relationship because of the problem. Try a few weeks or months of separation or a break. Or try to solve the cause of the problem. Don't run away from the problem before trying alternative. Third if the problem or reason for breaking up presents no alternatives makes sure that the break up is a good one. Don't leave on a bad note.

A fair way to end a relationship is to do it face to face, in person. Not on the phone or over email, unless that is the only way to do so. An in person break up may be hard to do, but it makes the other person feel more of you as a person. Not a coward, because you were brave enough and adult enough to tell them in person. This allows the other person to ask you directly the reasons and allows time for a better discussion.

Once you feel that a relationship is over, never wait too long after you feel that it is over. Of course you cannot rush anyone to make that decision of when to tell the other person, but the longer you wait the worse the relationship will get for the person who wants to end it and the better the relationship may get for the other person who wants to continue it. The person who does not want to end the relationship may also become more attached to the other person. Remember it takes two, not one, to make a relationship work. So save the time of knowing that the relationship is over and end the relationship as soon as you can to save the other person's time and love.

Shae Ivie

Hi My name is Payal.. According to me you should always try to make it

work out. There is a need to learn how to compromise with each other and stay and live together. Thank You

Payal Patel

We are taught at an early age to love yourself and then you can love others. The same rule applies about relationships. Be honest with yourself on how the relationship feels and works for you. Be honest if it's not happening for you why stay and continue to be board and leading the other person on. If you made a mistake while driving in taking a right turn in driving directions instead of a left turn would you continue to drive the wrong way just to site see when you're trying to arrive some place of importance. I don't think so! Oh by the way if it looks like a duck, quack like a duck, and walks like a duck it just might be a duck. Eagles don't hangout in the chicken yard because chickens can't fly high like eagles. So, ask yourself why are you still hanging out with chickens? How long should you date after you've ended a relationship? Immediately! The buses don't stop running just because someone got off. Relationships are like buses. If one bus doesn't go another bus will. Don't miss your bus of opportunity to be happy and enjoy life doing what you want to do. Peace, Love, and Happiness from just another psycho-student with experience by age 41.

Tony L. Sirmons

I think that many couples "call it quits" before really trying to reconcile. One of the main problems leading to break ups is lack of communication. People usually get very emotional when they are in a serious relationship. Couples need to sit down and discuss their goals in life for the future rationally and come up with a "game plan for life" if necessary. In some cases, it is a good idea to involve a neutral third party (i.e.: friend, counselor) to resolve a conflict. If a couple has really sat down together and talked about their issues and still cannot reconcile, then they should "call it quits".

Christy Cannon

Entertainment & Extras

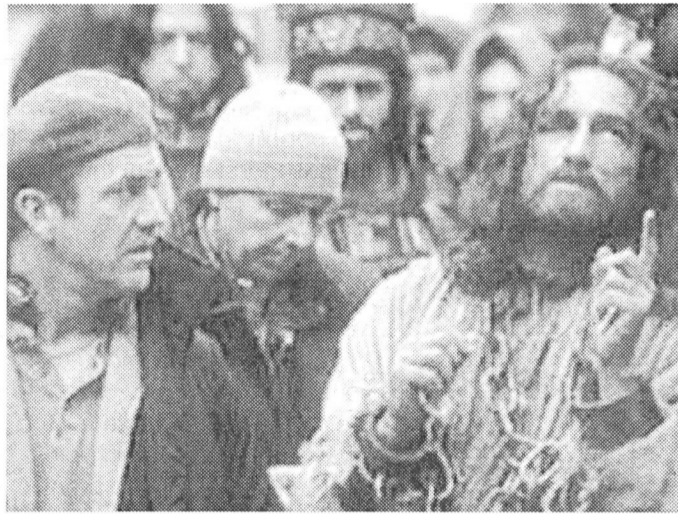
Passion's Pain Can Echo in All

By Thomas Spurlin

Devout Christians, non-believers and movie critics have all chimed in their opinions on Mel Gibson's *The Passion of the Christ*. The truth behind their voiced opinions is that they reflect upon their own forms of belief, whether positive or negative. Everybody has some form of knowledge on Jesus of Nazareth's story. This film illustrates the last hours of his life, blow by blow. Generally, most people are aware that he died for the sins of humanity. What is not realized is the extensiveness of his pain and suffering. Mel Gibson takes this story and constructs a realistic portrait that blends the spirituality behind Jesus' life and the extensive, historical accuracy behind each of the acts. In order for everybody to receive something out of this film, they have to set aside their perceived notions of Jesus and watch the film with a statement firmly in mind. This man, whether seen as a holy figure with the blood of God rushing through his veins or as an ordinary man punished for his actions, sacrificed his life for the love he felt for all people.

Every once in a while, the controversy behind a movie may explode out of proportion. This can exaggerate the seriousness of a topic in order to provoke further attention. *The Passion of the Christ* is, without a doubt, not one of these situations. While the controversy did attract attention, Christ's torture is portrayed in full, realistic

The Passion of the Christ
**** (4 / 5 stars) 90 A-



Gibson and Caviezel in the 'Passion'
Image taken from google.com

tone; from his barbarous condemnation to the excruciatingly intense peril that is wreaked upon his body. While real and intense, it is also artistically crafted and beautifully filmed for the subject matter. When it comes to the details of his death not a single stone is left unturned. As the scourging (how the torture is referred to in the Bible) started, his back was whipped with a thick cane. A very intense image, but not as brutal of an image to arouse this kind of controversy. Familiar scenes have been filmed in movies ranging from classic epics such as *Ben-Hur* to modern-day poplar films such as *Street Fighter*. However, it wasn't over. The viewer needs to prepare for a multitude of images in order to make it through the movie. Jesus is lashed extensively for punishment, adorned with a crown of thorns that gauge into his head, whipped relentlessly all over his lashed body as he carries the cross, crucified with metal stakes hammered through his hands, and stabbed with a lance to ensure his

death. As gruesome as it all sounds, the wounds are accurate and fully representative of what would have occurred. Viewers of the film cringed, gasped, and cried over Jesus' torture, and then processed the fact that he endured it all for them. Mel Gibson made sure that nothing was compromised, and he did so masterfully.

Jim Caviezel is fantastic as Jesus in *The Passion of the Christ*. He takes us through Christ's journey to death with precision, accuracy, and, most of all, triumph. When he is crucified, the viewer feels a sense of relief construed with a sense of perilous angst; they are glad that the torturous acts are coming to an end, and that he was able to surmount it with his faith firmly in hand. Viewers see his pain and can almost feel each lashing, both verbal and physical, through his fine ability to convey all Jesus' own sensations. As a devoted Catholic, Caviezel took this role full steam ahead. He endured eight hours of make-up sessions that marred his skin, 40-mile an hour Italian

wind that lashed his skin while nearly nude, and a dislocated shoulder while carrying the cross.

One criticism that the movie has received is that it might be "preaching to the choir", meaning that the viewer must be a believer of Christ in order to embrace his anguish because the film does not convey enough of the religious and spiritual aspects. This might be true to an extent. However, the lack of religious connotations could glorify his acts in ALL people's hearts, instead of just affecting those who are believers. The film introduces insight into his selflessness, his forgiveness, and his understanding. Spiritual or not, these attributes can be embraced by any who view the film. While doing so, it does not alienate those who are not believers while still touching believers intensely. Each person will absorb something different from this film. *The Passion of the Christ* hammers home a message that everyone should learn, whether as a message of religion or a message of life: Love and respect should be spread to everyone, because there is a man who died for mankind. He endured hardships beyond contemplation and died for those that hated him. Although life gets hard, at least there is a life to be lived. Life could be worse. It definitely could be worse.

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Features

Layin' Down the Law

By Stanford Strong

A column that explores basic legal concepts



Don't you hate it when a rumor gets around on campus that you sleep with anyone and everyone, and it's not true? Don't you hate it when that rumor gets printed in a gossip column? Spoken or printed, these falsehoods can ruin your chance of being taken seriously when you finally meet your dream date standing in line at the cafeteria.

Enter the terms slander and libel, examples of what the law calls defamation. Slander and libel are both untruths, made intentionally or negligently (accidentally), that cause a measurable damage to reputation.

If this helps you any, I'll share with you my way of remembering the difference between the two. I remember slander stands for untruth in spoken form because I associate the "s" in slander with the "s" in spoken. By process of elimination, libel becomes untruth in written form.

Slander and libel, like all legal claims, are defined by elements. Elements are conditions that must be met in order to proceed with a legal claim. Not everything wrong you say or write about a person qualifies as defamation.

For example, let's say your roommate, behind the closed doors of your dorm room, accuses you of stealing his laptop computer. We all know how valuable laptops are on our campus. You respond to his claim by saying you didn't do it. Later, your roommate finds his laptop underneath a pound of laundry he should have washed weeks ago. You are so mad that he accused you of stealing, you decide to sue him for slander. Did he slander you?

Your roommate falsely accused you, but he did not slander you. The key to this scenario is that the

conversation took place behind closed doors – no one else heard your roommate falsely accusing you of stealing, so you did not suffer damage to your reputation. You might feel offended, but you are without a case.

So, defamation is established when the untruth is published or broadcast. In simple legal terms, to publish or broadcast is to make something known (oral or written) to a third party, be it one person or a hundred.

On the other hand, let's say that your neighbors can hear your roommate accusing you of stealing the laptop. And of course the laptop is found. Now, you are getting closer to establishing a prima facie case (an arguable claim). You have the untruth, and it is heard by others. People think you are a thief, which makes you look bad.

However, to establish slander in a court of law, you have to prove that your damaged reputation caused you some type of loss, usually an economic loss, like the loss of a job.

Proving loss in a defamation suit can be quite difficult. Many plaintiffs (those that have been defamed) seeking damages want to say that because other people heard the false accusation, it caused emotional distress or embarrassment. Rarely does anyone collect for pain and suffering. Without a measurable loss caused by the defamation, the law basically says "get over it."

Back to your accusatory (and unkempt) roommate. If you can prove that your roommate's false accusation was heard by the dean of pledges of your favorite fraternity, and he and his fellow brothers denied your application to membership because they didn't want to induct a thief (best case scenario

would be if the dean testified that you were denied based on the rumor), then in theory that might pass for a measurable loss.

A judge or jury would then try to assign a value to your loss of fraternity membership. The value would be a figure pulled out of the air, since there is no market value that can be assigned to this particular loss. If I was the judge, I'd base the judgment on the cost of joining the fraternity and perhaps award half or all of the cost.

A court may decide that being falsely accused of a crime such as theft falls under a category called slander per se, which doesn't require proof of damaged reputation, only that the untruth was communicated to others. In other words, instead of proving that you were turned down for fraternity membership because of the lie, you only have to prove that others heard the lie.

To review, you must have a measurable loss caused by a damaged reputation to prove slander. However, with libel you don't have to prove that you were damaged in any way, only that the untruth was recorded and distributed. Why the double standard?

The law says that libel is a more serious form of defamation because it is printed or otherwise recorded. Obviously, printed or recorded material appears to be more respected than the spoken word and has a much longer "shelf life" than a spoken rumor. Because of this unlimited potential of recorded material to be in existence forever, the law allows you to pursue your libel claim without proving that you suffered a loss. Again, the judge or jury attempts to assign a fair market value your claim.

The gavel has sounded, and the case is closed.

New Planet Discovered Beyond Pluto/ Opportunity Takes an Ancient Swim

By Shea Haley

The excitement of a new planet; it would be number ten in our solar system. A group of scientists happen to find what they are calling a "planetoid" (not quite a planet, more like an asteroid) about eight billion miles from earth. It is the farthest known object in the solar system, considered to be half rock, half ice and has been named Sedna after the "Inuit Goddess who created the sea creatures in the arctic." Only three quarters the size of Pluto, scientists say it cannot be defined as a planet, unless it is bigger than the planet before it; hence the word "planetoid". It is believed to have once been contained in a cloud of comets, dust and rocks and got thrown out and held in place by a star that no longer exists. So, for the past four billion years, it's been frozen solid in 400 degrees below zero weather; the sun being so far that if you stood on Sedna you could block out the sun with the head of a pin. Fascinating. Scientists also discovered that it might be accompanied by a moon that almost matches the color of Mars. Of course not visible to the naked eye, one can hope that scientists will one day find what they are looking for: life on another planet.

Have you heard that the rover Opportunity that is studying Mars is sitting on an ancient seabed? Scientists believe that the rocks that are being found in the area were formed by flowing water. That would mean that at some point during Martian history, some sort of "microbial" life (bacteria, and the like) existed. But don't start searching for dinosaurs. Scientists aren't sure when the sea was formed or how long it was there

Sports News

Morrow, GA The eighth-ranked Clayton College & State University women's tennis team slammed metro-Atlanta rival and Peach Belt Conference foe Kennesaw State University 8-1 Wednesday at the Clayton State Tennis Complex.

The Lakers won two of the three doubles matches and then went on to sweep all six singles matches en route to the 8-1 victory over the 20th-ranked Owls. Clayton State will return to action on Saturday, hosting non-conference and 11th-ranked Valdosta State University at noon. The Clayton State improved to 8-4 on the season and 7-3 in the Peach Belt with the win.

In doubles matches on Wednesday, the top-seeded singles team of Jackeline Nieto and Nathalia Collantes won 8-4 over KSU's Laura Puch and Carolyn Ward, while the third-seeded Laker team, of Elizabeth Syrova and Natalia Koulechova blanked Mari Rubert and Jessica Fischetti 8-0. The second-seeded CCSU team of Kim Lennartsson and Daniela Petkova fell 8-0 to Loraine Rosmuller and Kamilla Rodriguez.

Leading 5-0 at No. 1 singles, CCSU senior Nieto won by default over Puch who had to retire due to an injury. Second-seeded senior Collantes pushed her record to 11-1 on the season and 27-1 over the last two

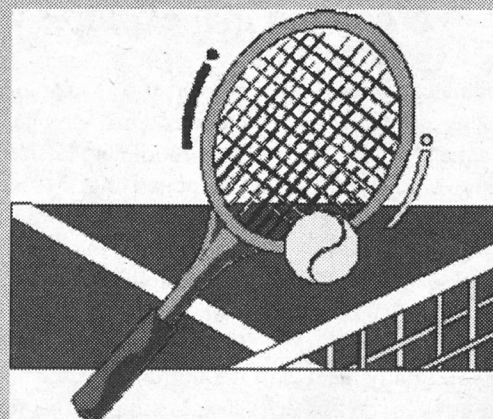
seasons with a 6-4 and 7-5 victory over Rosmuller. Third-seeded senior Koulechova won 6-0 and 6-1 over Rubert.

Fourth-seeded freshman Syrova won 6-1 and 6-3 over Fischetti, while fifth-seeded freshman Lennartsson won 6-0 and 6-3 over Rodriguez. Sixth-seeded freshman Petkova won 6-1 and 6-1 over Ward.

Wednesday, March 24 — Morrow, GA
 #8 Clayton State 8; #20 Kennesaw State 1
 Singles
 No. 1 - Jackeline Nieto (CCSU) def. Laura Puch (KSU) 5-0, retired
 No. 2 - Nathalia Collantes (CCSU) def. Loraine Rosmuller (KSU) 6-4; 7-5
 No. 3 - Natalia Koulechova (CCSU) def. Mari Rubert (KSU) 6-0; 6-1
 No. 4 - Elizabeth Syrova (CCSU) def. Jessica Fischetti (KSU) 6-1; 6-3
 No. 5 - Kim Lennartsson (KSU) def. Kamilla Rodriguez (KSU) 6-0, 6-3
 No. 6 - Daniela Petkova (CCSU) def. Carolyn Ward (KSU) 6-1; 6-1
 Doubles
 No. 1 - Nieto/Collantes (CCSU) def. Puch/Ward (KSU) 8-4
 No. 2 - Rosmuller/Rodriguez (KSU) def. Lennartsson/Petkova (CCSU) 8-0
 No. 3 - Syrova/Koulechova (CCSU) def. Rubert/Fischetti (KSU) 8-0

Gid E. Rowell
 Sports Information Director
 770-960-4319

#8 Clayton State Women's Tennis slams #20 Kennesaw State 8-1 Wednesday; to host #11 Valdosta State Sat. in March



Graphic taken from google.com

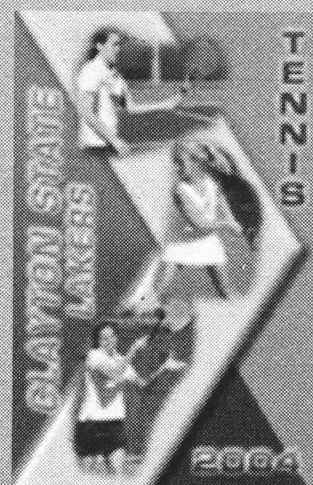


Image taken from clayton.edu

Clayton State NCAA Tournament hopes burst; season ends with 22-8 record, second best in school history

Morrow, GA - Despite winning 22 games, the second most in school history, Clayton College & State University men's basketball had its NCAA Division II National Tournament hopes burst.

The Lakers received word late that they will not be one of the eight teams, out of the South Atlantic Region, in the 64-team Division II Tournament, despite only three of the eight teams from the South Atlantic Region

having more than the Lakers' 22 wins.

"We are disappointed, thought we put ourselves in position to make it by advancing to the Peach Belt Conference Tournament semifinals with two wins," said head coach Gordon Gibbons. "In Division II, you need to win games to get off the bubble. I guess the committee had to make a very tough decision to keep us out with 22 wins."

Kennesaw State will advance to the tournament after winning the PBC Tournament on Sunday, while Francis Marion, Columbus State and Armstrong State made the field as at-large teams from the PBC.

Also from the South Atlantic Region, Bowie State received the automatic bid by winning the Central Intercollegiate Athletic

Association tournament, and Virginia Union will go as an at-large team from the CIAA. Catawba, with a 12-18 record, shocked the South Atlantic Conference by winning its tournament and will receive the SAC's automatic bid, while Lenior-Rhyme received an at-large from the SAC despite losing five of its last eight games.

Clayton State fell in the Peach Belt Conference Tournament semifinals to eventual champion KSU 43-39 in a defensive showdown. The Lakers opened the PBC tournament with a 90-56 win over UNC Pembroke, followed by a 66-42 win in the quarterfinals over host Augusta State.

"It's especially tough after the effort our players gave against Kennesaw State in the semifi-

nals," said Gibbons. "That game was a war. Both teams deserved to win."

CCSU closed the season, playing some of its best basketball winning five of its last seven games with its two losses coming to sixth-ranked KSU. The suffocating Laker defense was impressive, holding its last six opponents to under 40 percent shooting from the field. Only one of the squad's last seven opponents scored 57 points or more.

Clayton State's 22 wins are the second most in school history and the third time in the program's 14 years that it has won 20-or more games in a season. Clayton State had a 21-13 record in 1994-95 and a 25-7 record in 1993-94, while competing in the NAIA.

-Gid Rowell